

Annual Report on OFFICE OF SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP

JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021



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Office of School Sponsorship

Office of School Sponsorship Annual Report

[Ohio law](#) requires the Ohio Department of Education to issue an annual report on its Office of Ohio School Sponsorship to the [Ohio General Assembly](#) and governor, including information about the number of community schools taking part in the program and their compliance with the law. This is the 2020-2021 school year report.

Introduction to the Office of School Sponsorship

Ohio law established the Office of Ohio School Sponsorship to perform sponsorship duties for Ohio Department of Education sponsored community schools. This unique office within the state agency is often seen as wearing two hats – the first one is to operate as a state regulator and the second is to execute 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 Ohio Department of Education. Under law, the office may take applications for new schools, continue to sponsor existing schools and assume sponsorship of additional schools any time during the school year. During the 2020-2021 school year, the Office of Ohio School Sponsorship sponsored 24 schools.

When decisions are made that result in the loss of a sponsor, it is the Office of Ohio School Sponsorship that immediately replaces the existing sponsor, accepting the terms of the previous community school contract between school and sponsor, with limited understanding of current building, academic and/or funding conditions. The Office of Ohio School Sponsorship has focused on providing technical assistance and support to existing sponsored schools and providing thorough on-boarding services to assumed schools as they are welcomed into its portfolio.

Office of Ohio School Sponsorship's Mission

The Office of Ohio School Sponsorship's mission is aligned with the Ohio Department of Education's strategic plan for education, *Each Child, Our Future*. The Office of Ohio School Sponsorship developed its strategy in the 2018-2019 school year, updated many of its processes and procedures during the 2019-2020 school year to ensure alignment between its mission and sponsorship operations, and began full implementation during the 2020-2021 school year. As a result, the Office of Ohio School Sponsorship reviewed its vision, further refined its mission, vision, philosophy and core values. The Office of Ohio School Sponsorship's strategy continues to support the Department's strategic plan in our daily efforts of providing oversight, monitoring, and technical assistance to the governing boards, school leadership, and building level efforts. The outcome of our work is a strategic school sponsorship office that is student-focused and promotes equity, partnership, and quality schools.

Office of Ohio School Sponsorship's Performance

Ohio sponsors are evaluated by the Ohio Department of Education in three equally weighted areas: academic performance, compliance and quality practices. Sponsors that are rated effective or higher for three consecutive years are only subject to being evaluated once every three years. The Office of Ohio School Sponsorship was rated effective for three consecutive years and is now subject to review once every three years. During the last sponsor evaluation cycle that the Office of Ohio School Sponsorship was evaluated, the Office received a rating of "Exceeds Expectations" in compliance; its quality practices are rated "Meets Standards" for its last evaluation cycle. Office of Ohio School Sponsorship's academic rating released in 2019 was an overall "C," improving from a previous rating of "D." Office of Ohio School Sponsorship continues to work with its portfolio of schools to ensure that each school is a quality school of choice in their community.



Sponsored School Demographics

Office of Ohio School Sponsorship 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 Office of Ohio School Sponsorship’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.
- 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 Office of Ohio School Sponsorship and were granted sponsorship in years past. Recently, Office of Ohio School Sponsorship has not accepted applications for new community schools or for schools looking for a change in sponsorship. When a school is assumed by Office of Ohio School Sponsorship pursuant to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3314.015 or 3314.016, Office of Ohio School Sponsorship is tasked with onboarding and evaluating the specific needs of the school. The onboarding process takes up to twenty-four months as Office of Ohio School Sponsorship 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, Office of Ohio School Sponsorship 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 Office of Ohio School Sponsorship is ensuring that schools provide support and appropriate education to students with disabilities. During the 2020-2021 school year, 90 percent of students taught in Office of Ohio School Sponsorship’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 24 schools sponsored by the Office of Ohio School Sponsorship during the 2020-2021 school year included minority student populations ranging from 32 percent to 99 percent. Office of Ohio School Sponsorship 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 85 percent of Office of Ohio School Sponsorship’s sponsored schools maintained attendance rates of 70 percent or higher on an average throughout the year.

The following chart shows student demographics of Office of Ohio School Sponsorship’s sponsored schools compared to statewide traditional public and community schools:

Group	Economically Disadvantaged Students 2021 (Percent of Enrollment)	Students with Disabilities 2021 (Percent of Enrollment)
Statewide ¹	49.03	15.69
Community Schools	79.72	16.97
Current Office of School Sponsorship Schools	90.35	16.92
Prior-Year Office of School Sponsorship Schools	90.42	17.80

¹Community schools and traditional public schools

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. Office of Ohio School Sponsorship 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 Office of Ohio School Sponsorship 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.

Sponsored School Performance

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 each year. This written report is a summation of the Office of Ohio School Sponsorship sponsored schools' performance over the 2020-2021 school year.

The Office of School Sponsorship is required by Ohio law to monitor and ensure compliance with all applicable laws and rules. Office of Ohio School Sponsorship 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, Office of Ohio School Sponsorship 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 Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and legislation eliminating overall letter grades on the school report cards during the 2020-2021 school year. Office of Ohio School Sponsorship 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.

Office of Ohio School Sponsorship 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 2020-2021 school year.

Additionally, while Office of Ohio School Sponsorship did not have access to all academic performance measures for 2020-2021, 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.

Organization, Operation and Legal Compliance

The Office of Ohio School Sponsorship works with sponsored schools to ensure compliance with rule and law. During the 2020-2021 school year, schools participated in several onsite visits with Office of Ohio School Sponsorship leadership and staff who conducted file reviews, classroom observations and compliance assessments. Additionally, the Office of Ohio School Sponsorship provided workshops, training and leadership development opportunities.

Office of Ohio School Sponsorship 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. Office of Ohio School Sponsorship provided open meeting and public records training for board members and held its first year long leadership development program for principals. Sponsored schools have worked diligently throughout the 2020-2021 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, 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.

2020-2021 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 2020-2021 school year. The 2020-2021 school year was an unprecedented year in working through the COVID-19 challenges and quarantine period that required transitions between remote learning and in-person learning and ensuring that learning continued throughout the school year.

Office of Ohio School Sponsorship is pleased to report that its schools continue to improve and show growth in performance. In the last year of overall report card ratings, Office of Ohio School Sponsorship 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.

Office of Ohio School Sponsorship 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, Office of Ohio School Sponsorship's school academic rating released in 2019 was an overall "C," improving from a "D." Office of Ohio School Sponsorship continues to work with its portfolio of schools to ensure that each school is a quality school choice in their community.

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.

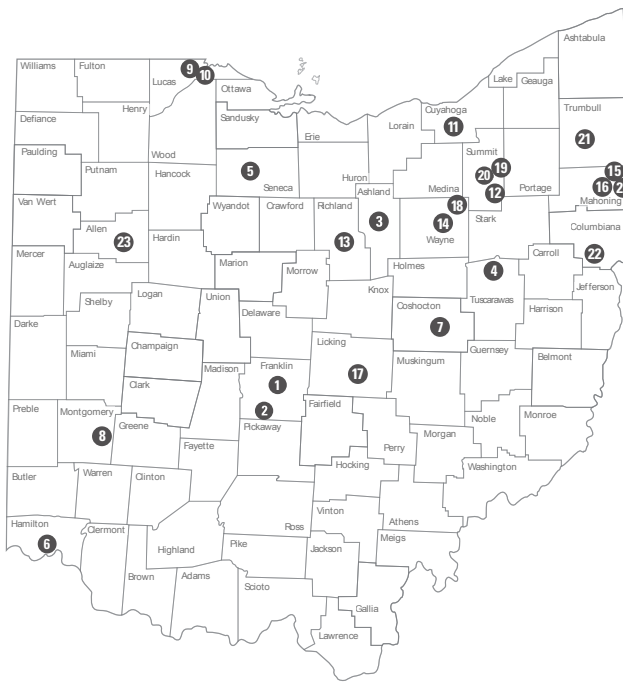
The Office of School Sponsorship provides oversight and accountability while empowering schools with information, tools and resources to:

- 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.

Map of Schools Sponsored by Office of School Sponsorship



- 1 **A+ Arts Academy**
1395 Fair Ave.
Columbus, OH 43205
- 2 **A+ Children's Academy**
114 Obetz Rd.
Columbus, OH 43207
- 3 **Ashland County Community Academy**
716 Union St.
Ashland, OH 44805
- 4 **Beacon Hill Academy**
10470 Winesburg Rd.
Dundee, OH 44624
- 5 **Bridges Community Academy**
190 S. Francis Ave.
Tiffin, OH 44883
- 6 **Cincinnati College Preparatory Academy**
1425 Linn St.
Cincinnati, OH 45214
- 7 **Coshocton Opportunity School**
1205 Cambridge Rd.
Coshocton OH 43812
- 8 **Dayton Business Technology High School**
348 W 1st St.
Dayton OH 45402
- 9 **Discovery Academy**
2740 W. Central Ave.
Toledo, OH 43606
- 10 **Eagle Learning Center**
2665 Navarre Ave. #C
Oregon, OH 43616
- 11 **Global Village Academy**
5720 State Rd. #1
Parma, OH 44134
- 12 **Greater Summit County Early Learning Center**
1651 Massillon Rd.
Akron, OH 44312
- 13 **Interactive Media and Construction**
455 Bowman St.
Mansfield, OH 44903
- 14 **Liberty Preparatory School**
243 N. Milton St.
Smithville, OH 44677
- 15 **Mahoning County High School**
2725 Gibson St.
Youngstown, OH 44502
- 16 **Mahoning Unlimited Classroom**
7320 Palmyra Rd.
Canfield, OH 44406
- 17 **Par Excellence**
1350 Granville Rd.
Newark, OH 43055
- 18 **Rittman Academy**
75 North Main St.
Rittman, OH 44270
- 19 **Schnee Learning Center**
2222 Issaquah St.
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
- 20 **Steel Academy**
1570 Creighton Ave.
Akron, OH 44310
- 21 **T2 Honors Academy**
18450 S. Miles Rd.
Warrenssville, OH 44128
- 22 **Utica Shale Academy**
70 E. Main St.
Salineville, OH 43945
- 23 **West Central Learning Academy II**
522 W. North St.
Lima, OH 45801
- 24 **Youngstown Community School**
50 Essex St.
Youngstown, OH 45502

Sponsored Schools

A+ Arts Academy: This Columbus elementary school actively promotes academics through the infusion of the arts and encourages all students to strive for excellence in all aspects of life. More information on the academic performance of A+ Arts Academy may be [found here](#).

A+ Children's Academy: Serving elementary students, A+ Children's Academy cultivates a passion for learning in all students by engaging in a standards-based, integrated curriculum that addresses students' social, emotional, academic and cognitive needs. More information on the academic performance of A+ Children's Academy may be [found here](#).

Ashland County Community Academy: The school serves an at-risk population of dropout prevention and recovery students in the Ashland area and offers opportunities for students to recover credits, learn welding skills and prepare to enter the workforce or continue to earn advanced degrees. More information on the academic performance of Ashland County Community Academy may be [found here](#).

Beacon Hill Academy: This school in Wayne County primarily serves Amish students in grades 7 through 12. The school implements a rigorous academic program to ensure students leaving school for religious purpose after eighth grade are reading at the 10th-grade level or higher and have similar math proficiency. More information on the academic performance of Beacon Hill Academy may be [found here](#).

Bridges Community Academy: An elementary and high school serving students in the Fostoria and Tiffin area, the school focuses on individual learning and building the bridge between parents, students, the community and technology. More information on the academic performance of Bridges Community School may be [found here](#).

Cincinnati College Preparatory Academy: (School assumed in July 2019.) This kindergarten through grade 12 school focuses on holistic programming and a rigorous academic program to ensure its graduates are college and career ready. More information on the academic performance of Cincinnati College Preparatory Academy may be [found here](#).

Coshocton Opportunity School: The school serves an at-risk population of dropout prevention and recovery students and operates during late afternoon and early evening hours to provide an environment conducive for students balancing work and earning their high school diplomas. More information on the academic performance of Coshocton Opportunity School may be [found here](#).

Dayton Business Technology High School: This high school serves an at-risk population of dropout prevention and recovery students in the Dayton area and offers students opportunities to recover credits, learn business skills and prepare to enter the workforce or continue working toward advanced degrees. More information on the academic performance of Dayton Business Technology High School may be [found here](#).

Discovery Academy: An elementary school in the Toledo area, Discovery Academy focuses on quality academic programs for all students. This project-based learning school includes an autism program to ensure all students receive a quality education. The school was designated a “Quality Community School” under Ohio law during the 2019-2020 school year. More information on the academic performance of Discovery Academy may be [found here](#).

Eagle Learning Center: A high school serving at-risk dropout prevention and recovery students in the Oregon and Toledo area, Eagle Learning Center focuses on engaging its students by offering day and evening hours during which students earn credits and their high school diplomas. More information on the academic performance of Eagle Learning Center may be [found here](#).

Global Village Academy: An elementary school with one of the highest-rated report cards in the state, Global Village Academy primarily serves migrant families in Parma, with a focus on academic excellence and student achievement. The school received the “Overall A” school award for the second year and was identified as a “Quality Community School” under Ohio law during the 2019-2020 school year. More information on the academic performance of Global Village Academy may be [found here](#).

Greater Summit County Early Learning Center: An elementary school that focuses on student achievement and individualized learning, students at Greater Summit County Early Learning Center are challenged to present their lessons to their parents and community throughout the school year. More information on the academic performance of Greater Summit County Early Learning Center may be [found here](#).

Interactive Media and Construction (IMAC): A dropout prevention and recovery high school, Interactive Media and Construction serves at-risk students in the Mansfield area and provides a career-technical focus. More information on the academic performance of Interactive Media and Construction may be [found here](#).

Liberty Preparatory School: The school serves an at-risk population of dropout prevention and recovery students in the Wayne County area and provides opportunities for students to recover credits while preparing to enter the workforce. More information on the academic performance of Liberty Preparatory School may be [found here](#).

Mahoning County High School: Situated in Youngstown, Mahoning County High School serves primarily at-risk students who have been involved in the juvenile justice system. The school strives to create a safe culture and climate for students, while providing post-high school options. More information on the academic performance of Mahoning County High School may be [found here](#).

Mahoning Unlimited Classroom: (School assumed in December 2019.) An online school serving at-risk students in the Youngstown area, the school incorporates in-person tutoring sessions with its online program to provide a well-rounded experience for students. More information on the academic performance of Mahoning Unlimited Classroom may be [found here](#).

Ohio Construction Academy: A unique dropout prevention and recovery high school in Columbus, Ohio Construction Academy provides students with career-technical education focused on the construction trades, plumbing and HVAC. Students not only receive a quality education, but also training for post-high school careers. The school was rated as “Exceeds Expectations” by the Department and was able to move to another sponsor at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. More information on the academic performance of Ohio Construction Academy may be [found here](#).

Par Excellence Academy: Located in Newark, this elementary school starts each day with 90 minutes of reading. The school’s unique approach to individualized and outdoor learning has created one of the fastest growing community schools in the area. More information on the academic performance of Par Excellence Academy may be [found here](#).

Rittman Academy: A small high school serving at-risk students in a rural setting, Rittman Academy is a dropout prevention and recovery high school assisting students with credit recovery and earning their high school diplomas. More information on the academic performance of Rittman Academy may be [found here](#).

Schnee Learning Center: A small dropout prevention and recovery high school in Cuyahoga Falls, Schnee Learning Center assists students with recovering credits and earning their high school diplomas. Schnee Learning Center shows students they can succeed in postsecondary education or military service. More information on the academic performance of Schnee Learning Center may be [found here](#).

Steel Academy: A school primarily serving special need students in grades 6 through 12, Steel Academy incorporates steel drumming into its curriculum. More information on the academic performance of Steel Academy may be [found here](#).

T2 Honors Academy: Focused on individualized learning and college preparation, T2 Honors Academy requires students to understand social issues that impact their community while providing a rigorous curriculum. More information on the academic performance of T2 Honors Academy may be [found here](#).

Utica Shale Academy: (School assumed in December 2019.) This unique school serves at-risk high school students in Columbiana County, integrating trade credentials and employability skills into the academic program. The school partners with industries in the areas to provide students with real-world experiences. More information on the academic performance of Utica Shale Academy may be [found here](#).

West Central Learning Academy II: Serving high school grades, West Central Learning Academy II focuses on providing a safe, flexible, blended learning environment for students to learn at their own pace. The school received an "Exceeds Expectations Award" for its academic performance. More information on the academic performance of West Central Learning Academy II may be [found here](#).

Youngstown Community School: Focusing on academics and community involvement, Youngstown Community School is truly embedded in the community. The school works to achieve academic excellence while preparing students for high school. More information on the academic performance of Youngstown Community School may be [found here](#).

