Community School Request to Change Sponsors

Community schools meeting performance under **Ohio Revised Code** 3314.034(A) must receive approval from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce prior to entering into a contract with another sponsoring organization. *Please note*, Ohio law requires that community schools nonrenewed for failure to meet student performance requirements stated in the contract or failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management must close and will not be approved for a change in sponsorship.

Please read the guidance in its entirety prior to submitting the requested documentation.

CONDITIONS WHICH REQUIRE APPROVAL FROM THE DEPARTMENT

Any community school to which either of the following conditions apply shall be prohibited from entering into a contract with a new sponsor without approval from the Department:

1. The community school has received, on the most recent report card issued for that school under section 3302.03 of the Revised Code, a performance rating of less than three stars for achievement and a performance rating of less than three stars for progress under section 3302.03 of the Revised Code, or

2. The community school is a dropout prevention and recovery community school, and it has received a rating of "does not meet standards" for the annual student growth measure and combined graduation rates on the most recent report card issued for the school under section 3314.017 of the Revised Code.

Ohio law states that a community school to which the criteria above apply may only enter into a contract with a new sponsor if all the following criteria are met:

(1) The proposed sponsor received a rating of "effective" or higher pursuant to division (B)(5) of section 3314.016 of the Revised Code on its most recent evaluation conducted according to that section, or the proposed sponsor is the office of Ohio school sponsorship established in section 3314.029 of the Revised Code.

(2) The community school submits a request to enter into a new contract with a sponsor.

(3) The community school has not submitted a prior request that was granted.

(4) The department grants the school's request pursuant to division (C) of this section.

SCHOOLS PRIMARILY SERVING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Community schools in which a majority of the enrolled students are children with disabilities may enter into a contract with a new sponsor, provided that the new sponsor is rated effective or exemplary if:

(1) The school received, on its most recent report card, a performance rating of at least three stars for progress under division (D)(3)(c) of that section; and

(2) The school's performance index score for students with disabilities was higher than the performance index score for students with disabilities of the school district in which the school is located.

Schools that primarily serve students with disabilities are required to notify the Department of Education and Workforce no later than February 15, 2027, of your school's intent to change sponsors under this provision so the Department can confirm that criteria have been met and approve or deny the change of sponsor. Please send notification to: Community.Schools@education.ohio.gov.

Request For Approval to Change Sponsors

All Materials must be submitted by the proposed new sponsor in Epicenter under the submission type "**Request to Change Sponsor**." The submission must include a signed resolution by the school's governing authority approving the submission of the request and the governing authority's approval to seek a new sponsor.

The Department shall approve or deny the request within 30 days of receipt of the request. If the request is denied, the community school may submit an appeal to the Department, which shall hold a hearing in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

Notice of appeal to the Department must be filed with the Department not later than 10 days after receiving the decision. The Department shall conduct the hearing not later than 30 days after receiving the school's notice of appeal and act upon the determination of the hearing officer not later than the 25th day of June of the year in which the school wishes to change sponsors.

Schools must receive a minimum of 70% of available points to be approved to change sponsors.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

School Name: _____ **IRN:** _____

Current Sponsor: _____ **IRN:** _____

Proposed Sponsor: _____**IRN:** _____

CURRENT SPONSOR INFORMATION

1. **Current Sponsor Information**
   a. What is the sponsor evaluation rating for the school's current sponsor?

      Sponsor Rating: _____

   b. How many years has the school been authorized by the current sponsor? _____

   c. What is the number of times the school has changed sponsors prior to the current request? _____

2. **Proposed Sponsor Information**
   What is the sponsor evaluation rating for the school's proposed sponsor?

   Sponsor Rating: _____

DOCUMENT SUBMISSION

Instructions: Provide the below documents as part of your submission. All documents must be provided or an explanation if a document is not available.

1. The current sponsor's most recent evaluation of the school for the past three (3) years.
2. The most recent audit by the Auditor of State. If there are any findings or negative comments regarding internal controls from the Auditor of State, provide an explanation of corrective actions taken,
3. Financial review from the sponsor for the past three (3) months.
4. Performance Framework review of the school.
5. Parent or student surveys.

NARRATIVE RESPONSES

Instructions: Provide a response to all questions that does not exceed 1,000 words. Question 5 should be answered if the surveys are available.

1. Describe the school's impact on the students and the community or communities it serves. The response should include, but is not limited to, the following:
    a. Services provided for students outside of academics (wrap around services, community partnerships, etc.)
    b. How the school engages with families
    c. How the school engages with the community
    d. Post-graduation student outcome data (if available)
2. Describe the quality and quantity of academic and administrative support the school receives from its current sponsor to help the school to improve. The response should include, but is not limited to, the following:
    a. The frequency and quality of technical assistance provided
    b. The frequency, variety, and quality of training provided to both administrative and teaching staff
    c. The responsiveness of the sponsor
    d. The number of on-site visits per year
3. Describe the academic performance of the school, taking into account the demographic information of the students enrolled in the school. The response should include, but is not limited to, the following:
    a. The demographic makeup of the school
    b. Literacy and math achievement
    c. Early literacy achievement (if applicable)
    d. Gap closing data
    e. Progress data
4. Describe the fiscal stability of the school. The response should include, but is not limited to, the following:
    a. School assets
    b. Outstanding loans or debt
    c. Projected cash balance for the upcoming fiscal year

5. Provide copies of parent and student surveys and describe parent and student satisfaction rates as demonstrated by surveys, if available. If not available, write “N/A.” The response should include, but is not limited to, the following:
    a. Quantitative data
    b. Qualitative examples
    c. Explanation of any actions taken to improve satisfaction rates as based on survey responses if applicable.
6. Provide a detailed explanation of why the school is requesting to change sponsors. The response should include, but is not limited to, the following:
    a. Reason the school is requesting to change from its current sponsor to a new sponsor, including any action by the school or sponsor to terminate or not renew the sponsorship contract;
    b. Why specific actions taken by the current sponsor to improve academic outcomes were ineffective;
    c. An explanation of what actions were taken by the governing authority to improve student academic outcomes.