

Roles and Responsibilities for Community Schools

Ohio’s system of community schools, aka charter schools, appropriately defines the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders. The organizational structure loosely parallels that of traditional public schools: high-level oversight by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW); ongoing oversight, monitoring and technical assistance provided by sponsors; key policy-setting, performance goal setting/monitoring and decision making by boards; and, day-to-day operations managed by individual superintendents and school leaders or through services provided by contracted educational service providers or management companies.

DEW OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	DEW OFFICE OF SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP	SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARDS	SCHOOLS OPERATORS/ MANAGEMENT COMPANIES
<div>The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce’s Office of Community Schools is responsible for oversight of all sponsors.</div> <div>Key responsibilities include:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Granting, renewing and, as appropriate, revoking contracted sponsorship authority;Assessing all sponsors’ performance based on school academic outcomes, compliance, and quality practices;Ongoing monitoring of all sponsor performance, including review of corrective action plans, as required to address deficiencies;Overseeing all sponsors that are on probation and limiting sponsorship authority, as appropriate;Providing technical assistance to all sponsors; and,Preparing annual report on charter schools for key policy makers.	<div>The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce’s Office of School Sponsorship plays the same role as that of all other sponsors.</div> <div>Key responsibilities include:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reviewing and accepting/ rejecting new school proposals;Establishing and negotiating clear, meaningful goals and expectations outlined in the contract between sponsors and school governing boards; On-going oversight and monitoring of school performance metrics; Providing technical assistance to governing boards and schools;Conducting required annual school opening assurances, ongoing compliance assessments and school site visits;Reviewing school financial and enrollment records monthly; Reporting to DEW on issues of significant concern or school’s failure to comply with legal obligations;Requiring, reviewing and approving school corrective action plans; and,Taking action — probation, suspension or closure — with schools that fail to meet expectations.	<div>All public charter schools operate under the authority of not-for- profit boards of directors comprised of a minimum of five members. Board members must be free of conflicts of interest, must undergo criminal background checks, and their meetings and records are subject to open meetings and public records laws.</div> <div>Key responsibilities include:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Negotiating and agreeing to the contract metrics and expectations with the sponsor;Overseeing school operations to assure compliance with state and federal laws, and requirements outlined in the sponsor contract including school academic and financial performance;Establishing and monitoring of compliance with various policies that inform school operations;Serving as good stewards of public funds by providing transparent fiscal oversight; and,Hiring, monitoring and evaluating school operator performance and developing and/or monitoring corrective action plans, as needed.	<div>Boards may choose to employ/ contract with individuals, educational service providers or management companies for the responsibility of day-to-day school operations.</div> <div>Key responsibilities include:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Managing day-to-day operations, including facilities, technology, food service and safety/security;Assuring statutory and contractual compliance; Providing strategic budget and fiscal support;Managing personnel/HR, including recruitment, hiring, supervision, benefits management and professional development; Implementing of educational model aligned with Ohio state standards and performance contract measures;Servicing data needs, including student testing, student records and input/ upload of required data;Providing student services such as discipline, athletics and extra-curricular activities;Acquiring or providing communications support including marketing/student recruitment and stakeholder relations