Request for Approval of New Internet- or Computer-Based Community School

Ohio Revised Code 3314.013 allows for no more than five new internet- or computer-based community schools to open per year. All new internet- or computer-based community schools or existing community schools wishing to begin operation as an internet- or computer-based community school must receive approval from the Director of the Department of Education and Workforce. Sponsors rated "Exemplary" on its most recent sponsor evaluation can authorize a new internet-or computer-based community school that will primarily serve students enrolled in a dropout prevention and recovery program. Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

(1) The sponsor's experience with online schools, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

   (a) The number of years and number of online schools for which the sponsor provided monitoring and technical assistance since the inception of such activities;

   (b) The degree to which the online schools met Ohio's operating standards for online schools, which the department shall make available on the department's website; and

   (c) Any full-time equivalency determinations issued by a state education agency for a school for which the sponsor was responsible for oversight;

   (d) Previous experience of key personnel employed by the sponsor in providing oversight or technical assistance for schools utilizing online or blended learning models;

(2) The operator's experience with online schools, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

   (a) The operator's experience, in the managing the daily operations of an online school or providing programmatic oversight and support to an online school since the inception of such activities;

   (b) Previous experience of key personnel employed by the operator related to operation of online or blended learning models;

   (c) The degree to which the online schools met Ohio's standards for online schools; and

   (d) Any full-time equivalency determinations issued by a state education agency for a school for which the operator managed the daily operations;

(3) The sponsor's schools' records of academic performance in all years under its sponsorship including:

   (a) Assessment of the sponsor's schools' student performance, as aligned with the evaluation system described in section 3314.016 of the Revised Code; and

   (b) Report cards and performance ratings issued for the sponsor's community schools under section 3302.03 of the Revised Code; and

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(4) The operator's affiliated schools' records of academic performance in all years under its operation as measured by the following:

 (a) Report cards and performance ratings issued for the sponsor's community schools under section 3302.03 of the Revised Code;

 (b) Comparable performance ratings of out-of-state schools with which the operator has experience; and

(5) A preference for operators with previous experience in Ohio.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Criteria	Yes	No	Not Applicable
Applicant meets Ohio definition of an internet- or computer-based community school.			
Applicant's sponsor received an overall rating of "Effective" or higher on its most recent sponsor evaluation, if rated.			

APPLICANT AFFIRMATION

I attest that the application requesting approval for a new internet- or computer-based community school meets all eligibility requirements listed above.

Name: _____ Position: _____

Organization: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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TIMELINE FOR FORM SUBMISSION:

Applicants should note the timelines listed below:

January 15, 2025: The applicant must work closely with a sponsor and operator to complete the application. Sponsors are required to submit the completed form electronically ***via Epicenter by 11:59 p.m.*** on the due date to receive consideration. Only complete applications will be considered. The Department will not review any late or incomplete applications after the deadline.

February 15, 2025: The applicant will receive a decision from the Department on the status of its application.

February 28, 2025: The Department will post application results on its website, along with a list of applications and their review and outcome status.

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE SCORED.

If you have questions about the application, please email community.schools@education.ohio.gov.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

Sponsors are required to submit the internet- or computer-based community school application, all required documents and supporting materials to the Office of Community Schools via Epicenter.

Instructions for Submitting Application in Epicenter:

1) Log onto Epicenter at epicenternow.org
2) Click the *Sign In* link at the top of the screen.
3) Enter your username and password.
4) Click on *Document Center*.
5) On the Document Center page, click the *Submission Uplo*ad button.
6) For Entity Type, select *school*.
7) For Submission Type, select *Internet- or Computer-Based Community School Application*.
8) For Entities, select appropriate sponsor by checking box next to the sponsor's name.
9) Enter required information.
10) Click the *Upload New File* button to upload your document.
11) (Optional) Type a brief message to the reviewer.
12) Click *Submit*.

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Internet- or Computer-Based Community School Application Form

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Proposed Internet- or Computer-Based Community School

School Name: _____

Address: _____

Primary Contact

Name: _____ Title: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

1) Is the proposed internet- or computer-based school a new or existing school? _____

2) If the proposed school is an existing school, please provide the school's IRN. _____

3) Attach a copy of the application submitted by the applicant to the sponsor for the proposed school.

4) **(New School Only)** Attach a copy of the preliminary agreement entered between the applicant and the sponsor of the proposed school. If the applicant does not have a preliminary agreement with a sponsor, please explain.

PROPOSED SCHOOL INFORMATION

1) Please describe the proposed internet- or computer-based community school. In your description, please address the following:
   - reasons applicant believes Ohio would benefit from an additional internet- or computer-based community school
   - community and student population (demographics, ages, and grade levels) the school proposes to serve
   - enrollment area (specific counties in Ohio)
   - education plan and curriculum intended for each core content area and grade level that complies with the standards developed by the International Association for K-12 Online Learning
   - expectations of academic performance, including academic achievement status or proficiency, academic growth, post-secondary readiness, and expectations for mission-specific performance measures
   - expectations of any non-academic school or student goals to which school will hold itself accountable
   - experience of key personnel (i.e., school leader, governing authority member(s), administrative or teaching staff)

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SPONSOR INFORMATION

Organization Name: _____ Organization IRN: _____

Address: _____

Primary Contact

Name: _____ Title: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

1) Identify all internet- or computer-based schools overseen by sponsor. For each of the sponsor's internet- or computer-based community schools, provide the following:
   - name and unique school identifier of each internet- or computer-based community school (in Ohio, the IRN is the unique school identifier)
   - calendar years for which the sponsor provided monitoring and technical assistance for each internet- or computer-based community school

Unique school identifier	School name	First calendar year of sponsorship	Most recent calendar year of sponsorship	Total years of sponsorship

SPONSOR'S EXPERIENCE WITH ONLINE SCHOOLS

1) Describe the sponsor's experience with internet- or computer-based community schools. Please indicate the number of internet- or computer-based community schools the sponsor has provided monitoring and technical assistance to since the inception of such activities. Preference will be given to sponsors with multiple years of experience with internet-or computer-based community schools.

2) Describe the sponsor's assessment of the degree to which each of its sponsored internet- or computer-based schools is meeting the operating standards for online schools and complying with all applicable laws and rules. If applicable, describe the specific steps taken to correct each internet- or computer-based school's compliance with applicable laws and rules in the two most recent evaluation cycles.

3) Has the sponsor ever terminated or nonrenewed sponsorship with an internet- or computer-based school? Provide an explanation describing the circumstances leading to the decision to terminate sponsorship for each internet- or computer-based school. Describe specific actions taken by the sponsor and timeline for each

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action. If the sponsor has not had to terminate or non-renew sponsorship with an internet- or computer-based school, please describe what circumstances would lead the sponsor to the decision to terminate sponsorship and specific actions the sponsor would take, including timeline for each action.

4) Please detail the previous experience of key personnel employed by the sponsor in providing oversight for schools utilizing an online or blended learning models;

5) Has the sponsor had oversight responsibility for a school that has received a full-time equivalency determination issued by the state education agency? If so, please include the school(s) and year(s).

OPERATOR INFORMATION

If the school plans to work with an operator to manage the operations of the school, please provide the following.

Organization Name: _____   Organization IRN: _____

Address: _____

Primary Contact

Name: _____   Title: _____

Phone: _____   Email: _____

1) Is the operator registered with Ohio's Secretary of State? _____

2) Is the operator affiliated with any other operators throughout the state of Ohio? (Affiliated means any individual, organization, or nonprofit organization that is officially connected to the operator.)

_____

If yes, please list all operators with which the operator is affiliated. _____

_____

_____

OPERATOR'S EXPERIENCE OPERATING ONLINE SCHOOLS

1) Describe the operator's experience with internet- or computer-based community/public charter schools in the state of Ohio and outside the state of Ohio.

2) Describe the operator's assessment of the degree to which each of the operator's affiliated internet- or computer-based schools is meeting the operating standards for online schools.

3) Has the operator ever terminated its agreement with an internet- or computer-based school? Provide an explanation describing the circumstances leading to the decision to terminate agreement for each internet- or computer-based school. Describe specific actions taken by the operator and timeline for each action.

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If the operator has not had to terminate agreement with an internet- or computer-based school, please describe what circumstances would lead the operator to terminate agreement with an internet- or computer-based school and specific actions the operator would take, including timeline for each action.

4) Please detail the previous experience of key personnel employed by the operator related to operation of online or blended learning models;

5) Has the operator managed a school that received a full-time equivalency determination issued by the state education agency? If so, please list the school(s) and year(s).

ADMINISTRATOR INFORMATION

If school does not have an operator, the Department will evaluate the school's administrator's experience with internet- or computer-based community/public charter schools in the state of Ohio and outside the state Ohio. Applicants should include the resume/vita for the school administrator and provide a response with additional detail about the administrator's experience. The response also should outline the plan for operation of the school and the administrator's role in implementing the educational plan for the school, and how school leader intends to leverage past experience.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF THE SPONSOR'S SCHOOLS

No submission is required of the sponsor. Please note this section pertains to all community schools, not just internet- or computer-based community schools. For this section, the Department will review the sponsor's schools' records of academic performance ***in all years under its sponsorship*** including assessment of the sponsor's schools' student performance, as aligned with the evaluation system described in section 3314.016 of the Revised Code and report cards and performance ratings issued for the sponsor's community schools under section 3302.03 and/or 3314.017 of the Revised Code. PLEASE NOTE: The Department will not include information from the 2019-2020 or the 2020-21 school years when evaluating this section.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE RECORD OF OPERATOR'S AFFILIATED SCHOOLS

This section applies to affiliations with all community/public charter schools, not just internet- or computer-based community schools, over the operator's history. For this section, the Department will review the operator's affiliated schools' records of academic performance ***in all years under its operation*** including report cards and performance ratings issued for the community schools under section 3302.03 of the Revised Code and comparable performance ratings of out-of-state schools with which the operator has experience. PLEASE NOTE: The Department will not include information from the 2019-2020 or the 2020-21 school years when evaluating this section.

1) If the proposed school will be contracting with an operator, provide a complete and comprehensive list of all schools managed by the operator in the state of Ohio since the operator's first year of operation. For each community/public charter school managed by the operator, provide the following:
   - name and unique school identifier of each school (in Ohio, the IRN is the unique school identifier)
   - type of school (site-based or online)
   - first and most recent calendar years for which the operator managed the daily activities of the school
   - total years operator managed school

2) If the operator managed the operations of schools outside of Ohio, provide a complete and comprehensive list

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year by year of all schools managed by the operator outside the state of Ohio. For each school managed by the operator outside of Ohio, identify the following information:

- School's unique school identifier
- School's name
- Type of school
- State of location of school
- List each school year with affiliation
- List overall state report card rating for that year
- URL that links to an explanation of the state's accountability system to allow the Department to compare the performance of those schools to Ohio's ratings system

NOTE: If the Department discovers that any of the information provided above is inaccurate, the applicant automatically will be ineligible to receive further consideration from the Department.

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ALIGNMENT TO NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR ONLINE LEARNING

This section examines whether the proposed internet- or computer-based community school meets the National Standards for Quality Online Learning.

The applicant, sponsor, and operator must work collaboratively to provide a narrative that explains how the school will meet requirements included in the Standards for Quality Online Programs. Please attach a copy of the completed narrative to this application. The Department will use the narrative to assign ratings for each set of standards (A-M) using the following criteria. Section ratings will be averaged and scored.

Points	Criteria
Fully Developed 4 Points	This part of the application demonstrates a model of best practice. This part of the application scored **between 90% and 100% of the total possible points**.
Well Developed 3 Points	This part of the application demonstrates excellent implementation, comparable to other examples. This part of the application scored **80% or more of the total points, but less than 90% of the total possible points**.
Adequately Developed 2 Points	This part of the application demonstrates good implementation, but somewhat lacked depth or detail. This part of the application scored **70% or more of the total points, but less than 80% of the total possible points**.
Poorly Developed 1 Point	This part of the application demonstrates partial implementation, but additional work is needed. This part of the application scored **less than 70% of the total possible points**.
Not Addressed 0 Points	The application does not demonstrate a model of best practice, or this part of the application does not address the standards for quality online programs.

PREFERENCE FOR OPERATORS WITH PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN OHIO

The superintendent of public instruction may approve up to five new internet- or computer-based community schools each year. Should the Department receive more than five applications for new internet- or computer-based community schools each year, preference will be given to qualified applicants managed by an operator with experience managing schools in Ohio.

1) Does the operator have previous experience managing community schools in Ohio? _____

2) How many years of experience does the operator have managing community schools in Ohio?

   _____

3) List all consecutive and nonconsecutive years of experience operator has managing community schools in Ohio.

   _____

   _____

   _____

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APPLICATION SCORING

Each application will be rated using the criteria included in the internet- or computer-based community school application rubric and receive a composite score by adding the scores from each of the sections in the rubric. In addition to the composite score, information pertaining to sponsor and operator experience in terms of statutory compliance will be reviewed. In cases where a section is not applicable, the points per section for the remaining applicable sections shall be adjusted to maintain the same proportional weight within the calculation.

Each applicant's score and related information will be considered by the superintendent of public instruction in making decisions regarding the approval or disapproval of submitted and reviewed applications. The Department will determine annually the minimum threshold of total points earned to be recommended for approval. The superintendent of public instruction may approve up to five applications for new internet- or computer-based community schools to open for the upcoming school year.

APPLICANT AFFIRMATIONS

I attest that the information provided on this application is correct and accurate. I understand and agree to comply with all requirements that apply to internet- or computer-based schools.

Name: Position:

Signature: Date:

SPONSOR AFFIRMATIONS

I attest that the information provided on this application is correct and accurate. I understand and agree to comply with all requirements that apply to internet- or computer-based schools.

Name: Position:

Signature: Date:

OPERATOR AFFIRMATIONS

I attest that the information provided on this application is correct and accurate. I understand and agree to comply with all requirements that apply to internet- or computer-based schools.

Name: Position:

Signature: Date:

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