

Sponsor Opening Assurances for 2025-26

Ohio Revised Code 3314.19 and Ohio Administrative Code 3301-102-05

COMMUNITY SCHOOL BUILDING INFORMATION

Please complete a **separate** form for **each new facility** associated with this IRN (annex locations require separate forms).

IRN _____

Building Name _____

Address _____

***If this is an annex or an additional facility, please use address of the annex or additional facility**

INSTRUCTIONS

[State law](#) requires the sponsor of each community school to annually provide opening assurances to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce no later than **ten business days** prior to the opening of the school.

This assurance is only required for schools:

- In the first year of operation
- The first year a school operates from a new building
- Adding an additional facility during the school year and the facility was not previously included in sponsor assurances
- If opening assurances were not previously completed

Please complete all applicable sections.

- a. Complete Section I for all new schools or schools in the first year of operating in a new building.
- b. Complete Section II if your school operates using a blended learning model as defined by Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3301.079.
- c. Complete Section III if the school operates a dropout prevention and recovery model.

All sponsors must sign the attestation on the last page of the opening assurances.
Instructions for completing this document are included at the end of this document.

Sponsor Information

Please check all that apply:

First day of instruction in the current academic year

Change of location

Addition of a new facility or structure

First day of instruction for 2025-26 school year **OR** first day of instruction in the new location:

Sponsor Name: _____

Sponsor IRN: _____

School Name: _____

School IRN: _____

School Superintendent: _____

Superintendent Telephone Number: _____

Superintendent's Email Address: _____

School Information

School Website: _____

School Physical Street Address (main facility address if this is being completed for an annex):

City, State: _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____

School Building Main Telephone Number: _____

School Email (if applicable): _____

School Fax Number: _____

Mailing Address (if different from facility address):

City, State: _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____

Will there be multiple facilities/locations associated with this school IRN?

Yes No

If yes, please list all [facilities/locations](#) associated with this school's IRN and grade levels served at each location. (Please note: Submitting a [Notification of Multiple Facilities](#) in Epicenter is required. If you have not submitted this form in Epicenter, please do so as soon as possible.)

Grade levels authorized per contract: _____

Grade levels currently served: _____

OEDS Administrator's Name: _____

OEDS Administrator's Email Address: _____

School Operator/Management Company Services

Does the school contract with an operator or management company? (See [ORC 3314.02 \(A\)\(8\)](#) for definition of operator).

Yes No

If the school contracts with an operator or management company, please complete all questions in the School Operator/Management Company section. Districts and educational service centers that sell services to community schools may qualify as operators under state law.

Operator/Management Company Name: _____

Operator/Management Company IRN: _____

Operator/Management Company EIN: _____

Please indicate whether the school's operator is a charter management organization (CMO), an education management organization (EMO) or another type of organization.

- **Charter Management Organization (CMO)** – A nonprofit organization that operates or manages two or more charter schools (i.e., either through a contract with the charter schools or as the charter holder) linked by centralized support, operations, and oversight.
- **Education Management Organization (EMO)** – A for-profit entity that contracts with new or existing public school districts, charter school districts, and charter schools to manage charter schools by centralizing support, operations, and oversight.
- **Other** – An organization such as a school district or educational service center that is not a CMO or EMO and that provides management, instructional or support services to one or more charter schools.

The operator is a **charter management organization (CMO)**.

The operator is an **education management organization (EMO)**.

The operator is **another type of organization**.

All contracts between the operator and the community school for management, fiscal, instructional, or support services have been submitted to the Department.

Yes No

Comments/Explanation

Section I

ASSURANCES

In accordance with ORC 3314.19, please provide assurances by answering yes or no to the following. If the answer to a question is no, please provide an explanation.

The pre-opening site visit occurred prior to the school opening for the 2025-2026 school year.			
YES		NO	
Explanation:			
A current copy of the contract (including all amendments or addendums) between the sponsor and the governing authority of the school entered under ORC 3314.03 has been submitted to the Office of Community Schools.			
YES		NO	
Explanation:			
The sponsor has received and reviewed a copy of the school's plan for providing special education and related services to students with disabilities and the school has demonstrated the capacity to provide those services in accordance with ORC 3323 and federal law including proper licensure for educators providing special education and related services.			
YES		NO	
Explanation:			
The school has a plan and procedures in place that meets all state requirements for administering the achievement and diagnostic assessments prescribed by ORC 3301.0710, 3301.0712 and 3301.0715.			
YES		NO	
Explanation:			

The school personnel have the necessary training, knowledge, and resources to properly use and submit accurate information to all databases maintained by the Department for the collection of education data, including the Education Management Information System (EMIS) and its subsystem, ODDEX, established under ORC 3301.0714 in accordance with methods and timelines established under ORC 3314.17.

YES		NO	
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Explanation:

The sponsor has reviewed all required information about the school in the Ohio Educational Directory System (OEDS) or any successor system and verified that all information is current and correct.

YES		NO	
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Explanation:

The sponsor has verified that the school currently has at least twenty-five students enrolled for the 2025-2026 school year, the minimum number of students required by division (A)(11)(a) of ORC 3314.03.

YES		NO	
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Explanation:

All classroom teachers are licensed in accordance with ORC 3319.22 to 3319.31, except for non-licensed persons engaged to teach pursuant to ORC 3319.301. Find more information on the [State Board of Education's website](#).

YES		NO	
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Explanation:

The school's fiscal officer complies with ORC 3314.011. (Please review ORC 3314.011 carefully and ensure the school has a designated fiscal officer that is either: a) employed under a contract with the governing authority of the school; or

b) the governing authority adopted a resolution waiving the requirement and the sponsor approved the resolution.)

YES		NO	
Please explain which option applies to this school:			

Fiscal Officer's (Treasurer's) Name: _____

Treasurer's License Number: _____

Expiration Date of License: _____

Fiscal Officer's Telephone Number: _____

Fiscal Officer's Email Address: _____

The school has complied with ORC 3319.39 and 3319.391. The school has on file both BCI and FBI criminal records checks for all licensed and unlicensed employees, including private contractors providing on- and off-site student services and that the school has conducted criminal records checks and Findings for Recovery of each of its governing authority members.

YES		NO	
Explanation:			

The school provided evidence of the following to the sponsor:

- Evidence of property ownership or a lease for the facilities used by the school.
- A current certificate of occupancy.

Please explain which circumstance applies to this school, **including the lender's or lessor's name and the term of the mortgage or lease including the expiration date of the lease.** Please also indicate the date the certificate of occupancy was issued.

YES		NO	
Explanation:			

The school provided evidence of the following to the sponsor:

Proof of liability insurance for the school, as required by division (A)(11)(b) of ORC 3314.03; and the sponsor agrees that the liability insurance is sufficient to provide for the potential liability of the school.

YES

NO

Please include the carrier name, term of policy, and expiration date:

The school provided evidence of the following to the sponsor:

The school has a plan and procedures in place that meets all state requirements for administering the achievement and diagnostic assessments prescribed by ORC 3301.0710, 3301.0712 and 3301.0715.

YES

NO

Explanation:

The school provided evidence of the following to the sponsor:

A satisfactory health and safety inspection (or school environmental health and safety inspection form). This inspection should align to any expectations related to COVID-19. If the health/safety inspection resulted in any findings or required corrective actions, please describe those findings or corrective actions taken, and provide dates and information that each identified item was corrected.

YES

NO

Please indicate the date of inspection, and the organization that conducted the inspection:

The school provided evidence of the following to the sponsor:

A satisfactory fire inspection. If the fire inspection resulted in any findings or required corrective actions, please describe those findings or corrective actions taken, and provide dates and information that each identified item was corrected. (Fire inspection must be conducted annually in coordination with local jurisdictions. A satisfactory fire inspection must be completed within the current school year.)

YES		NO	
Please include date of inspection or additional comments/explanation:			
The school provided evidence of the following to the sponsor: If offering food services, a valid food permit. (Schools and sponsors must adhere to all applicable state and federal requirements.)			
YES		N/A	
Explanation:			
In addition to the assurances required by ORC 3314.19, please attest to the following: The sponsor has conducted a pre-opening site visit prior to any time a school opens a new facility or changes locations.			
YES		NO	
If no, please explain:			
The school is in full compliance with ORC 3313.536 regarding School Emergency Plans. The school has submitted a current <u>Emergency Management Plan</u> (EMP) to the Ohio School Safety Center every three years, and a plan certification annually.			
YES		NO	
If no, please explain:			
The school will submit a five-year forecast of operational revenues and expenditures in accordance with OAC 3301-92-04 and pursuant to rules adopted by the Department and the Auditor of State.			
YES		NO	

If no, please explain:

The sponsor has monitored and evaluated the school's short- and long-term financial stability and viability.

YES

NO

If no, please explain:

The sponsor has a plan to assume operation of its sponsored schools to complete the 2025-2026 school year if necessary.

YES

NO

If no, please explain:

The school has met all the sponsor's requirements.

YES

NO

If no, please explain and list additional requirements and status of compliance:

BOND REQUIREMENT

In accordance with ORC 3314.50, please provide assurances by answering yes or no to the following questions. If the answer to a question is no, please provide an explanation. If the answer to the first question is N/A, please indicate the date the school opened for operation and move on to the next section. If the school is opening for the first time in 2025-2026, please complete the Addendum to Sponsor Opening Assurances (New Schools Only) section.

Did either the school's sponsor or operator post a bond or provide a written guarantee of payment with the Office of Community Schools in accordance with ORC 3314.50? Please indicate which entity in the comments. (Select N/A if school opened prior to February 1, 2016.)					
YES		NO		N/A	
Explanation:					
If the school opened after Feb 1, 2016, has the school changed either its sponsor or operator? Please indicate all changes and identify current entities.					
YES		NO			
Explanation:					
If the school opened after Feb 1, 2016, has the school's new sponsor or operator posted a bond or provided a written guarantee of payment with the auditor of state in accordance with 3314.50?					
YES		NO			
Explanation:					

Please ensure a copy of any documentation to demonstrate a school's compliance with Ohio Revised Code 3314.50 is provided to the Department of Education and Workforce via Epicenter.

Section II

BLENDED LEARNING

Does the school plan to utilize a blended learning model, as defined in ORC 3301.079, during the 2025-2026 school year?			
YES		NO	
Did the school submit a blended learning declaration on or before July 1 of the school year in which the school plans to utilize a blended learning model? <i>If yes, please complete all questions in the blended learning section if this school operates using one or more blended learning models. If your answer is no, you may skip this section. Please see the Department's guidance regarding blended learning here.</i>			
YES		NO	
Has the sponsor approved all blended learning model(s) that will be used by the school during 2025-2026? If yes, please indicate the specific blended learning model or models that will be used by the school.			
YES		NO	
Please list specific page numbers within the community school contract, education plan and or addendums to the contract where the description of blended learning model or models used by the school may be found. (See Ohio Department of Education and Workforce guidance regarding House Bill 2 and blended learning models here .)			
Does the sponsor-school contract executed under ORC 3314.03 include a description of how student instructional needs will be determined and documented? Please list specific page numbers within the community school contract, education plan or addendums to the contract that describe how the school will assess, document and address students' instructional needs:			
YES		NO	

Is a board approved policy or procedure included in the sponsor-school contract, education plan, or addendums? If yes, please list specific page numbers of relevant policies and procedures within the community school contract, education plan or addendums.

YES		NO	
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Has the sponsor reviewed and approved the method to be used for determining competency, granting credit, and promoting students to higher grade levels? If yes, please list specific page numbers within the community school contract, education plan or addendums to the contract that describe the method to be used by the school for determining competency, granting credit and promoting students to higher grade levels.

YES		N/A	
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Has the sponsor reviewed and approved the school's attendance policy, including how the school will document participation in learning opportunities?

YES		NO	
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Does the attendance policy meet all requirements in state law? If yes, please list specific page numbers within the community school contract, education plan or addendums to the contract that describe the school's attendance requirements, including how the school will document participation in learning opportunities.

YES		NO	
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Has the sponsor reviewed statements describing and evidence (policies/procedures) detailing how student progress will be monitored? If yes, please list specific page numbers within the community school contract, education plan or addendums to the contract that describe how student progress will be monitored by the school. If the community school contract does not specify how student progress will be monitored, please submit a copy of the policy/procedure.

YES		NO	
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Has the sponsor reviewed policies and procedures that describe how private student data will be protected?			
YES		NO	
Do the policies/procedures meet all legal requirements under state and federal law? Please list specific page numbers within the community school contract, education plan contract addendums or policies that describe how private student data will be protected by the school.			
YES		NO	
Has the sponsor reviewed a description of the professional development activities (specific to blended learning instruction) that will be offered to teachers? Please list specific page numbers within the community school contract, education plan or addendums to the contract that describe the professional development activities (specific to blending learning instruction) that will be offered to teachers by the school during the 2025-2026 school year.			
YES		NO	
I, sponsor of the above community school, affirm that the school meets all requirements to operate using a blended learning model.			
YES		NO	
I, sponsor of the above community school, affirm that the current community school contract submitted to the Department includes all requirements listed above for the school to operate using a blended learning model.			
YES		NO	
I, sponsor of the above community school, affirm that the community school has submitted a blended learning declaration to operate using a blended learning model.			
YES		NO	
If you answered no to any of the above affirmations regarding requirements related to this school utilizing blended learning, please provide an explanation here.			

SECTION III

DROPOUT PREVENTION AND RECOVERY REPORT CARD DESIGNATION

Did the sponsor and school apply for designation as a dropout prevention and recovery community school for the 2025-2026 school year? If yes, please complete all items in the dropout recovery section. If your answer is no, you may skip this section. Please see Department guidance regarding dropout recovery community school requirements here .			
YES		NO	
Do the policies/procedures meet all legal requirements under state and federal law? Please list specific page numbers within the community school contract, education plan contract addendums or policies that describe how private student data will be protected by the school.			
YES		NO	
The sponsor reviewed evidence that the school meets all requirements, and the school will comply with all requirements (including required state-mandated assessments) that apply to dropout prevention and recovery schools.			
YES		NO	
The sponsor has reviewed the school's education plan, and the plan meets the requirements outlined in statute to be eligible for the dropout prevention and recovery report card designation.			
YES		NO	
I, sponsor of the above community school, affirm that the school meets all requirements to be eligible for the dropout prevention and recovery report card designation.			
YES		NO	
I, sponsor of the above community school, affirm that the current community school contract submitted to the Department includes all requirements listed above for the school to be eligible for the dropout prevention and recovery report card designation.			
YES		NO	

Addendum to Sponsor Opening Assurances

(New Schools Only)

INSTRUCTIONS

In accordance with Ohio Revised Code 3314.191, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce shall make no payment under section 3314.08 of the Revised Code to a community school opening for its first year of operation until the sponsor of that school confirms all of the following in ORC [3314.191](#).

Sponsors of community schools opening for the first year of operation in 2025-2026 must complete this addendum and sign the attestation on the last page of the addendum. Instructions for filing are included at the end of the document.

ORC 3314.191: PREREQUISITES FOR PAYMENTS FROM DEPARTMENT

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in the Revised Code, the department of education and workforce shall make no payment under section 3314.08 of the Revised Code to a community school opening for its first year of operation until the sponsor of that school confirms all the following:

- (A) The school is in compliance with the provisions described in divisions (A), (H), (I), and (J)(3) of section 3314.19 of the Revised Code.
- (B) The sponsor has approved the financial controls required by the comprehensive plan for the school under division (B)(5) of section 3314.03 of the Revised Code.
- (C) The school facilities will be ready and open for use by the date prescribed in the contract entered into under section 3314.03 of the Revised Code, and the sponsor has reviewed any lease, purchase agreement, permits required by statute or contract, and construction plans.
- (D) The chief administrator of the community school is actively managing daily operations at the school.
- (E) The projected enrollment reported to the department is accurate.

SPONSOR INFORMATION

Did your organization receive a rating of effective or higher on the most recent sponsor evaluation?

Yes No

Please indicate the first year of operation of the community school: _____

PREREQUISITES FOR PAYMENTS FROM DEPARTMENT

In accordance with ORC 3314.191, please provide assurances by answering yes or no to the following. If the answer to a question is no, please provide an explanation.

The school is in compliance with the provisions described in divisions (A), (H), (I), and (J)(3) of section 3314.19 of the Revised Code.			
YES		NO	
Explanation:			
The sponsor has approved the financial controls required by the comprehensive plan for the school under division (B)(5) of section 3314.03 of the Revised Code.			
YES		NO	
Explanation:			
The school facilities will be ready and open for use by the date prescribed in the contract entered under section 3314.03 of the Revised Code, and the sponsor has reviewed any lease, purchase agreement, permits required by statute or contract, and construction plans.			
YES		NO	
Explanation:			
The chief administrator of the community school is actively managing daily operations at the school.			
YES		NO	
Name of Chief Administrator:			
The projected enrollment reported to the Department is accurate.			
YES		NO	

Explanation:

BOND REQUIREMENT

In accordance with ORC 3314.50, please provide assurances by answering yes or no to the following. If the answer to a question is no, please provide an explanation.

Has the community school fulfilled the bond requirement in ORC 3314.50?

YES

NO

Explanation:

Please review ORC 3314.50 and indicate which of the following requirements the school has been fulfilled.

The governing authority of the school has posted a bond in the amount of \$50,000 with the auditor of state that is to be used, to pay the cost of audits of the school under ORC 3314.50.

In lieu of a bond, the school's sponsor or an operator that has a contract with the school provided a written guarantee of payment, which shall obligate the school's sponsor or the operator that provides the written guarantee to pay the cost of audits of the school under ORC 3314.50 up to the amount of \$50,000.

Indicate which entity provided written guarantee of payment.

Explanation:

Please ensure a copy of any documentation to demonstrate a school's compliance with Ohio Revised Code 3314.50 is provided to the Department of Education and Workforce via Epicenter.

Sponsor Attestation of Assurances

By signing, I attest that I have reviewed the above information, and it is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Sponsor Representative Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

This form can be signed by hand or electronically.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

Sponsors must submit a completed 2025-2026 Sponsor Opening Assurances form electronically to Epicenter following the process below.

1. Log in to Epicenter at <http://epicenternow.org/>.
2. Click the **Sign In** link at the top of the screen.
3. Enter your username and password.
4. Click **Document Center**.
5. On the Document Center page, click the **Submission Upload** button.
6. For Entity Type, select school.
7. For Submission Type, select **Sponsor Assurance Form**.
8. For Entities, select the appropriate school by checking the box next to the school's name.
9. Enter the required information.
10. Click **the Upload New File** button to upload your document.
11. (Optional) Type a brief message to the reviewer.
12. Click Submit.

If you have additional questions or if you are unable to view any of the information described above, please contact the Office of Community Schools at community.schools@education.ohio.gov.