



Ohio

Annual Report to Governor Kasich and the Ohio General Assembly

OFFICE OF SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP

DEC. 31, 2015

Introduction

The Ohio Department of Education's Office of School Sponsorship is authorized to approve applications for sponsorship of up to five new start-up community schools and up to 15 existing community schools each school year for a period of five years. The 2014-2015 school year marked the fourth year of the sponsorship program. School Sponsorship is required to submit an annual report to the Ohio General Assembly and to the governor. This annual report includes information about the number of community schools participating in the program and their compliance with the provisions of Ohio law (Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3314).

Overview

For most of the 2014-2015 school year, School Sponsorship sponsored 21 community schools (pursuant to section 3314.029 of the Ohio Revised Code). Two community schools were not renewed and closed at the end of the school year. In April 2015, the State Board of Education revoked the Portage County Educational Service Center's authority to sponsor community schools. Pursuant to Ohio law, School Sponsorship assumed sponsorship of Portage County Educational Service Center's eight community schools on April 27, 2015.¹ Of the eight community schools formerly sponsored by Portage County Educational Service Center, four are open, two are in suspension for poor academic performance and two were non-renewed for poor academic and organizational performance and subsequently closed.

During the 2014-2015 school year, School Sponsorship received 16 applications from community school developers and existing community schools. Twelve applications were from new start-up community school developers and four applications were from existing community schools. Of the 16, three were approved, two were withdrawn and 12 were not approved. One approved applicant, the Falcon Academy, chose not to enter into a contract with School Sponsorship due to a lack of adequate facilities and resources. It has subsequently closed. Application information regarding the applicant, location or intended location, and type of community school follows:

Approved:

- Ohio Construction Academy, Columbus; Existing Community School
- Summit Academy Transition High School - Columbus, Columbus; Existing Community School
- Falcon Academy, Akron; Existing Community School

Withdrawn:

- Advance Academy, East Liverpool; Proposed New Start-up Community School
- Catalyst Academy, Canton; Proposed New Start-up Community School

Not Approved:

- ACT Academy of Youngstown, Youngstown; Proposed New Start-up Community School
- Albert Einstein Academy- East, Cleveland; Proposed New Start-up Community School
- Algorithm Institute Scholars Academy-Cincinnati, Cincinnati; Proposed New Start-up Community School
- Algorithm Institute Scholars Academy-Cleveland, Cleveland; Proposed New Start-up Community School
- Algorithm Institute Scholars Academy-VTEP, Cleveland; Proposed New Start-up Community School
- Algorithm Institute Scholars Academy-Youngstown, Youngstown; Proposed New Start-up Community School
- Bridge Builders Academy, East Cleveland; Proposed New Start-up Community School
- Career College Life Academy, Springfield; Proposed New Start-up Community School
- Seeds of Success, Cleveland; Proposed New Start-up Community School
- The Next Frontier Academy, Akron; Existing Community School
- Urban Scholars Lorain, Lorain; Proposed New Start-up Community School

¹ Ohio Revised Code 3314.015(C)

The applications for proposed new start-up community schools that were not approved generally lacked quality educational, organizational and financial planning. In addition, none of these applications demonstrated that the applicant had (or could reasonably raise) the necessary financial resources for a successful launch.

THE NUMBER OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS SPONSORED BY THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP: SCHOOL YEAR 2014-2015

| <u>School</u> | <u>District</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>Type</u> | <u>FTE Enrollment*</u> |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------------|
| A+ Children's Academy | Columbus | Franklin | New Start-Up | 125 |
| Bridges Community Academy | Tiffin | Seneca | Existing | 139 |
| Cincinnati Generation Academy | | Hamilton | New Start-Up | 137 |
| Cincinnati State STEM Academy | Cincinnati | Hamilton | New Start-Up | 145 |
| Discovery Academy | Washington | Lucas | New Start-Up | 228 |
| East Academy | Cleveland | Cuyahoga | New Start-Up | 305 |
| Interactive Media and Construction Academy | Mansfield | Richland | Existing | 50 |
| Lake Erie Academy | Toledo | Lucas | Existing | 243 |
| Lakeshore Intergenerational Academy | Cleveland | Cuyahoga | New Start-Up | 103 |
| Mansfield Elective Academy | Mansfield | Richland | Existing | 34 |
| Mansfield Enhancement Academy | Mansfield | Richland | Existing | 26 |
| Richard Allen Academy | Dayton | Montgomery | Existing | 76 |
| Richard Allen Academy II | Dayton | Montgomery | Existing | 320 |
| Richard Allen Academy III | Butler | Hamilton | Existing | 165 |
| Richard Allen Preparatory Academy | Dayton | Montgomery | Existing | 156 |
| Springfield Academy of Excellence | Springfield | Clark | Existing | 219 |
| Steel Academy | Akron | Summit | New Start-Up | 97 |
| T2 Honors Academy | Warrensville Heights | Cuyahoga | New Start-Up | 52 |
| Watkins Academy | Dayton | Montgomery | New Start-Up | 75 |
| West Park Academy | Cleveland | Cuyahoga | New Start-Up | 311 |
| Youngstown Academy of Excellence | Youngstown | Mahoning | Existing | 167 |
| Cleveland Community School** | Cleveland | Cuyahoga | Existing | 197 |
| Global Village Academy** | Parma | Cuyahoga | Existing | 143 |
| Imagine Akron Academy** | Akron | Summit | Existing | 68 |
| Imagine Cleveland Academy** | Cleveland | Cuyahoga | Existing | 214 |
| Imagine on Superior** | Canton | Stark | Existing | 138 |
| Quest Community School** | Parma | Cuyahoga | Existing | 65 |
| STEAM of Warren** | Warren | Trumbull | Existing | 221 |
| Villaview Community School** | Cleveland | Cuyahoga | Existing | 157 |

*FTE Enrollment is taken from the department's June 2015 payment report.

** Formerly sponsored by Portage County Educational Service Center – Assumed sponsorship on April 27, 2015.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 3314 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE

The Office of School Sponsorship evaluates each sponsored community school's compliance with the provisions of Chapter 3314 of the Ohio Revised Code. Each community school's evaluation covers compliance in the categories of academic and fiscal performance, organization and operations, and legal compliance with laws and rules. Note that academic performance data for School Year 2014-2015 was not available for this report due to the delayed release of Ohio's School Report Cards.

A+ Children's Academy

A+ Children's Academy is located in the Columbus Public School District in south Columbus and serves grades K-6. Its mission is for its students to achieve their full potential academically and socially through strong academic and emotional support. Its curriculum includes a performing arts component that is integrated into the educational curriculum. The school continues to experience substantial growth in enrollment and expansion of its facilities.

During the year, opening, fall and spring site visits were conducted at A+ Children's Academy. During those visits, the following were examined: implementation of education program, policies, students' files, evidence of required trainings, school safety drill log and governing authority records. A random sample of regular education files and special education files were examined for the following: birth certificate, proof of residency, enrollment form signed by parent/guardian, court documents, emergency medical forms, immunization records, and vision and hearing screening reports. The special education files were reviewed to ensure accuracy and compliance with state and federal laws. The above areas were found to be compliant.

The most recent annual audit exposed weaknesses in governing authority compliance and oversight. The audit report identified the following issues:

- The academy's principal's family relationship to the management company;
- A payment of approximately \$300 to the principal's brother to reimburse him for materials purchased for the academy;
- The management company's authority to sign checks on behalf of the academy;
- A conflict of interest issue where a governing authority member is alleged to have voted on a contract to her employer related to food service;
- The amount of the food service contract; and
- The value of the lease since the academy rents property owned by the management company.

School Sponsorship asked the academy's governing authority to submit an official response and corrective action plan for each issue raised by the audit report. In addition, School Sponsorship required the governing authority to obtain an independent real estate appraisal regarding the amount of the lease payment compared to fair market value and for the governing authority to schedule comprehensive board training from an approved provider. School Sponsorship has already received the independent appraisal regarding the lease payments. The appraiser opined that the academy was paying approximately \$5 less per square foot than prevailing fair market lease rates. The governing authority's response to the remaining issues is expected by the first week of January 2016. The referenced governing authority member subject to an alleged conflict of interest is no longer serving on the governing authority. These issues were referred to the Ohio Ethics Commission and School Sponsorship will take any necessary additional actions based on any findings by the Ohio Ethics Commission.

Bridges Community Academy

Bridges Community Academy is located in the Tiffin City School District and serves grades K-12. It specializes in serving students who have been identified as talented and gifted. One of its goals is to allow students the benefit of working with honor students, education majors and professors from the two local colleges, parents and community members. Bridges Community Academy's mission is to utilize the Common Core State Standards by engaging students' individual learning styles through technology, differentiation and project-based learning. The vision is to inspire students to be successful and to be college, career and community ready.

During the year, opening fall and spring site visits were conducted at Bridges Community Academy. During those visits, the following were examined: implementation of education program, policies, students' files, evidence of required trainings, school safety drill log and governing authority records.

A random sample of regular education files and special education files were examined for the following: birth certificate, proof of residency, enrollment form signed by parent/guardian, court documents, emergency medical forms, immunization records and vision and hearing screening reports. The special education files were reviewed to ensure accuracy and compliance with state and federal laws. The above areas were found to be compliant.

The most recent annual audit did not identify any problem areas. Bridges Community Academy is compliant in organizational/operational and financial performance areas.

Cincinnati Generation Academy

Cincinnati Generation Academy completed its first year of operations and is located in the Cincinnati Public School District. The academy served grades K-8 during the 2014-2015 school year. Its mission is to be an exceptional public school where generations of learners prepare fully for life's responsibilities, challenges and opportunities so that students can dream bigger, work harder and care more.

During the year, opening, fall and spring site visits were conducted at the Cincinnati Generation Academy. During those visits, the following were examined: implementation of education program, policies, students' files, evidence of required trainings, school safety drill log and governing authority records.

A random sample of regular education files and special education files were examined for the following: birth certificate, proof of residency, enrollment form signed by parent/guardian, court documents, emergency medical forms, immunization records and vision and hearing screening reports. The special education files were reviewed to ensure accuracy and compliance with state and federal laws.

Compliance issues were found related to the special education files. School Sponsorship required the Academy to address this issue by hiring additional staff during the year with expertise in special education to review every student file for compliance.

The 2014-2015 school year was the academy's first year in operation and an Ohio School Report Card has not been issued. The academy experienced extraordinary governance and operational difficulties during its first year. The academy's proposed location was in a building where a previous community school had to close by operation of law. School Sponsorship required that all individuals associated with the developer, governing authority and administrative staff have no ties to the previous community school that had closed. Despite receiving assurances, School Sponsorship found that these requirements were not honored. Four of the five governing authority members resigned. School Sponsorship placed the governing authority on probation and ultimately appointed new governing authority members pursuant to Ohio law.² The academy has relocated to a new facility, partnered with Xavier University for academic and operational assistance and contracted with the Hamilton County Educational Service Center for fiscal services.

Cincinnati State STEM Academy

Cincinnati State STEM Academy is located in the Cincinnati Public School District and serves grades 9-12. Although it is not formally designated as a drop-out prevention and recovery school, the academy's mission is to serve students who have dropped out of traditional high schools and provide them with the means to earn high school diplomas and college credits simultaneously. Through an agreement with Cincinnati State Community College, students can earn college credits at no cost while working toward their diplomas. While the school is organized as a community school under Chapter 3314 of the Revised Code, it offers an emphasis in science, technology, engineering and math.

During the year, opening, fall and spring site visits were conducted at the Cincinnati State STEM Academy. During those visits, the following were examined: implementation of education program, policies, students' files, evidence of required trainings, school safety drill log and governing authority records.

A random sample of regular education files and special education files were examined for the following: birth certificate, proof of residency, enrollment form signed by parent/guardian, court documents, emergency medical forms, immunization records and vision and hearing screening reports. The special education files were reviewed to ensure accuracy and compliance with state and federal laws. The above areas were found to be compliant.

² Ohio Revised Code 3314.073.

The school's most recent audit noted no financial issues. However, a possible ethics violation was noted by the Auditor of State related to the appearance that two members of the academy's governing authority who are employed by the college appear in the governing authority minutes as having voted on a lease contract to the college. This matter was referred to the Ohio Ethics Commission and the Office of School Sponsorship is monitoring the situation pending any decision.

Organizational and operational performance met expectations with some issues regarding records submission noted. Student enrollment was lower than expected which affected the community school's annual budget. The governing authority took steps to stay solvent through the year by revising the budget and modifying money allocations.

Discovery Academy

Discovery Academy is located in the Washington Local School District in Lucas County and serves grades K-6. Discovery Academy strives to empower students who lack the tools they need due to economic constraints. The school's mission is to enable its students with an ability to envision the world beyond their own neighborhood and empower each student to see the difference they can make in his or her own community. The school focuses on the development of 21st century skills in project-based learning environments.

During the year, opening, fall and spring site visits were conducted at the Discovery Academy. During those visits, the following were examined: implementation of education program, policies, students' files, evidence of required trainings, school safety drill log and governing authority records.

A random sample of regular education files and special education files were examined for the following: birth certificate, proof of residency, enrollment form signed by parent/guardian, court documents, emergency medical forms, immunization records and vision and hearing screening reports. The special education files were reviewed to ensure accuracy and compliance with state and federal laws. The above areas were found to be compliant.

The governing authority has contracted with the Leona Group to operate the school, which helped the academy double its student enrollment. There have been no financial performance issues. The academy is compliant in these areas.

East Academy

East Academy serves grades K-8. The school is located in the Cleveland Municipal School District in Cuyahoga County and opened in 2013. East Academy believes that everyone deserves a chance at receiving an appropriate education in order to be successful in life. The school's mission is to provide a 21st century learning environment to enable students to reach academic goals and become responsible 21st century citizens. The school focuses on 21st century skills and that scholarship, leadership and service are the cornerstones for the future of the students. The academy was operated by White Hat Management during the 2014-2015 school year. White Hat Management sold its operations to Accel Management, a division of Pansophic, Inc.

During the year, opening, fall and spring site visits were conducted at the East Academy. During those visits, the following were examined: implementation of education program, policies, students' files, evidence of required trainings, school safety drill log and governing authority records.

A random sample of regular education files and special education files were examined for the following: birth certificate, proof of residency, enrollment form signed by parent/guardian, court documents, emergency medical forms, immunization records and vision and hearing screening reports. The special education files were reviewed to ensure accuracy and compliance with state and federal laws. The above areas were found to be compliant.

East Academy uses a broad-based approach to learning where students can learn from their teachers, peers and community partners. Students will have a wide range of experiences that engage them in media-rich content, direct instruction, project-based learning, and interest-driven and talent-driven opportunities with a healthy mind and body emphasis. The most recent annual audit noted no financial issues. Organizational/operational and financial performance are compliant.

Interactive Media and Construction (IMAC)

Interactive Media & Construction serves grades 9-12. The school is located in the Mansfield City School District in Richland County and opened in 2005. The focus of this school is career-technical education in the areas of construction and interactive media. Its mission is for all students to attend college, a career-technical school and/or go to the military.

During the year, opening, fall and spring site visits were conducted at Interactive Media & Construction. During those visits, the following were examined: implementation of education program, policies, students' files, evidence of required trainings, school safety drill log, and governing authority records.

A random sample of regular education files and special education files were examined for the following: birth certificate, proof of residency, enrollment form signed by parent/guardian, court documents, emergency medical forms, immunization records and vision and hearing screening reports. The special education files were reviewed to ensure accuracy and compliance with state and federal laws. The above areas were found to be compliant.

Interactive Media & Construction has structured its educational program to meet state standards to prepare its students for state assessments and make them college and career ready. Although a computer-based school, there are certified teachers in each classroom. Students have flexible scheduling, individualized learning plans and a support climate that is essential for its dropout prevention/recovery population to achieve success academically, socially and emotionally.

The school was formerly sponsored by the Mansfield City School District and operated as a conversion community school. It has a joint governing authority and administration with the Mansfield Elective Academy and the Mansfield Enhancement Academy. All three community schools received an award from the Auditor of State's Office for financial oversight and accounting.

Lake Erie Academy

Lake Erie Academy was located in the Toledo Public School District and served grades K-12. Its contract expired on June 30, 2015. School Sponsorship did not renew the contract due to poor academic performance and failure to meet contracted performance requirements.

During the year, opening, fall and spring site visits were conducted at the Lake Erie Academy. During those visits the following were examined: implementation of education program, policies, students' files, evidence of required trainings, school safety drill log and governing authority records.

A random sample of regular education files and special education files were examined for the following: birth certificate, proof of residency, enrollment form signed by parent/guardian, court documents, emergency medical forms, immunization records and vision and hearing screening reports. The special education files were reviewed to ensure accuracy and compliance with state and federal laws. The above areas were found to be compliant.

Lakeshore Intergenerational School

Lakeshore Intergenerational School is a new start-up community school in the Cleveland Municipal School District serving grades K-2. It is operated by Breakthrough Schools, a nonprofit management company. It is the mission of the school to connect, create and guide a multigenerational community of lifelong learners and spirited citizens. The two mainstay principals of the school are that learning is a lifelong developmental process and knowledge is socially constructed.

During the year, opening, fall and spring site visits were conducted at the Lakeshore Intergenerational School. During those visits, the following were examined: implementation of education program, policies, students' files, evidence of required trainings, school safety drill log and governing authority records.

A random sample of regular education files and special education files were examined for the following: birth certificate, proof of residency, enrollment form signed by parent/guardian, court documents, emergency medical forms, immunization records and vision and hearing screening reports. The special education files were reviewed to ensure accuracy and compliance with state and federal laws. The above areas were found to be compliant.

The 2014-15 school year was the school's first year of operations and therefore it has not received a local report card. The governing authority is a highly engaged and effective oversight body. There were no organizational/operational or fiscal performance issues and the school is compliant in those areas.

Mansfield Elective Academy

Mansfield Elective Academy serves grades K-9 and is located in the Mansfield City School District. The focus of the academy is to offer a technology-rich environment with small class sizes, yet not grade driven, in order to meet the

individual instructional needs of each student. Its mission is for all students to attend college, career-technical schools and/or go to the military.

During the year, opening, fall and spring site visits were conducted at the Mansfield Elective Academy. During those visits, the following were examined: implementation of education program, policies, students' files, evidence of required trainings, school safety drill log and governing authority records.

A random sample of regular education files and special education files were examined for the following: birth certificate, proof of residency, enrollment form signed by parent/guardian, court documents, emergency medical forms, immunization records and vision and hearing screening reports. The special education files were reviewed to ensure accuracy and compliance with state and federal laws. The above areas were found to be compliant.

Mansfield Elective Academy has structured its educational program to meet state standards to prepare its students for state assessments, as well as help them to be college and career ready. Although a computer-based school, there are certified teachers in each classroom. The school allows for flexible scheduling and offers individualized learning plans.

The school was formerly sponsored by the Mansfield City School District and operated as a conversion community school. It has a joint governing authority and administration with Interactive Media & Construction and the Mansfield Enhancement Academy. All three community schools received an award from the Auditor of State's Office for financial oversight and accounting. Organizational/operational and financial performance are compliant.

Mansfield Enhancement Academy

Mansfield Enhancement Academy is a dropout recovery community school serving grades 9-12 located in the Mansfield City School District. The school is focused on assisting students in attaining high school diplomas and offers opportunities to participate in 14 career-technical training programs.

During the year, opening, fall and spring site visits were conducted at the Mansfield Enhancement Academy. During those visits, the following were examined: implementation of education program, policies, students' files, evidence of required trainings, school safety drill log and governing authority records.

A random sample of regular education files and special education files were examined for the following: birth certificate, proof of residency, enrollment form signed by parent/guardian, court documents, emergency medical forms, immunization records and vision and hearing screening reports. The special education files were reviewed to ensure accuracy and compliance with state and federal laws. With the exception of a missing item in a regular education record (since corrected), the above areas were found to be compliant.

Mansfield Enhancement Academy has structured its educational program to meet state standards to prepare its students for state assessments and make them college and career ready. Although a computer-based school, there are certified teachers in each classroom. Students have flexible scheduling and individualized learning plans.

The school was formerly sponsored by the Mansfield City School District and operated as a conversion community school. It has a joint governing authority and administration with Interactive Media & Construction and the Mansfield Elective Academy. All three community schools received an award from the Auditor of State's Office for financial oversight and accounting. Organizational/operational and financial performance are compliant.

Richard Allen Academy

The Richard Allen Academy serves grades 7-8 and is located in the Dayton City School District. The academy focuses on providing a rigorous academic program based on an atmosphere of expected success and family support. Core to the success of the school is students' self-discipline and respect for themselves and others. The academy is jointly governed with the Richard Allen II, Richard Allen III and Richard Allen Preparatory Academies. All four community schools are operated by the Institute of Management Resources, a for-profit management company.

During the year, opening, fall and spring site visits were conducted at the Richard Allen Academy. During those visits, the following were examined: implementation of education program, policies, students' files, evidence of required trainings, school safety drill log and governing authority records.

A random sample of regular education files and special education files were examined for the following: birth certificate, proof of residency, enrollment form signed by parent/guardian, court documents, emergency medical forms, immunization records and vision and hearing screening reports. The special education files were reviewed to ensure accuracy and compliance with state and federal laws. The above areas were found to be compliant.

Richard Allen Academy is focused on improving academic progress on the annual state tests and formative assessments. Students are required to demonstrate deportment, demeanor and bearing consistent with the ideals of the academy's namesake and stated principles.

The most recent audit identified areas of ongoing problems regarding the Institute of Management Resources' management of school funds. The audit issues are subject to litigation and will be addressed at the conclusion of legal proceedings. The Franklin County Court of Appeals recently issued its ruling on the matter and the time for the Institute of Management Resources to file an appeal with the Ohio Supreme Court is currently running. At the conclusion of the legal proceedings, School Sponsorship and the governing authority will consider corrective action plans as necessary per the final applicable ruling. Last summer, the governing authority and School Sponsorship entered into a new contract with rigorous academic, governance and fiscal performance goals.

Richard Allen Academy II

The Richard Allen Academy II serves grades 2-6 and is located in the Dayton City School District. The academy focuses on providing a rigorous academic program based on an atmosphere of expected success and family support. Core to the success of the school is students' self-discipline and respect for themselves and others. The academy is jointly governed with the Richard Allen, Richard Allen III and Richard Allen Preparatory Academies. All four community schools are operated by the Institute of Management Resources, a for-profit management company.

During the year, opening, fall and spring site visits were conducted at the Richard Allen Academy II. During those visits, the following were examined: implementation of education program, policies, students' files, evidence of required trainings, school safety drill log and governing authority records.

A random sample of regular education files and special education files were examined for the following: birth certificate, proof of residency, enrollment form signed by parent/guardian, court documents, emergency medical forms, immunization records and vision and hearing screening reports. The special education files were reviewed to ensure accuracy and compliance with state and federal laws. The above areas were found to be compliant.

Richard Allen Academy II is focused on improving academic progress on the annual state tests and formative assessments. Students are required to demonstrate deportment, demeanor and bearing consistent with the ideals of the academy's namesake and stated principles.

The most recent audit identified areas of ongoing weakness regarding the Institute of Management Resources' management of school funds. The audit issues are subject to litigation and will be addressed at the conclusion of legal proceedings. The Franklin County Court of Appeals recently issued its ruling on the matter and the time for the Institute of Management Resources to file an appeal with the Ohio Supreme Court is currently running. At the conclusion of the legal proceedings, School Sponsorship and the governing authority will consider corrective action plans as necessary per the final applicable ruling. Last summer, the governing authority and School Sponsorship entered into a new contract with rigorous academic, governance and fiscal performance goals.

Richard Allen Academy III

The Richard Allen Academy III serves grades K-6 and is located in the Hamilton City School District. The school is located in an urban area and has a high minority student population. The academy focuses on providing a rigorous academic program based on an atmosphere of expected success and family support. Core to the success of the school are students' self-discipline and respect for themselves and others. The academy is jointly governed with the Richard Allen II, Richard Allen III and Richard Allen Preparatory Academies. All four community schools are operated by the Institute of Management Resources, a for-profit management company.

During the year, opening, fall and spring site visits were conducted at the Richard Allen Academy III. During those visits, the following were examined: implementation of education program, policies, students' files, evidence of required trainings, school safety drill log and governing authority records.

A random sample of regular education files and special education files were examined for the following: birth certificate, proof of residency, enrollment form signed by parent/guardian, court documents, emergency medical forms, immunization records and vision and hearing screening reports. The special education files were reviewed to ensure accuracy and compliance with state and federal laws. The above areas were found to be compliant.

Richard Allen Academy III is focused on improving academic progress on the annual state tests and formative assessments. Students are required to demonstrate deportment, demeanor and bearing consistent with the ideals of the academy's namesake and stated principles.

The most recent audit identified areas of ongoing weakness regarding the Institute of Management Resources' management of school funds. The audit issues are subject to litigation and will be addressed at the conclusion of legal proceedings. The Franklin County Court of Appeals recently issued its ruling on the matter and the time for the Institute of Management Resources to file an appeal with the Ohio Supreme Court is currently running. At the conclusion of the legal proceedings, School Sponsorship and the governing authority will consider corrective action plans as necessary per the final applicable ruling. Last summer, the governing authority and School Sponsorship entered into a new contract with rigorous academic, governance and fiscal performance goals.

Richard Allen Preparatory Academy

The Richard Allen Academy serves grades K-1 and is located in the Dayton City School District. The school is located in an urban area and has a high minority student population. The academy focuses on providing a rigorous academic program based on an atmosphere of expected success and family support. Core to the success of the school are students' self-discipline and respect for themselves and others. The academy is jointly governed with the Richard Allen II, Richard Allen III and Richard Allen Preparatory Academies. All four community schools are operated by the Institute of Management Resources, a for-profit management company.

During the year, opening, fall and spring site visits were conducted at the Richard Allen Preparatory Academy. During those visits, the following were examined: implementation of education program, policies, students' files, evidence of required trainings, school safety drill log and governing authority records.

A random sample of regular education files and special education files were examined for the following: birth certificate, proof of residency, enrollment form signed by parent/guardian, court documents, emergency medical forms, immunization records and vision and hearing screening reports. The special education files were reviewed to ensure accuracy and compliance with state and federal laws. The above areas were found to be compliant.

Richard Allen Preparatory is focused on improving academic progress on the annual state tests and formative assessments. Students are required to demonstrate deportment, demeanor and bearing consistent with the ideals of the academy's namesake and stated principles.

The most recent audit identified areas of ongoing weakness regarding the Institute of Management Resources' management of school funds. The audit issues are subject to litigation and will be addressed at the conclusion of legal proceedings. The Franklin County Court of Appeals recently issued its ruling on the matter and the time for the Institute of Management Resources to file an appeal with the Ohio Supreme Court is currently running. At the conclusion of the legal proceedings, School Sponsorship and the governing authority will consider corrective action plans as necessary per the final applicable ruling. Last summer, the governing authority and School Sponsorship entered into a new contract with rigorous academic, governance and fiscal performance goals.

Springfield Academy of Excellence

Springfield Academy of Excellence served grades K-6 in the Springfield City School District. Its contract expired on June 30, 2015. School Sponsorship did not renew the contract due to poor academic performance and failure to meet contracted performance requirements.

During the year, opening, fall and spring site visits were conducted at the Springfield Academy of Excellence. During those visits, the following were examined: implementation of education program, policies, students' files, evidence of required trainings, school safety drill log and governing authority records.

A random sample of regular education files and special education files were examined for the following: birth certificate, proof of residency, enrollment form signed by parent/guardian, court documents, emergency medical forms, immunization

records and vision and hearing screening reports. The special education files were reviewed to ensure accuracy and compliance with state and federal laws. The above areas were found to be compliant.

Steel Academy

Steel Academy is a new start-up community school serving grades 6-12 in the Akron Public School District. It is in its first year of operations. The mission of Steel Academy is to inspire all students, including those with learning differences, by maximizing their educational experiences through the integration of academics with the visual and performing arts. The academy largely serves students on the autism spectrum and with other learning challenges. The academy completed its first year of operations with no governance or fiscal performance issues noted.

During the year, opening, fall and spring site visits were conducted at the Steel Academy. During those visits, the following were examined: implementation of education program, policies, students' files, evidence of required trainings, school safety drill log and governing authority records.

A random sample of regular education files and special education files were examined for the following: birth certificate, proof of residency, enrollment form signed by parent/guardian, court documents, emergency medical forms, immunization records and vision and hearing screening reports. The special education files were reviewed to ensure accuracy and compliance with state and federal laws. The above areas were found to be compliant.

Since the 2014-2015 school year was its first year of operation, no academic performance data was available for this report.

T² Honors Academy

T² Honors Academy serves grades 6-9 in the Warrensville Heights City School District. The mission statement of the school states that it will utilize a rigorous innovative academic curriculum to infuse a passion for people, intrinsic motivation and self-discipline in its students. The academy completed its first year of operation with no governance or fiscal issues noted.

During the year, opening, fall and spring site visits were conducted at the T² Honors Academy. During those visits, the following were examined: implementation of education program, policies, students' files, evidence of required trainings, school safety drill log and governing authority records.

A random sample of regular education files and special education files were examined for the following: birth certificate, proof of residency, enrollment form signed by parent/guardian, court documents, emergency medical forms, immunization records and vision and hearing screening reports. The special education files were reviewed to ensure accuracy and compliance with state and federal laws. The above areas were found to be compliant.

Since the 2014-15 school year was its first year of operation, no academic performance data was available for this report.

Watkins Academy

Watkins Academy is a new start-up community school in the Dayton City School District. The academy serves grades K-3. Through its educational model, Watkins aims to further the students' academic skills and socialization through small class sizes and extended instructional hours. Staff members guide and inspire each student through a liberal arts curriculum that focuses on character building, partnership, one-on-one advising and service via a vibrant environment that produces confident and respectable graduates.

During the year, opening, fall and spring site visits were conducted at Watkins Academy. During those visits, the following were examined: implementation of education program, policies, students' files, evidence of required trainings, school safety drill log and governing authority records.

A random sample of regular education files and special education files were examined for the following: birth certificate, proof of residency, enrollment form signed by parent/guardian, court documents, emergency medical forms, immunization records and vision and hearing screening reports. The special education files were reviewed to ensure accuracy and compliance with state and federal laws. The above areas were found to be compliant.

The governing authority's organizational/operational and financial performance did not meet expectations during the 2014-2015 school year. Governing authority meetings were not being conducted properly as a public body according to adopted procedures. School Sponsorship required the governing authority to schedule and attend an in-depth training program presented by its attorney and to adopt new fiscal policies. The governing authority complied with both requirements in the current school year. The most recent audit resulted in a finding for recovery against the school leader due to a lack of appropriate fiscal control policies. The school leader paid the academy back (approximately \$500).

West Park Academy

West Park Academy serves grades K-8. The school is located in the Cleveland Municipal School District in Cuyahoga County and opened in 2013. West Park Academy believes that everyone deserves a chance at receiving an appropriate education in order to be successful in life. The school's mission is to provide a 21st century learning environment to enable students to reach academic goals and become responsible 21st century citizens. The school focuses on 21st century skills and that scholarship, leadership and service are the cornerstones for the future of the students. The academies were operated by White Hat Management during school year 2014-15. White Hat sold its operations to Accel Management, a division of Pansophic, Inc.

During the year, opening, fall and spring site visits were conducted at the West Park Academy. During those visits, the following were examined: implementation of education program, policies, students' files, evidence of required trainings, school safety drill log and governing authority records.

A random sample of regular education files and special education files were examined for the following: birth certificate, proof of residency, enrollment form signed by parent/guardian, court documents, emergency medical forms, immunization records and vision and hearing screening reports. The special education files were reviewed to ensure accuracy and compliance with state and federal laws. The above areas were found to be compliant.

West Park Academy uses a broad-based approach to learning where students can learn from their teachers, peers and community partners. Students will have a wide range of experiences that engage them in media-rich content, direct instruction, project-based learning and interest- and talent-driven opportunities with a healthy mind and body emphasis.

The school had no findings for recovery in its most recent financial audit performed by the Auditor of State. There were no issues noted regarding organizational and fiscal performance.

Youngstown Academy of Excellence

Youngstown Academy of Excellence is located in the Youngstown City School District and serves grades K-8. Youngstown Academy of Excellence provides students with a rigorous college preparatory course of study which equips them for today's competitive and changing world. Students will acquire the academic skills and develop personal qualities necessary to succeed in further studies and well beyond in the 21st century workplace. Enrollment decreased from 201 (spring 2014) to 167 (spring 2015).

During the year, opening, fall and spring site visits were conducted at the Youngstown Academy of Excellence. During those visits, the following were examined: implementation of education program, policies, students' files, evidence of required trainings, school safety drill log and governing authority records.

A random sample of regular education files and special education files were examined for the following: birth certificate, proof of residency, enrollment form signed by parent/guardian, court documents, emergency medical forms, immunization records and vision and hearing screening reports. The special education files were reviewed to ensure accuracy and compliance with state and federal laws. The above areas were found to be compliant.

Youngstown Academy of Excellence partners with parents, community organizations and local businesses, creating an ideal environment in which students have the opportunity to strive for academic excellence, explore a diverse curriculum, prepare to succeed in a global environment and develop into lifelong learners. All stakeholders collaborate as a team to increase student achievement with the schoolwide belief that all children should have the opportunities to learn and succeed. Youngstown Academy of Excellence is well run and overseen by an active and engaged governing authority. Organizational/operational and financial performance is in compliance.

FORMER PORTAGE COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER SPONSORED COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

School Sponsorship assumed the sponsorship of eight schools from Portage County Educational Service Center on April 27, 2015. School Sponsorship conducted a comprehensive evaluation of each school prior to assuming the community school contracts. A brief summary of the actions taken by School Sponsorship and each community school's current status follows.

Cleveland Community School/Villaview Community School

Cleveland Community School and Villaview Community School were jointly governed, administered and co-located in downtown Cleveland. Based on their specific evaluation, School Sponsorship issued each community school a "Notice of Intent to Suspend" for poor academic and fiscal performance in early June 2015. Both community schools immediately filed a legal action to block School Sponsorship from taking further action. The initial law suit was settled. School Sponsorship withdrew its notices and the community schools had until June 30, 2015, to find a new sponsor. After failing to find a new sponsor, the community schools filed a second lawsuit against School Sponsorship contending that School Sponsorship was legally required to renew or extend the schools' expired contracts. School Sponsorship prevailed on the second lawsuit and the schools closed.

Global Village Academy

Global Village Academy serves grades K-8. The school opened in 2011 and is located in Parma. The academy's student population is roughly 80 percent Ukrainian and the other 20 percent is comprised of other Eastern European nationalities.

Imagine Akron

Imagine Akron Academy, formerly Pathway to Success Akron, is a kindergarten-only community school operated by Imagine Schools, Inc. and located in Akron.

Imagine Cleveland/Imagine on Superior

Imagine Cleveland Academy and Imagine on Superior Academy are both operated by Imagine, Inc. Imagine Cleveland Academy is located in Cleveland, and Imagine on Superior is located in Canton. Based on their comprehensive reviews, School Sponsorship issued both academies a "Notice of Intent to Suspend" based on poor academic performance. Both academies filed lawsuits against School Sponsorship to block it from taking further action to suspend the schools. School Sponsorship prevailed in the lawsuits and the academies are suspended for the current school year.

Quest Community School

Quest Community School serves grades 9-12 in a blended learning environment. The school opened in 2011 and is located in Parma. Quest Community School targets students seeking a flexible learning option. Though many of Quest Community School's students have dropped out and are seeking credit recovery, the school is not a dropout recovery school.

STEAM Academy of Warren

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) Academy of Warren serves grades K-8. The academy opened in 2010 and is located in Warren. The school takes the STEM approach and infuses the arts. The school was previously operated by Mosaica Education. Mosaica Education went out of business and the academy is now managed by Accel, Inc., a division of Pansophic, Inc.