

Addendum to the Technical Documentation for the 2019-2020 Community School Sponsor Evaluation

Overview

The ordered statewide school building closure caused a significant disruption to educational activity in Ohio and created challenges to the successful completion of the 2019-2020 sponsor evaluation. The Ohio General Assembly passed emergency legislation, House Bill 197, canceling the spring administration of Ohio's State Tests and waiving report card requirements with the exception of reporting of some limited, available data. H.B. 197 did not waive the requirements to have a sponsor evaluation. Rather, it specified that the 2019-2020 sponsor evaluation will not include an academic component.

The legislature passed a follow-up bill to amend H.B. 197, H.B. 164, that made additional adjustments to the evaluation. H.B. 164 eliminated the rating requirement for the compliance and quality components and added language to allow sponsors to indicate if they could not comply with an applicable law or administrative rule or fully adhere to a quality practice because the required action was unable to be completed due to the ordered school-building closure. With this law in place, the sponsors will still be required to submit documentation for the evaluation process and the Department will still go through the process of evaluating the documentation submitted by the sponsors. However, the Department will not issue component ratings or overall ratings, making the 2019-2020 school year a "report-only" year, just as is the case for traditional public schools.

The 2019-2020 evaluation will not count towards any sanctions, penalties, rewards or incentives. This includes sponsors that are currently in a two-year exemption from being evaluated due to receiving three consecutive ratings of Effective or Exemplary. Those sponsors will be evaluated next in the 2022-2023 school year instead of the 2021-2022 school year. In addition, sponsors that came into the 2019-2020 school year with two consecutive ratings of Ineffective or two consecutive ratings of Effective or Exemplary will have their next rating determined for the 2020-2021 school year.

Academic Performance Component

There will be no Academic Performance component included in the 2019-2020 sponsor evaluation.

Compliance with Laws and Rules Component

Per the requirements of H.B. 164, sponsors will be evaluated on their compliance with all laws and rules. However, they will not receive a score or rating for the Compliance component. Instead, reports will be published that include the compliance data for individual compliance items in a report-only manner.

While the Ohio statute requires the state to evaluate sponsors on the Compliance with All Laws and Rules component, H.B. 164 says that the Department "shall allow a sponsor to indicate that it could not comply with an applicable law or administrative rule" due to the school building closure. Sponsors will indicate which items were affected by the ordered school-building closure and will include a brief explanation as to why the closure affected their or their schools' ability to complete the requirements for the respective item.

The vendor will utilize a new Compliance rating of "Closure-Affected" on the worksheets to identify items sponsors indicated they could not complete because of the ordered school-building closure.

Quality Practices Component

Per the requirements of H.B. 164, while sponsors will be evaluated on the quality practices component, they will not receive a rating for the quality practices component. However, sponsors will receive points and comments on their current level of performance for each quality standard.

In light of the ordered statewide school building closure, the Department determined that modifications were needed for some of the quality rubric standards. The modifications are as follows:

- **D.02:** Currently requires sponsors to provide six financial reviews and six enrollment reviews to receive a 3-point or 4-point rating. Sponsors are now required to submit only four financial and enrollment reviews as part of the review of this standard. The rest of the standard remains as is.
- **D.03:** Currently requires the submission of at least two site visits to get any points. Sponsors are now required to submit only one site visit if they were unable to complete the second one by the date of the ordered school building closure. In addition, if a second site visit was unable to be completed, the sponsor must provide an explanation of why that second site visit was not completed, when it was scheduled to be completed, and what information was scheduled to be reviewed/collected during that site visit.
- **D.04:** Currently requires submission of at least two reports in order to get the 2-point rating. Sponsors are now required to submit only one site visit report if they were unable to complete additional reports by the date of the closure. In addition, if sponsors could not complete a second site visit report, they must provide an explanation of why that report was not completed and what information would have been included in that report.
- **E.03:** This standard contains date deadlines that occur after the date of the closure. Sponsors are now required to provide details of how the closure affected their ability to meet the stated deadline and will not be penalized for deadlines that occurred after the closure date.

Sponsors that believe that there were other standards for which they could not complete a sponsor-related activity or provide documentation as evidence for that activity must provide an explanation of how the school closure affected their ability to complete the activity and/or provide the needed documentation. Sponsors will be evaluated on the documentation provided for each standard.

Review Period

There are no changes to the adjustment review period. Sponsors will still be able to submit an adjustment request form to the Department if they believe they received an inaccurate assessment of their level of performance on any compliance item or quality standard.

Overall Rating

Per H.B. 164, the Department will not issue sponsor evaluation component ratings or overall sponsor ratings for the 2019-2020 school year. It will be a “report-only” year.