

APPLICATION AND DECISION MAKING

The Board of Governors recognizes that it may sponsor additional community schools. This policy establishes a process for determining whether it will accept additional community schools and establishes a documented application process.

Application Process

Mid-Ohio ESC shall maintain a documented application process and written application for new community schools, replicators, and schools seeking a change in sponsor that includes all of the following:

- A timeline that allows for a planning stage of nine months or more;
- Requirements for the submission of the application;
- Criteria used to evaluate the application;
- Sponsoring priorities; and
- An interview of final school applicants.

A planning stage is defined as the period between the date Mid-Ohio ESC provides written notification to the school of application approval and the school's first day of instruction.

The process, including the application, requirements for submission of the application, criteria for evaluation, scoring, guidance, and sponsoring priorities, shall be available on the Mid-Ohio ESC's website.

Application criteria for submission and evaluation/scoring shall be based on the type of school applying. All final applicants will have an interview with Mid-Ohio ESC.

1. New School Application Criteria

Mid-Ohio ESC recognizes that some entities or persons may propose new schools ("New School"). New Schools pose unique challenges, as Mid-Ohio ESC cannot evaluate the New School's past performance. The Board, therefore, directs Mid-Ohio ESC's sponsorship staff to create a written application that will enable it to determine whether the New School has the capacity to execute its plan.

The application shall require the New School to provide and/or describe, at a minimum:

- a. a mission and vision statement,
- b. an education plan,
- c. a staffing plan,
- d. a business plan,
- e. market research,

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- f. governance and management structures; and
- g. capacity to execute its plan.

Mid-Ohio ESC reserves the right to require additional data and documents as needed to thoroughly evaluate each application.

The application shall be reviewed through an application process. Mid-Ohio ESC shall consider the seven areas of school planning and operations and the additional data and documents that sufficiently corroborate these plans, in addition to interviewing the applicant.

2. Replicating School Application

Mid-Ohio ESC recognizes that some schools may seek sponsorship by replicating an existing model (“Replicating Schools”). Replicating Schools shall apply through a written application developed by Mid-Ohio ESC.

The application for Replicating Schools shall require the Replicating Schools to provide, at a minimum:

- a. academic data;
- b. sponsor’s compliance reports;
- c. financial records, including recent audits; and
- d. business or growth plan and market research.

Mid-Ohio ESC reserves the right to require additional data and documents as needed to thoroughly evaluate each application.

The application shall be reviewed through an application review process. Mid-Ohio ESC shall consider academic, operational and fiscal data in addition to interviewing the applicant and its current sponsor.

3. Existing Transferring School Application

Mid-Ohio ESC also recognizes that existing schools may seek to change from their existing sponsor to be sponsored by Mid-Ohio ESC (“Transferring Schools”). Transferring Schools shall apply through a written application developed by Mid-Ohio ESC.

The application for Transferring Schools shall require the Transferring School to provide, at a minimum:

- a. academic data,
- b. sponsor’s compliance reports,
- c. financial records, including recent audits; and
information about how it has remedied any deficiency cited by the current

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sponsor.

Mid-Ohio ESC reserves the right to require additional data and documents as needed to thoroughly evaluate each application.

The application shall be reviewed through an application review process. Mid-Ohio ESC shall consider academic, operational and fiscal data in addition to interviewing the applicant and its current sponsor.

Quality Practices Rubric: B.01 – Application Process, Timeline and Directions; B.02 – Rigorous Criteria for New Schools; B.03 – Rigorous Criteria for Replicators and Schools Seeking a Change in Sponsor

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