

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Board of Governors recognizes that it is required to provide technical assistance as a sponsor. This policy provides an overview of technical assistance that Mid-Ohio ESC will provide.

Needs Assessment

Mid-Ohio ESC shall develop an established process for determining the needs of its schools and shall conduct a needs assessment of each sponsored school to determine what type of technical assistance it offers. For purposes of this policy, a needs assessment is defined as a planning process used by the sponsor to determine deficiencies, set technical assistance priorities, make organizational improvements, and/or allocate resources. The Board directs the Superintendent to follow a process for conducting needs assessments.

Ongoing Technical Assistance

Mid-Ohio ESC shall provide timely technical assistance to each school it sponsors in response to issues, problems, and concerns once they are identified by either the school or the sponsor. Technical assistance is defined by administrative rule as targeted and customized supports by professionals with subjectmatter expertise relevant to the operations of a community school toward successfully fulfilling its obligations under applicable rules, laws, and the terms of its community school contract.

To determine relevant technical assistance, Mid-Ohio ESC shall engage in the following processes:

1. Mid-Ohio ESC shall annually solicit information about the technical assistance needs and about the quality and impact of previous technical assistance from each sponsored school through a needs assessment.
2. Mid-Ohio ESC shall communicate with sponsored schools on a regular basis to identify issues, problems, and concerns.
3. Mid-Ohio ESC shall determine sponsor school needs through Mid-Ohio ESC's own policies, procedures, observation, and interaction with sponsored schools.

Through these processes, Mid-Ohio ESC shall provide both reactive and proactive, timely and comprehensive assistance with any issues, problems, or concerns. Mid-Ohio ESC shall provide at least three different instances of technical assistance to its schools each year.

On an annual basis, Mid-Ohio ESC shall seek formal feedback through a survey, or as part of a needs assessment, about the quality and impact of the technical assistance that it provides to its sponsored schools. Throughout the year, Mid-Ohio ESC shall also seek informal feedback about the quality and impact of its technical assistance.

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Legal and Policy Updates

Mid-Ohio ESC shall provide sponsored schools with written guidance publications regarding changes to rule, law and/or policy that impact community school operations. Such guidance publications shall be provided on a regular basis and pursuant to a procedure developed by the Superintendent. Mid-Ohio ESC will further offer guidance, through annual training, to assist schools in understanding changes to rule, law and policy that impact community school operations. Sponsored schools shall not be required to attend, but are encouraged to attend training offered or recommended by Mid-Ohio ESC.

Professional Development

Mid-Ohio ESC shall use the results of a needs assessment to determine which professional development opportunities to offer. Professional development opportunities shall be regularly shared and/or offered to the sponsored schools through a written process developed by the Superintendent or designee. The process shall require, at a minimum, sharing and/or offering information about professional development opportunities three or more times per year. Professional development opportunities that are shared and/or offered shall be based on data about school needs, including but not limited to the results of a needs assessment. At least one professional development opportunity shared and/or offered will be specific to community schools.

At the discretion of the Sponsor, some professional development may be mandatory, if beyond the scope of training required by the community school contract and determined to be necessary due to assessments done by the Sponsor.

Fostering Relationships with Schools

Mid-Ohio ESC shall take steps to build a positive working relationship with each school's governing authority. This include communicating regularly with each school's governing board, and providing guidance, beyond financial and enrollment reviews, at least quarterly.

A representative from Mid-Ohio ESC will also attend at least three (3) or more governing authority meetings annually for each school.

LEGAL REF: R.C. 3314.023; O.A.C. 3301-102-02

Quality Practices Rubric: F.01 – Ongoing Technical Assistance, F.02 – Legal and Policy Updates, F.03 – Professional Development for Schools, F.04 – Relationships with Schools' Governing Authorities

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