

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS AND RENEWAL MATERIALS

Mid-Ohio ESC Reviewer Expertise

For new community schools, replicators, and schools seeking a change in sponsor, each application for sponsorship shall be reviewed by Mid-Ohio ESC's application review team ("Review Team"), which shall be a team with sufficient expertise and sponsoring experience to make informed application decisions.

The Review Team shall be comprised of at least three (3) application reviewers. Members shall be selected based on their experience with community schools and/or have experience sponsoring community schools and combined expertise in the following areas of school planning and operations:

1. Education planning,
2. Governance,
3. Finance, and
4. Accountability.

Mid-Ohio ESC shall endeavor to have at least two (2) reviewers with three (3) or more years of experience in sponsoring community schools. The Review Team may consist of external sources when there are not enough sponsor staff members who are available and/or possess the necessary skills.

The Review Team shall not have a conflict of interest with any applicants. To ensure no conflict of interest exists, each member of the Review Team shall complete a conflict of interest form prior to reviewing each application.

If an application receives an application that proposes an area of specialization (e.g., career technical program, dropout prevention and recovery school), Mid-Ohio ESC shall ensure that at least one application reviewer has expertise in that area.

Reviewer Protocols (New Community Schools, Replicators, and Schools Seeking a Change in Sponsor)

Mid-Ohio ESC shall ensure that reviewers carefully and consistently examine application materials. Mid-Ohio ESC shall develop specific protocols for evaluating applications that includes a rubric with selection criteria. The rubric must identify the lowest possible points that an applicant can earn to receive a preliminary agreement.

Each reviewer is required to individually score each application and document the rating for each selection criteria.

To ensure that applications are evaluated carefully and consistently, all reviewers shall receive training on the protocols and rubrics annually, which shall include reviewer calibration.

Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center
Board of Governors
Sponsorship Policies

If Mid-Ohio ESC does not accept any applications in a given school year, it shall be evaluated only on the application review protocols portion of the standard and not on the training portion of the standard.

Rigorous Decision-Making (New Community Schools, Replicators, and Schools Seeking a Change in Sponsor)

Mid-Ohio ESC shall approve only those applicants that meet an approval of at least 75% of possible points.

The Review Team shall document evidence to support whether an applicant meets each selection criteria. The Review Team shall provide evidence-based recommendations to the Board of Governors regarding application decisions.

The Review Team shall not recommend the approval of an applicant unless (1) the applicant earns a “cut score,” which shall be at least 75% of the points possible and shall be the minimum points that an applicant can earn to receive a preliminary agreement; (2) the applicant’s school is consistent with the Board of Governors sponsoring mission, vision, and strategic plan; and (3) the applicant has completed the interview process.

Mid-Ohio ESC, at its sole discretion, may choose not to accept applicants or may reject to offer a preliminary agreement to otherwise qualified applicants upon determining that Mid-Ohio ESC does not have capacity, or resources to sponsor additional community schools.

Renewal Reviewer Protocols

For schools seeking to renew, Mid-Ohio ESC shall carefully and consistently review renewal materials and the results of the high-stakes review.

Mid-Ohio ESC shall develop specific protocols for evaluating contract renewal that includes a rubric with renewal criteria. The renewal rubric must take into account a high-stakes review that aligns to the performance framework in the contract. The results of the high-stakes review shall be evaluated and must account for at least 67% of contract renewal scoring. The rubric must also identify the lowest possible points that a school must earn to have its contract renewed.

Each reviewer is required to individually score each application and document the rating for each selection criteria.

To ensure that applications are evaluated carefully and consistently, all reviewers shall receive training on the protocols and rubrics annually, which shall include reviewer calibration, prior to reviewing contract renewals.

If Mid-Ohio ESC does not have any schools up for renewal in a given school year, it shall be evaluated only on the contract renewal protocols portion of the standard and not on the training portion of the standard.

Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center
Board of Governors
Sponsorship Policies

Quality Practices Rubric: B.04 Reviewer Expertise; B.05 Reviewer Protocols; B.06 Rigorous Decision-Making; E.06 Renewal Reviewer Protocols

Adopted: April 19, 2017
Revised: April 17, 2018
Revised: February 27, 2019
Revised: February 19, 2020
Revised: February 17, 2021
Reviewed and Ratified: August 18, 2021
Reviewed and Ratified: August 17, 2022
Reviewed and Ratified: August 15, 2023
Revised: August 26, 2024
Revised: September 24, 2025