

Quality Community Schools Support Request for Information – Criteria 3

House Bill 166 (the FY20-FY21 state budget bill) established a quality community schools support grant¹ to provide additional funding to community schools designated as a Community School of Quality. Qualified community schools under the program are eligible to receive up to \$1,750 in each fiscal year for each pupil identified as economically disadvantaged and up to \$1,000 in each fiscal year for all others. Payments for the current fiscal year are calculated using the final adjusted full-time equivalent number of students enrolled in the community school for the prior fiscal year, except if the school is in its first year of operation. For schools in the first year of operation, the payment is calculated using the adjusted full-time equivalent number of students enrolled in the school for the current fiscal year as of the date the payment is made, as reported by the school pursuant to section 3314.08 of the Ohio Revised Code. By Jan. 31 of each fiscal year, the Ohio Department of Education will make payments to each community school designated as a Community School of Quality.

Community schools must satisfy **at least one** of the following criteria to receive funding.

Criteria 1:

The community school meets all of the following criteria:

- (a) The school's sponsor was rated "Exemplary" or "Effective" on the sponsor's most recent evaluation conducted under section 3314.06 of the Revised Code.
- (b) The school received a higher Performance Index score than the school district in which the school is located on the two most recent Ohio School Report Cards issued for the school under section 3302.03 of the Revised Code.
- (c) The school received an overall grade of "A" or "B" for the Value-Added progress dimension on the most recent report card issued for the school under section 3302.03 of the Revised Code or is a school described under division (A)(4) of section 3314.35 of the Revised Code and did not receive a grade for the Value-Added progress dimension on the most recent report card.
- (d) At least 50 percent of the students enrolled in the school are economically disadvantaged, as determined by the Ohio Department of Education.

Criteria 2:

The community school meets all of the following criteria:

- (a) The school's sponsor was rated "Exemplary" or "Effective" on the sponsor's most recent evaluation conducted under section 3314.016 of the Revised Code.
- (b) The school is in its first year of operation or the school opened as a kindergarten school and has added one grade per year and has been in operation for fewer than four school years.
- (c) The school is replicating an operational and instructional model used by a community school described in division (B)(1) of this section.

Criteria 3:

The community school meets all of the following criteria:

¹ Amended in House Bill 164 making changes to Criteria 3.

- (a) The school's sponsor was rated "Exemplary" or "Effective" on the sponsor's most recent evaluation conducted under section 3314.016 of the Revised Code.
- (b) The school contracts with an operator that operates schools in other states and meets at least one of the following criteria:
 - a) Has operated a school that received a grant funded through the federal Charter Schools Program established under 20 U.S.C. 7221 or received funding from the Charter School Growth Fund; or
 - b) Meets all of the following criteria:
 - i. One of the operator's schools in another state performed better than the school district in which the school is located, as determined by the Department.
 - ii. At least 50 percent of the total number of students enrolled in all of the operator's schools are economically disadvantaged, as determined by the Department.
 - iii. The operator is in good standing in all states where it operates schools.
 - iv. The Department has determined the operator does not have any financial viability issues that would prevent it from effectively operating a community school in Ohio.
- c) The school is in its first year of operation.

A school that is designated as a Community School of Quality under any of these criteria shall maintain that designation for the two fiscal years following the fiscal year in which the school was initially designated as a Community School of Quality.

For the Department to make a designation of a quality community school under Criteria 3, information must be provided to the Department from the operator of a community school. The information below outlines the necessary information for the Department to make the determination and the process for submission.

PLEASE NOTE: To determine if an applicant operates in multiple states, the Department will review the entity contracted for services with a community school in Ohio to ensure the same organization is contracted for business in other states. The Department will compare the business filings in other applicable states to verify against the corporation/entity contracted for services in Ohio.

Criteria 3(b)(i) Specific Requirements

Operators with community schools that meet the criteria in section 3(b)(i) must complete this form.

Criteria 3(b)(i) Requirements:

Criteria	Yes	No	Not Applicable
The school's sponsor was rated "Exemplary" or "Effective" on the sponsor's most recent evaluation conducted under section 3314.06 of the Revised Code.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The school contracts with an operator that operates schools in other states AND has operated a school that received a grant funded through the federal Charter Schools Program established under 20 U.S.C. 7221 or received funding from the Charter School Growth Fund.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The school is in its first year of operation. <i>(The Department will use the contract submitted by the sponsor for verification).</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Criteria 3(b)(i) Required Narrative:

If the community school believes they meet the criteria in section 3(b)(i) to qualify as a Community School of Quality, indicate the name of the operator and the school the operator has operated that received a grant funded through the federal Charter Schools Program established under 20 U.S.C. 7221 or received funding from the Charter School Growth Fund. Please specify the exact name of the grant and the year the school received the grant.

Operator Affirmations:

I attest the application requesting quality community schools support grant funds meets all eligibility requirements for the criteria indicated above.

Name: _____ Position: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Criteria 3(b)(ii) Specific Requirements

Operators of community schools that believe they meet the criteria in section 3(b)(ii) must complete the criteria 3(b)(ii) Required Narrative and provide supporting documentation.

Criteria 3(b)(ii) Requirements:

Criteria	Yes	No	Not Applicable
The school's sponsor was rated "Exemplary" or "Effective" on the sponsor's most recent evaluation conducted under section 3314.06 of the Revised Code.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The school contracts with an operator that operates schools in other states AND meets all of the following criteria:			
(I) One of the operator's schools in another state performed better than the school district in which the school is located, as determined by the Department.			
(II) At least 50 percent of the total number of students enrolled in all of the operator's schools are economically disadvantaged, as determined by the Department.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(III) The operator is in good standing in all states where it operates schools.			
(IV) The Department has determined the operator does not have any financial viability issues that would prevent it from effectively operating a community school in Ohio.			
The school is in its first year of operation. <i>(The Department will use the contract submitted by the sponsor for verification).</i>			

Operator Affirmations:

I attest the application requesting quality community schools support grant funds meets all eligibility requirements for the criteria indicated above.

Name: _____ Position: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Criteria 3(b)(ii) Required Narrative and Supporting Documentation

If the community school believes that it meets the criteria in section 3(b)(ii) to qualify as a Community School of Quality, the operator of the community school must demonstrate the following qualities by providing the following information to the Department.

- i. One of the operator's schools in another state must have performed better than the school district in which the school is located, as defined below.

For the operator to meet this requirement, the operator must demonstrate that one of the schools it operates in another state achieved proficiency level in **all** reported grades for all students in English language arts, math and science for grades 3 through 8 and/or reported high school equivalency [for proficiency] that **is higher** than the district the operator's school is located in based on the most recent available data submitted by each state for federal accountability.

Please provide the name and address of the school, the public district the school is located in, a copy of the most recently published data outlining the proficiency scores on the state's assessments for both the public district and the school contracted for services with the operator, NCES number and a link to the state's accountability system that explains how the ratings for the school were calculated in an Excel spreadsheet. **The obligation is on the operator to provide the most recent data for consideration.**

- ii. At least 50 percent of the total number of students enrolled in all of the operator's schools are economically disadvantaged, as defined by each state for the purpose of EdFacts reporting to the U.S. Department of Education.

Please provide a list of all schools managed by the operator and include the following information for each school in an Excel spreadsheet;

- School's unique school identifier;
- School's name;
- State of location of school;
- Economically disadvantage data (as a percent);
- Link to state's most recently reported demographic data for verification.

The Department will verify the information provided by the operator for all of its schools against the information provided as part of the Request for Information. The Department will consider the most recent data as of the deadline for submission for the Request for Information. **The obligation is on the operator to provide the most recent data for consideration.**

- iii. The operator is in good standing in all states where it operates schools.

For the operator to meet the definition of good standing, the operator must demonstrate through this Request for Information for the most recent school year:

- The operator is authorized to conduct business in all states the operator holds agreements with schools to manage.
 - (i.e.) Registered to do business with the Secretary of State's office or equivalent per the state's requirements.
- All schools it currently manages in all states are not on probation;
- All schools it currently manages in all states are not in receipt of notices of intent to suspend operations from the schools' current sponsors/authorizers;

- All schools it currently manages in all states have not been required by their sponsors/authorizers to suspend operations;
- All schools it currently manages are not in receipt of notices of termination from their current sponsors/authorizers;
- All schools it currently manages do not have unresolved corrective action plans from the state department of education, current sponsor/authorizer or current operator.

Please provide a list of all schools managed by the operator, including the following information in an Excel spreadsheet:

- School's unique school identifier;
- School's name;
- Type of school;
- State of location of school.
- Link to the corporation search database with Secretary of State (or equivalent per state's requirement) in all states

The operator also must complete the criteria 3(b)(ii) Operator Assurances Supplement assuring the operator meets the definition of good standing, as defined above. The Department may request additional documentation from the operator to verify it meets any or all parts of the definition of good standing.

- iv. The Department has determined the operator does not have any financial viability issues that would prevent it from effectively operating a community school in Ohio.

For the operator to meet this definition, the operator must demonstrate:

- All schools it manages have not been determined to be unauditably by the auditor of state in each state the operator has managed schools;
- All schools it manages have not had unresolved findings for recovery in each state the operator has managed schools;
- All schools it manages have not received opinions other than unqualified opinions from the most recently released annual fiscal audits from each state the operator has managed schools;
- All schools it manages have not had other significant issues related to fiscal condition, such as ongoing concern comments in multiple audit reports, material misstatements in financial statements, and/or findings for financial matters related to internal controls or oversight of federal funds from each state the operator has managed schools.

Please provide copies of the requested documentation listed in Appendix A – Quality Community Schools Support – Financial Viability Checklist. The operator also must complete the criteria (3)(b)(ii) Operator Assurances Supplement assuring the operator does not have any financial viability issues that would prevent it from effectively operating a community school in Ohio.

Criteria 3(b)(ii) Operator Assurances Supplement

Operators of community schools who believe they meet criteria 3(b)(ii) to be designated as a Community School of Quality must provide the following assurances to the Department.

Good Standing Assurances:

The operator is authorized to conduct business in all states the operator holds agreements with schools to manage including registration to do business with the Secretary of State's office or equivalent per the state's requirements.

☐ I agree

All schools currently managed by the operator in all states are not on probation.

☐ I agree

All schools currently managed by the operator in all states are not in receipt of notices of intent to suspend operations from the schools' current sponsors/authorizers.

☐ I agree

All schools currently managed by the operator in all states have not been required by their sponsors/authorizers to suspend operations.

☐ I agree

All schools currently managed by the operator in all states are not in receipt of notices of termination from their current sponsors/authorizers.

☐ I agree

All schools currently managed by the operator in all states do not have unresolved corrective action plans from the state department, current sponsor/authorizer or current operator.

☐ I agree

Financial Viability Assurances:

All schools currently managed by the operator in all states have not been determined to be unauditably by the auditor of state in each state the operator has managed schools.

☐ I agree

All schools currently managed by the operator in all states have not had unresolved findings for recovery in each state the operator has managed schools.

☐ I agree

All schools currently managed by the operator in all states have not received opinions other than unqualified opinions from the most recently released annual fiscal audits from each state in which the operator has managed schools.

☐ I agree

All schools currently managed by the operator in all states have not had other significant issues related to fiscal condition, such as ongoing concern comments in multiple audit reports for the same school, material misstatements in financial statements, and/or findings for financial matters related to internal controls or oversight of federal funds from each state in which the operator has managed schools.

☐ I agree

Operator Attestation of Assurances

By signing, I attest that I have reviewed the above information and it is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Name: _____ Position: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

This form can be signed by hand or electronically by clicking "Fill & Sign" in the toolbar. Once clicked, options will appear. Click "Place Signature" and a new box will appear. You can create a new electronic signature or add an existing password-protected signature.

The assurances must be submitted with all other required narratives and supporting documentation requested by the Department as part of the application for consideration.

NOTE: The Department may request additional documentation from the operator at any point of the application review process to verify the operator meets any or all parts of the definition of good standing and the operator does not have any financial viability issues that would prevent it from effectively operating a community school in Ohio. If the Department discovers any of the information provided by the operator above is inaccurate at any point in the review process or the operator fails to fully respond to a request from the Department for more information, ***all community schools indicated as meeting criteria 3(b)(ii) by the operator may*** be ineligible to receive further consideration from the Department for the quality community schools support grant.

Appendix – A Quality Community School Support- Financial Viability Checklist

QUALITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL FUNDING COMMUNITY SCHOOL OPERATOR – FINANCIAL VIABILITY CHECKLIST REQUEST PERIOD – FISCAL YEAR 2021

Section I: Operators with Audited Financial Statements with opinion and footnotes – Please provide the following:

- _____ Most recent Audit Report (includes audited financial statements released with footnotes) – Must have been released within the last 24 months. Please note, compilation reports **do not qualify** as audited financial statements. If your audit was released more than 24 months ago, please follow the checklist for unaudited statements in Section II.
- _____ Listing of any loan receivables (including those associated with community schools) that are not reported in the financial statements submitted with this checklist.
- _____ Listing of any loans made to community schools that have been forgiven by the operator and currently are listed within the financial statements provided, along with the reason(s) the loan(s) were forgiven, amount forgiven and date approved by operator.
- _____ Listing of community schools that have had FTE adjustments (for example, claw back, final adjustments #1, #2) and a description of how the “true-up” from the operator took place for all FTE adjustments for each school affected during the audit report period. If not included in the audited statements provided, identify the amount of the “true up” accounts payable to the school that has been or will be repaid. Please identify all FTE adjustments that are under appeal.

Section II - Operators with no current audit report (audited financial statements released with opinion and footnotes), please provide the following required financial documents for the most recent fiscal year ending: (Note, the below list is a preliminary set of necessary documentation. Additional documentation may be requested as the financial viability assessment is completed.)

- _____ Balance Sheet: *Accrual basis is required.* The balance sheet “**as of date**” should be the same as the “**final date**” of the period covered by the Statement of Activities.
- _____ Statement of Activities: *Accrual basis is required* (income statement/profit and loss statement). The final day of the income statement’s reporting period should align with the “as of date” on the balance sheet.
- _____ General Ledger: Provide a detailed report by account for all figures reported on both the Balance Sheet and Statement of Activities.
- _____ Listing of any loan receivables (including those associated with community schools) that are not reported in the financial statements submitted with this checklist.
- _____ Listing of any loans made to community schools that have been forgiven by the operator and currently are listed within the financial statements provided, along with the reason(s) the loan(s) were forgiven, amount forgiven and date approved by operator.
- _____ Listing of community schools that have had FTE adjustments (for example, claw back, final adjustments #1, #2) and a description of how the “true-up” from the operator took place for all FTE adjustments for each school affected during the audit report period. If not included in the audited statements provided, identify the amount of the “true up” accounts payable to the school that has been or will be repaid. Please identify all FTE adjustments that are under appeal.

Please return all required documents and checklist noting that all documents have been provided following the submission instructions below.

Timeline for Submission

Applicant should note the timelines listed below:

October 9, 2020: The applicant must complete the Request for Information in its entirety and submit all required narratives and attachments by 11:59 p.m. on the due date to receive consideration. Only complete submissions will be considered. The Department will not review any late or incomplete submissions after the deadline.

Jan. 15, 2021: The applicant will receive a decision from the Department on the status of the submission.

Jan. 31, 2021: The Department will make payments to each eligible community school of quality.

All applicants must complete the Request for Information in its entirety and provide the criteria-specific narrative and supporting documentation to receive consideration from the Department. The Department will not score any late or incomplete submissions. If you have questions about the Request for Information, please email community.schools@education.ohio.gov.

Directions for Submission

The Department will collect documentation from operators seeking to complete the Request for Information utilizing SharePoint. To request access, please email Mary.Cotton@education.ohio.gov to request access to the SharePoint site. The email request should include:

- Name of the operator;
- Name and email addresses of all persons seeking access to the SharePoint site;
- A phone number to contact if there are additional follow up questions.

The deadline to request access to the SharePoint site is Friday, October 2, 2020. The deadline for submission of the Request for Information is Friday, October 9, 2020.

Quality Community Schools Support Request for Information – Criteria 3 Rubric

Submission Date: _____

School Name: _____ School IRN: _____

Sponsor Name: _____ Sponsor IRN: _____

If applicable:

Operator Name: _____ Operator IRN: _____

Each application will be rated using the criteria included in the appropriate application rubric. Applications will be evaluated as Met or not Met for each of the condition requirements identified in the criteria the community school qualifies. A committee will review all documentation submitted for the specific criteria and determine whether to grant approval for the quality community schools support grant funds. Community schools that meet the requirements outlined in the criteria will be approved for the quality community schools support grant funds. All community schools designated as a Community School of Quality will receive payments from the Department by Jan. 31 of each fiscal year.

Which criteria does the community school meet to qualify as a Community School of Quality as defined under section 265.335 of House Bill 166?

Criteria 3(b)(i) Rubric

Criteria 3(b)(i) Requirements	Met	Not Met
The school's sponsor was rated "Exemplary" or "Effective" on the sponsor's most recent evaluation conducted under section 3314.06 of the Revised Code.		
The school contracts with an operator that operates schools in other states AND has operated a school that received a grant funded through the federal Charter Schools Program established under 20 U.S.C. 7221 or received funding from the Charter School Growth Fund.		
Department Staff Review	Yes	No
Did the community school satisfy all the conditions under criteria 3(a) to qualify as a Community School of Quality defined under Section 265.335 of House Bill 166?		
Did the community school include all required narrative and supporting documentation requirements outlined in criteria 3(b), Narrative and Supporting Documentation Requirements, of the application?		
Comments:		

Criteria 3(b)(ii) Rubric

Criteria 3(b)(ii) Requirements	Met	Not Met
The school's sponsor was rated "Exemplary" or "Effective" on the sponsor's most recent evaluation conducted under section 3314.06 of the Revised Code.		
The school contracts with an operator that operates schools in other states AND meets all of the following criteria: (I) One of the operator's schools in another state performed better than the school district in which the school is located, as determined by the Department. (II) At least 50 percent of the total number of students enrolled in all of the operator's schools are economically disadvantaged, as determined by the Department. (III) The operator is in good standing in all states where it operates schools. (IV) The Department has determined the operator does not have any financial viability issues that would prevent it from effectively operating a community school in Ohio.		
Department Staff Review	Yes	No
Did the community school satisfy all of the conditions under criteria 3(b) to qualify as a Community School of Quality defined under Section 265.335 of House Bill 166?		
Did the community school include all required narrative and supporting documentation requirements outlined in criteria 3(b), Narrative and Supporting Documentation Requirements, of the application?		
Criteria 3(b)(iii) Requirements		
The school is in the first year of operation.		
Comments:		

Recommendation:

_____ Approved

_____ Not Approved