RENEWAL OF SPONSORED SCHOOLS

Pursuant to Ohio law, the Board of Governors may renew or non-renew a sponsor contract with a sponsored school. This policy explains the renewal application process and the procedures to be followed if non-renewal occurs. In the event of any conflict, ambiguity, or discrepancy between the provisions of this policy and the sponsor contract, the provisions of the sponsor contract shall prevail.

Application for Renewal

The Board requires all community schools sponsored by Mid-Ohio ESC to apply for renewal of their sponsor contract through a renewal application.

The Board directs the Superintendent to develop an application for renewal ("Renewal Application"). The Renewal Application shall require the sponsored school to provide the following:

a. multiple years of student achievement,
b. multiple measures of student achievement,
c. financial audits for each year,
d. site visit reports,
e. other compliance reports,
f. status reports on corrective action plans and/or other required interventions, and
g. other criteria determined applicable.

The Board directs the Superintendent to adopt a documented, systematic renewal process. The process must include a defined timeline for renewals; criteria used to evaluate Renewal Applications; a scoring rubric that accounts for the high stakes review and is aligned to the performance framework in the contract, and includes both academic and non-academic measures, with a "cut-score" of at least 75%, clear directions for Renewal Applications, and guidance for application.

The Renewal Application and all documentation related to the renewal process must be posted on Mid-Ohio ESC's website. Training of reviewers will have occurred, at a minimum, during the year of review.

Completed Applications

Completed Renewal Applications shall be reviewed by Mid-Ohio ESC's sponsor staff to determine whether the school is fiscally and operationally viable, has satisfactorily achieved its contractual standards, and is faithful to the terms of the sponsor contract. Mid-Ohio ESC's sponsor staff shall provide evidence-based recommendations to the Board regarding contract renewal.

Procedure for Renewal or Non-Renewal

The Board adopts the following procedure for renewal and non-renewal of sponsored schools.

1. All schools up for renewal shall be required to submit a timely renewal application.

2. Mid-Ohio ESC's sponsor staff shall make an evidence-based recommendation to the Board regarding renewal. Recommendations shall address all of the following:

   a. The school met academic achievement targets as specified in the sponsor contract;
   b. The school had no unresolved compliance issues with any applicable laws or contract terms, or submitted evidence of intended and timely resolution to the satisfaction of the sponsor staff; and
   c. There were no unresolved concerns of fiscal or operational viability, or the school submitted evidence of intended and timely resolution to the satisfaction of the sponsor staff.

   If the school did not meet all contractual academic targets, contractual terms, or compliance requirements, or if documented issues of fiscal/operational viability remain unresolved, the sponsor may nonetheless renew a school's sponsor contract, if in the sponsor's sole discretion, it believes that satisfactory evidence exists to demonstrate why renewal of the community school aligns with Mid-Ohio ESC's mission, evaluation process and with national sponsoring standards.

   The Board shall pass a resolution of its intent to renew or non-renew the sponsor contract.

3. Mid-Ohio ESC shall notify a community school of proposed non-renewal, in writing, within fourteen (14) days of the Board's decision of intent to not renew, and no later than January 15 of the year the Board intends to non-renew the contract. The notice must include:

   a. The reason(s) for the intended non-renewal with an explanation that is more detailed than the statutory language;

   b. The effective date of the non-renewal;

   c. A statement, notifying the school of the right to appear, upon request, before the Board at an informal hearing to challenge the reason(s) for the intended termination; and

   d. The request to appear must be made within fourteen (14) days of receiving the request, in writing.

4. The informal hearing shall be held within fourteen (14) days of Mid-Ohio ESC's receipt of a request for the hearing.

5. No later than fourteen (14) days after the informal hearing, the Board shall issue a written decision either affirming or rescinding the decision to non-renew the contract.

6. The non-renewal of the contract shall be effective upon the later of the following: (a) the date the sponsor notifies the school of its decision to terminate the contract; or (b) the effective date of the termination specified in the notification of termination.

7. Mid-Ohio ESC shall notify the school's families of non-renewal no later than April 15 of the year of non-renewal, if the non-renewal is upheld by the Sponsor.

Quality Practices Rubric: E.01 – Renewal Application; E.02 – Renewal and Non-Renewal Decisions; E.03 – Non-Renewal Notification

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