

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, community schools nonrenewed for reasons detailed in ORC 3314.07(B)(1)(a) or (b) 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 PROHIBIT A CONTRACT WITH NEW SPONSOR

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. A performance rating of less than three stars for achievement under division (D)(3)(b) of section [3302.03](#) of the Revised Code and a performance rating of less than three stars for progress under division (D)(3)(c) of that section; or
2. The community school is one in which a majority of the students are enrolled in a dropout prevention and recovery program, 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.

A community school to which the criteria above apply, may only enter into a contract with a new sponsor if the Department approves the school's request and all other criteria identified in ORC [3314.024](#) are met. See below for instructions and documentation required to review the request for a change of sponsor.

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 not required to submit this application. We do, however, request that you notify the Department of Education and Workforce no later than February 15, 2026, of your school's intent to change sponsors under this provision so the Department can confirm that criteria have been met. Please send notification to: Community.Schools@education.ohio.gov

Process to Request Approval to Change Sponsors

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.

Applicants should read each section thoroughly and provide detailed responses to each question below.

Narrative responses must be submitted using the attached form. Each narrative response is limited to 1,000 words or less per question. Responses that exceed the word limit will receive a score of 0. Font size cannot exceed 12 pt or be smaller than 10 pt.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

School Name: _____ **IRN:** _____

Current Sponsor: _____ **IRN:** _____

Proposed Sponsor: _____ **IRN:** _____

CURRENT SPONSOR INFORMATION

1. Current Sponsor Information. *Maximum 5 Points*

- a. What is the sponsor evaluation rating for the school's current sponsor for the three most recent years the sponsor was rated? Please indicate the school year and the rating.

School Year: _____ Sponsor Rating: _____

School Year: _____ Sponsor Rating: _____

School Year: _____ 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? _____

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

2. Academic Performance. *Maximum 20 points*

- a. What is the Achievement Rating for the most recent school year for the school and the district in which the school is located?

School's Achievement Rating: _____ District's Achievement Rating: _____

- b. Percentage of economically disadvantaged students for the most recent school year:

School's Economic Disadvantage: _____

District's Economic Disadvantage: _____

- c. Are there any alternative schools serving the same grade levels available in the district in which the school is located?

_____ Yes _____ No

Please list alternative schools and the 2024-25 Achievement Rating for each school.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

3. Please provide information about the school's financial stability including but not limited to the following: *Maximum 20 points*

- a. Assets (Does the school own their facility?) _____
- b. Does the school have any outstanding loans or debt beyond a mortgage loan? _____
If yes, please list the amount of each outstanding debt and the creditor.

- c. What is the school's projected cash balance for FY 2026 and FY 2027?

FY26: \$ _____ FY27: \$ _____

4. Did fiscal audits for FY 2024, FY 2023, or FY 2022 include any findings for recovery? Please describe all findings and what changes were implemented to ensure they are not repeated.

Maximum 5 points

5. Did fiscal audits for FY 2024, FY 2023, or FY 2022 include any recommendations for improving internal controls? Please describe. Were recommendations implemented? *Maximum 5 points*

NARRATIVE RESPONSES

6. Provide a detailed description of school's impact on the students and the community or communities it serves, including but not limited to: (Response cannot exceed 1000 words.)

- a. A description of the school's impact on the students and community it serves;
- b. Results from parent and student satisfaction surveys, if available.
- c. A description of positive academic impact on the students it serves.

Maximum 10 points

7. Provide a detailed explanation of why the school plans to change sponsors, including but not limited to: (Response cannot exceed 1000 words.)

- 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 were specific actions taken by the current sponsor to improve academic outcomes ineffective;
- c. An explanation of what actions were taken by governing authority to improve student academic outcomes.

Maximum 10 points

8. Provide a detailed description of how the proposed sponsor will significantly improve the school's academic performance, including but not limited to: (Response cannot exceed 1000 words.)

- a. How will the school's One Plan be revised to strengthen improvement efforts?
- b. What specific services will the proposed sponsor provide that will improve academic achievement in mathematics and literacy?
- c. Describe the oversight of fiscal condition by the proposed sponsor?
- d. Describe the experience the proposed sponsor has in school turn around. Please list specific schools and school years of schools demonstrating successful turnaround in the past three school years.

Maximum 25 points