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Cleveland Report Identifies Priority Neighborhoods for City's School Plan *Midwest Nonprofit IFF's Study Helps Education Stakeholders Focus Investments*

Cleveland, OH—Most of the city's nearly 9,500 classroom seats in high-performing schools are in Cleveland Metropolitan School District magnet and citywide schools as well as in charter schools authorized by the district, according to Midwest nonprofit IFF. In a presentation to the Cleveland Transformation Alliance, the nonprofit advocacy group dedicated to growing the number high-quality schools in Cleveland, IFF today detailed findings from its study on the location and academic performance of over 160 schools serving 59,000 children in the city.

IFF's CEO Joe Neri spoke about the report, [*A Shared Responsibility: Ensuring Quality Education in Every Cleveland Neighborhood*](#), which identifies how many seats are needed in highly rated schools and where they should be located to serve the greatest number of children who do not have a quality school nearby today. Both district-run and charter schools are evaluated according to their grades on the Ohio Performance Index.

Other key findings include:

- Cleveland needs about 48,000 more seats in highly rated schools, or about five times the current number, to serve 59,000 school-age children.
- Just over 60 percent of the needed high-performing seats are in 11 of the city's 30 neighborhoods.
- On average, students who live outside of Cleveland fill 13 percent of seats in the city's high-performing schools.

"Every child deserves the opportunity to attend a quality school near home, and by using data to prioritize where and how to invest resources, this report will help Cleveland reach that goal," Neri said. "IFF's recommendations include concentrating resources and reform efforts on the 11 highest-need neighborhoods, closing low-performing charter schools, and putting academic performance at the center of the charter school-authorizing process."

IFF has performed similar studies in 16 cities throughout the Midwest, including Chicago, IL; Milwaukee, WI; St. Louis, MO; Kansas City, MO; and Indianapolis. Visit iff.org for the reports.

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About IFF

IFF is a mission-driven lender, real estate consultant, and developer that helps communities thrive by creating opportunities for low-income populations and individuals with disabilities. From child care to senior housing, IFF works closely with clients from every sector, offering affordable, flexible financing; full-scale real estate consulting; and community development services. Since 1988, we have made over \$506 million in loans, leveraged \$1.6 billion in community investments, and grown our total managed assets to \$308 million.