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**Department of  
Education &  
Workforce**



# Overview of the 2025-2026 Community School Sponsor Evaluation Process

**OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY**

JULY 2025



# History of the Sponsor Evaluation System

- **Assist** the Department in its oversight of sponsors
- **Improve** the quality of sponsor practices
- **Improve** community school operations and academic performance



# Sponsor Evaluations (ORC 3314.016)

**Three Equally-Weighted Components:**

**Academic  
performance**

**Compliance with  
all applicable  
laws and rules**

**Adherence to  
quality practices**

# Academic Performance Component

- Includes the academic performance of students at all the sponsor's community schools combined
- Uses the overall rating, which includes *all* applicable state report card components
- Weighted by number of students in each school
- Academic performance results do not require actions from sponsors as data is based on Ohio School Report Card data



# Range of Points to Determine the Academic Component Score

Range of Averaged Weighted Portfolio Points	Final Score on the Academic Component of the Evaluation
3.5 – 4	4
2.5 – 3.49	3
1.5 – 2.49	2
.5 – 1.49	1
0 – .49	0

# Compliance Component

- Review of sponsor's adherence to all applicable laws and rules for itself
- Review of sponsor's oversight of its schools' adherence to all applicable laws and rules





# 2025-2026 Compliance Component

## Oversight of Schools\*

Percentage	Points
98 – 100%	4
96 – 97.9%	3
94 – 95.9%	2
92 – 93.9%	1
0 – 91.9%	0

\*The score for this item is used to determine Compliance Item S-615 for the sponsor-level calculation

## Sponsor Level

Percentage	Rating	Points
92 – 100%	Exceeds Expectations	4
87 – 91.9%	Meets Expectations	3
84 – 86.9%	Progressing Toward Expectations	2
80 – 83.9%	Below Expectations	1
0 – 79.9%	Significantly Below Expectations	0

# Quality Practices Component

The adherence of a sponsor to follow nationally established quality sponsor practices in six critical areas, which are based on NACSA standards and Ohio law.





# Quality Practices Component

Percentage	Rating	Points
90 – 100%	Exceeds Standards	4
75 – 89.9%	Meets Standards	3
55 – 74.9%	Progressing Toward Standards	2
35 – 54.9%	Below Standards	1
0 – 34.9%	Significantly Below Standards	0

# Overall Sponsor Rating

**Academic Performance Component**

**+**

**Compliance with Laws and Rules Component**

**+**

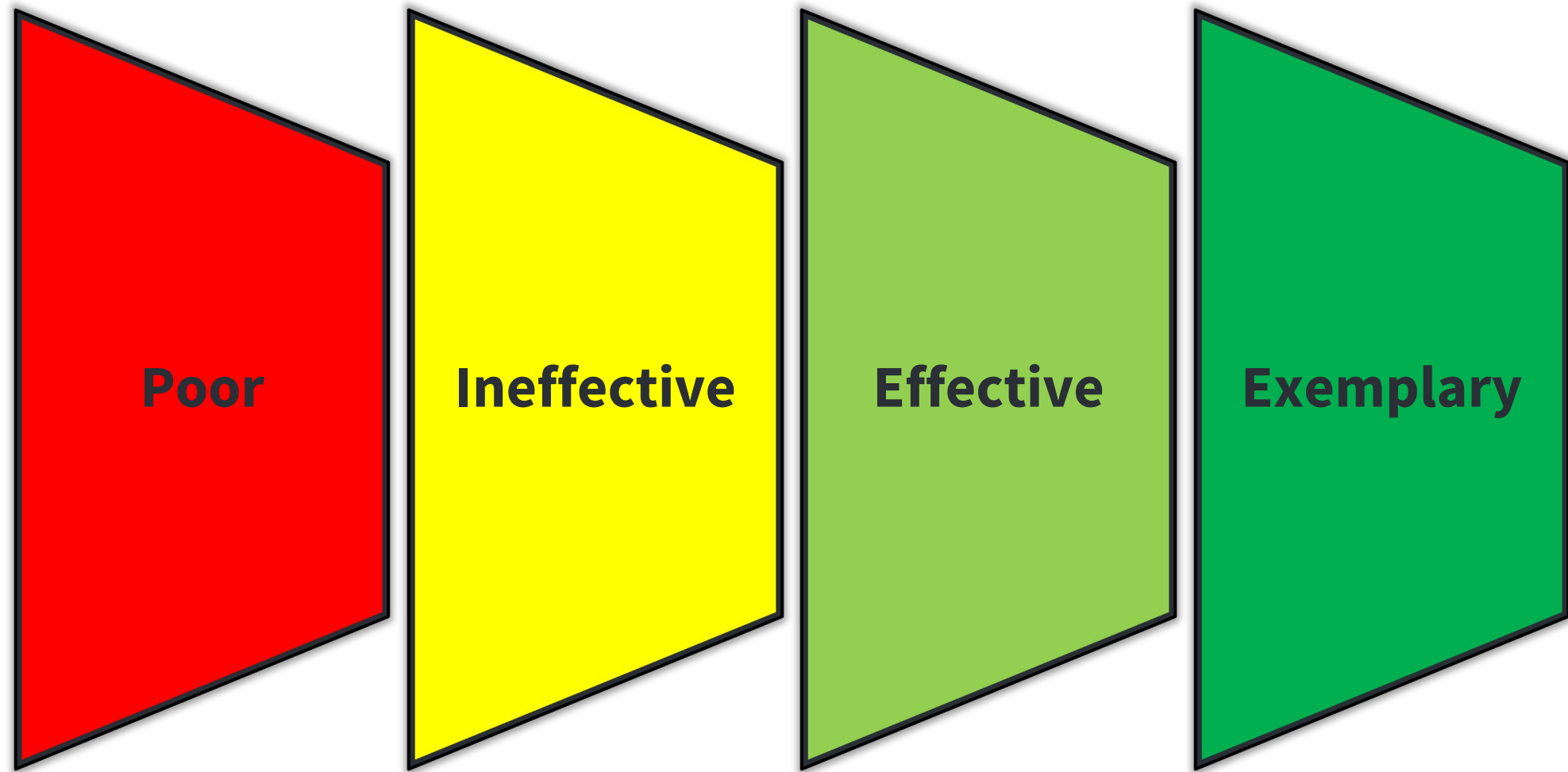
**Quality Practices Component**

**=**

**Sponsor Rating**



# Overall Sponsor Ratings





# Sponsor Adjustment Request Process

- **Review of Preliminary Academic, Quality and Compliance Results**
  - Uploaded to Epicenter in mid/late September 2026
- **Sponsor Adjustment Request Period**
  - 10 business days to review preliminary ratings and submit an adjustment request form
- **Review of Sponsor Adjustment Requests**
  - Department staff review the adjustment requests and make any warranted changes to the preliminary scores
- **Final Ratings and Scores**
  - Department staff calculate the academic, quality and compliance scores and ratings

# Review of Preliminary Results

## Four Submission Types:

Preliminary Academic Results

Preliminary Compliance Results –  
School

Preliminary Compliance Results –  
Sponsor

Preliminary Quality Results





# Submitting an Adjustment Request

10 business days from when sponsors receive access to preliminary results

## Sponsor Adjustment Request Form

- Submitted in Epicenter
- Contains four tabs:
  - Sponsor Academic
  - Sponsor Quality
  - Sponsor Compliance
  - School Compliance



# Review of Sponsor Adjustment Requests

- The Department will review the submitted adjustment request forms and the originally submitted documentation to determine whether the score of a particular compliance item should be changed
- If the Department adjusts any of the scores from the preliminary data, it will recalculate the overall compliance score as well as the overall sponsor rating prior to posting the final evaluation ratings

# Combined Components for 2025-2026 Overall Sponsor Rating



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Overall Points	Sponsor Rating
10 - 12	Exemplary
7 - 9	Effective
3 - 6	Ineffective
0 - 2	Poor



# Calculating 2025-2026 Overall Rating and Score

## Example 1: Sponsor A

Has two community schools in its portfolio

Academic performance score of 2 points

Compliance rating of “Exceeds Expectations”

Quality practice rating of “Meets Standards”



# Calculating 2025-2026 Overall Rating and Score

## Example 1: Sponsor A

Academic Component	
Range of Averaged Weighted Portfolio Points	Points
3.5 – 4	4
2.5 – 3.49	3
1.5 – 2.49	2
.5 – 1.49	1
0 - .49	0

2

+

Compliance Component	
Rating	Points
Exceeds Expectations	4
Meets Expectations	3
Progressing Toward Expectations	2
Below Expectations	1
Significantly Below Expectations	0

4

+

Quality Practice Component	
Rating	Points
Exceeds Standards	4
Meets Standards	3
Progressing Toward Standards	2
Below Standards	1
Significantly Below Standards	0


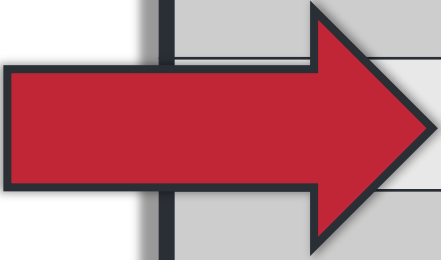
3



# Calculating 2025-2026 Overall Rating and Score

## Example 1: Sponsor A

Overall Points	Sponsor Rating
10, 11, 12	Exemplary
7, 8, 9	Effective
3, 4, 5, 6	Ineffective
1, 2	Poor





# Calculating 2025-2026 Overall Rating and Score

## Example 2: Sponsor B

Has one community school in its portfolio

Dropout Prevention and Recovery Report Card rating of “Exceeds Standards”

Compliance rating of “Exceeds Expectations”

Quality practice rating of “Significantly Below Standards”

# Calculating 2025-2026 Overall Rating And Score

## Example 2: Sponsor B

Academic Component	
Range of Averaged Weighted Portfolio Points	Points
3.5 – 4	4
2.5 – 3.49	3
1.5 – 2.49	2
.5 – 1.49	1
0 - .49	0

4

+

Compliance Component	
Rating	Points
Exceeds Expectations	4
Meets Expectations	3
Progressing Toward Expectations	2
Below Expectations	1
Significantly Below Expectations	0

4

+

Quality Practice Component	
Rating	Points
Exceeds Standards	4
Meets Standards	3
Progressing Toward Standards	2
Below Standards	1
Significantly Below Standards	0


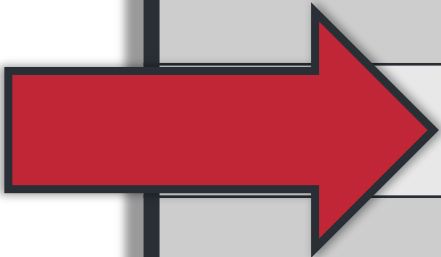
0



# Calculating 2025-2026 Overall Rating and Score

## Example 2: Sponsor B

Overall Points	Sponsor Rating
10, 11, 12	Exemplary
7, 8, 9	Effective
3, 4, 5, 6	Ineffective
1, 2	Poor





# Sponsor Evaluation Outcomes





# Outcomes of Sponsor Evaluation Ratings

- Determines eligibility to sponsor any new or additional community schools
- Impacts Department decisions about:
  - Renewal of sponsorship agreements;
  - Sponsorship application and approval; and
  - Revocation of sponsorship.



# Exemplary Rating Outcomes

**Sponsors may add or create new community schools**

**Sponsored community schools may be eligible to apply for a Charter Schools Program (CSP) Grant\***

**Sponsors are evaluated by the Department once every five years, not including the year they received the Exemplary rating**

*\*Additional risk and eligibility factors may apply. Applicable if the Department is awarded a CSP grant.*



# Exemplary Rating Outcomes

Sponsor may participate in the following incentives:

- Renewal of sponsorship agreement with the Department
- Ability to extend contract term with school beyond the term included in agreement with the Department
- Exemption from preliminary agreement and contract adoption and execution deadline requirements



# Exemplary Rating Outcomes

- Exemption from automatic contract expiration requirement if a new school fails to open by Sept. 30 of the year in which the contract is executed
- No limit on the number of community schools sponsored
- No territorial restrictions on sponsorship\*

*\*May be subject to other statutory provisions*



# Effective Rating Outcomes

**Sponsors may add or create new community schools**

**Sponsored community schools may be eligible to apply for a Charter Schools Program (CSP) Grant\***

**Sponsors are evaluated by the Department once every three years, not including the year they received the Effective rating**

*\*Additional risk and eligibility factors may apply. Applicable if the Department is awarded a CSP grant.*





# Ineffective Rating Outcomes

**Sponsors cannot add or create any new community schools**

**Sponsors must develop a quality improvement plan with the Department**

**Sponsors are evaluated annually by the Department**



# Ineffective Rating Outcomes

## Ineffective for three consecutive years

- Sponsorship revocation
- Sponsor may appeal the revocation within 30 days of receiving the rating
- Revocation will not occur until the appeal process is finished





# Poor Rating Outcomes

**Sponsorship revocation**

**Sponsors may appeal the revocation within 30 days of receiving the rating**

**Revocation will not occur until the appeal process is finished**



# Sponsorship Revocation

- Schools are assumed by the Office of Ohio School Sponsorship (OSS) at the Department for the remainder of the school year
- OSS may continue to sponsor the schools for up to two years from the sponsor's revocation or until schools find a new sponsor, whichever comes first

# 2025-2026 Sponsor Evaluation Timeline

## December 2025:

Epicenter opens for  
Quality document and  
Compliance  
worksheet submission

## 6/30/2026:

Deadline for  
Submitting  
Completed  
Compliance  
Worksheets

## 7/22/2026:

Compliance  
Validation Document  
Submission Window  
Closes in Epicenter

## Sept/Oct 2026:

- Preliminary Results
- Sponsor Adjustment Requests
- Adjustment Request Reviews

## 5/15/2026:

Quality Document  
Submission Window  
Closes in Epicenter

## 7/1/2026:

Epicenter Opens for  
Compliance  
Validation Document  
Submission

## Summer 2026:

- Optional Quality Interviews
- Compliance School Site Reviews

## By 11/15/2026:

Final Ratings  
Published

# 2025-2026 Sponsor Evaluation Resources

The screenshot shows the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce website. The header includes the Ohio logo, the department name, and social media icons. A navigation bar contains links for Home, Administrators, Teachers, Parents, Topics, How Do I?, About, Media, and Contact. The breadcrumb trail reads: Home > Community Schools > 2025-2026 Sponsor Evaluation Tools.

**QUICK LINKS**

- » [Overall Sponsor Ratings](#)
- » [Drafts of the 2025-2026 Sponsor Evaluation Tools](#)
- » [2025-2026 Sponsor Evaluation Tools](#)
- » [2024-2025 Sponsor Evaluation Tools](#)
- » [2023-2024 Sponsor Evaluation Tools](#)
- » [2022-2023 Sponsor Evaluation Tools](#)
- » [2021-2022 Sponsor Evaluation Tools](#)
- » [2020-2021 Sponsor Evaluation Tools](#)
- » [2019-2020 Sponsor Evaluation Tools](#)

## 2025-2026 Sponsor Evaluation Tools

✉ [Sign up](#) and select Community Schools Sponsor Evaluations Tools from the dropdown list to receive updates when they are posted.

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce annually evaluates community school sponsors on three components:

1. The academic performance of the community schools they sponsor.
2. Their compliance with all applicable laws and rules.
3. Their adherence to quality sponsoring practices.

The materials listed below are available to

**NOTE:** *The Department values comments from stakeholders regarding the sponsor evaluation framework. To ensure all stakeholders' input is considered, the Department will review and compile all comments provided prior to the mandated deadline. Any comments provided after the conclusion of the*

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Community-Schools/Sponsor-Ratings-and-Tools/2025-2026-Sponsor-Evaluation-Tools>

# QUESTIONS?

Submit questions to the  
Sponsor Evaluation inbox:

[sponsor.evaluation@education.ohio.gov](mailto:sponsor.evaluation@education.ohio.gov)



# QUESTIONS?

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**Department of  
Education &  
Workforce**