

10.27 – Community School Sponsorship

A. Mission.

The mission of the Franklin Local School District as a community school sponsor is to build an academic foundation for future success.

B. Vision.

Our vision as a community school sponsor is to be an academic community preparing all students to be career or college ready.

C. Sponsor Self-Evaluation.

The District will continually evaluate its own performance as a community school sponsor by utilizing the below improvement process.

1. By the beginning of each school year, the District will create a Sponsorship Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan will identify the District's goals as a sponsor for that academic year. The District will identify at least one goal in each of the following areas: academic performance, technical assistance, community school autonomy, and legal compliance. The District will define at least one measurable outcome for each goal.
2. A District administrator will present the District's Strategic Plan to the Board of Education during a Board meeting held near the beginning of the school year.
3. Throughout the school year, the District will implement strategic action steps to meet the goals set in its Strategic Plan. The District will continuously and rigorously evaluate its progress toward the goals set forth in the Strategic Plan. The District will continuously and rigorously evaluate its Strategic Plan and strategic action steps against national standards for quality community school sponsors (e.g., Principles & Standards published by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers). The District's strategic steps will evolve throughout the school year as it continually evaluates its progress toward the goals set forth in the Strategic Plan.
4. During a Board meeting held near the end of the school year, a District administrator will give a presentation to the Board regarding the progress the District made toward achieving its strategic goals.

D. Community School Intervention Policy.

To the extent permitted in the sponsorship contract and Ohio law, the District shall take steps to intervene in the community school's operation to correct problems in the community school's overall performance and legal compliance. Unless contrary to the sponsorship contract or Ohio law, the District may intervene when a dropout prevention and recovery school receives a rating of "Does Not Meet Standards" on any component of the school's report card generated by ODE

or when the community school fails to comply with Ohio law. Intervention may include any of the following actions and consequences:

1. Increased oversight of those community school operations that are clearly linked to the deficient component;
2. Mandated changes to those community school operations that are clearly linked to the deficient component;
3. Declaring the community school to be on probationary status pursuant to R.C. 3314.073;
4. Suspend the operation of the community school pursuant to R.C. 3314.072; or
5. Terminate the Successor Contract pursuant to R.C. 3317.07.

Prior to taking any of the above actions, the District shall give the community school clear, adequate, evidence-based, and timely notice of the event triggering possible intervention. When, in the sole judgment of the District, the triggering event does not represent an emergency, the community school will have a reasonable amount of time, as determined by the District on a case-by-case basis, to remediate the triggering event. The District will not punish the community school if it exercises autonomy by implementing a solution different from the District's proposed solution. If the triggering event is not remediated during the cure period, the District may initiate intervention in the community school's operations in a timely manner.

E. Fiscal and Enrollment Oversight.

The District's Assistant Superintendent will request accounting reports, bank statements, bank reconciliations, and enrollment reports each month from the sponsored community schools. The Assistant Superintendent will perform a review of these reports and will create a summary of findings from those reports. The Assistant Superintendent will then meet with the sponsored community school's Treasurer during the first week of every month and discuss the findings from these reports. If any issues of concern are noted, they will be discussed during this meeting and steps will be taken to help the community school to correct the issues.

F. Federal and/or State Law Changes.

The District's Superintendent and Treasurer will work with legal counsel to determine the need for contract modifications due to any revisions to Federal and/or State Laws. The contract modifications will be reviewed/approved by the District's Board.

G. Renewal.

Community schools seeking renewal shall submit an application for renewal to the District at least sixty (60) days prior to the expiration of the current contract. The application for renewal shall consist of an email or letter from the community school and shall include the following components: a statement of intent to renew and any requests for revisions to the language of the current contract. The application for renewal is also the appropriate time for the community school to present any additional evidence regarding its performance, to correct any records, or to provide any additional information relevant to renewal.

The District will promptly review all applications for renewal. The District will make a decision regarding renewal at least fourteen (14) days prior to the expiration of the current contract. The District will base the renewal process and all renewal decisions on a thorough analysis of objective evidence, as defined by the performance framework with rigorous, specific goals and targets, in the sponsorship contract. Unless contrary to the sponsorship contract or Ohio law, the evidence upon which the District shall rely will include at least the following:

1. Multiple years of the community school's student achievement data, including multiple measures of student achievement – if available;
2. Financial audits of the community school;
3. Site visit reports and/or other compliance reports; and
4. Status reports on corrective action plans or other required interventions, if applicable.

H. Contract Termination.

Unless contrary to the sponsorship contract or Ohio law, the District may terminate a community school's sponsorship contract during the sponsorship term when there is clear evidence of some or all of the following:

1. Extreme academic underperformance;
2. An egregious violation of law;
3. A violation of the public trust that imperils students' health and well-being;
4. A violation of the public trust that imperils public funds;
5. Unfaithfulness to the terms of the contract;
6. A triggering event under R.C. 3314.07; or
7. Other good cause – as that term is defined by law and/or the sponsorship contract.

In the event that the sponsorship contract is terminated pursuant to R.C. 3314.07, this Policy, or the terms of the sponsorship contract, then the community school and the District shall abide by the following procedure:

1. The District shall give notice of the termination within the parameters set forth in the sponsorship contract and R.C. 3314.07.
2. If applicable, the District will follow its community school closure policy.
3. The community school shall not enter into a community school sponsorship contract with any other sponsor, or otherwise continue in operation, without prior written approval of the District.
4. Immediately upon receiving knowledge that the sponsorship contract is being terminated, the community school shall, to the extent permitted by law and consistent with its authority pursuant to R.C. 3314.03(C) and the sponsorship contract, transfer ownership of and title to all of its assets to the District, except as otherwise required by applicable law.

5. The District shall, as determined to be appropriate by the District in its sole discretion, utilize such assets to support the continued operation of the community school, or, upon cessation of the community school's operations, for the purpose of offering to the community school's students all or any portion of the educational program of the community school, or for any other educational purpose.

I. Community School Closure.

In the event that the community school permanently closes, the District shall abide by the obligations and follow the procedures set forth in Ohio law and the sponsorship contract. Unless contrary to Ohio law or the sponsorship contract, the District shall oversee the community school's performance of the following community school closure protocol:

1. Notify parents in a timely manner that the school is closing.
2. To the extent practical, assist parents in finding new placements.
3. Ensure the orderly transition of students' records to students' districts of residence.
4. Follow the procedures set forth in Ohio law and the sponsorship contract regarding the disposition of community school funds, property, and assets.
5. Submit all required closing documentation to the Ohio Department of Education.

Unless contrary to Ohio law or the sponsorship contract, the District shall perform the above community school closure protocol in the event that the community school's governing authority fails to do so.

Franklin Local School District – Community School Sponsor Organizational Chart

