



Governor John R. Kasich, Governor

Department  
of Education

Michael L. Sawyers, Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction

# **ANNUAL REPORT TO GOVERNOR KASICH AND THE OHIO LEGISLATURE**

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**Office of School Sponsorship**

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# 2012 Office of School Sponsorship Annual Report

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## **Introduction**

The Ohio Department of Education's (ODE's) Office of School Sponsorship (OSS) was created by the passage of House Bill 153 of the 129<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The new law became effective on September 29, 2011. There are two types of community schools: new start-up community schools, which are restricted in their locations to "challenged" districts and conversion community schools, which can be located in any district. House Bill 153 authorized the OSS to be the originating sponsor of up to five new start-up community schools and to take over the sponsorship of up to 15 existing schools of either type each school-year for a period of five years.

In compliance with Ohio Revised Code (ORC) §3314.029(E), the Office of School Sponsorship is required to submit an annual report on the sponsorship program, including "information about the number of community schools participating in the program and their compliance with the provisions of this chapter."

## **Overview**

In the 2011-12 school-year, the OSS received 19 applications from community school developers and existing community schools seeking OSS sponsorship to begin on July 1, 2012. Of those, eight were from existing community schools and 11 were from new start-up community school developers. All eight applications from existing community schools were approved. Five of the eight existing community schools are currently operating under OSS sponsorship. Two of the approved existing community schools, managed by the same operator, executed new contracts with their prior sponsoring school district and remained operating under that sponsor. The other existing community school signed a contract with OSS but was closed by its Governing Authority prior to the start of the new school-year due to low enrollment. The OSS is currently overseeing the closing procedures. Currently operating schools under OSS sponsorship are the Youngstown Academy of Excellence, Richard Allen Academy, Richard Allen II Academy, Richard Allen III Academy, and the Richard Allen Preparatory Academy.

Of the 11 applications from new start-up community school developers, five applications were approved. Of the five approved applications, two of the schools were able to open and are currently operating. Of the remaining three approved applications, two schools with the same developer deferred opening for a year and one school could not open due to financial and planning issues. The A+ Children's Academy and the Cincinnati State STEM Academy are currently open.

The OSS denied six applications from new start-up community school developers. On the day House Bill 153 became effective, a single developer submitted applications for new start-up community schools that proposed an identical governance model for each community school. The OSS determined that the proposed model was insufficient and notified the developer. The developer did not alter the structure for four of the proposed new start-up community schools and those applications were denied.

The remaining two applications from new start-up community school developers were denied due to insufficient educational and/or business plans that did not evidence an ability to meet education standards or evidence the capacity to establish the school in accordance with ORC Chapter 3314.

The OSS is sponsoring seven operating community schools and overseeing closing procedures for 1 community school. Of the seven operating schools, five are existing community schools and 2 are new start-up community schools.

## 2012 Office of School Sponsorship Annual Report

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### **Schools Sponsored by the Office of School Sponsorship**

<b>School</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>FTE Enrollment*</b>
A+ Children's Academy	Columbus	Franklin	New Start-Up	76
Cincinnati State STEM Academy	Cincinnati	Hamilton	New Start-Up	183
Richard Allen Academy	Dayton	Montgomery	Existing	102
Richard Allen Academy II	Dayton	Montgomery	Existing	458
Richard Allen Academy III	Butler	Hamilton	Existing	176
Richard Allen Preparatory Academy	Dayton	Montgomery	Existing	223
Youngstown Academy of Excellence	Youngstown	Mahoning	Existing	209

*\*FTE Enrollment is based on the December 2012 payment report.*

#### **A+ Children's Academy**

A+ Children's Academy is located in the Columbus Public School District in South Columbus and serves grades K-5. Its curriculum includes a performing arts component that is integrated into the educational curriculum.

#### **Cincinnati State STEM Academy**

Cincinnati State STEM Academy is located in the Cincinnati Public School District and serves grades 9-12. The school serves students who have dropped out of traditional high schools and provides them with the means to earn a high school diploma and college credit simultaneously. Through an agreement with Cincinnati State Community College, students can earn college credit at no cost while working towards their diploma. While the school is organized as a community school under Chapter 3314 of the Revised Code, it offers an emphasis in science, technology, engineering and math. It currently has approximately 200 students enrolled. There has been significant community/business financial support for the school. With this support, every student has been provided a netbook. The school is expecting gains, both in enrollment and in financial support from the community. It plans to acquire its own facilities in the next couple of years. It currently leases space at the community college.

#### **Richard Allen Academies**

The Richard Allen Academies are four independent community schools in the Dayton and Hamilton City School Districts. All four are managed by the same operator. The schools are located in urban areas and have a high minority student population at each school. The schools focus on providing a rigorous academic program based on an atmosphere of expected success and family support. Core to the success of these schools are student self-discipline and respect for themselves and others.

Richard Allen Academy serves grades 7-9 and has a preliminary rating of Continuous Improvement on its local report card for the 2011-12 school-year. Richard Allen Academy II serves grades 2-6 and has a preliminary rating of Effective on its local report card for the 2011-12 school-year. Richard Allen Academy III serves grades K-6 and has a preliminary rating of Continuous Improvement on its local report card for the 2011-12 school-year. Richard Allen Preparatory serves grades K-1 and, as a recently established school, is not yet rated. Richard Allen, Richard Allen II, and Richard Allen Preparatory are located in the Dayton City School District, and Richard Allen III is located in the Hamilton City School District.

## 2012 Office of School Sponsorship Annual Report

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The first goal of the Richard Allen Academies is for each school to demonstrate academic proficiency on the annual OAA and meet Value Added requirements, to demonstrate progress towards proficiency, and for each student to score at or above grade level on the Terra Nova test. Their second goal is to manage student behavior by requiring students to demonstrate deportment, demeanor, and bearing consistent with the ideals of the district's namesake and stated principles. Their third goal is faculty professional development through which faculty will engage in self-driven professional development and present daily lessons driven by data derived from standards based assessments. The fourth and final goal is for parents to be actively engaged in their students' school life and participate in school events and activities to strengthen the Richard Allen community. While the schools will have to wait for this year's test results, the OSS's fall site noted that each school was doing an excellent job on meeting goals two through four.

### ***Youngstown Academy of Excellence***

Youngstown Academy of Excellence (YAE) is located in the Youngstown City School District. YAE applied to OSS for sponsorship upon notification from its prior sponsor that its contract would not be renewed. YAE, which was at-risk of closure for sustained poor academic performance, met Value Added requirements based on preliminary data for FY2012 avoiding mandatory closure at the end of the current school-year under ORC 3314.035. Based on preliminary data the school's rating is Academic Emergency. Its goals include turning the school around and making significant improvement in student performance each year.

### **Oversight, Monitoring, and Compliance with ORC Chapter 3314.**

All seven schools in the sponsorship program are in substantial compliance with ORC Chapter 3314. However, OSS will continue heightened monitoring of the following schools. ODE has identified YAE as a "Non-SIG-Funded Priority school" according to the provisions of Ohio's ESEA flexibility waiver. OSS and ODE's Office of School Turnaround will be working closely with the school this year to increase performance.

The Richard Allen Academies face challenges in the financial management areas. The state Auditor has made findings for recovery against the schools' operator in the last several audits. While the findings have been addressed, OSS will evaluate the schools' underlying business and accounting practices and will look for ways in which the schools can improve their financial management.