

Addendum to the Technical Documentation for the 2021-2022 Community School Sponsor Evaluation

During Spring 2022, the Ohio General Assembly passed House Bill 583. Due to the passage of this law, which includes provisions that will become effective on September 22, 2022, this addendum is being released to update relevant parts of the sponsor evaluation system, beginning with the 2021-2022 cycle.

Overview

Frequency of the Sponsor Evaluation

The sponsor evaluation takes place on an annual basis. However, with recent statutory updates to ORC 3314.016(B)(7)(b), community school sponsors that have received Effective or Exemplary ratings for the three most recent consecutive review cycles in which they participated and received ratings will be evaluated once every three years. If sponsors receive an Ineffective rating, sponsors will return to the annual evaluation cycle until they earn three consecutive Effective or Exemplary ratings.

Although these sponsors will not have to participate in the sponsor evaluation process during the years they are exempt, they must maintain documentation required by law for audit purposes and to fulfill their legal responsibilities for their sponsored schools.

Per H.B. 583, the results of the 2021-2022 sponsor evaluation cannot be used for punitive purposes against the sponsors. It does, however, allow sponsors to use their 2021-2022 rating to qualify for incentives. In addition, H.B. 583 specifies that sponsors remain eligible for the 2022-2023 school year for any incentives they qualified for in the 2021-2022 school year and that the 2021-2022 school year does not count toward the number of off years in which “Effective” and “Exemplary” sponsors do not need to be evaluated.

Overall Rating

H.B. 583 prohibits the Department from implementing its “zero business rule” for sponsor evaluations. The “zero business rule” limited sponsors scoring a zero on any of the three components from receiving an overall rating higher than Ineffective. Beginning with the 2021-2022 evaluation cycle, sponsors will receive an overall rating based solely on the combined score they receive for all three components.