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**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

Training Session on the 2025-2026 Sponsor Evaluation

OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

FALL 2025



This Training Will Cover

- Sponsors being evaluated for 2025-2026
- Primary changes from 2018-2019 evaluation to 2025-2026 evaluation
- How each component is calculated
- Key outcomes of overall rating
- Evaluation timeline and frequency
- Preliminary data and adjustment requests
- Key compliance FAQs
- Reminders and tips
- Resources and contacts
- Q & A Session

Key DEW Sponsor Evaluation Contacts

Aly Deangelo

Chief, Section for Performance and Impact

Rachel Wakefield

Administrator, Office of Accountability

Stacy Cherry

Education Program Specialist, Office of Accountability

Amber Coffey

Education Program Specialist, Office of Accountability

Who Is Being Evaluated for 2025-2026?

All Sponsors Are Being Evaluated

- Buckeye Community Hope Foundation
- Bowling Green State University
- Cleveland Municipal SD
- Educational Resource Consultants of Ohio
- ESC of Central Ohio
- ESC of Lake Erie West
- Margaretta Local SD
- Maysville Local SD
- Mid-Ohio ESC
- New Philadelphia City SD
- North Central Ohio ESC
- Office of Ohio School Sponsorship
- Ohio Council of Community Schools
- Richland Academy
- St. Aloysius Orphanage
- Thomas B. Fordham Foundation
- Tri-Rivers JVSD
- Zanesville City SD

Primary Changes: Academic Performance

2018-2019 Process	Current Process
<p>Report Card results</p> <p>--Based on overall report card results of grades A – F for traditional community schools and ratings of Exceeds, Meets or Does Not Meet Standards for Dropout Prevention and Recovery (DOPR) schools</p>	<p>Report Card results</p> <p>--Based on overall report card results of 1 to 5 stars for traditional community schools and ratings of Exceeds, Meets or Does Not Meet Standards for DOPR schools</p>
<p>Schools excluded from the calculation:</p> <p>--Schools that have been in operation for not more than two full school years</p> <p>--Schools in which a majority of enrolled students are children with disabilities receiving special education and related services</p>	<p>Schools excluded from the calculation:</p> <p>--Schools that have been in operation for not more than two full school years</p> <p>--Schools in which a majority of enrolled students are children with disabilities receiving special education and related services</p> <p>--Schools whose contracts were not renewed or terminated by the sponsor pursuant to ORC 3314.07</p> <p>--The Alternative Education Academy (aka OHDELA) will not be included in the academic calculation of the Office of Ohio School Sponsorship for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years (per the settlement agreement with the school, effective July 1, 2025)</p>
<p>Posting of academic performance data</p> <p>--Academic performance data posted only for sponsors being evaluated for the current evaluation cycle</p>	<p>Posting of academic performance data</p> <p>--Academic performance data will be posted annually for all sponsors, regardless of whether a sponsor is being evaluated in the current evaluation cycle.</p>

Primary Changes: Compliance

2018-2019 Process	Current Process
<p><u>Deadlines</u></p> <p>-- Worksheets, certification sign-off forms, corrective action plans, and documents to support compliance items selected for validation are due by June 30.</p>	<p><u>Deadlines</u></p> <p>--Worksheets, certification sign-off forms, and corrective action plans are due by June 30.</p> <p>--Documents to support compliance items selected for validation due approximately three weeks after June 30th deadline.</p>
<p><u>Documents submitted by sponsors</u></p> <p>--Supporting evidence submitted into Epicenter for 70+ school-level compliance items for each school</p> <p>--Supporting evidence submitted into Epicenter for 10 sponsor-level compliance items for each sponsor</p>	<p><u>Documents submitted by sponsors</u></p> <p>--Supporting evidence submitted into Epicenter ONLY for compliance items selected for validation (maximum 10 items for each school and 5 items for each sponsor)</p>
<p><u>Validation of school-level items</u></p> <p>--Eight (8) compliance items validated for each school NOT receiving an onsite visit</p> <p>--Twenty (20) compliance items validated for each school receiving an onsite visit</p>	<p><u>Validation of school-level items</u></p> <p>--Twenty (20) compliance items validated for each school NOT receiving an onsite visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 based on documented evidence submitted by sponsors into Epicenter • 10 based on Department data (information DEW already has on file) <p>--Thirty (30) compliance items for each school receiving an onsite visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 based on documented evidence submitted by sponsors into Epicenter • 10 based on Department data (information DEW already has on file) • 10 based on items checked during the onsite visit
<p><u>Validation of sponsor-level items</u></p> <p>--Two (2) randomly selected items are validated at the sponsor level by reviewing document submissions and/or Department data.</p>	<p><u>Validation of sponsor-level items</u></p> <p>--Five (5) randomly selected items are validated at the sponsor level by reviewing document submissions and/or Department data.</p>

Primary Changes: Quality Practices

2018-2019 Process	Current Process
<p><u>Quality standards</u></p> <p>--33 standards within 6 critical areas</p>	<p><u>Quality standards</u></p> <p>--Same 33 standards as in 2018-2019</p>
<p><u>Quality standards rubric*</u></p> <p>--Refer to 2018-2019 Quality Rubric</p>	<p><u>Quality standards rubric*</u></p> <p>--There have been changes made to the text and/or requirements for the point values of various standards. Please refer to the 2024-2025 Quality Rubric Change Log for the most recent changes.</p>
<p><u>Deadlines</u></p> <p>--Interview Intent forms must be submitted by mid-March</p> <p>-- Quality documents must be submitted by mid-May</p>	<p><u>Deadlines</u></p> <p>--Same deadlines as in 2018-2019</p>

**Please refer to all change logs to get a more detailed understanding of year-to-year changes since the 2018-2019 evaluation cycle.*

Primary Changes: Exemptions

2018-2019 Process	Current Process
<p>--Sponsors with an overall rating of Exemplary or Effective for the three most recent evaluation years get evaluated once every three years</p>	<p>--Sponsors with an overall rating of Exemplary are evaluated once every six years</p> <p>--Sponsors with an overall rating of Effective are evaluated once every four years</p>

Primary Changes: Incentives

2018-2019 Process	Current Process
--Sponsors are eligible for contract-based incentives outlined in ORC 3314.016(B)(6)(a)(i-vi) after two consecutive ratings of “Exemplary”	--Sponsors are eligible for contract-based incentives outlined in ORC 3314.016(B)(6)(a)(i-vi) after one rating of “Exemplary”

Primary Changes: Overall Rating

2018-2019 Process	Current Process
<p>--If sponsor scores 0 points on one of the three components, then overall rating cannot be better than “Ineffective”</p> <p>--If sponsor scores 0 points on two of the three components, then overall rating cannot be better than “Poor”</p>	<p>--Per ORC 3314.016(B)(1)(c), no sponsor will be assigned an overall rating of “Ineffective” or lower solely because the sponsor received 0 points on one of the components</p> <p>--Overall rating based on combined total number of points received for all three components</p>

Academic Calculation Step 1

First, determine the starting and ending lists from the sponsor's portfolio of schools.

- List A = the portfolio of schools at the beginning of the 25-26 school year.
- List B = the portfolio of schools at the end of the 25-26 school year, which reflects changes made prior to July 1, 2026.

Academic Calculation Step 2

Exclude all community schools below from both List A and List B, per [ORC 3314.016\(B\)\(2\)](#):

- That have been in operation for not more than two full school years
- Whose contracts were not renewed or terminated by the sponsor pursuant to section 3314.07 of the Revised Code before the evaluation
- Any community school in which a majority of the enrolled students are children with disabilities receiving special education and related services in accordance with Chapter 3323 of the Revised Code [[ORC 3314.35\(B\)\(2\)](#)].

Academic Calculation Step 1 & 2 Examples

EXAMPLE 1:

Sponsor X has three community schools: School A, School B, and School C

Sponsor X took action to terminate School C's contract for the 26-27 school year, so School C is removed from both lists

- List A = School A, School B
- List B = School A, School B

EXAMPLE 2:

Sponsor X has three community schools: School A, School B, and School C

School C took action to not renew their contract with Sponsor X for the 26-27 school year, so School C is removed from *ONLY* List B

- List A = School A, School B, School C
- List B = School A, School B

Academic Calculation Step 3

- *Next, each school is assigned points on a common scale of 0 to 4 based on its overall rating on the report card.*

Traditional Report Card Overall Rating	Dropout Prevention and Recovery Report Card Overall Rating	Equivalent Points on Common Scale
5 Stars	Exceeds Standards	4
4.5 Stars		3.5
4 Stars		3
3.5 Stars		2.5
3 Stars	Meets Standards	2
2.5 Stars		1.5
2 Stars		1
1.5 Stars		0.5
1 Star	Does Not Meet Standards	0

Academic Calculation Step 3-Examples

EXAMPLE 1

List A		
School Name	Report Card Overall Rating	Report Card Overall Rating Assigned to Common Scale Points
School A	3.5 stars	2.5
School B	5 stars	4

List B		
School Name	Report Card Overall Rating	Report Card Overall Rating Assigned to Common Scale Points
School A	3.5 stars	2.5
School B	5 stars	4

EXAMPLE 2

List A		
School Name	Report Card Overall Rating	Report Card Overall Rating Assigned to Common Scale Points
School A	3.5 stars	2.5
School B	5 stars	4
School C	Meets Standards	2

List B		
School Name	Report Card Overall Rating	Report Card Overall Rating Assigned to Common Scale Points
School A	3.5 stars	2.5
School B	5 stars	4

Academic Calculation Step 4

Then, each school's full-time equivalent (FTE) is calculated and rounded to the nearest whole number. FTE Can be found at the bottom of each school's state report card.

EXAMPLE 1

List A		
School Name	Report Card Overall Rating Assigned to Common Scale Points	School FTE
School A	2.5	194
School B	4	200

List B		
School Name	Report Card Overall Rating Assigned to Common Scale Points	School FTE
School A	2.5	194
School B	4	200

EXAMPLE 2

List A		
School Name	Report Card Overall Rating Assigned to Common Scale Points	School FTE
School A	2.5	194
School B	4	200
School C	2	578

List B		
School Name	Report Card Overall Rating Assigned to Common Scale Points	School FTE
School A	2.5	194
School B	4	200

Academic Calculation Step 5

Next, the sponsor's portfolio FTE is calculated for each list by totaling all school FTEs.

EXAMPLE 1

List A		
School Name	School FTE	Sponsor Portfolio FTE
School A	194	394
School B	200	394

$$194 \text{ (School A FTE)} + 200 \text{ (School B FTE)} = \mathbf{394}$$

List B		
School Name	School FTE	Sponsor Portfolio FTE
School A	194	394
School B	200	394

$$194 \text{ (School A FTE)} + 200 \text{ (School B FTE)} = \mathbf{394}$$

EXAMPLE 2

List A		
School Name	School FTE	Sponsor Portfolio FTE
School A	194	972
School B	200	972
School C	578	972

$$194 \text{ (School A FTE)} + 200 \text{ (School B FTE)} + 578 \text{ (School C FTE)} = \mathbf{972}$$

List B		
School Name	School FTE	Sponsor Portfolio FTE
School A	194	394
School B	200	394

$$194 \text{ (School A FTE)} + 200 \text{ (School B FTE)} = \mathbf{394}$$

Academic Calculation Step 6

Then, each school's weight is calculated and rounded to the nearest thousandths.

- School's Weight = School FTE / Sponsor Portfolio FTE*

EXAMPLE 1

List A			
School Name	School FTE	Sponsor Portfolio FTE	School's Weight
School A	194	394	0.492
School B	200	394	0.508

List B			
School Name	School FTE	Sponsor Portfolio FTE	School's Weight
School A	194	394	0.492
School B	200	394	0.508

EXAMPLE 2

List A			
School Name	School FTE	Sponsor Portfolio FTE	School's Weight
School A	194	972	0.200
School B	200	972	0.206
School C	578	972	0.595

List B			
School Name	School FTE	Sponsor Portfolio FTE	School's Weight
School A	194	394	0.492
School B	200	394	0.508

Academic Calculation Step 7

Next, each school's weighted points are calculated and rounded to the nearest thousandths.

- School's Weighted Points = School Weight x Common Scale Points*

EXAMPLE 1

List A			
School Name	Common Scale Points	School's Weight	School's Weighted Points
School A	2.5	0.492	1.230
School B	4	0.508	2.032

List B			
School Name	Common Scale Points	School's Weight	School's Weighted Points
School A	2.5	0.492	1.230
School B	4	0.508	2.032

EXAMPLE 2

List A			
School Name	Common Scale Points	School's Weight	School's Weighted Points
School A	2.5	0.200	0.500
School B	4	0.206	0.824
School C	2	0.595	1.190

List B			
School Name	Common Scale Points	School's Weight	School's Weighted Points
School A	2.5	0.492	1.230
School B	4	0.508	2.032

Academic Calculation Step 8

Then, the sponsor's weighted portfolio points are calculated.

- Weighted Portfolio Points = Total of Each School's Weighted Points*

EXAMPLE 1

List A		
School Name	School's Weighted Points	Weighted Portfolio Points
School A	1.230	3.262
School B	2.032	

List B		
School Name	School's Weighted Points	Weighted Portfolio Points
School A	1.230	3.262
School B	2.032	

EXAMPLE 2

List A		
School Name	School's Weighted Points	Weighted Portfolio Points
School A	0.500	2.514
School B	0.824	
School C	1.190	

List B		
School Name	School's Weighted Points	Weighted Portfolio Points
School A	1.230	3.262
School B	2.032	

Academic Calculation Step 9

Then, the sponsor's average weighted portfolio points are calculated and rounded to the nearest thousandths.

- Average weighted portfolio points = $\frac{[\text{Total Weighted Points (List A)} + \text{Total Weighted Points (List B)}]}{\text{Total Number of Lists}}$

Total Number of Lists

EXAMPLE 1

List A		List B
Weighted Portfolio Points	+	Weighted Portfolio Points
3.262		3.262

$$\frac{\quad}{2} = 3.262$$

EXAMPLE 2

List A		List B
Weighted Portfolio Points	+	Weighted Portfolio Points
2.514		3.262

$$\frac{\quad}{2} = 2.888$$

Academic Calculation - Step 10

Lastly, the sponsor's final score on the academic component is assigned based on a set of ranges.

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

Academic Calculation Step 10 Examples

Lastly, the sponsor's final score on the academic component is assigned based on a set of ranges.

EXAMPLE 1

- Sponsor X's average weighted portfolio points was 3.262
- 3.262 falls within the range of points assigned to 3 points for the overall Academic Performance Component's 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

EXAMPLE 2

- Sponsor X's average weighted portfolio points was 2.888
- 2.888 falls within the range of points assigned to 3 points for the overall Academic Performance Component's 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 Calculation-Oversight Of Schools

Numerator = Number of substantiated items

- Items that are scored “compliant” or “N/A” are considered substantiated

Denominator = Total number of active items for the 25-26 school year

- Items that are not applicable for 25-26 are grayed out (inactive) and are excluded
- Items with an “A” and “B” (401-A & 401-B, and 517-A & 517-B) are counted as only one item each

Percentages of substantiated items for all schools in a sponsor’s portfolio are averaged and assigned a point value based on a set of ranges. This point value is used for Item S-615 on the sponsor worksheet.

Compliance Calculation-Oversight Of Schools

Example:

- Sponsor X has two schools and there are 329 items on the worksheet
- School 1: not compliant on 6 items, so its numerator is 323. $323/329 = 98.18\%$
- School 2: not compliant on 10 items, so its numerator is 319. $319/329 = 96.96\%$
- Average percentage of both schools: $(98.18 + 96.96)/2 = 97.57\%$
- 97.57% falls in the range assigned to 3 points
- Sponsor X would get 3 points for Item S-615

Points for Item S-615	Average Percentage of Substantiated School Items
4	98-100%
3	96-97.9%
2	94-95.9%
1	92-93.9%
0	Less than 92%

Compliance Calculation-Sponsors

On the sponsor worksheet, each item is worth 1 point, except for Item S-615, which is worth 0-4 points.

Numerator = Number of points received

Denominator = Total number of points available = 26 points

Example:

- Sponsor X was compliant on 22 items, worth 1 point each
- Sponsor X received 3 points for item S-615
- Sponsor X's numerator is 25 and denominator is 26
- $25/26 = 96.15\%$
- 96.15% falls in the range that is assigned to 4 points
- Sponsor X receives 4 points and a rating of *Exceeds Expectations* for the Compliance Component

Points	Percentage of Substantiated Sponsor Items	Component Rating
4	92-100%	Exceeds Expectations
3	87-91.9%	Meets Expectations
2	84-86.9%	Progressing Toward Expectations
1	80-83.9%	Below Expectations
0	0-79.9%	Significantly Below Expectations

Quality Practices Calculation

Numerator = Total number of points received on the standards

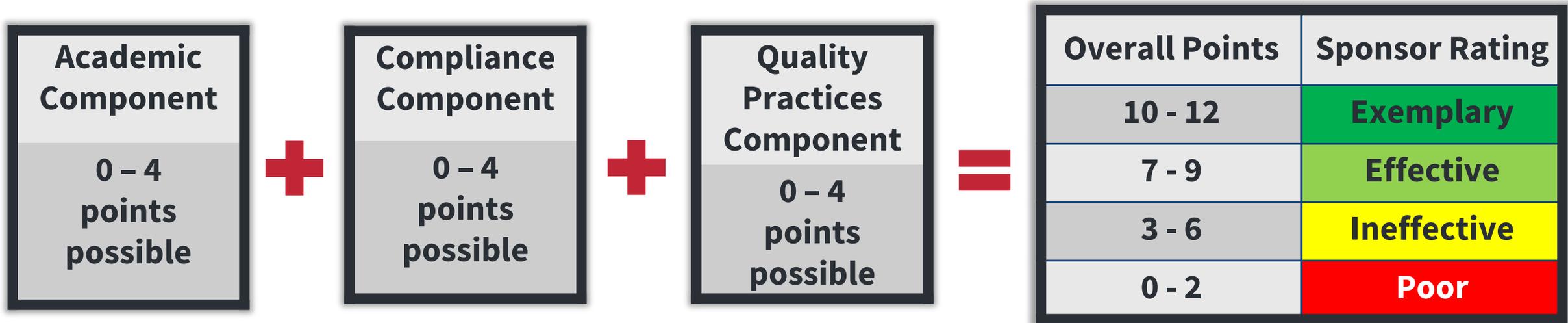
Denominator = Number of possible points for standards that are applicable to the sponsor being reviewed

Example:

- Sponsor X scored 89 points out of a possible 132 points.
- Sponsor X's numerator is 89
- Sponsor X's denominator is 132
- $89/132=67.4\%$
- 67.4% falls in the range assigned to 2 points
- Sponsor X would get 2 points and a rating of *Progressing Toward Standards* for the 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

Combined Components for 2025-2026 Overall Sponsor Rating



Example:

- Sponsor X received 3 points for the Academic Component,
- Sponsor X received 4 points for the Compliance Component
- Sponsor X received 2 points for the Quality Practices Component.
- $3+4+2=9$
- Sponsor X received 9 points and would be rated “Effective” for the 25-26 evaluation cycle.

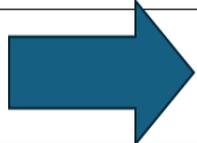
NEW RESOURCE!

Sponsor Evaluation Calculator

How to Use this Overall Points and Overall Rating Calculator:

First, you must complete the "Academics", "Compliance" and "Quality" sheets.
 Then, answer the question below, in the input box indicated by a red outline.
 Last, this spreadsheet will automatically calculate the rest, and give you a simulated result in the "Overall Points" and "Overall Rating" boxes.

Does the Evaluation cycle in question include the Academic Component? Yes or No
 Answering the question makes only those cells that are applicable appear.



The Evaluation Cycle DOES include the Academic Component:							
Academic	PLUS	Compliance	PLUS	Quality	EQUALS	Overall Points	Overall Rating
3	PLUS	2	PLUS	3	---->	8	Effective

Overall Point Scale	
Overall Points	Overall Rating
10 - 12	Exemplary
7 - 9.5	Effective
3 - 6.5	Ineffective
0 - 2.5	Poor

SPONSOR EVALUATION CALCULATOR

The calculator is a living document. We intend to make any necessary improvements each year, based on user experiences.

Your feedback is important—if you find a typo, error, or area that needs clarification, please let us know! We'll include this as a tool for public feedback in February each year.

A red starburst graphic with a black outline, containing the text "Let's see a live demonstration!".

Let's see a live demonstration!

Key Outcomes of an Overall Exemplary Rating

Sponsors are evaluated once every six years

No limit on the number of community schools sponsored

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

Sponsors may receive other contract-based incentives (see 25-26 Overview Presentation and [ORC 3314.016 \(B\)\(6\)\(a\)](#) for more details)



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

Key Outcomes of an Overall Effective Rating

Sponsors are evaluated once every four years

Sponsors may add or create new community schools up to the number specified in their agreement with DEW

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

Sponsors may receive other contract-based incentives (see 25-26 Overview Presentation and [ORC 3314.016 \(B\)\(6\)\(a\)](#) for more details)



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

Key Outcomes of an Overall Ineffective Rating

Sponsors are evaluated annually

Sponsors must develop a Quality Improvement Plan with the Office of Community Schools

Sponsors cannot add or create new community schools

Three consecutive Ineffective ratings results in sponsorship authority revocation

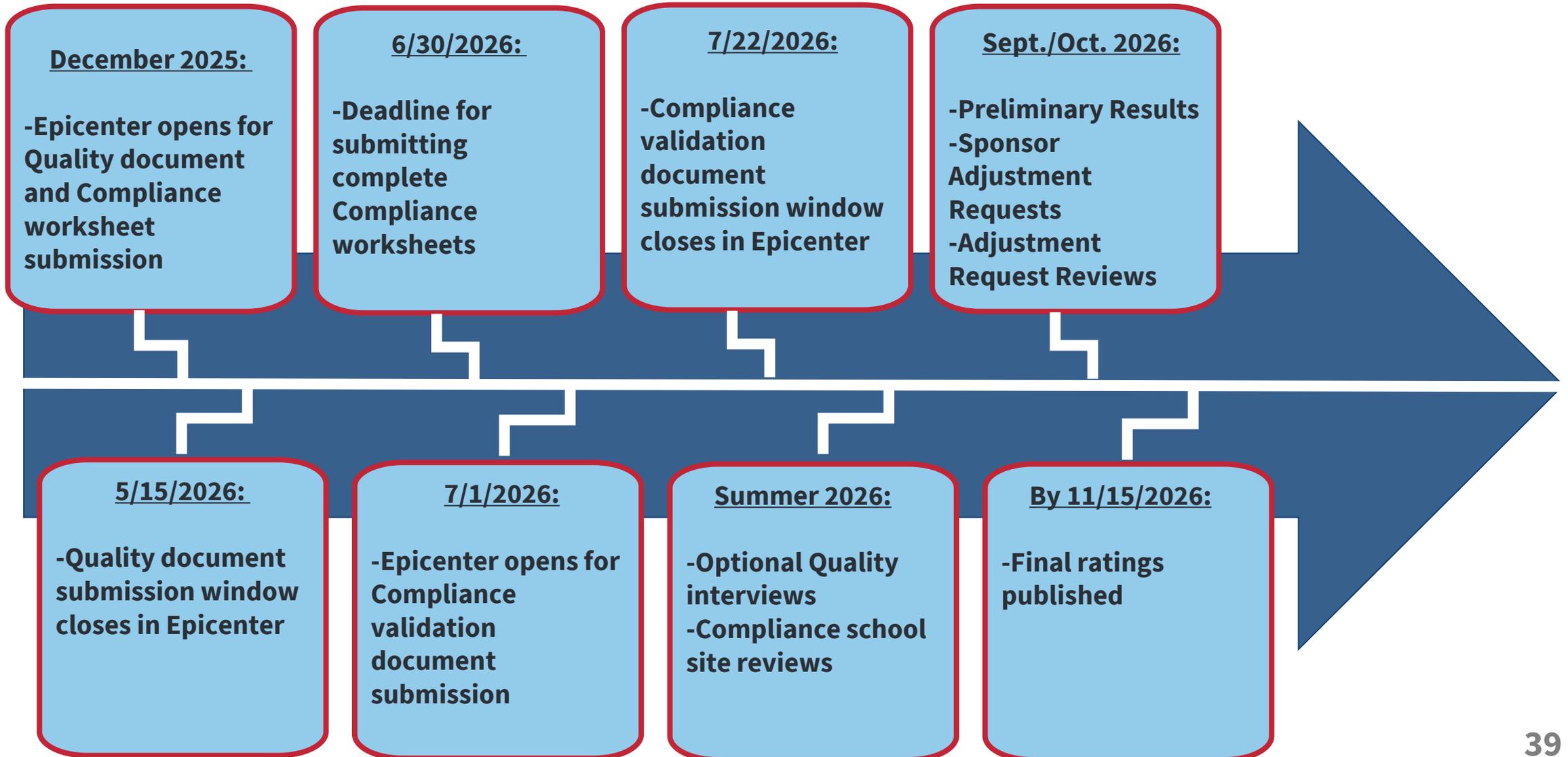
Key Outcomes of an Overall Poor Rating

Sponsorship revocation

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

Revocation will not occur until the appeal process is finished

2025-2026 Sponsor Evaluation Timeline



Evaluation Frequency After the 2025-2026 Cycle

Sponsors Receiving a 2025-26 Overall Rating of	Will Next be Evaluated in
Exemplary	2031-2032
Effective	2029-2030
Ineffective	2026-2027

Preliminary Evaluation Results

- **Academic Results**
- **Compliance Results – School**
- **Compliance Results – Sponsor**
- **Quality Practices Results**

**Available mid to late
September 2026**

Sponsor Adjustment Requests

Begins once sponsors receive access to their preliminary evaluation results

Sponsors have 10 business days to complete an Adjustment Request Form

Adjustment Request Forms are submitted through Epicenter

No new documentation will be accepted

Sponsor Adjustment Request Review Process

Begins after deadline for submitting Adjustment Request Forms

Conducted by DEW staff members

**Two-tiered review process that takes approximately 2 – 4 weeks
(depending on the number of Adjustment Request Forms submitted)**

Thorough review of the sponsor's Adjustment Request Form and all related documentation for each quality standard or compliance item included on the form

Final Evaluation Results

- Final evaluation calculations are made after the Sponsor Adjustment Request review period has ended and any needed changes, updates or corrections to the preliminary evaluation results have been made
- Final results are made available on or before November 15, 2026

Key Compliance FAQs

What defines "motor vans" used for student transportation?

OAC 3301-83-04 (B)(4) defines "motor van" as a vehicle originally designed for not more than twelve passengers, not including the driver. Sponsors should keep this definition in mind when answering any efficiency questions and/or individual items questions related to transportation on the compliance worksheets.

Key Compliance FAQs

Item #410– Are the absence notification requirements in this item still applicable?

No. H.B. 96 of the 136th assembly repealed the requirements referred to in this item. Sponsors should not answer this question on the 2025-2026 compliance worksheet. DEW staff will be sure to omit this item from the compliance component's review, and it will not be included in the denominator for the compliance component's score calculation.

Key Compliance FAQs

Items #519 & #521- Are community schools still required to complete 5-year forecasts?

While community schools are no longer required to submit 5-year forecasts, they are required to submit budget information for the current school year and a 3-year forecast. The first 3-year forecast must be submitted by October 15th, 2025, and the second 3-year forecast must be submitted by February 28th, 2026.

Key Compliance FAQs

Item #504 – Does the three-year forecast suffice as documentation for this item?

No. The relevant statute ([ORC 3314.03](#)) specifies per pupil expenditures must be included in the financial plan submitted by the school for each year of the contract. The three-year forecast template does not have per pupil expenditures and may not align with contract terms. Sponsors should refer to [ORC 3314.03](#) for additional guidance.

Key Compliance FAQs

Item #661 – What would suffice as evidence to show that the sponsor and its school do not have the same attorney and/or law firm working for them during contract negotiations?

Evidence could be a copy of the work agreement/contract that the attorney has with the school, especially if the contract includes a provision that specifies the “working independently of sponsor and/or operator” point. It could also be documents related to contract negotiations that include information on both the school’s attorney and the sponsor’s attorney, as well as meeting notes that show that attorneys from both sides participated.

Key Compliance FAQs

Item #662 – Question 1 of this item asks, “Does the school’s contract with the sponsor describe the governance, management, administration, instructional program, educational philosophy, and financial controls of the school?” Are you looking for descriptions for all of these areas in the sponsor’s response to this question?

No. When responding to Question 1 on Item 662, sponsors should consider whether the sponsor-school contract, per ORC 3314.03(A)(2) and ORC 3314.03(A)(34-36), includes: 1) the education program of the school, including the school’s mission and educational philosophy, 2) a provision establishing the process by which the governing authority of the school will be selected in the future, 3) a description of the management and administration of the school, and 4) a provision requiring the governing authority to adopt policies and procedures to establish internal financial controls for the school.

Key Compliance FAQs

Item #671 – If a school does not have an employee application, is the school required to develop one and then put the required statement included in [ORC 3319.393\(A\)](#) on it?

Not having a formal application does not waive this requirement for a school. The issue is whether the required statement of [ORC 3319.393\(A\)](#) is somehow provided to potential employees prior to their submission of information to the school. So no, schools don't have to develop an employment application if that is not part of their application process, but they should be ensuring that when they are considering someone for employment, they are providing this statement to that person before that person provides any info (e.g., resume, etc.) to the school.

A Few General Tips

Try to upload only applicable documents. Uploading an entire handbook may not be necessary if an item or standard only requires one single policy.

If a surplus of documentation must be submitted, make sure to utilize narratives and memo templates to point reviewers to specific relevant information.

When relevant (particularly for standards with specific timeframes), ensure documentation includes dates.

When in doubt, contact the Sponsor Eval team *in advance of deadlines* to get assistance with documents, Epicenter, evaluation questions, etc.

A Few More General Tips

Ensure that
all
documents:

- Are for the correct school
- Are for the correct year
- Can be opened
- Are legible (especially if using scans)
- Are uploaded to the correct submission type

A Few Tips Specific To Quality Practices

Consider submitting the narrative memo as the first document in each standard.

Use the narrative memos as an opportunity to provide an overview of the documentation.

In the narrative memos, try to identify documents and page numbers for pertinent info as appropriate (e.g., Part 3, p.161-163 – signed/dated COI forms).

If you upload multiple documents in a standard, number each part (e.g., Part 1, Part 2).

If a standard (or part of a standard) is N/A, note that along with the rationale in the narrative memo.

Compliance Worksheet-Oversight of Schools Reminder

You **MUST** enter your sponsor IRN and School IRN on the Efficiency Questions Tab to ensure it auto-populates on all other tabs.

C	D	E	F	G	
School Name:	Enter School IRN to the right			School IRN:	
Sponsor Name:	Enter Sponsor IRN to the right			Sponsor IRN:	

Worksheet Efficiency

er to Question 1 on identified items for which the item would be Not Applicable based on that answer. The item questions that may be affected by batch-fill are highlighted in pale yellow throughout the worksheet. e auto-filled answer will be deleted from all associated items. If an entry is made directly into the answer cell for any listed item or an answer is deleted, the batch-fill formula will no longer be active for that item.

Compliance Worksheet Reminder

You **MUST** answer all questions on the compliance worksheets. Failure to answer one or both questions for an item will result in that item being scored as non-compliant.

Compliance Component Question 1	Answer to Question 1	Compliance Component Question 2	Answer to Question 2
Is the school a party to an agreement for a joint education program(s)?		If yes, does the school ensure that it does not charge tuition and/or fees to students participating in the joint education program(s)?	

A REMINDER ABOUT FEEDBACK

- 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 in March of each year.
- **Any comments provided after the conclusion of the established comment period will be considered in the following year.**

Key Resources

[Quality Practices Change Log](#)

[Compliance Worksheets Change Log](#)

[Document Submission and Upload Guidance](#)

[How to Complete the Worksheets Presentation](#)

[2025-2026 Sponsor Eval Technical Document](#)

[2025-2026 Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Which Office To Contact For Support

Office of Accountability (Sponsor Evaluation Team)

Problems with forms or worksheet functionality

“The box on question 2 won’t let me select an answer” or “I can’t download the change log from the DEW website”

Questions about the evaluation process

“When is the deadline for sponsor adjustment requests?” or “Can you explain the Academic Component’s calculation?”

Questions about specific items or standards

“Do I answer N/A for schools that don’t apply to item #105?” or “Is a board approved policy an acceptable *type* of document?”

NOT questions that evaluate the *quality* of a specific document or answer

“Does the *content* of my policy meet criteria to score 4 points?”

Office of Community Schools

Questions about contracts and related incentives

“If I receive an Exemplary rating, can I receive increased contract terms?” or “I need a copy of my signed contract” etc.

Questions about support sponsor/school resources

“How can a school correct EMIS data errors?” or “How do I apply for a Quality Community School Support grant?”

Questions about Corrective Action Plans, probations, etc.

“When will I be notified of my probation status?” or “Do I have to submit my community school’s CAP form to OCS?”

NOT questions about specific sponsor evaluation materials and technical support

“My IRN isn’t populating in the compliance worksheet” or “Do I answer N/A for a school that doesn’t apply to item #105?”

QUESTIONS?

Submit questions to the
Sponsor Evaluation inbox:

sponsor.evaluation@education.ohio.gov

