



Ohio

ANNUAL REPORT TO
GOVERNOR JOHN R. KASICH
AND THE
OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICE OF SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP

Dec. 31, 2016

Introduction

The Ohio Department of Education's Office of School Sponsorship is authorized to approve applications for sponsorship of up to five new start-up community schools and up to 15 existing community schools each school year for a period of five years. The 2015-2016 school year marked the fifth year of the sponsorship program.

Ohio Revised Code (O.R.C.) §3314.029(E) provides:

Not later than December 31, 2012, and annually thereafter, the department shall issue a report on the program, including information about the number of community schools participating in the program and their compliance with the provisions of this chapter. In its fifth report, the department shall include a complete evaluation of the program and recommendations regarding the program's continuation. Each report shall be provided to the general assembly, in accordance with section 101.68 of the Revised Code, and to the governor.

This report constitutes the Department's fifth annual report on the program and includes the 2015-2016 school year annual report, a complete evaluation of the program and recommendations regarding the program's continuation.

Annual Report 2015-2016 School Year

During the 2015-2016 school year, the Department sponsored the following 25 community schools:

School	District	County	Type	Enrollment*
A+ Children's Academy	Columbus	Franklin	New Start-Up	129
Bridges Community Academy	Tiffin	Seneca	Existing	126
Cincinnati Generation Academy		Hamilton	New Start-Up	125
Cincinnati State STEM Academy	Cincinnati	Hamilton	New Start-Up	122
Discovery Academy	Washington Local School District	Lucas	New Start-Up	250
East Academy	Cleveland	Cuyahoga	New Start-Up	236
Interactive Media and Construction Academy	Mansfield	Richland	Existing	33
Lakeshore Intergenerational School	Cleveland	Cuyahoga	New Start-Up	148
Mansfield Elective Academy	Mansfield	Richland	Existing	31
Mansfield Enhancement Academy	Mansfield	Richland	Existing	26
Ohio Construction Academy	Columbus	Franklin	Existing	20**
Richard Allen Academy	Dayton	Montgomery	Existing	77
Richard Allen Academy II	Dayton	Montgomery	Existing	309
Richard Allen Academy III	Butler	Hamilton	Existing	163
Richard Allen Preparatory Academy	Dayton	Montgomery	Existing	131
Steel Academy	Akron	Summit	New Start-Up	129
Summit Academy Transitions High School – Columbus	Columbus	Franklin	Existing	196
T ² Honors Academy	Warrensville Heights	Cuyahoga	New Start-Up	95
Watkins Academy	Dayton	Montgomery	New Start-Up	103
West Park Academy	Cleveland	Cuyahoga	New Start-Up	209
Youngstown Academy of Excellence	Youngstown	Mahoning	Existing	148
Global Village Academy	Parma	Cuyahoga	Existing	153
Imagine Akron Academy	Akron	Summit	Existing	59
Quest Community School	Parma	Cuyahoga	Existing	70
STEAM of Warren	Warren	Trumbull	Existing	233

* Enrollment is based on the final FTE reported on the June 2016 Payment Report

**Ohio Construction Academy began the year with an enrollment above the minimum of 25 students; however, enrollment fell during the year.

Two sponsored community schools closed at the end of the 2015-2016 school year, Cincinnati State STEM Academy and Mansfield Enhancement Academy. Cincinnati State STEM Academy's landlord did not renew their lease agreement and its governing authority chose to close the school. Mansfield Enhancement Academy closed due to low enrollment.

School Descriptions

A+ Children's Academy

A+ Children's Academy is located in the Columbus City School District in South Columbus and serves grades K-6. Its mission is for students to achieve their full potential academically and socially through strong academic and emotional support. The school integrates a performing arts component into its educational curriculum.

Bridges Community Academy

Bridges Community Academy is located in the Tiffin City School District and serves grades K-12. Serving gifted and talented students is the school's specialty. One of its goals is to allow students the benefit of working with honor students, education majors and professors from the two local colleges, parents and community members.

Cincinnati Generation Academy

Cincinnati Generation Academy completed its first year of operations and is located in the Cincinnati Public School District. The Academy served grades K-8 during the 2014-2015 school year. Its mission is to be an exceptional public school where generations of learners prepare fully for life's responsibilities, challenges and opportunities so that students can dream bigger, work harder and care more.

Discovery Academy

Discovery Academy is located in the Washington Local School District in Lucas County and serves grades K-6. Discovery Academy strives to empower students who lack the tools they need due to economic constraints. The school's mission is to enable its students with an ability to envision the world beyond their own neighborhood and empower each student to see the difference they can make in their own community. The school focuses on the development of 21st century skills in project-based learning environments.

East Academy and West Park Academy

East Academy and West Park Academy are jointly governed and serve grades K-8 in Cleveland. With a foundation of respect in each academy, the schools provide students with safe, clean, positive and caring environments. Highly effective teachers facilitate in a nurturing environment centered on rigor, discipline and progressive technology.

Interactive Media and Construction, Inc. (IMAC)

IMAC is a dropout prevention and recovery community school, serving grades 9-12, in the Mansfield City School District. The school focuses on career-technical education in the areas of construction and interactive media. Its mission is for all students to attend college, a career-technical school and/or enlist in the military. The Mansfield City School District used to sponsor this school.

Lakeshore Intergenerational School

Lakeshore Intergenerational School is a new start-up community school in the Cleveland Municipal School District serving grades K-2. It is operated by Breakthrough Schools, a non-profit management company operating in Cleveland and is part of the Cleveland Plan. The school's mission is to connect, create and guide a multigenerational community of lifelong learners and spirited citizens. The two mainstay principles of the school are that learning is a lifelong developmental process and

knowledge is socially constructed. The governing authority is a highly engaged and effective oversight body.

Mansfield Elective Academy

Mansfield Elective Academy serves grades K-9 and is located in the Mansfield City School District. The focus of the school is to offer a technology rich environment with small class sizes, yet not grade driven, in order to meet the individual instructional needs of each student. Its mission is for all students to attend college, a career-technical school and/or enlist in the military. The Mansfield City School District used to sponsor this school.

Ohio Construction Academy

Ohio Construction Academy is a dropout prevention and recovery community school serving grades 9-12. The school is located in the Columbus Public School District in Franklin County and opened in 2013. The school's mission is to provide high school students an innovative educational opportunity to explore construction related careers through an excellent foundation in academics and a rigorous, contextual, hands-on curriculum that prepares them for direct entry into a professional apprenticeship program, college and a career.

Richard Allen Academy

The Richard Allen Academy serves grades 7-8 and is located in the Dayton City School District. The school focuses on providing a rigorous academic program based on an atmosphere of expected success and family support. Student self-discipline and mutual respect are core to the school's success. The school is jointly governed with the Richard Allen II, Richard Allen III and Richard Allen Preparatory Academies. The Institute of Management Resources, a for-profit management company, operates each school.

Richard Allen Academy II

Richard Allen Academy II serves grades 2-6 and is located in the Dayton City School District. The school is located in an urban area and has a high minority student population. The school focuses on providing a rigorous academic program based on an atmosphere of expected success and family support. Student self-discipline and mutual respect are core to the school's success. The school is jointly governed with the Richard Allen II, Richard Allen III and Richard Allen Preparatory Academies. The Institute of Management Resources, a for-profit management company, operates each school.

Richard Allen Academy III

Richard Allen Academy III serves grades K-6 and is located in the Hamilton City School District. The school is located in an urban area and has a high minority student population. The school focuses on providing a rigorous academic program based on an atmosphere of expected success and family support. Student self-discipline and mutual respect are core to the school's success. The school is jointly governed with the Richard Allen II, Richard Allen III and Richard Allen Preparatory Academies. The Institute of Management Resources, a for-profit management company, operates each school.

Richard Allen Preparatory Academy

Richard Allen Preparatory Academy serves grades K-1 and is located in the Dayton City School District. The school is located in an urban area and has a high minority student population. The school focuses on providing a rigorous academic program based on an atmosphere of expected success and family support. Student self-discipline and mutual respect are core to the school's success. The Academy is jointly governed with the Richard Allen II, Richard Allen III and Richard

Allen Preparatory Academies. The Institute of Management Resources, a for-profit management company, operates each school.

Steel Academy

Steel Academy is a new start-up community school serving grades 6-12 in the Akron City School District. The mission of Steel Academy is to inspire all students, including those with learning differences, by maximizing their educational experience through the integration of academics with the visual and performing arts. The school largely serves students on the autism spectrum and with other learning challenges.

Summit Academy Transition High School-Columbus

Summit Academy Transition High School-Columbus serves grades 9-12 and is located in the Columbus City School District. It opened in 2007. The school's mission is to build hope, success and well-being through advocacy and education for children with special needs. The school provides a structured safe-haven for alternative learners. Compassionate teachers deliver highly specialized curriculum designed to engage children where they are developmentally. The school is specifically designed for students with AD/HD, autism spectrum disorders and related disorders.

T² Honors Academy

T² Honors Academy serves grades 6-9 in the Warrensville Heights City Schools District. The mission statement of the school states that it will utilize a rigorous and innovative academic curriculum to infuse a passion for people, intrinsic motivation and self-discipline in its students.

Watkins Academy

Watkins Academy is a new start-up community school in the Dayton City School District. The school serves grades K-3. Through its educational model, Watkins aims to further the students' academic skills and socialization through small class sizes and extended instructional hours. Staff members guide and inspire each student through a liberal arts curriculum that focuses on character building, partnership, one-on-one advising, and service via a vibrant environment that produces confident and respectable graduates.

Youngstown Academy of Excellence

Youngstown Academy of Excellence is located in the Youngstown City School District and serves grades K-8. Accel Management, a division of Pansophic, operates the school. Mosaica Education used to operate the school until it went out of business. The school's governing authority is highly engaged and exercises effective oversight of its operations.

Former Portage County ESC Sponsored Community Schools

Global Village Academy

Global Village Academy serves grades K-8. The school opened in 2011 and is located in the Parma City School District. The school's student population is roughly 80 percent Ukrainian and the other 20 percent is comprised of other Eastern European nationalities.

Imagine Akron

Imagine Akron Academy, formerly Pathway to Success Akron, is a kindergarten-only community school operated by Imagine Schools, Inc.

Quest Community School

Quest Community School serves grades 9-12 in a blended learning environment. The school opened in 2011 and is located in the Parma City School District. Quest Community School targets students that seek a flexible learning option. Though many of the school's students have dropped out and are seeking credit recovery, the school is not a dropout prevention and recovery school.

STEAM Academy of Warren

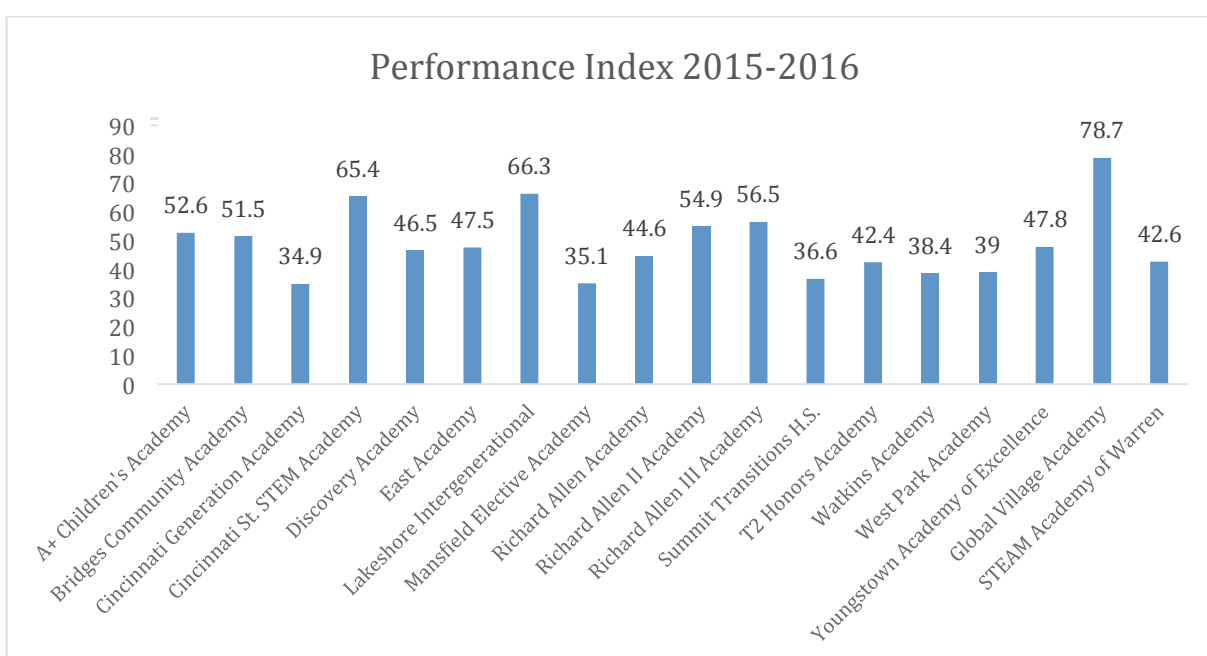
STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) Academy of Warren opened in 2010 and serves grades K-8 in Warren. The school takes the STEM approach and infuses the arts. Accel, Inc., a division of Pansophic, Inc., operates the school. Mosaica Education used to operate the school until it went out of business.

Academic Performance on State Tests

Beginning with the 2015-2016 local report card, the state made significant changes in the way the report card grades were calculated. The changes reflect a significant increase in expectations Ohio has for its students and schools, particularly with regard to college and career readiness expectations. The changes must be kept in perspective when comparing current performance scores to prior years' data as many schools scored lower in the achievement categories. The following charts show the 2015-2016 Performance Index and Value-Added scores for community schools sponsored by the Ohio Department of Education.

Performance Index Scores: 2015-2016

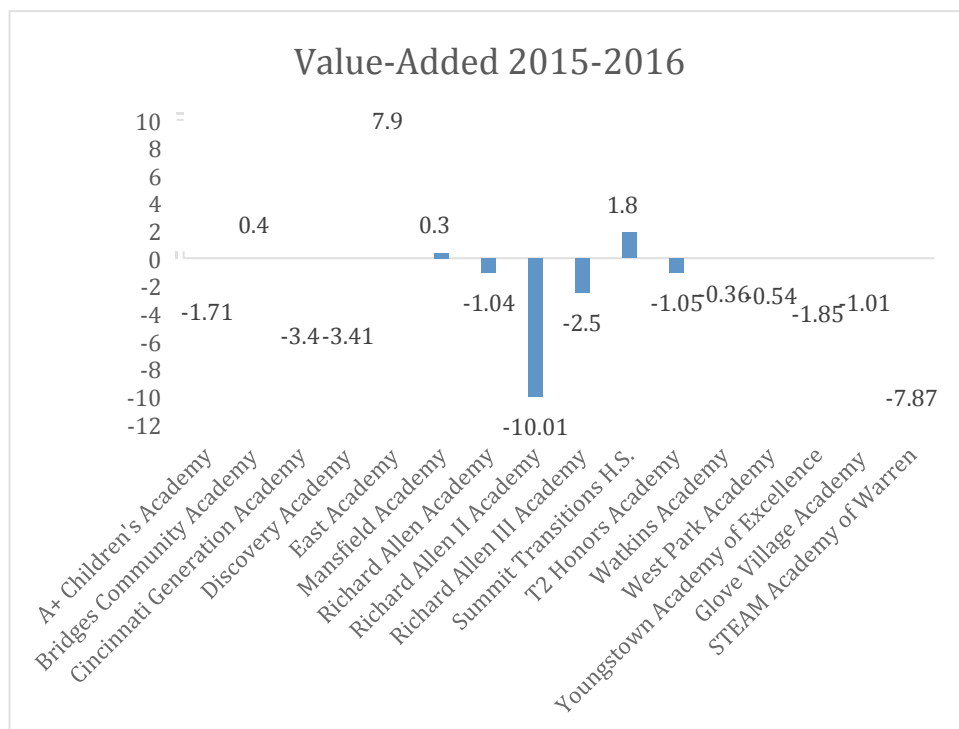
The Performance Index measures the test results of every student, not just those who score proficient or higher. There are six levels on the index and schools receive points for every student in each of these levels. Higher achievement results in more points awarded in the school's index. This rewards schools and districts for improving the performance of all students, regardless of achievement level.



The following community schools are not included: Interactive Media and Construction, Inc., Mansfield Enhancement Academy and Ohio Construction Academy are dropout prevention and recovery schools; and, Richard Allen Preparatory Academy, Steel Academy, Imagine Akron Academy and Quest Community School did not have reported Performance Index scores.

Value-Added Scores: 2015-2016

Value-Added measures individual student growth over the course of one year. A score in the range of -1 to 1 generally indicates that a student has made about one year of academic progress over the course of the academic year. Scores lower than -1 generally indicate that the student is making less than one year of academic growth and is falling behind. Scores above 1 generally indicate that a student made more than one year of academic growth and is catching up or moving ahead.



The following community schools are not included: Interactive Media and Construction, Inc., Mansfield Enhancement Academy and Ohio Construction Academy are dropout prevention and recovery schools; and Cincinnati St. STEM Academy, Lakeshore Intergenerational School, Richard Allen Preparatory, Steel Academy, Imagine Akron Academy and Quest Community School did not have reported Value-Added scores.

Performance Review Framework

The Ohio Department of Education adopted a performance framework and accountability plan developed by the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation and used with their permission. This plan does not reflect how the Department evaluates school performance. It is specific to the Office of School Sponsorship. All data used in the plan comes directly from the local report card. The plan gauges the success of sponsored schools throughout the terms of their contracts. In this plan, under consideration for contract renewal, a governing authority is expected to *meet* or *exceed* the standards, which is the minimum expectation for a sponsored community school in all primary academic indicators, all financial indicators, and all primary operations/governance indicators. The Department considers secondary indicators (for both academics and operations/governance) as well, but primary indicators will factor more heavily into decisions regarding renewal or non-renewal, as well as probation, suspension and termination. An inability to achieve minor elements of the standards may not prevent consideration of contract renewal. The following tables represent the evaluation the Department's sponsored community schools' performances according to the performance framework and accountability plan.

Performance Framework and Accountability Plan

The academic performance framework for general education and dropout prevention and recovery schools are included in [Appendix A](#). The individual school ratings are included in [Appendix B](#).

Applications for Sponsorship: 2015-2016

During the 2015-2016 school year, the Department received 10 applications for sponsorship. Application information regarding the applicant, location or intended location, and type of community school follows.

Applications Received:

- Accelerated Achievement Academy, Cincinnati, Existing Community School
- Cincinnati Speech and Reading Intervention Center, Cincinnati, Existing Community School
- Great Expectations Elementary School, Toledo, Existing Community School
- Greater Summit County Early Learning Center, Akron, Existing Community School
- Impact Academy Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Existing Community School
- I.T. Ed Academy, Cleveland, Proposed New Start-Up Community School
- OAK Leadership Institute, Cleveland, Existing Community School
- STEAM Academy of Akron, Akron, Existing Community School
- Virtual Community School, Cleveland, Existing Community School
- Warren Preparatory Academy, Warren, Proposed Existing Community School

The Department did not approve any of the applications. With the exception of Greater Summit County Early Learning Center, the existing community school applications came from community schools non-renewed by their current sponsor for poor performance. The applications from the new start-up developers did not demonstrate sufficient academic, organizational and/or fiscal plans.

Program Evaluation

The Ohio school sponsorship program currently sponsors 23 community schools throughout the state. With the recent passage of H.B. 2, the Department has been able to dramatically increase the quality of the program, implement national best practices and position the program for continued success. A year-by-year analysis of the program follows.

School Year 1: 2011-2012

During the 2011-2012 school year, the Department received 19 applications from community school developers and existing community school governing authorities seeking the Department's sponsorship to begin on July 1, 2012. Of the 19 applications, eight were from existing community schools and 11 were from new start-up community school developers. All eight applications from existing community schools and four of the 11 applications from new start-up community school developers were approved. Two of the approved existing community schools, managed by the same operator, executed new contracts with their prior sponsoring school district and chose not to enter into a contract with the Department. Two of the approved new start-community schools deferred entering into a contract with the Department for one year.

School Year 2: 2012-2013

Toledo Preparatory Academy, located in the Toledo City School District, signed a contract with the Department, but was closed by its governing authority prior to the start of the new school year due to low enrollment. The Department oversaw its closing procedures. The following chart lists the schools under the Department's sponsorship for the 2012-13 school year.

School	District	County	Type
A+ Children's Academy	Columbus	Franklin	New Start-Up
Cincinnati State STEM Academy	Cincinnati	Hamilton	New Start-Up
Richard Allen Academy	Dayton	Montgomery	Existing
Richard Allen Academy II	Dayton	Montgomery	Existing
Richard Allen Academy III	Butler	Hamilton	Existing
Richard Allen Preparatory Academy	Dayton	Montgomery	Existing
Youngstown Academy of Excellence	Youngstown	Mahoning	Existing

During the 2012-2013 school year, the Department received eight applications. Two applications were from existing community schools. One application was approved and one was disapproved. Bridges Community Academy, located in the Tiffin City School District, was approved. ScholArts Academy (Columbus) was not approved for failing to submit a sufficient application showing an accurate business plan, fiscal viability and sustainability. It subsequently closed.

The Department also received six applications from new start-up community school developers. Four applications were approved. One of the approved applicants, the STEM Academy for Entrepreneurial Development, located in the Warrensville Heights City School District, attempted to open with an insufficient number of students. Ohio law requires that a community school have a minimum of 25 students to begin operations in any school year. On its first day of classes, the school had only 11 students in attendance and fewer than 25 students officially enrolled. At that time, the school had already received two advance payments from the state foundation program based on the school developer's estimated initial enrollment of 140 students. The Department immediately placed the school on suspension and asked the school's governing authority to provide a plan showing how the school could remain solvent throughout the remainder of the year. The school's governing authority was unable to provide the required plan and the Department asked the governing authority to voluntarily close, which it did. Additionally, two new start-up applicants, initially approved to begin operations in 2012, opened for the 2013-2014 school year.

School Year 3: 2013-2014

The following chart lists the 13 community schools under the Department's sponsorship for the 2013-2014 school year. This marks an addition of six community schools from the prior school year.

School	District	County	Type
A+ Children's Academy	Columbus	Franklin	New Start-Up
Bridges Community Academy	Tiffin	Seneca	Existing
Cincinnati State STEM Academy	Cincinnati	Hamilton	New Start-Up
Discovery Academy	Washington Local School District	Lucas	New Start-Up
East Academy	Cleveland	Cuyahoga	New Start-Up
Life Skills H.S. of Springfield	Springfield	Clark	New Start-Up
Richard Allen Academy	Dayton	Montgomery	Existing
Richard Allen Academy II	Dayton	Montgomery	Existing
Richard Allen Academy III	Butler	Hamilton	Existing
Richard Allen Preparatory Academy	Dayton	Montgomery	Existing
Watkins Academy	Dayton	Montgomery	New Start-Up
West Park Academy	Cleveland	Cuyahoga	New Start-Up
Youngstown Academy of Excellence	Youngstown	Mahoning	Existing

During the 2013-2014 school year, the Department received 19 applications for sponsorship. Of those, 11 were from new start-up community school developers and eight were from existing community schools.

Of the 11 applications from new start-up community school developers, five applications were approved. One of the approved applicants, the Mosaica Preparatory Academy did not enter into a contract with the Department. The developer determined that it was unable to establish and open the school. The four new start-up community schools that opened were the Cincinnati Generation Academy, located in the Cincinnati City School District, the UDS Steel Academy, located in the Akron City School District, the Lakeshore Intergenerational School, located in the Cleveland Municipal School District, and the T² Honors Academy, located in the Warrensville Heights City School District.

Of the eight applications from existing community schools, five were approved. The approved existing community schools were Interactive Media and Construction Academy, Inc., Mansfield Elective Academy, Mansfield Enhancement Academy, all located in the Mansfield City School District, Springfield Academy of Excellence, located in the Springfield City School District, and Lake Erie Academy, located in the Toledo City School District.

The three existing school applications, not approved, were from the Value Learning and Teaching Academy, located in the Cincinnati City School District, the General Chappie James Leadership Academy, located in the Dayton City School District, and the A.B. Graham Academy, located in the Graham Local School District. Both the Value Learning and Teaching Academy and the General Chappie James Leadership Academy appealed the application denial to the common pleas courts. Neither appeal was successful. Additionally, three applications were withdrawn by the developer. The withdrawn applications were from the Advantage Academy Akron, the Advantage Academy Cleveland, and the Kent Academy.

The Life Skills High School of Springfield closed at the end of the school year due to low enrollment. The Department oversaw its closing procedures.

School Year 4: 2014-2015

During the 2014-2015 school year, the Department sponsored 21 community schools pursuant to Section 3314.029 of the Ohio Revised Code. The following chart represents those community schools.

School	District	County	Type
A+ Children's Academy	Columbus	Franklin	New Start-Up
Bridges Community Academy	Tiffin	Seneca	Existing
Cincinnati Generation Academy		Hamilton	New Start-Up
Cincinnati State STEM Academy	Cincinnati	Hamilton	New Start-Up
Discovery Academy	Washington Local School District	Lucas	New Start-Up
East Academy	Cleveland	Cuyahoga	New Start-Up
Interactive Media and Construction Academy	Mansfield	Richland	Existing
Lake Erie Academy	Toledo	Lucas	Existing
Lakeshore Intergenerational Academy	Cleveland	Cuyahoga	New Start-Up
Mansfield Elective Academy	Mansfield	Richland	Existing
Mansfield Enhancement Academy	Mansfield	Richland	Existing
Richard Allen Academy	Dayton	Montgomery	Existing
Richard Allen Academy II	Dayton	Montgomery	Existing
Richard Allen Academy III	Butler	Hamilton	Existing
Richard Allen Preparatory Academy	Dayton	Montgomery	Existing
Springfield Academy of Excellence	Springfield	Clark	Existing
T ² Honors Academy	Warrensville Heights	Cuyahoga	New Start-Up
UDS Steel Academy	Akron	Summit	New Start-Up
Watkins Academy	Dayton	Montgomery	New Start-Up
West Park Academy	Cleveland	Cuyahoga	New Start-Up
Youngstown Academy of Excellence	Youngstown	Mahoning	Existing

In April 2015, the State Board of Education revoked the Portage County Educational Service Center's authority to sponsor community schools. Pursuant to Section 3314.015 of the Revised Code, the Department assumed the sponsorship of its eight sponsored community schools on April 27, 2015. The following table lists those schools.

School	District	County	Type
Cleveland Community School	Cleveland	Cuyahoga	Existing
Global Village Academy	Parma	Cuyahoga	Existing
Imagine Akron Academy	Akron	Summit	Existing
Imagine Cleveland Academy	Cleveland	Cuyahoga	Existing
Imagine on Superior	Canton	Stark	Existing
Quest Community School	Parma	Cuyahoga	Existing
STEAM of Warren	Warren	Trumbull	Existing
Villaview Community School	Cleveland	Cuyahoga	Existing

After a full review of all of the schools' performance, the Department issued notices of intent to suspend the operations of Cleveland Community School and Villaview Community School, both co-located in the Cleveland Municipal School District, for poor academic performance. The governing authorities of each school were comprised of the same individuals and the schools shared a common administration. Both schools sued the Department regarding the intent to suspend notices. The initial lawsuits were dismissed and the schools were given an opportunity to find another sponsor and agreed that the Department's sponsorship would end on June 30, 2015. After failing to secure another sponsor, both schools sued the Department again. The Department prevailed and the schools closed for lack of a sponsor. The Imagine Academy of Cleveland, located in the Cleveland Municipal School District and the Imagine on Superior Academy, located in the Canton City School District, were suspended for poor academic and organizational performance. Both community schools sued the Department over the decisions. The Department prevailed and both were suspended. They subsequently closed. The Department also non-renewed the contracts for Lake Erie Academy (Toledo) and Springfield Academy of Excellence (Springfield). Both schools closed at the end of the school year.

During the 2014-2015 school year, the Department received 16 applications from community school developers and existing community schools. Twelve applications were from new start-up community school developers and four applications were from existing community schools. Of the 16, three applications were approved, two applications were withdrawn and 12 applications were not approved. One approved applicant, the Falcon Academy, chose not to enter into a contract with the Department due to a lack of adequate facilities and resources. It has subsequently closed.

The applications for proposed new start-up community schools that were not approved generally lacked quality educational, organizational and financial planning. In addition, none of these applications demonstrated that the applicant had (or could reasonably raise) the necessary financial resources for a successful launch.

School Year 5: 2015-2016

Please see the details for the 2015-2016 school year outlined on page 8.

Current Year 2016-2017

In the current year, the Department sponsors the following community schools.

School	District	County	Type
A+ Children's Academy	Columbus	Franklin	New Start-Up
Bridges Community Academy	Tiffin	Seneca	Existing
Cincinnati Generation Academy		Hamilton	New Start-Up
Discovery Academy	Washington Local School District	Lucas	New Start-Up
East Academy	Cleveland	Cuyahoga	New Start-Up
Interactive Media and Construction Academy	Mansfield	Richland	Existing
Lakeshore Intergenerational Academy	Cleveland	Cuyahoga	New Start-Up
Mansfield Elective Academy	Mansfield	Richland	Existing
Ohio Construction Academy	Columbus	Franklin	Existing
Richard Allen Academy	Dayton	Montgomery	Existing
Richard Allen Academy II	Dayton	Montgomery	Existing
Richard Allen Academy III	Butler	Hamilton	Existing
Richard Allen Preparatory Academy	Dayton	Montgomery	Existing
Steel Academy	Akron	Summit	New Start-Up
Summit Academy Transitions High School-Columbus	Columbus	Franklin	Existing
T ² Honors Academy	Warrensville Heights	Cuyahoga	New Start-Up
Watkins Academy	Dayton	Montgomery	New Start-Up
West Park Academy	Cleveland	Cuyahoga	New Start-Up
Youngstown Academy of Excellence	Youngstown	Mahoning	Existing
Global Village Academy	Parma	Cuyahoga	Existing
Imagine Akron Academy	Akron	Summit	Existing
Quest Community School	Parma	Cuyahoga	Existing
STEAM of Warren	Warren	Trumbull	Existing

Ohio School Sponsorship Program Legislative History

H.B. 153 of the 129th General Assembly

The 129th General Assembly passed House Bill 153 and created the Ohio school sponsorship program. The new law became effective on Sept. 29, 2011. The law created the Office of School Sponsorship within the Department to administer the Ohio school sponsorship program. The Department was required to become a direct sponsor of community schools and authorized to sponsor up to five new start-up community schools and up to 15 existing community schools each year for a period of five years.

The newly enacted O.R.C. 3314.029 prescribed application requirements. Applicants were required to provide a series of “statements” and “descriptions” covering their education plan and legal compliance issues. Additionally, applicants were required to include evidence that the community school could purchase a bond to insure the state for any moneys owed to the state upon the community school’s closure. The Department was required to approve applications that had provided “sufficient” responses. The law did not provide a definition of “sufficient” or allow the Department to ask for additional items to be included in the application. A community school closed for poor performance, or terminated by another sponsor, had a very low bar to approval for continued sponsorship with the Department.

S.B. 316 of the 129th General Assembly

The Department sought legislative changes in order to allow it to decline applications from poor performing community schools. Senate Bill 316 became effective on Sept. 24, 2012. The law was changed to give the Department the ability to deny an application from an existing community school, if a previous sponsor did not renew the school’s contract. However, the new provision did not extend that authority in the situation where an existing community school had a prior contract terminated by its sponsor. Non-renewal can occur for a variety of reasons, not all of which are performance related. Terminated community schools generally have worse performance or more egregious problems than a community school that has been non-renewed.

H.B. 59 of the 130th General Assembly

The Department sought and received another legislative change to address that issue. On Sept. 29, 2013, House Bill 59 became effective. The bill provided the Department with authorization to deny an application from an existing community school that had had a prior contract terminated by a sponsor. These changes allowed the Department to raise approval standards for existing community school applicants. However, the limited application criteria provided by the code and a low approval standard still persisted and prevented the Department from fully implementing a high quality application and approval process.

H.B. 2 of the 131st General Assembly

House Bill 2 became effective on Feb. 1, 2016. The law brought sweeping changes to the Ohio school sponsorship program aimed at allowing the Department to implement a high quality application and approval process. The new law gave the Department the ability to:

- Establish a format and deadlines for an application;
- Consider standards for quality authorizing, capacity requirements, financial constraints, or other necessary and appropriate criteria in approving or denying an application; and,
- Adopt application criteria, develop application rating, and annually publish application approval criteria.

This allowed the Department to implement quality standards in the application and approval process. H.B. 2 also requires that applicants located in the Cleveland Municipal School District receive a recommendation for approval by the Cleveland Transformation Alliance. This allows the Cleveland Transformation Alliance to ensure that community school applicants meet and be aligned with the requirements of the Cleveland Plan.

The positive effects of H.B. 2 on the Ohio school sponsorship program became immediately apparent. During the 2015-2016 school year, eight existing community school applications were denied because of poor performance and/or the fact their prior sponsor had non-renewed their contracts. Two new start-up applications were denied for failing to meet the quality standards required by the Department's new approval criteria. This resulted in the closure of poor performing schools and the prevention of poor applicants from receiving approval to establish and operate community schools that are not positioned for academic and operational success.

Sponsor Performance Review – Closures

The new sponsor performance review requires sponsors to immediately close if they receive a poor ranking. A sponsor may also close at any point upon a finding by the State Board of Education that the sponsor is no longer willing or able to meet its legal obligations as a sponsor. In both cases, the community schools sponsored by that sponsor move to being sponsored by the Department once the sponsorship authority is revoked. The Department's sponsorship will continue, at least, for the current school year and can be extended for up to two additional school years.

As stated above, the Portage County ESC was found by the State Board of Education to be no longer willing or able to meet its legal obligations and its eight sponsored community schools became sponsored by the Department. Four of those schools remain open. The 2015-2016 sponsor performance review has been completed and released. The Department expects that up to 28 community schools' contracts may be assumed by early 2017, after appeals processes are complete.

Recommendations for the Continuation of the Program

There are three provisions in the Ohio Revised Code whereby a community school may become sponsored by the Department: through an approval of an application (O.R.C. 3314.029); through a finding by the State Board of Education that its current sponsor is unwilling or unable to fulfill its obligations (O.R.C. 3314.015); and, through a sponsor's mandated closure due to receiving a "poor" rating on its annual evaluation (O.R.C. 3314.016).

The Department's five-year authority to accept applications expired at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. At this time, the Department is not requesting continuation of the authority to accept applications from new and existing community schools. The Office of School Sponsorship will continue to sponsor community schools that are currently in the program and will assume the sponsorship of community schools in circumstances where their current sponsor is unwilling or unable to fulfill its obligations and where a poor rating on a sponsor's annual evaluation forces it to close.

Appendix A

Performance Framework for General Education Schools

Primary Academic Indicators	Exceeds the Standard	Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard	Falls Far Below the Standard
Performance Index ¹ (PI)	90% or higher	80%–89%	70%–79%	69% and below
Value-Added ²	+ 4.00 and above	0 to 4.0	0 to –4.0	–4.0 and below
Graduation Rate (4 yr)	93%–100%	84%–92%	79%–83%	Below 79%
Graduation Rate (5 yr)	95%–100%	85%–94%	80%–84%	80% and below
K–3 Literacy Improvement	B or better	C	D	F
Performance versus Local Market: ³ PI	Ranked in top 20% in PI score	Ranked in 70%–79% in PI score	Ranked in 69%–50% in PI score	Ranked in bottom 49% in PI score
Performance versus Local Market: Value-Added	Ranked in top 20 th percentile in VAM score	Ranked in 70 th –79 th percentile in VAM score	Ranked in 69 th –50 th percentile in VAM score	Ranked in bottom 49 th percentile in VAM score
Performance versus Statewide Charters: PI	Ranked in top 20 th percentile in PI score	Ranked in 70 th –79 th percentile in PI score	Ranked in 50 th –69 th percentile in PI score	Ranked in bottom 49 th percentile in PI score
Performance versus Statewide Charters: Value-Added	Ranked in top 20 th percentile in VAM score	Ranked in 70 th –79 th percentile in VAM score	Ranked in 50 th –69 th percentile in VAM score	Ranked in bottom 49 th percentile in VAM score

Secondary Academic Indicators	Exceeds the Standard	Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard	Falls Far Below the Standard
Value-Added: Overall Grade	A	B or above	C or below	D or below in VA and PI = Probation
PI: Overall Grade	A	B or above	C or below	D or below in VA and PI = Probation
Value-Added: Gifted	A	B or above	C or below	
Value-Added: Disabilities	A	B or above	C or below	
Value-Added: Lowest 20%	A	B or above	C or below	
Value-Added: High School	A	B or above	C or below	
AMOs (Gap Closing)	A	B or above	C or below	
College Admission Test Participation Rate	A	B or above	C or below	
College Admission Test Non-remediation Score	A	B or above	C or below	
Dual Enrollment Credits	A	B or above	C or below	
Industry Credentials	A	B or above	C or below	
Honors Diplomas Awarded	A	B or above	C or below	

¹ The Performance Index (PI) percentage is calculated as follows: School's PI score / 120 (the highest possible PI score).

² A Value-Added score is a statistical estimate intended to convey how much a school has contributed to student learning. A higher Value-Added score conveys greater confidence that, on average, the school has contributed more than one standard year of academic growth; a lower Value-Added score conveys greater confidence that the school has, on average, not contributed more than one standard year of academic growth.

³ "Local Market" includes other community schools (excluding virtual and dropout recovery community schools, as designated by the Ohio Department of Education) in the county in which a school is located as well as comparable district schools in the community school's "serving district," as designated by the Ohio Department of Education.

AP Participation Rate	A	B or above	C or below	
AP Score	A	B or above	C or below	
IB Participation Rate	A	B or above	C or below	
IB Score	A	B or above	C or below	
College- and Career-Ready Assessment	A	B or above	C or below	
School Regularly Administers Internal Growth Assessment		Yes	No	
School Met a Majority of Its Internal Goals (Section A.7 of This Contract)		Yes	No	

Financial Measures of Success (Current Year)	Exceeds the Standard	Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard	Falls Far Below the Standard
Current Ratio of Assets to Liabilities	Ratio is greater than or equal to 1.1	Ratio is between 1.0 and 1.1; AND one-year trend is positive (current year's ratio is higher than last year's)	Ratio is between 0.9 and 1.0 or equals 1.0; OR ratio is between 1.0 and 1.1 AND one-year trend is negative	Ratio is less than or equal to 0.9
Days Cash	60 or more days cash	Between 30 and 60 days cash	Between 15–30 days; OR 30–60 days cash AND one-year trend is negative	Fewer than 15 days cash

Current Year Enrollment Variance ⁴	Actual enrollment equals or is within 95% of budgeted enrollment in most recent year	Actual enrollment is 90%–95% of budgeted enrollment in most recent year	Actual enrollment is 80%–90% of budgeted enrollment in most recent year	Actual enrollment is less than 80% of budgeted enrollment in most recent year
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Financial Measures of Success (Prior Years)	Exceeds the Standard	Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard	Falls Far Below the Standard
Multi-year Ratio of Assets to Liabilities ⁵	Ratio is greater than or equal to 1.1 for at least the 2 most recent years	Ratio is between 1.0 and 1.1 for at least the most recent year	Ratio is below 1.0 for the most recent year; OR below 1.0 in the 2 most previous years out of 3 years	Ratio is 0.9 or less for the most recent year; OR is 0.9 or less in the 2 most previous years out of 3 years
Cash Flow	Cash flow is positive for at least the 2 most recent years	Cash flow is positive for at least 1 of the most recent 2 years	Cash flow is not positive for at least 1 of the most recent 2 years	Cash flow is negative for any two consecutive years
Total Margin (TM) and	ATTM is positive	ATTM is greater	ATTM is greater	ATTM is less than

⁴ The enrollment variance depicts actual enrollment divided by enrollment projection in the community school's board-approved budget.

⁵ This ratio depicts the relationship between a school's annual assets and liabilities, covering the last three years.

Aggregated Three-Year Total Margin ⁶ (ATTM)	and the most recent year TM is also positive	than –1.5%, the trend is positive for the last two years, AND the most recent year TM is positive	than –1.5%, but trend not “meet standard”	or equal to –1.5%; OR the most recent year TM is less than –10%
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Operations/ Governance Primary Indicators	Exceeds the Standard	Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard	Falls Far Below the Standard
Records compliance ⁷	90% or higher	79%–89%	78%–60%	59% or below
On-Time Records Submission Rate	90% or higher	79%–89%	78%–60%	59% or below
Financial Records Submitted Monthly	90% or higher	79%–89%	78%–60%	59% or below
Annual Audit	Two consecutive years of no findings, findings for recovery, noncompliance citations, questioned costs, or material weaknesses, as set forth in the audit	No findings, findings for recovery, noncompliance citations, questioned costs, or material weaknesses, as set forth in the audit	Audit contains three or more of the following: findings, noncompliance citations, questioned costs, or material weaknesses, or findings for recovery (less than \$5,000 combined), as set forth in the audit.	Audit contains three or more of the following: findings, noncompliance citations, questioned costs, or material weaknesses, or findings for recovery (in excess of \$5,000 combined), as set forth in the audit
LEA Special Education Performance Determination (most recent annual) ⁸	Meets Requirements	Needs Assistance	Needs Intervention	Needs Substantial Intervention

⁶ “Total margin” measures the deficit or surplus a school yields out of its total revenues; in other words, it measures whether or not the school is living within its available resources. The total margin is important to track, as schools cannot operate at deficits for a sustained period of time without risk of closure. The aggregate three-year total margin is helpful for measuring the long-term financial stability of the school by smoothing the impact of single-year fluctuations. The performance of the school in the most recent year, however, is indicative of the sustainability of the school; thus, the school must have a positive total margin in the most recent year to meet the standard. “Total Margin” = Net income/Total Revenue. “Aggregate Total Margin” = Total Three-Year Net Income/Total Three-Year Revenues.

⁷ Represents the percentage of records reviewed that were accurate and complete during the school year.

⁸ The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) requires that state education agencies make annual determinations regarding the performance of special-education programs operated by Local Education Agencies (LEAs) that receive federal IDEA Part-B funding. In Ohio, individual community schools are considered LEAs.

Operations/ Governance Secondary Indicators	Exceeds the Standard	Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard	Falls Far Below the Standard
Five-Year Forecasts Submitted to ODE by Statutory Deadlines		Yes	No	
Pre-opening Assurances Documentation		Completed and available 10 days before the first day of school	Not completed and available 10 days before the first day of school	
Annual Report		Submitted to parents and sponsor by the last day of October	Not submitted to parents and the sponsor by the last day of October	
Safety Plan and Blueprint Submitted within the Last 3 Years to the Ohio Attorney General		Yes	No	
Family Survey Results	90% or greater overall satisfaction with school	80%–89% overall satisfaction with school	70%–79% overall satisfaction with school	69% or less overall satisfaction with school

Performance Framework for Dropout Prevention and Recovery Schools

Measures	Exceeds	Meets	Does Not Meet
High School Test Passage Rate	68-100%	32-67.9%	Less Than 32%
Gap Closing	36-100%	1-35.9%	0-0.9%
Progress	2.0 and Up	-2.0 – 1.99	Below -2.0
4 Year Graduation Rate	36-100%	8-35.9%	0-7.9%
5 Year Graduation Rate	40-100%	12-39.9%	0-11.9%
6 Year Graduation Rate	40-100%	12-39.9%	0-11.9%
7 Year Graduation Rate	40-100%	12-39.9%	0-11.9%
8 Year Graduation Rate	40-100%	12-39.9%	0-11.9%
Combined Graduation Rate	40-100%	12-39.9%	0-11.9%

Appendix B

	A+ Children's Academy	Bridges Community Academy	Cincinnati Generation Academy	Discovery Academy	East Academy	Global Village Academy	Imagine Akron	Lakeshore Intergenerational School	Mansfield Elective Academy	Quest Community School	Richard Allen Academy	Richard Allen Academy II	Richard Allen Academy III	Richard Allen Prep	STEAM Academy of Warren	Stearl Academy	Summit Academy Transition HS - Cols	T ² Honors Academy	Watkins Academy	West Park Academy	Youngstown Academy of Excellence
	PRIMARY ACADEMIC INDICATORS																				
Performance Index (PI)							NR			NR				NR		NR					
Value-Added (VA)							NR	NR		NR				NR		NR					
Graduation Rate	NA		NA	NA	NA	NA	NR	NR	NR		NA	NA	NA	NR	NA	NR		NR	NA	NA	NA
Graduation Rate-5 Years	NA		NA	NA	NA	NA	NR	NR	NR		NA	NA	NA	NR	NA	NR		NR	NA	NA	NA
K-3 Literacy Improvement	NR	NR					NR	NR	NR	NA	NA					NR	NA	NR			
Performance v. Local Market (PI)							NR	NR		NR				NR		NR					
Performance v. Local Market (VA)							NR	NR		NR				NR		NR					
Performance v. Statewide Charters (PI)							NR	NR		NR				NR		NR					
Performance v. Statewide Charters (VA)							NR	NR		NR				NR		NR					
	SECONDARY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS																				
VA Gifted	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
VA Disability	NR	NR	NR	NR		NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR		NR	NR	NR	NR		NR	NR	NR	NR
VA Lowest 20%						NR	NR	NR	NR	NR				NR		NR			NR		
VA High School	NA	NR	NR	NA	NR	NA	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NA	NR	NR	NA	NR	NR	NR	NR	NA	NA
AMOs							NR	NR	NR	NR				NR		NR					
College Admission – Participation	NA	NR	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NR	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	NR	NA	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	NA
College Admission – Non-Remediation	NA	NR	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NR	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	NR	NA	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	NA

	<i>A+ Children's Academy</i>	<i>Bridges Community Academy</i>	<i>Cincinnati Generation Academy</i>	<i>Discovery Academy</i>	<i>East Academy</i>	<i>Global Village Academy</i>	<i>Imagine Akron</i>	<i>Lakeshore Intergenerational School</i>	<i>Mansfield Elective Academy</i>	<i>Quest Community School</i>	<i>Richard Allen Academy</i>	<i>Richard Allen Academy II</i>	<i>Richard Allen Academy III</i>	<i>Richard Allen Prep</i>	<i>STEAM Academy of Warren</i>	<i>Steal Academy</i>	<i>Summit Academy Transition HS - Cols</i>	<i>T² Honors Academy</i>	<i>Watkins Academy</i>	<i>West Park Academy</i>	<i>Youngstown Academy of Excellence</i>
<i>Dual Enrollment Credits</i>	NA	NR	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NR	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	NR	NA	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	NA
<i>Industry Credentials</i>	NA	9.70%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NR	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	NR	NA	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	NA
<i>Honors Diploma Awarded</i>	NA	NR	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NR	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	NR	NA	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	NA
<i>AP Participation Rate</i>	NA	NR	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NR	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	NR	NA	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	NA
<i>AP Score</i>	NA	NR	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NR	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	NR	NA	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	NA
<i>IB Participation Rate</i>	NA	NR	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NR	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	NR	NA	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	NA
<i>IB Score</i>	NA	NR	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NR	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	NR	NA	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	NA
<i>College/Career Readiness</i>	NA	NR	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NR	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	NR	NA	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	NA
<i>Regularly Administer Internal Assessments</i>	NA	NR	NR	NR	NR		NR	NR	NR	NR	NR		NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
<i>Met Majority of Internal Goals</i>	NA	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
	ADDITIONAL DATA																				
<i>Percent Meeting 3rd Grade Reading</i>	84.20%	NR	63.20%	97.20%	94.70%	95.70%	NR	90.90%	NR	NA	NA	98.40%	95.70%	NR	83.30%	NA	NA	NA	50.00%	66.70%	78.60%
<i>KG On-Track Reading</i>	NR	NR	6.30%	24.20%	35.70%	93.80%	NR	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	70.60%	63.20%	37.90%	NA	NA	NA	86.40%	27.30%	33.30%
<i>1st Grade On-Track Reading</i>	NR	NR	5.00%	46.00%	42.90%	100%	NA	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA	72.40%	66.10%	42.90%	NA	NA	NA	100%	75%	87.00%
<i>2nd Grade On-Track Reading</i>	NR	NR	35.70%	NR	60.00%	100%	NA	NR	NR	NA	NA	79.20%	73.90%	NA	32.30%	NA	NA	NA	81.00%	59.10%	100.00%
<i>3rd Grade On-Track Reading</i>	NR	NR	45.00%	NR	26.30%	96.20%	NA	NR	NR	NA	NA	69.70%	88.90%	NA	32.00%	NA	NA	NA	86.70%	42.10%	81.30%

	FINANCIAL MEASURES OF SUCCESS (CURRENT YEAR)																			
Ratio Assets to Liabilities	NR	NR	NR													NR	NR			
Days Cash																	NR			
Enrollment Variance																	NR			
Percentage of Facility Cost to Local Market	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
	FINANCIAL MEASURES OF SUCCESS (PRIOR YEARS)																			
Multi-Year Ratio of Assets to Liabilities	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Cash Flow	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Total Margin and Aggregated 3 Year Margin	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
	OPERATIONS/GOVERNANCE PRIMARY INDICATORS																			
Records Compliance																				
On-Time Records Submission Rate																				
Financial Records Submitted Monthly																				
Annual Audit	NR					NR			NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR		NR		NR	NR
LEA Special Education Determination Letter					NR	NR														

	OPERATIONS/GOVERNANCE SECONDARY INDICATORS																			
Five Year Forecast Submitted On-Time																				
Pre-Opening Assurances Documentation																				
Annual Report																				
Safety Plan Submitted																				
Family Survey	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR

Dropout Prevention and Recovery Community Schools			
Report Card Measures	Interactive Media & Construction, Inc.	Mansfield Enhancement Academy	Ohio Construction Academy
High School Test Passage Rate	NR	NR	NR
Gap Closing	NR	NR	NR
Progress			
4 Year Graduation Rate			
5 Year Graduation Rate			NR
6 Year Graduation Rate			NR
7 Year Graduation Rate			NR
8 Year Graduation Rate			NR
Combined Graduation Weighted Rate			