

# Technical Documentation for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Community School Sponsor Evaluations

## Overview

Ohio Revised Code 3314.016 requires the Ohio Department of Education to develop an evaluation system that rates any entity that sponsors a community school based upon three components: Academic Performance, adherence to Quality Practices, and Compliance with Applicable Laws and Rules. Each component is equally weighted. This document details the business rules for both the 2014-2015 and the 2015-2016 sponsor evaluations.

For 2014-2015 sponsor evaluations, the categories for overall ratings are “exemplary,” “effective” and “Ineffective.”

For the 2015-2016 sponsor evaluation, House Bill 2 amended section 3314.016(B)(6) to require an additional category for overall ratings. As a result, the categories are now "exemplary," "effective," "ineffective" or "poor." In addition, a separate rating must be given by the department for each component of the evaluation system.”

### **Determination of Relationship Between Community School and Sponsor**

For the 2014-2015 sponsor evaluations, schools are assigned to the entity that sponsored the school on Dec. 1, 2014.

For the 2015-2016 sponsor evaluations, schools are assigned to the entity that sponsored the school on July 1, 2016. Additionally, the Academic Performance component of the sponsor evaluations accounts for year-to-year changes in sponsor portfolios (as described in more detail in section 4 below). To address year-to-year portfolio changes, the department also identified the schools associated with each sponsor as of July 1, 2015.

### **Data Collection and Report Distribution**

The Academic Performance component is based on Ohio School Report Card measures. Report card measures are based on data reported to the department by districts and schools through the Education Management Information System (EMIS).

The department leveraged its existing contract with the National Charter Institute to collect sponsor certification and documentation for the Compliance with Laws and Rules component and the Quality Practices component through Epicenter, the vendor’s data system. In addition to data collection, the department will leverage Epicenter to facilitate the completion and distribution of the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 sponsor evaluations.

## Academic Performance Component

The evaluation framework recommended by an independent panel and adopted by the department states that the Academic Performance component must align to the Ohio School Report Cards.

For both the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 evaluations, the Academic Performance component scores are based upon all applicable report card measures prescribed for the state report cards under ORC 3302.03

{for community schools operating as traditional school districts} or ORC 3314.017 {for schools operating dropout prevention and recovery programs} and is weighted by the number of students enrolled in each school in the sponsor's portfolio.

The 2015-2016 Academic Performance component scores will also account for year-to-year changes in the overall sponsor portfolio, as described in more detail below.

### **Statutory Exclusions**

For both the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 sponsor evaluations, the Academic Performance component rating shall not include community schools that have been in operation for not more than two full school years, nor shall they include community schools described in ORC 3314.35 (A)(4)(b) (i.e. "any community school in which a majority of the enrolled students are children with disabilities receiving special education and related services in accordance with ORC chapter 3323").

While the schools described in ORC 3314.35(A)(4)(b) are not included in the sponsor evaluation, HB 2 provides that the academic performance of these schools shall be reported. For these schools, a separate file will be provided that links to the individual school's state report card.

### **Evaluating Overall Academic Performance for Individual K-12 Schools<sup>1</sup>**

The 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Academic Performance component scores are calculated using the following rules:

Both the 2014-2015 Academic Performance calculation and the 2015-2016 Academic Performance calculation are based on the graded measures and component grades published on the Ohio School Report Cards. For the 2014-2015 evaluations, there are five possible components based on the 10 graded measures published on the 2014-2015 report cards. On the 2015-2016 Ohio School Report Cards, the Prepared for Success component was added and will be included as part of the Academic Performance component of the 2015-2016 sponsor evaluations.

The report card component grades technical documentation can be found at:

<http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Data/Report-Card-Resources/Sections/Report-Card-Components/Component-Grades-Technical-Documentation.pdf.aspx>.

#### *1. Calculating Total Weighted Points*

For each school, the applicable report card component grades will be assigned a numerical value (rounded to the thousandths) based on business rules outlined in the component grades technical documentation. In calculating the total Academic Performance component score for each school,

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<sup>1</sup> ORC 3302.03(B)(4), pertaining to school report cards, currently provides that "There shall not be an overall letter grade for a school district or building for the 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017 school years." ORC Sec 3302.03(C)(3) provides that the Board shall establish a method for assigning an overall graded for 2017-2018 and beyond. The Board has provided in Ohio Administrative Code 3301-28-10 a method to calculating an overall grade for each school and district. Because there does not currently exist an overall grade for schools and because it is necessary for the evaluation of sponsors to combine academic data from traditional school report cards with dropout recovery report cards, it is necessary for purposes of the sponsor evaluation to arrive at an overall academic performance rating for those schools receiving traditional report cards. Accordingly, solely for purposes of calculating the academic component of sponsor evaluations, each community school that will be rolled up to a sponsor will be assigned an equivalent score that is based on the formula for component and overall grades.

individual component points will be weighted based on the weights described in Ohio Administrative Code 3301-28-10.

The weighting percentages used in calculating the Academic Performance component are as follows:

When a school has a letter grade for all six components (possible in 2015-2016 only), the weighting will be: Achievement – 20%, Value-Added – 20%, Graduation – 15%, Prepared for Success – 15%, AMO – 15%, K3 – 15%.

When a school has a grade for both Achievement and Value-Added but only three other component grades, the weighting will be: Achievement and Value-Added 23% each, all others 18% each. Note that for the 2014-2015 sponsor evaluations, the total Academic Performance component for schools with all applicable components will use this weighting.

When a school has a grade for Achievement and all other components with the exception of Value-Added, the weighting will be: Achievement 24%, all others 19% each.

When a school has a grade for Value-Added and all other components with the exception of Achievement, the weighting will be: Value-Added 24%, all others 19% each.

When a school has a grade for both Achievement and Value-Added but only two other component grades, the weighting will be: Achievement 27.5%, Value Added 27.5%, all others 22.5%.

When a school has a grade for Achievement and three other components but not Value-Added, the weighting will be: Achievement 28.75%, all others 23.75% each.

When a school has a grade for Value-Added and three other components but not Achievement, the weighting will be: Value Added 28.75%, all others 23.75% each.

When a school has a grade for both Achievement and Value-Added but only one other component grade, the weighting will be: Achievement 35%, Value Added 35%, the other 30%.

When a school has a grade for Achievement and two other components but not Value-Added, the weighting will be: Achievement 36.6667%, all others 31.66667% each.

When a school has a grade for Value-Added and two other components but not Achievement, the weighting will be: Value-Added 36.6667%, all others 31.66667% each.

When a school has a grade for both Achievement and Value-Added and no other component grades, the weighting will be: Achievement 50%, Value-Added 50%.

When a school has a grade for Achievement and one other component but not Value-Added, the weighting will be: Achievement 52.5%, the other component 47.5%.

When a school has a grade for Value-Added and one other component but not Achievement, the weighting will be: Value-Added 52.5%, the other component 47.5%.

When a school does not have a grade for Achievement nor for Value-Added, then all other component grades shall be weighted equally.

For each applicable component, total weighted component points will be calculated by taking the initial component value and multiplying by the weight assigned to the component per the business rules outlined above. The total weighted component points will then be summed to arrive at total weighted points (rounded to the thousandths) for each school. The resulting total for each school will be a number between 0 and 5.

Example: Achievement and Value-Added Plus Three Other Components

Component	Value	Weight	Report Card Component Weighted Points
Achievement	4.225	0.23	0.972
Value-Added	3	0.23	0.690
Graduation	4.525	0.18	0.815
Gap Closing	4.115	0.18	0.741
K-3 Literacy	2.225	0.18	0.401
Prepared for Success	--	--	--
<b>TOTAL WEIGHTED POINTS</b>			<b>3.617</b>

2. *Translating to the Common Scale*

The Total Weighted Points will be converted to a 0 to 4 scale (this scale is the equivalent of the A-F report card grade, which will be published for each school starting in 2017-2018), as provided in the following table:

Overall Academic Performance Score	
Total Weighted Points	Report Card Grade Equivalent
4.125-5.000	4
3.125-4.124	3
2.125-3.124	2
1.125-2.124	1
0-1.124	0

In both 2015 and 2016, each Dropout Prevention and Recovery school received an overall school rating of either Does Not Meet Expectations, Meets Expectations or Exceeds Expectations. The overall school rating of each Dropout Recovery school will be converted to a 0 to 4 scale as provided as follows:

Overall Academic Performance Rating for Dropout Recovery School	
Overall School Rating	Points
Exceeds Expectations	4
Meets Expectations	2
Does Not Meet Expectations	0

The common scale will be as follows:

Overall Academic Performance Rating for School	Dropout Recovery Report Card Rating	Points
4	Exceeds	4
3		3
2	Meets	2
1		1
0	Does Not Meet	0

### 3. Structure of Sponsor Evaluation for Academic Component:

The Independent Panel addressed the methodology for weighting:

*The original statutory language references the academic performance of students and HB 2 then added additional language regarding this component being derived from the report card.*

- *A hybrid approach will be utilized to aggregate report card data for the schools in the portfolio. Individual school-level report card data is translated to the common scale for each school in the portfolio and then weighted by the total percentage of the average daily membership of the entire statewide portfolio.*

The following is an example of how the Academic Performance component will be calculated based on a sponsor with two community schools that receive traditional report cards and one school that receives a dropout recovery report card:

School	Overall Academic Performance	Points	ADM <sup>2</sup>	Weight	Weighted Points
Community School #1	4	4	250	X(250/1000)	1.0
Community School #2	1	1	500	X(500/1000)	0.5
Dropout Recovery School # 3	Meets	2	250	X(250/1000)	0.5
Total Weighted Points					2.0

In the event that the number for the weighted points is not a whole number, the number will be rounded from the hundredths to the nearest tenth. For example, 2.356 becomes 2.4 because of rounding.

### 4. Changes in Portfolio

HB 2 also specifies that “the academic performance component also shall include year-to-year changes in the overall sponsor portfolio.”

Such changes are factored into the Academic Performance component by creating a weighted score for the sponsor’s portfolio as it existed as of July 1, 2015, as well as a weighted score for the sponsor’s portfolio as it existed as of July 1, 2016. The calculation for both portfolios is based on schools’ 2016

<sup>2</sup> ADM refers to the enrollment figure that is reported for each school.

report card results. The two weighted scores are averaged and rounded to the nearest tenth for a final Total Weighted Points.

The following is an example of averaging the portfolios. If the sponsor had a portfolio of three schools as of July 1, 2015, the calculation for this portfolio would be as follows:

School	Overall Academic Performance	Points	ADM <sup>3</sup>	Weight	Weighted Points
Community School #1	4	4	250	X(250/1000)	1.0
Community School #2	1	1	500	X(500/1000)	0.5
Dropout Recovery School # 3	Meets	2	250	X(250/1000)	0.5
Total Weighted Points					2.0

If, as of July 1, 2016, the sponsor no longer sponsors School #2, the calculation for the new portfolio would be as follows:

School	Overall Academic Performance	Points	ADM <sup>4</sup>	Weight	Weighted Points
Community School #1	4	4	250	X(250/500)	2.0
Dropout Recovery School # 3	Meets	2	250	X(250/500)	1.0
Total Weighted Points					3.0

The results of the two portfolios are then averaged, resulting in a score of  $(2.0 + 3.0)/2 = 2.5$ .

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<sup>3</sup> ADM refers to the enrollment figure that is reported for each school.

<sup>4</sup> ADM refers to the enrollment figure that is reported for each school.

5. *Scale for Academic Performance Component*

Once each school’s performance is weighted by its ADM, the weighted points are summed, and relevant changes in the portfolio are addressed, the weighted points are converted to Academic Performance points using standard rounding rules to create the following scale:

<b>Weighted Points</b>	<b>Grade (or Equivalent)</b>	<b>Points Earned for Academic Performance Component</b>
3.5 – 4	A	4
2.5 – 3.49	B	3
1.5 – 2.49	C	2
.5 – 1.49	D	1
0 – .49	F	0

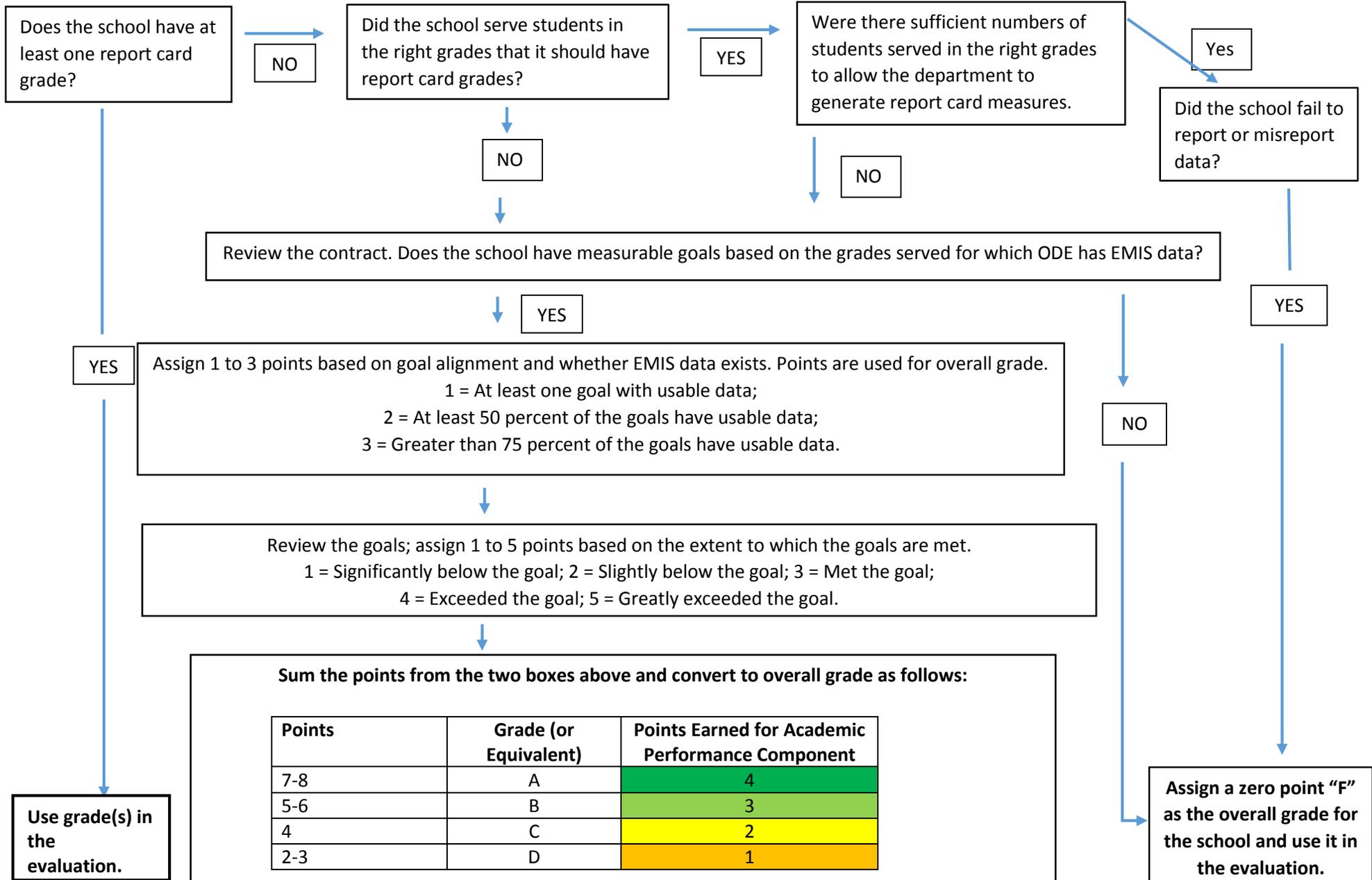
6. *Evaluating schools that do not receive report cards*

Some schools are not expected to receive any graded report card measures because they do not serve enough students in the relevant grades to generate measures. When no graded performance measures are applicable, HB 2 requires the department to use measures specified in the contract between the sponsor and the community school. For those schools, the contracts between the schools and sponsors will be reviewed by the Ohio Department of Education’s Office of Accountability with the assistance from the Office of Quality School Choice – Community Schools and the Office of Legal Counsel.

The evaluation of schools without graded measures will be conducted using the process outlined in the flowchart below that identifies the objectives set forth in each related contract and the school’s performance on those objectives.

In cases where the school served a sufficient number of students grades required to take state tests but the school failed to report required EMIS data to the department, a zero point (“F”) was assigned to the school’s overall rating.

## Sponsor Evaluation Flowchart



## Compliance with Laws and Rules Component

For both the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Compliance with Laws and Rules calculation, Ohio Administrative Code 3301-102-08 was applied.

For the 2014-2015 Compliance with Laws and Rules calculation, the review was limited to the sponsors monitoring their schools' compliance of 23 core items, with three items randomly selected from list of possible 24 items, as selected by the vendor. The core items are outlined in the Sponsor Monitoring Review Instrument Core Areas of Compliance.

For 2014-2015, the department randomly selected 10 percent of the schools in each sponsor's portfolio for which the school score is included in the sponsor evaluation score. For sponsors with less than 15 schools, one school in the sponsor portfolio will be used in the score calculation. The vendor also conducted site reviews with the sampled schools, consistent with the administrative rule.

For the 2015-2016 Compliance with Laws and Rules component, Ohio Administrative Code 3301-102-08 was applied but modified to align with the requirements outlined in HB 2. Since HB 2 changed this component to include compliance with ALL applicable laws and administrative rules, the sponsors are evaluated for compliance with all of their applicable laws and rules, including their obligation to monitor the schools' compliance with laws and rules. While a 10 percent sample of schools was reviewed for purposes of determining the sponsor's compliance with its oversight, the department will provide information on the sponsor's monitoring of the remaining schools' compliance with applicable laws and rules.

For 2015-2016, the vendor randomly selected 10 percent of the schools in each sponsor's portfolio for which the school score is included in the sponsor evaluation score. For sponsors with fewer than 15 schools, one school in the sponsor portfolio will be used in the score calculation. The vendor also conducted site reviews with the sampled schools, consistent with the administrative rule. The remaining school data is provided in a separate data file on the sponsor evaluation website for informational purposes only.

For 2015-2016, the department compiled the list of all rules and laws that apply to community schools and/or their respective sponsors. A finalized list was posted, and that list includes up to 24 items identified for sponsor-level certification (using up to eight documents) and 280 items identified for school-level certification (using up to 102 documents per school). The list will be reviewed on an annual basis and updated for the upcoming review cycle. The sponsor's score for this component is then determined by equally weighting the sponsor-level items. One of those items specifically addresses a sponsor's oversight of its schools' compliance and incorporates the 280 school-level items to demonstrate sponsor oversight of schools. The items being reviewed for this component are based on actions taken and document submissions during the review period (July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016), regardless of the school year for which the document applies.

*Sponsor Submission:* Each sponsor was required to identify its compliance status for each item on the list for its organization and for each school in its portfolio utilizing a single certification form. On the form, the sponsor was instructed to list each item, by number, in the appropriate status category: compliant; not compliant; or not applicable. One section of the form was designated for items related to the sponsor. Another section was designated for items related to schools, and the sponsor was instructed to

copy that section for each school in its portfolio. In addition to the completed certification form, the sponsor was required to upload supporting documentation for each appropriate item on the list. If an item was not applicable, the sponsor was instructed to respond via a note on the submission request or upload a memo detailing the reason that the item does not apply. All documentation to be used for the review was collected in the Epicenter system.

*Additional Information Supplied by Ohio Department of Education:* The department supplied the reviewing vendor with a data file based on information filed with the department. The file included basic school and sponsor characteristics (i.e., eSchool, Dropout Prevention and Recovery school, open date, etc.) that would allow the vendor to more easily identify schools/sponsors to which an individual item applied.

*Review Process:* The department engaged a third party vendor to perform the compliance reviews for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. Applicable vendor personnel were provided with view-only access to the Epicenter system. Utilizing the Compliance Worksheet, the vendor that performed the review entered the appropriate response to five prompts for each review item for each sponsor and school:

- A. Initial Score – Item Certified Compliant by Sponsor  
The response to this prompt (Yes, No or N/A) was entered directly from the sponsor’s certification form with no validation.
- B. Documentation Submitted in Epicenter  
The response to this prompt was based strictly on the existence of supporting documentation in Epicenter, regardless of the validity of that documentation. The Yes/No response selections were enhanced to include additional descriptive information in order to better describe the need for sponsor documentation.
- C. Adjust Based on Validation of Documentation Submitted in Epicenter  
The response to this prompt was determined after the reviewer viewed the supporting documentation submitted by the sponsor. A *No* response indicates that the sponsor compliance status as identified on the certification form is supported by the supplied documentation. A *Yes* response indicates that the supplied documentation does not support the compliance status identified by the sponsor. The Yes/No response selections were enhanced to include additional descriptive information in order to avoid the need for reviewer comments.
- D. Adjust Based on Validation Using Additional Information  
The response to this prompt was determined after the reviewer verified information supplied by the department in a separate file (described above). The Yes/No response selections were enhanced to include additional descriptive information in order to avoid the need for reviewer comments.
- E. Final Score – Compliant as Determined by Vendor  
The final Yes/No determination was made based on the responses to the above prompts.
- F. Item 75  
An adjustment was made to the final score based on the average number of misses for the sampled schools.

*Score Calculation:* The Compliance component is scored based on the scoring structure outlined in OAC 3301-102-08, which is based on the number of compliance items that could not be substantiated.

Number of Items Not in Compliance	Compliance Rating
Less than 3	Exemplary
3-4	Effective
More than 4	Ineffective

For the 2014-15 evaluations, the Compliance component is based solely on the average number of a sponsor’s schools’ required items found not in compliance. This is based on a randomly selected sample of 10 percent of a sponsor’s schools. If a sponsor had fewer than 15 schools, one randomly selected school in the sponsor’s portfolio was chosen.

For the 2015-2016 evaluations, the Compliance component had to account for compliance with all relevant laws based on requirements in HB 2. To do so, sponsors will be evaluated based on the up to 24 relevant sponsor compliance items. One of these items represents a sponsor’s oversight of its schools’ compliance with relevant laws and regulations. To calculate the sponsor oversight item:

- 1) Each school will be evaluated separately on the number of compliance items not able to be substantiated.
- 2) Every school is evaluated for compliance, but for the sponsor’s rating, only a randomly selected sample of 10 percent of a sponsor’s schools is considered—per administrative rule. If a sponsor had fewer than 15 schools, one randomly selected school in the sponsor’s portfolio was chosen.
- 3) For each sponsor, an average of each of its schools’ number of items not able to be substantiated will be calculated according to OAC 3301-102-78.
- 4) That average number of school items will represent the sponsor’s determination for the “oversight of its schools’ compliance” item. If the average of school misses is four or less (aligned to exemplary or effective in administrative rule), then the sponsor would receive credit for substantiating that item. If the average of school misses is greater than four (aligned to ineffective in administrative rule), then that item would not be considered substantiated.

For each sponsor, the total number of sponsor compliance items that cannot be substantiated are summed, and the Compliance component score is determined by the scale as outlined in administrative code. All sponsor compliance items are weighted equally.

The final Compliance with Rules and Laws component rating is based on the levels described in administrative code:

Number of Items Not in Compliance	Compliance Rating
Less than 3	Exemplary
3-4	Effective
More than 4	Ineffective

In addition to a data file that includes the sponsor-level data on the Compliance with Rules and Laws component, the department will publish files that include detailed school-level compliance data. For the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 sponsor evaluations, one school-level file will include the schools randomly sampled for the sponsors’ evaluations. For 2015-2016, a second school-level file will include the compliance data for those schools that are report only.

### Quality Practice Component

For both the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 sponsor evaluations, the department was required to prescribe quality practices for community school sponsors and develop an instrument to measure adherence to those quality practices. The quality practices shall be based on standards developed by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers or any other nationally organized community school organization, in consultation with entities that sponsor community schools.

The Quality Practice review consists of 42 individual standards, grouped into the following critical areas:

1. Commitment and Capacity;
2. Application Process and Decision-Making;
3. Performance Contracting;
4. Oversight and Evaluation;
5. Termination and Renewal Decision-Making;
6. Technical Assistance and Sponsor Requirements in Rule and Law.

The final Quality Review component is based on the percentage of standards met. In addition, each critical area was assigned a rating; this rating is used for informational purposes only.

*Sponsor Participation/Submission:* Each sponsor was given the opportunity to upload up to 52 document types to Epicenter to address the various areas of the rubric. Sponsors were interviewed in order to further explain their processes and to provide additional supporting documentation.

*Review Process:* The department engaged a vendor to perform the Quality Review. Applicable vendor personnel were provided with view-only access to Epicenter.

Following an initial documentation assessment by two partnering reviewers, each sponsor was contacted for an interview to further explain its documentation and/or processes. In addition, the sponsor was provided with an opportunity to provide additional documentation to address gaps identified in the initial review.

The reviewers completed the rubric based on all available information, providing a score for each standard. Interview responses may not stand alone; they must be supported with documentation supplied by the sponsor.

Upon completion of all quality reviews, the vendor transfers the results of the completed rubrics to a scoring worksheet containing all sponsor review results, and the department calculated the overall rating for Quality Practice based upon the data provided by the vendor. There is one file for each of the review years.

*Calculation Rules:* The following business rules are used when calculating the sponsor’s score on the Quality Practice component.

1. The rating is calculated using the following formula:  

$$\frac{B}{A}$$
 where  
 A = the number of possible points for standards that are applicable to the sponsor being reviewed  
 B = the total points scored in the standards included in A
2. The scores for each standard in the rubric are combined to determine the overall percentage and rating.
3. For the 2014-2015 sponsor evaluations, the final Quality Practice component rating and points are determined by the calculated overall percentage of standards met using the following:

Percentage	Rating	Points
90-100%	Exemplary	4
75-89.9%	Effective	2
0-74.9%	Ineffective	0

For the 2015-2016 sponsor evaluations, the final Quality Practice component rating and points are determined by the calculated overall percentage of points on all standards:

Percentage	Rating	Points
90-100%	Exceeds Standards	4
75-89.9%	Meets Standards	3
70-74.9%	Progressing Toward Standards	2
55-69.9%	Below Standards	1
0-54.9%	Significantly Below Standards	0

## Overall Rating

*Calculation Rules:* The following business rules are used when calculating the sponsor’s overall score on the sponsor evaluation.

1. The overall rating is based on the ratings in the three components:
  - a. Academic Performance;
  - b. Compliance with Laws and Rules; and
  - c. Quality Practice.

2. All three components are weighted equally.
3. The points scored for each component are added together to provide a summative score.
4. The initial overall rating for 2014-2015 is determined by the following summative score:

Overall Points	Sponsor Rating
10, 11, 12	Exemplary
6, 7, 8, 9	Effective
0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Ineffective

5. The initial overall rating for 2015-2016 is determined by the following summative score:

Overall Points	Sponsor Rating
10, 11, 12	Exemplary
7, 8, 9	Effective
3, 4, 5, 6	Ineffective
0, 1, 2	Poor

6. For 2014-2015, in cases where the Academic Performance component is statutorily excluded, overall rating is determined by the following summative score:

Overall Points	Sponsor Rating
7, 8	Exemplary
4, 5, 6,	Effective
0, 1, 2, 3	Ineffective

7. For 2015-2016, in some limited cases, sponsors will not have any available academic data as mandated by ORC 3314.016 (B) (2). For example, if a sponsor only has one school, which is an excluded special needs school, it would not have ANY academic performance data. In these limited cases, the sponsor will be evaluated based on the two available components, which will follow the above rules, but the summative rating will be determined based on the following eight-point scale:

Overall Points	Sponsor Rating
7, 8	Exemplary
5, 6	Effective
2, 3, 4	Ineffective
0, 1	Poor

8. For 2015-2016, the final overall rating is determined after applying additional rules:
  - a. A sponsor can score no better than "Ineffective" if it receives 0 points in any component.
  - b. If a sponsor scores zero (0) in any two components, then the overall rating is "Poor."