Welcome to the Ohio Department of Education’s online tutorial regarding the overall ratings and outcomes of the evaluation process of community school sponsors.
The primary purpose of the sponsor evaluation system is to assist ODE in providing oversight and technical assistance to sponsors and to improve the quality of sponsor practices, which will ultimately lead to improvements in both community school operations and the academic performance of their students.
To that end, the Ohio Department of Education developed a series of webinars designed to facilitate the sponsors’ understanding of the evaluation process. This webinar is the fourth one in the series. The first webinar provided an overview of the sponsor evaluation process and discussed the academic performance component. Following that were two other webinars, one which discussed the quality practices component and the other focusing on the compliance component. This webinar discusses how the overall sponsor evaluation rating is calculated and the possible outcomes resulting from the evaluation rating.

There will be a period at the end of today’s webinar for questions, but feel free to indicate that you have a question at any point during the webinar by typing in the thought cloud located on the upper left side of your screen. Also, please remember that the webinars are posted on the ODE website for future listening and you can always contact the Office of Community Schools if you have any questions about the evaluation.
Let’s now focus on how the overall sponsor evaluation ratings and scores are calculated.
Sponsor Performance Evaluations (ORC 3314.016)

Three Equally-Weighted Components

- Academic performance
- Compliance with laws and rules
- Adherence to quality practices

The sponsor performance evaluations are made up of three equally-weighted components: student academic performance of the sponsor’s community schools, the sponsor’s compliance with laws and rules, and the sponsor’s adherence to quality practices.
Once each of the three components has been evaluated, rated, and scored, those scores are then combined to determine the sponsor’s overall evaluation rating. The points received for academic performance plus the points received for compliance plus the points received for quality practice equals the overall sponsor evaluation rating.
During the Fall of 2015, the 131st General Assembly passed House Bill 2, which included a number of provisions designed to strengthen the accountability of community schools, sponsors, and operators. It also included several provisions relating specifically to the sponsor evaluation system for changes beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, such as the alignment of the academic performance component with the state report card measures; the establishment of a new sponsor rating of poor; and the provision that ODE must provide annual training on the sponsor evaluation system.
Advisory Panel Recommendations

Framework for Overall Rating

- Create a fair, transparent and not overly complex calculation for the summative ratings

- Summative scoring scale will be adjusted starting with 2017-2018 school year as evaluation framework becomes fully embedded

- Scoring formula, including rating thresholds, will be reviewed after full implementation in 2015-2016 and regularly thereafter

In 2015, former State Superintendent Richard Ross called for an independent advisory panel to review the evaluation process as it currently stood. The panel met seven times over a 5-month period and made its recommendations to Dr. Ross in November of 2015. Included in the panel’s recommendations was a framework specific to the summative formula used for calculating the overall sponsor rating. The panel recommended that ODE create a fair, transparent and not overly complex calculation for the summative ratings, that the summative scoring scale will be adjusted starting with 2017-2018 school year as evaluation framework becomes fully embedded, and that the scoring formula, including rating thresholds, will be reviewed after full implementation of its recommended evaluation framework in 2015-2016 and regularly thereafter.
Prior to the passage of HB 2, sponsor evaluations were composed of the same three equally-weighted components of academic performance, compliance with laws and rules, and quality practices. However, there were only three possible sponsor ratings: Exemplary, Effective, and Ineffective.
The slide shows the points and ratings available for each component, as well as the points and ratings available for the overall 2014-2015 sponsor rating. The points obtained for each of the three components are added together to get the overall sponsor rating.
A similar process is seen for the 2015-2016 sponsor evaluations. However, the overall ratings for the compliance component and the quality practices component are different than those of the 2014-2015 evaluations and are based on a 5-point scale.
For the 2014-2015 school year, sponsors receiving between 10 and 12 points will be rated Exemplary. Sponsors receiving between 7 and 9 points will receive an Effective rating. Sponsors receiving 6 points or less will receive a rating of Ineffective.
For the 2015-2016 school year, sponsors receiving between 10 and 12 points total will be rated Exemplary. Sponsors receiving between 7 and 9 points will receive an Effective rating. Sponsors receiving between 3 and 6 points will receive an Ineffective rating. Sponsors receiving between 0 and 2 points will receive a rating of Poor.
Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, the overall sponsor rating system will be modified, with an Exemplary rating requiring a score of 11 or 12, an Effective rating between 8 and 10 points, an Ineffective rating between 4 and 7 points, and a Poor rating between 0 and 3 points. This change is one of the recommendations of the advisory panel, which expects that sponsor performance will increase as best practices are implemented and the sponsor evaluation guidelines developed by the advisory panel become fully embedded in the evaluation system.
To gain a better understanding of how the scoring process will work for the sponsor evaluations, consider the following example, which focuses on Sponsor A. Sponsor A has three community schools in its portfolio and received an academic performance rating of “C,” a “Full Compliance” rating on its compliance component and a quality practice rating of “Meets Standards.”
As you may recall from the previous webinars, an Academic Performance rating of “C” is worth 2 points. A compliance rating of “Full Compliance” is worth 4 points. A Quality Practice rating of “Meets Standards” is 3 points. To determine Sponsor A’s overall rating, you must add the points for each of the three evaluation components together. So two plus four plus three equals 9. Therefore, Sponsor A receives an overall evaluation rating of 9.
We must then refer to the overall sponsor rating scale to see where a score of 9 points falls. As the scale shows, 9 points falls in the Effective range. So Sponsor A receives an overall sponsor rating of Effective.
As you now hopefully have a better understanding of how sponsor ratings are calculated, let's focus on sponsor evaluation outcomes. The purpose of sponsor evaluations is to improve sponsor practices, which will ultimately lead to significant improvement in the operations and academic performance of all community schools. To that end, the scores and ratings that sponsors receive on their evaluations will play a crucial role in what they will be allowed to do in subsequent years.
### Outcomes of Sponsor Evaluation Ratings

- **Determines eligibility to sponsor any new or additional community schools**

- **Impacts ODE decisions about:**
  - Renewal of sponsorship agreements;
  - Sponsorship application and approval; and
  - Revocation of sponsorship.

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How will the sponsor evaluation ratings be used? First, they will help to determine whether or not a sponsor is eligible to take on sponsoring responsibilities for any new or additional community schools. The sponsor evaluation ratings also impact ODE decisions about the renewal of sponsorship agreements, sponsorship application and approval, and the revocation of sponsorship.
Overall Sponsor Rating

- Evaluations done for both 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years

- Changes in HB 2 only apply to the overall ratings starting with the 2015-2016 school year

ODE is required by law to do sponsor evaluations for both the 2014-2015 and the 2015-2016 school years. However, changes in HB 2 apply starting with the 2015-2016 evaluations.
The sponsor evaluation system has four possible ratings: exemplary, effective, ineffective, and poor. Please note that the rating of poor is a possible rating starting with the 2015-2016 evaluations.
Outcomes for 2015-2016 Onward

Exemplary

• Sponsor new or additional community schools

• ODE may permit sponsors to have their quality practices review done every 3 yrs instead of annually

• ODE may permit sponsors to serve as peer reviewers on quality practices review of other sponsors

Beginning with the 2015-2016 evaluations, sponsors receiving an exemplary rating may sponsor new or additional community schools. In addition, ODE may permit sponsors receiving an exemplary rating to have their quality practices review done once over a three-year period instead of every year. ODE may also permit exemplary sponsors to serve as peer reviewers in the quality practices review of other sponsors.
Outcomes for 2015-2016 Onward

Exemplary for two or more consecutive years

• Sponsor can participate in the following incentives:
  o Renewal of sponsorship agreement with ODE
  o Ability to extend contract term with school beyond the term included in agreement with ODE
  o Exemption from preliminary agreement and contract adoption and execution deadline requirements

Sponsors that receive an overall sponsor evaluation rating of exemplary for two or more consecutive years have several incentives that they can take advantage of, including the renewal of their sponsorship agreement with ODE, the ability to extend their contract term with a community school beyond the term included in their agreement with ODE, exemption from preliminary agreement and contract adoption and execution deadline requirements.
Sponsors who receive a rating of exemplary for two or more consecutive years also have exemption from the automatic contract expiration requirement if a new school fails to open by Sept. 30th of the year in which the contract is executed, no limit on the number of community schools they sponsor, and no territorial restrictions on sponsorship.
### Outcomes for 2015-2016 Onward

**Effective**

- Sponsor new or additional community schools

- ODE may permit sponsors to have their quality practices review done every 3 yrs instead of annually

- ODE may permit sponsors to serve as peer reviewers on quality practices review of other sponsors

Sponsors receiving an effective rating may sponsor new or additional community schools. In addition, ODE may permit sponsors receiving an effective rating to have their quality practices review done once over a three-year period instead of every year. ODE may also permit effective sponsors to serve as peer reviewers in the quality practices review of other sponsors.
Outcomes for 2015-2016 Onward

**Ineffective**

- Cannot sponsor any new or additional community schools
- Must develop a quality improvement plan with ODE
- Three consecutive years of “Ineffective” results in sponsorship revocation
- Can appeal the revocation within 30 days of receiving the rating

Sponsors receiving an ineffective rating cannot sponsor any new or additional community schools. In addition, they must develop a quality improvement plan with the Ohio Department of Education that specifies how they plan to correct the deficiencies that led to the ineffective rating, with timelines and benchmarks that have been established by ODE.

Beginning with the 2015-2016 evaluations, sponsors that receive three consecutive years of ineffective will have their sponsorship authority revoked. Should that situation arise, those sponsors would have 30 days from the date on which they received the ineffective rating to appeal the decision to the State Board of Education.
Outcomes for 2015-2016 Onward

Poor

- Sponsorship revocation
- Can appeal the revocation within 30 days of receiving the rating

Sponsors receiving a rating of poor will have their sponsorship authority revoked. They will also have 30 days from the date on which they received the poor rating to appeal the decision to the State Board of Education.
Outcomes for 2015-2016 Onward

Sponsorship revocation

• Schools turned over to the Office of School Sponsorship at ODE for remainder of the school year

• OSS may continue to sponsor the schools for up to two years from sponsor revocation or until the schools find a new sponsor, whichever comes first

If a sponsor gets its authority revoked, its schools will then fall under the sponsorship authority of the Office of School Sponsorship at ODE. The Office of School Sponsorship may continue to sponsor the schools for up to two years from the time of their sponsor’s revocation or until the schools find a new sponsor, whichever comes first.
This concludes our tutorial on sponsor overall ratings and outcomes. If you have any questions or comments, please send them now.
Thanks again for participating in today’s webinar. The final webinar, which will focus on sponsor development and the next steps following the sponsor evaluation, will take place next Wednesday, March 9, at 10am. The link to today’s webinar will be sent to all sponsors once it is available. Also remember that all of the webinars are posted on the ODE website.
Thanks again for participating in this webinar. Please contact the Office of Community Schools at community.schools@education.ohio.gov if you have any additional questions.