

Quality Community Schools Support Grant

Request for Information – Criteria 3

The Quality Community School Support grant provides additional funding to community schools that meet criteria established by the General Assembly. Community schools meeting eligibility criteria can receive \$2,250 in each fiscal year for each pupil identified as economically disadvantaged and \$3,000 in each fiscal year for all enrolled students. Payments for each fiscal year are calculated using the final adjusted full-time equivalent number of students enrolled in the community school for the current fiscal year. The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce makes grant payments to each community school meeting quality criteria in January.

Note: The Department will utilize the most recent available sponsor evaluation rating as permitted by law.

Criteria Three

The community school meets all the following criteria:

(1) The school's sponsor was rated "exemplary" or "effective" on the sponsor's most recent evaluation conducted under section 3314.016 of the Revised Code.

(2) The school satisfies either of the following:

(a) The school contracts with an operator that operates schools in other states and meets at least one of the following criteria:

(i) Has operated a school that received a grant funded through the federal Charter School Program established under 20 U.S.C. 7221 within the five years prior to the date of application or received funding from the Charter School Growth Fund;

(ii) Meets all of the following criteria:

One of the operator's schools in another state performed better than the school district in which the school is located, as determined by the Department.

(II) At least fifty per cent of the total number of students enrolled in all of the operator's schools are economically disadvantaged, as determined by the Department.

(III) The operator is in good standing in all states where it operates schools, as determined by the Department.

(IV) The Department has determined that the operator does not have any financial viability issues that would prevent it from effectively operating a community school in Ohio.

(b) The school is replicating an operational and instructional model through an agreement with a college or university used by a community school or its equivalent in another state that performed better than the school district in which the school is located, as determined by the Department of Education and Workforce.

(3) The school is in its first year of operation or, if not in its first year of operation and qualifying under option (2)(b) opened on July 1, 2022, and has not previously been designated as a Community School of Quality.

Please complete all requested information for the applicable option, sign assurance and attestation, and submit to the Department of Education and Workforce as instructed.

Option 2(a)(i) Required Information and Narrative

Operators with community schools that meet the criteria in section 2(a)(i) must answer the questions below.

Option 2(a)(i) Criteria	Yes	No	Not Applicable
The school's sponsor was rated "Exemplary" or "Effective" on the sponsor's most recent evaluation conducted under section 3314.06 of the Revised Code.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The school contracts with an operator that operates schools in other states AND has operated a school that received a grant funded through the federal Charter Schools Program established under 20 U.S.C. 7221 within the past five years or received funding from the Charter School Growth Fund.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The school is in its first year of operation. <i>(The Department will use the contract submitted by the sponsor for verification).</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2(a)(i) Required Narrative:

If the community school believes they meet the criteria in section 3(b)(i) to qualify as a Community School of Quality, indicate the name of the operator and the school the operator has operated that received a grant funded through the federal Charter Schools Program established under 20 U.S.C. 7221 or received funding from the Charter School Growth Fund. Please specify the exact name of the grant and the year the school received the grant.

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Option 2(a)(ii) Required Information, Narrative and Supporting Documentation

2(a)(ii) Specific Requirements

Operators of community schools that believe they meet the criteria in section 2(a)(ii) must complete the criteria 2(a)(ii) Required Narrative and provide supporting documentation.

Option 2(a)(ii) Criteria	Yes	No	Not Applicable
The school's sponsor was rated "Exemplary" or "Effective" on the sponsor's most recent evaluation conducted under section 3314.06 of the Revised Code.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The school contracts with an operator that operates schools in other states AND meets all of the following criteria:</p> <p>(I) One of the operator's schools in another state performed better than the school district in which the school is located, as determined by the Department.</p> <p>(II) At least 50 percent of the total number of students enrolled in all of the operator's schools are economically disadvantaged, as determined by the Department.</p> <p>(III) The operator is in good standing in all states where it operates schools.</p> <p>(IV) The Department has determined the operator does not have any financial viability issues that would prevent it from effectively operating a community school in Ohio.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The school is in its first year of operation. <i>(The Department will use the contract submitted by the sponsor for verification).</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If the community school believes that it meets the criteria included in 2(a)(ii) to qualify as a Community School of Quality, the operator of the community school must demonstrate the following qualities by providing the following information to the Department.

- i. One of the operator's schools in another state must have performed better than the school district in which the school is located, as defined below.

For the operator to meet this requirement, the operator must demonstrate one of the schools it operates in another state achieved proficiency level in **all** reported grades for all students in English language arts, math and science for grades 3 through 8 and/or reported high school equivalency [for proficiency] **is higher** than

the district the operator's school is located based on the most recent available data submitted by each state for federal accountability.

Please provide the name and address of the school, the public district the school is located in, a copy of the most recently published data outlining the proficiency scores on the state's assessments for both the public district and the school contracted for services with the operator, NCES number and a link to the state's accountability system that explains how the ratings for the school were calculated in an Excel spreadsheet.

The obligation is on the operator to provide the most recent data for consideration.

- ii. At least 50 percent of the total number of students enrolled in all of the operator's schools are economically disadvantaged, as defined by each state for the purpose of EdFacts reporting to the U.S. Department of Education.

Please provide a list of all schools managed by the operator and include the following information for each school in an Excel spreadsheet;

- School's unique school identifier;
- School's name;
- State of location of school;
- Economically disadvantaged data (as a percent);
- Link to state's most recently reported demographic data for verification.

The Department will verify the information provided by the operator for all of its schools against the information provided as part of the Request for Information. The Department will consider the most recent data as of the deadline for submission for the Request for Information. **The obligation is on the operator to provide the most recent data for consideration.**

- iii. The operator is in good standing in all states where it operates schools.

For the operator to meet the definition of good standing, the operator must demonstrate for the most recent school year:

- The operator is authorized to conduct business in all states the operator holds agreements with schools to manage.
 - (i.e.) Filed to do business with the Secretary of State's office or equivalent per the state's requirements.
- All schools it currently manages in all states are not on probation;
- All schools it currently manages in all states are not in receipt of notices of intent to suspend operations from the schools' current sponsors/authorizers;
- All schools it currently manages in all states have not been required by their sponsors/authorizers to suspend operations;
- All schools it currently manages are not in receipt of notices of termination from their current sponsors/authorizers;
- All schools it currently manages do not have unresolved corrective action plans from the state department of education, current sponsor/authorizer or current operator.

Please provide a list of all schools managed by the operator, including the following information in an Excel spreadsheet:

- School's unique school identifier;
- School's name;
- Type of school;
- State of location of school.
- Link to business filing with Secretary of State (or equivalent per state's requirement) in all states

The operator also must complete the criteria 3(b)(ii) Operator Assurances Supplement assuring the operator meets the definition of good standing, as defined above. The Department may request additional documentation from the operator to verify it meets any or all parts of the definition of good standing.

- iv. The Department has determined the operator does not have any financial viability issues that would prevent it from effectively operating a community school in Ohio.

For the operator to meet this definition, the operator must demonstrate:

- All schools it manages have not been determined to be unauditably by the auditor of state in each state the operator has managed schools;
- All schools it manages have not had unresolved findings for recovery in each state the operator has managed schools;
- All schools it manages have not received opinions other than unqualified opinions from the most recently released annual fiscal audits from each state the operator has managed schools;
- All schools it manages have not had other significant issues related to fiscal condition, such as ongoing concern comments in multiple audit reports, material misstatements in financial statements, and/or findings for financial matters related to internal controls or oversight of federal funds from each state the operator has managed schools.

In addition to this application, please provide copies of the requested documentation listed in Appendix A – Quality Community Schools Support – Financial Viability Checklist. The operator also must complete the criteria (3)(b)(ii) Operator Assurances Supplement assuring the operator does not have any financial viability issues that would prevent it from effectively operating a community school in Ohio.

2(a)(ii) Operator Assurances Supplement

Operators of community schools who believe they meet criteria 2(a)(ii) to be designated as a Community School of Quality must also provide the following assurances to the Department.

Good Standing Assurances:

The operator is authorized to conduct business in **all states where** the operator holds current agreements with schools.

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I agree

No schools currently managed by the operator in all states are on probation.

☐ I agree

No schools currently managed by the operator in all states are in receipt of notices of intent to suspend operations from the schools' current sponsors/authorizers.

☐ I agree

No schools currently managed by the operator in all states have been required by their sponsors/authorizers to suspend operations.

☐ I agree

No schools currently managed by the operator in all states are in receipt of notices of termination from their current sponsors/authorizers.

☐ I agree

No schools currently managed by the operator in all states have unresolved corrective action plans from the state department, current sponsor/authorizer or current operator.

☐ I agree

Financial Viability Assurances:

No schools currently managed by the operator in all states have been determined to be unauditable by the auditor of state in each state the operator has managed schools.

☐ I agree

No schools currently managed by the operator in all states have unresolved findings for recovery in each state the operator has managed schools.

☐ I agree

No schools currently managed by the operator in all states have anything other than an unqualified opinion on the most recently released annual fiscal audits from each state in which the operator has managed schools.

☐ I agree

No schools currently managed by the operator in all states have had other significant issues related to fiscal condition, such as ongoing concern comments in multiple audit reports for the same school, material misstatements in financial statements, and/or findings for financial matters related to internal controls or oversight of federal funds from each state in which the operator has managed schools.

☐

I agree

NOTE: The Department may request additional documentation from the operator at any point of the application review process to verify the operator meets any or all parts of the definition of good standing and the operator does not have any financial viability issues that would prevent it from effectively operating a community school in Ohio. If the Department discovers any of the information provided by the operator above is inaccurate at any point in the review process or the operator fails to fully respond to a request from the Department for more information, **all community schools indicated as meeting option 2(a)(ii) by the operator may** be ineligible to receive further consideration.

Option 2(b) Required Information

The school is replicating an operational and instructional model through an agreement with a college or university used by a community school or its equivalent in another state that performed better than the school district in which the school is located, as determined by the Department of Education and Workforce.

Option 2(b) Criteria	Yes	No	Not Applicable
The school's sponsor was rated "Exemplary" or "Effective" on the sponsor's most recent evaluation conducted under section 3314.06 of the Revised Code.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The school is replicating an operational and instructional model through an agreement with a college or university used by a community school or its equivalent in another state that performed better than the school district in which the school is located.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The name of the college or university is:			
Name of college/university contact:			
Title:			
Telephone number:			
Email:			
Identify the name of the school and location being replicated:			
The school is in its first year of operation. <i>(The Department will use the contract submitted by the sponsor for verification).</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide the name and address of the school, the public district the school is located in, a copy of the most recently published data outlining the proficiency scores on the state’s assessments for both the public district and the school contracted for services with the operator, NCES number and a link to the state’s accountability system that explains how the ratings for the school were calculated in an Excel spreadsheet. **The obligation is on the operator to provide the most recent data for consideration.**

Option (3) Required Information

The school is in its first year of operation or, if not in its first year of operation and qualifying under section (2)(b) of Criteria Three opened on July 1, 2023, and has not previously been designated as a Community School of Quality.

Option (3) Criteria	Yes	No	Not Applicable
The school’s sponsor was rated “Exemplary” or “Effective” on the sponsor’s most recent evaluation conducted under section 3314.06 of the Revised Code.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Date the school opened:			
The school is replicating an operational and instructional model through an agreement with a college or university used by a community school or its equivalent in another state that performed better than the school district in which the school is located.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of the college or university:			
Name of college/university contact:			
Title:			
Telephone number:			
Email:			
Identify the name of the school and location being replicated:			
The school is in its first year of operation. <i>(The Department will use the contract submitted by the sponsor for verification).</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide the name and address of the school, the public district the school is located in, a copy of the most recently published data outlining the proficiency scores on the state’s assessments for both the public district and the school contracted for services with the operator, NCES number and a link to the state’s accountability system that explains how the ratings for the school were calculated in an Excel spreadsheet. **The obligation is on the operator to provide the most recent data for consideration.**

Submission Instructions

Applicant should note the timelines listed below:

December 2, 2024: The applicant must complete the Request for Information in its entirety and submit all required narratives and attachments by 4:59 p.m. on the due date to receive consideration. Only complete submissions will be considered. The Department will not review any late or incomplete submissions after the deadline.

Jan. 31, 2025: The Department will make payments to each eligible community school of quality.

All applicants must complete the Request for Information in its entirety and provide the criteria-specific narrative and supporting documentation to receive consideration from the Department. The Department will not score any late or incomplete submissions. If you have questions about the Request for Information, please email community.schools@education.ohio.gov.

Directions for Submission

The Department will collect documentation from operators seeking to complete the Request for Information via email to community.schools@education.ohio.gov.

The deadline for submission of the Request for Information is December 2, 2024, at 4:59 p.m.

Operator Attestation of Assurances

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

Name: _____

Position: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Appendix – A Quality Community School Support- Financial Viability Checklist

QUALITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL FUNDING COMMUNITY SCHOOL OPERATOR – FINANCIAL VIABILITY CHECKLIST REQUEST PERIOD – FISCAL YEAR 2025

Section I: Operators with Audited Financial Statements with opinion and footnotes – Please provide the following:

- _____ Most recent Audit Report (includes audited financial statements released with footnotes) – Must have been released within the last 24 months. Please note, compilation reports **do not qualify** as audited financial statements. If your audit was released more than 24 months ago, please follow the checklist for unaudited statements in Section II.
- _____ Listing of any loan receivables (including those associated with community schools) that are not reported in the financial statements submitted with this checklist.
- _____ Listing of any loans made to community schools that have been forgiven by the operator and currently are listed within the financial statements provided, along with the reason(s) the loan(s) were forgiven, amount forgiven, and date approved by operator.
- _____ Listing of any Ohio community schools that have had FTE adjustments (for example, claw back, final adjustments #1, #2) and a description of how the “true-up” from the operator took place for all FTE adjustments for each school affected during the audit report period. If not included in the audited statements provided, identify the amount of the “true up” accounts payable to the school that has been or will be repaid. Please identify all FTE adjustments that are under appeal.

Section II - Operators with no current audit report (audited financial statements released with opinion and footnotes), please provide the following required financial documents for the most recent fiscal year ending: (Note, the below list is a preliminary set of necessary documentation. Additional documentation may be requested as the financial viability assessment is completed.)

- _____ Balance Sheet: *Accrual basis is required.* The balance sheet “**as of date**” should be the same as the “**final date**” of the period covered by the Statement of Activities.
- _____ Statement of Activities: *Accrual basis is required* (income statement/profit and loss statement). The final day of the income statement’s reporting period should align with the “as of date” on the balance sheet.
- _____ General Ledger: Provide a detailed report by account for all figures reported on both the Balance Sheet and Statement of Activities.
- _____ Listing of any loan receivables (including those associated with community schools) that are not reported in the financial statements submitted with this checklist.
- _____ Listing of any loans made to community schools that have been forgiven by the operator and currently are listed within the financial statements provided, along with the reason(s) the loan(s) were forgiven, amount forgiven, and date approved by operator.
- _____ Listing of any Ohio community schools that have had FTE adjustments (for example, claw back, final adjustments #1, #2) and a description of how the “true-up” from the operator took place for all FTE adjustments for each school affected during the audit report period. If not included in the audited statements provided, identify the amount of the “true up” accounts payable to the school that has been or will be repaid. Please identify all FTE adjustments that are under appeal.