

OFFICE OF SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP

Annual Report to Schools

2019-2020



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Who is the Office of Ohio School Sponsorship?

Ohio law established the Office of Ohio School Sponsorship (OSS) to perform the sponsorship duties for community schools sponsored by the Ohio Department of Education. This unique office within the state agency is often seen as wearing two hats – the first one is operating as a state regulator and the second is executing the duties of a community school sponsor.

As a regulator, the Office of Ohio School Sponsorship is required to adhere to community school law as well as the policies and procedures established by the state Department of Education. Under law, OSS may accept applications for new schools, continue to sponsor existing schools, and assume sponsorship of additional schools any time throughout the school year. During the 2019-2020 school year, OSS sponsored 29 schools with two new schools added during the year.

When exiting decisions are made or poor performance results in the loss of a sponsor, it is the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Ohio School Sponsorship that immediately replaces the existing sponsor, accepting the terms of the previous contract between community school and sponsor, with limited understanding of current building, academic and/or funding conditions. OSS has not accepted applications for new schools in recent years. Instead, it has focused on providing thorough on-boarding services to new schools as they are welcomed into its portfolio and provides continued technical assistance to existing sponsored schools.



What does the Office of Ohio School Sponsorship do?

The Office of Ohio School Sponsorship's mission is aligned with Ohio's strategic plan for education, Each Child, Our Future. OSS developed its strategy in the 2018-2019 school year, and during the 2019-2020 school year it updated many of processes and procedures and revisited its strategy to ensure alignment with sponsorship operations moving forward. As a result, OSS reviewed its vision, further refining its mission, vision, philosophy and core values. OSS strategy continues to support the state's Each Child, Our Future plan. The outcome of the work is a strategic school sponsorship office that is student-focused and promotes equity, partnerships and quality schools.

Although the Office of Ohio School Sponsorship is part of the Ohio Department of Education, its efforts are focused on providing oversight, monitoring and technical assistance to the governing board, school leadership and community school building-level efforts. As OSS continues to fine-tune its strategic plan while ensuring alignment with Each Child, Our Future, it remains mission-focused, strategically serving Ohio's most vulnerable students.

How is OSS doing in fulfilling its sponsorship role?

Each year, all Ohio sponsors are evaluated by the Ohio Department of Education in three equally weighted areas: academic performance, compliance and quality practices. The Office of Ohio Sponsorship received a rating of "Exceeds Expectations" in compliance; its quality practices are rated "Meets Standards" for its last evaluation cycle. OSS's academic rating released in 2019 was an overall "C," improving from a previous rating of "D." OSS continues to work with its portfolio of schools to ensure that each school is a quality school of choice in their community.

Office of Ohio School Sponsorship schools

OSS sponsors a diverse portfolio of schools that consists of elementary schools, high schools, dropout prevention and recovery schools (DOPR) and blended learning models across the state of Ohio – a mix of online, and brick and mortar schools. Each school fills a need in the community through a school-specific mission. Highlights from OSS's community school portfolio include:

- Department sponsored schools are located throughout the state – in both challenged and non-challenged districts, Big 8 districts, as well as rural farming and mining communities.
- Schools are designed for meeting specific needs of Ohio's workforce – specializing in building construction, welding, gas and oil, and digital technologies.
- Schools are planned to mirror the communities they serve – reflecting the unique ethnic and cultural make-up of the community in which each school is located.
- Schools are dedicated in meeting the needs of the whole child including trauma informed care and specialized programs to meet the needs of autistic and special needs students.

Vision

The Ohio Department of Education Office of Ohio School Sponsorship’s vision is for Ohio students to have access to a high-quality, publicly funded educational program that meets the needs of the whole student.

Mission

It is the mission of the Ohio Department of Education’s Office of Ohio School Sponsorship to provide oversight and accountability and to inform and empower sponsored schools so that they can successfully provide a high-quality education to Ohio’s students.

Core Values

WHOLE STUDENT – Schools sponsored by the Office of Ohio School Sponsorship are committed to developing the whole student. OSS has an unwavering commitment to academics as well as a focus on growing well-rounded students who are community-minded, problem-solvers, and leaders in pursuing a just society for all.

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY - Schools sponsored by OSS serve Ohio communities and are committed to improving educational outcomes for all students, particularly those who have traditionally been underserved and are most impacted by the achievement and opportunity gaps.

QUALITY SCHOOLS & QUALITY PRACTICES – Just as schools are expected to maintain high standards and continuous improvement, the Office of School Sponsorship authorizing program is committed to upholding rigorous standards and continually evaluates and improves policies and practices to ensure quality.

- Schools are established with strong partnerships with local community and civic organizations.

Many of the schools were assumed as a result of revocation of sponsorship authority through the sponsor evaluation process. Other schools applied to OSS and were granted sponsorship in years past. Recently, OSS has not accepted applications for new community schools or for schools looking for a change in sponsorship.

When a school is assumed by OSS pursuant to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3314.015 or 3314.016, OSS is tasked with onboarding and evaluating the specific needs of the school. The onboarding process takes up to twenty-four months as OSS reviews and provides technical assistance and guidance regarding operations of the school, compliance matters and building staff capacity.

As part of the quality sponsorship goals, OSS evaluates schools’ academic programs and implementation of the curriculum across grade bands, and ensures that schools implement any required academic improvement plans with fidelity.

Another area of focus for OSS is ensuring that schools provide support and appropriate education to students with disabilities. During the 2019-2020 school year, approximately 90 percent of students taught in OSS’s portfolio of schools were economically disadvantaged. The over-arching quality sponsorship goal is for all students in the sponsored schools to be challenged, prepared and empowered.

The very diverse 31 schools sponsored by the Office of Ohio School Sponsorship during the 2019-2020 school year included minority student populations ranging from 13.25 percent to 99.68 percent. OSS sponsors schools from various urban and rural areas around the state, some with ample transportation opportunities and some with little to no public transportation options; however, over 74 percent of OSS’s sponsored schools maintained attendance rates of 80 percent or higher on an average throughout the year.



The following chart shows student demographics of OSS’s sponsored schools compared to statewide traditional public and community schools:

GROUP	2020 ENROLLMENT — % OF ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED	2020 ENROLLMENT — % OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Statewide	49.5	15.2
Community schools	82.52	17.8
Current OSS schools	90.42	17.8
Prior year OSS schools	87.2	19.96

Philosophy

The Office of Ohio School Sponsorship believes it is important that its actions, interactions, and communications come from the mindset of serving children.

The sponsorship role is taken seriously and staff carry out their duties with an attitude of servanthood while addressing the needs of schools.

It is a priority for the Ohio Department of Education's Office of School Sponsorship to be knowledgeable and informed of challenges and opportunities for schools. OSS strives to educate itself and provide technical assistance to sponsored schools.

The Office of School Sponsorship provides oversight and accountability while empowering schools with information, tools and resources to:

- Build strong leaders;
- Make data driven decisions at the school level;
- Ensure fiscal and organizational compliance.

The Office of Ohio School Sponsorship monitors and evaluates its sponsored schools through many activities including:

- Attendance at monthly governing authority meetings;
- Attendance at finance committee meetings;
- Review of monthly financial reports;
- Review of student assessment data;
- Onsite visits to the schools including health and safety walk-throughs, compliance visits, classroom observations, school leadership team meetings, and file reviews;
- Professional development and technical assistance;
- Review and monitoring of contract, state and federal law compliance including educational program, finance, organization and operational requirements.

Sponsorship Annual Report

All Ohio community school sponsors must fulfill annual sponsor reporting requirements specified by ORC 3314.03(D)(3), ORC 3314.03(A)(11)(g) and Ohio Administrative Code 3301-102-05.

Each community school sponsor must monitor and evaluate the academic and fiscal performance, organization and operation, and legal compliance of each community school it sponsors. A report of school performance is to be created and submitted to stakeholders by November 30 of each year. This written report is a summation of the Office of Ohio School Sponsorship sponsored schools' performance over the 2019-2020 school year.

The Office of School Sponsorship is required by Ohio law to monitor and ensure compliance with all applicable laws and rules. OSS reviews each school's policies and procedures throughout the school year and ensures that the governing authority of each school reviews and approves policies as needed. In addition, OSS ensures that each school implements its policies and procedure with fidelity and complies with all laws and rules during site visits during the school year.



Academic performance

Local report card data is quite limited due to the state-mandated Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic school closure required during the 2019-2020 school year. OSS used its performance framework to monitor and evaluate academic school performance targets and metrics, fiscal indicators, organization and operations indicators, and overall compliance indicator ratings.

OSS evaluates sponsor contract goals, performance index grades, achievement indicators met, graduation rate, local assessments, and other metrics including overall value added and overall report card grades.

The Office of Ohio School Sponsorship, like all Ohio sponsors, is required by ORC 3314.016 to evaluate its sponsored schools on performance measures as indicated in the state local report cards issued by the State of Ohio. Academic performance indicators were not rated by the state; therefore, the Office of Ohio School Sponsorship has used "Not Rated" as the academic performance rating for its sponsored schools to align with the local report card ratings issued by the State of Ohio for the 2019-2020 school year.

Additionally, while OSS did not have access to all academic performance measures for 2019-2020, it did monitor and evaluate school performance in the areas of fiscal, operation organization and legal compliance with ratings of "Meets" or "Does Not Meet" as reflected in this report.

It's all about the students!**Organization, operation and legal compliance**

The Office of Ohio School Sponsorship works with sponsored schools to ensure compliance with rule and law. During the 2019-2020 school year, schools participated in several onsite visits with OSS leadership and staff who conducted file reviews, classroom observations and compliance assessments. The Office of Ohio School Sponsorship provided workshops, training and leadership development opportunities as needed.

OSS staff also attend board meetings and committee meetings, and reviews governing authority documentation and compliance reports throughout the year. Timely record submissions were received, and technical assistance and support was provided as needed, to ensure compliance in areas of organization, operation and legal compliance. OSS provided open meeting and public records training for board members and started the first leadership development cohort for principals. Sponsored schools have worked diligently throughout the 2019-2020 school year to meet compliance requirements as well as operational and organizational standards as indicated in this report.

Fiscal performance

The Office of Ohio School Sponsorship works closely with school leaders, fiscal officers and board members. Monthly fiscal reviews, board meeting attendance, board committee meeting attendance, pre- and post-audit conference attendance, and technical support and assistance is provided to schools as needed. Fiscal review ratings are based on monthly board meeting reporting, financial committee and report reviews, fiscal performance and annual audit performance.

2019-2020 Summary

The schools sponsored by the Office of Ohio School Sponsorship have made huge strides in improving their academic, fiscal, operational, compliance and overall performance during the 2019-2020 school year. The 2019-2020 school year was an unprecedented year in working through the COVID-19 challenges and ultimately closing the year out with remote instruction.

OSS is pleased to report that its schools continue to improve and show growth in performance. In the previous year, OSS sponsored one overall "A" rated school, two "Exceeds Expectations" dropout prevention and recovery schools, and three schools designated as "Quality Community Schools" under Ohio law.

OSS continues to improve standard operating procedures, and tools and resources used to provide technical assistance, training and development to sponsored schools. These efforts have shown growth in the Office of Ohio School Sponsorship's rating, as well. As previously noted, the Office of Ohio Sponsorship received a rating of "Exceeds Expectations" in compliance and "Meets Standards" in quality practices for its last evaluation cycle. In addition, OSS's school academic rating released in 2019 was an overall "C," improving from a "D." OSS continues to work with its portfolio of schools to ensure that each school is a quality school choice in their community.

School IRN	School	Grade Levels Served	Academic Performance	Fiscal Performance	Organization Operation	Legal Compliance
000556	A+ Arts Academy	K-8	Not Rated	Did Not Meet	Did Not Meet	Meets
013232	A+ Children's Academy	K-5	Not Rated	Meets	Meets	Meets
009971	Ashland County Community Academy	7-12	Not Rated	Meets	Meets	Meets
012501	Beacon Hill Academy	7-11	Not Rated	Meets	Meets	Meets
000311	Bridges Community Academy	K-12	Not Rated	Meets	Meets	Meets
133512	Cincinnati College Preparatory Academy	K-12	Not Rated	Meets	Meets	Meets
000598	Coshocton Opportunity School	9-12	Not Rated	Meets	Meets	Meets
008283	Dayton Business Technology High School	9-12	Not Rated	Meets	Did Not Meet	Did Not Meet
014188	Discovery Academy	K-6	Not Rated	Meets	Meets	Meets
008289	Eagle Learning Center	9-12	Not Rated	Meets	Meets	Meets
012558	Global Village Academy	K-8	Not Rated	Meets	Meets	Meets
000282	Greater Ohio Virtual School*	7-12	Not Rated	Meets	Meets	Meets
011381	Greater Summit County Early Learning Center	K-4	Not Rated	Meets	Meets	Meets
000905	Interactive Media & Construction (IMAC)	9-12	Not Rated	Meets	Meets	Meets
014913	Lakeshore Intergenerational School*	K-7	Not Rated	Meets	Meets	Meets
013962	Liberty Preparatory School	9-12	Not Rated	Meets	Meets	Meets
133389	Lighthouse Community School*(closed)	7-12	Not Rated	Did Not Meet	Meets	Meets
009996	Mahoning County High School	7-12	Not Rated	Meets	Meets	Meets
148999	Mahoning Unlimited Classroom	4-12	Not Rated	Did Not Meet	Meets	Meets
014067	Ohio Construction Academy*	9-12	Not Rated	Did Not Meet	Meets	Meets
000941	Par Excellence Academy	K-6	Not Rated	Did Not Meet	Meets	Meets
000640	Rittman Academy	9-12	Not Rated	Meets	Meets	Meets
147231	Schnee Learning Center	9-12	Not Rated	Did Not Meet	Meets	Meets
014927	Steel Academy	6-12	Not Rated	Did Not Meet	Meets	Meets
000621	Summit Academy Transition High School Dayton*	9-12	Not Rated	Did Not Meet	Meets	Meets
000614	Summit Academy Transition High School-Columbus*	9-12, SWD	Not Rated	Did Not Meet	Meets	Meets
014904	T2 Honors Academy	7-12	Not Rated	Did Not Meet	Meets	Meets
014830	Utica Shale Academy of Ohio	9-12	Not Rated	Did Not Meet	Meets	Meets
151175	West Central Learning Academy II	9-12	Not Rated	Meets	Meets	Meets
000736	Wings Academy 1*	K-8	Not Rated	Meets	Meets	Meets
134072	Youngstown Community School	K-8	Not Rated	Meets	Meets	Meets

* Schools no longer sponsored by Office of School Sponsorship.