



Transfer Application

Ohio Council of Community Schools

Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2027

OVERVIEW OF COUNCIL SPONSORSHIP

Dear Prospective Partner:

Thank you for your interest in transferring sponsorship to the Ohio Council of Community Schools (Council). The Council seeks to develop long-lasting partnerships with governing authorities who share our high standards for quality. Our chartering priority is to develop a robust portfolio of innovative, high performing schools throughout the state. We envision partnerships with organizations that effectively implement a variety of academic programs critical for meeting the unique needs of a variety of students.

The Council strives to be a leader in the national charter school movement, sponsoring 48 schools across Ohio. Additionally, the Council seeks opportunities to work with partners offering unique choices to students and families. This is why the Council is a proud sponsor of schools implementing a range of educational programs, including those with an emphasis on fitness, environmental studies, college preparatory academics, and project-based learning. The models are implemented through traditional bricks-and-mortar facilities, five statewide virtual schools, and dropout recovery and prevention programs intended to reach Ohio's most at-risk youth.

Our application and contracting processes are firmly rooted in the Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing established by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA), and you will find them to be rigorous, clear, transparent, and student-focused. As a charter authorizer, we cultivate relationships with sponsored schools based on a balance of autonomy and accountability. We provide meaningful technical assistance to our sponsored schools to help them provide a high-quality education to the students they serve.

If you have further questions, please visit our website at www.ohioschools.org, or contact our Associate Executive Director, Jason Wall, at (419) 720-5221 or jason@ohioschools.org.

Yours in education choice,

Lenny Schafer, M.Ed., PCC-S
Executive Director

DETAILED TIMELINE AND DESCRIPTION APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants seeking to transfer sponsorship to the Council must go through our transfer application review process and submit the requested documents for each step. Throughout the process, the Council will communicate important information to the governing authority or designee.

The application steps for sponsorship are listed briefly below:

	Deadline	Deliverables and Deadlines (Sponsorship Begins Fall 2027)
Step One: Submit Transfer School Application	January 30, 2027	Applicants interested in sponsorship must complete a Transfer School Application. If an applicant that demonstrate academic, organizational, governance, and financial capacity will be invited to continue the process. Upon submission, the Council’s Contracting Team will review the application and decide if the applicant is invited to continue the process. In the case of a rejected application, the Council will provide the applicant with a written explanation by February 19, 2027. <u>Please note, if your school has been non-renewed by your sponsor, the Council will NOT consider your application.</u>
Step Two: Governing Authority Meeting and School Site Visit	March 2027	Council staff members will visit and tour the school, interview selected staff, and attend at least one governing authority meeting.
Step Three: Interviews: Applicant and Current Sponsor	March 2027	Following the review of the application and visits, the Council’s Contracting Team will conduct an applicant interview, which will include governing authority members, school leaders, corporate management, and other key stakeholders. Additionally, Council staff will meet with the current sponsor to review information and discuss past performance.
Step Four: Contract Negotiation and Execution	June 2027	If the visits and interviews are satisfactory, the governing authority and Council will each adopt a resolution and authorize the negotiation and execution of a charter contract. The deadline for completing charter contract negotiations and executing the contract is June 15, 2027.

Please note, any information submitted through the application may constitute a public record, subject to disclosure under the Ohio Public Records Act.

TRANSFER APPLICATION OVERVIEW

Instructions

1. Please review the list of required information and documents.
2. To determine what constitutes a compelling, high-quality application, consult the Evaluation Rubric (page 9).
3. If you have any questions about the Transfer Application, please feel free to contact Jason Wall.
4. Complete the Transfer Application by the deadline listed above and send an electronic copy to Jason Wall (jason@ohioschools.org).

Contents of the Transfer Application

- Cover page, including name and location of the proposed school.
- Overview of the school, its operations, and an executive summary of the application (not to exceed two pages)
- A narrative, not to exceed ten pages (attachments are not included in the page limit).
- Attachments, which provide additional information to support the narrative. All attachments should be numbered and clearly referenced in the narrative.

Transfer Application Scoring

Applications must receive at least 75% of possible points to continue to the interview. Please refer to the scoring rubric on pages 9-10.

TRANSFER SCHOOL APPLICATION

Basic Information

Community School Information

School Name: _____

School Leader: _____

Address: _____

Year Opened: _____

Grades Served: _____

Website: _____

Current Contract Term: _____

Contract Status: ☐ Renewed ☐ Non-Renewed ☐ Unknown

Governing Authority Chairman Information

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Transfer Application Contact Information

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Current Sponsor Information

Sponsor Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Management Company Information

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Term of Agreement: _____

Website: _____

Academic and School Information

We will be reviewing the school's performance and growth trends via publicly accessible interactive local report cards. If you have other academic data you would like to share with us, including your own trend analyses (NWEA, STAR, iReady, etc.), please feel free to attach them in addition to the items required below.

A. Academic Outcomes

Provide evidence that the academic program is a success for the students enrolled at the school.

Show how the school is meeting the established mission-related goals.

B. Mission

Describe your school's mission. What makes the mission unique for the target community and how will the mission be measured?

C. Vision

Describe your school's vision for students. What makes your school's vision statement unique?

D. Values

What are your school's values and how are they supported by the mission and vision?

Requested Attachments:

- Local Report Card Data
- Educational Plan
- Parent and Student Handbook
- Other Academic Data (optional)

Evaluation Criteria: Reviewers will look for a track record of success in academic achievement. Reviewers will also look for a clear and compelling mission statement that is aligned with the vision and how the mission and vision help support the core values. Additionally, reviewers will look at the execution of the Educational Plan and how the mission, vision, and core values are integrated into the handbooks.

Governance

A. Governing Authority

List governing authority members, including officers, committee memberships, and terms.

Describe the governing authority's committee structure.

Who has the governing authority retained as legal counsel?

Requested Attachments:

- Code of Regulations or Bylaws
- Governing Authority Resumes

Evaluation Criteria: Reviewers will look for a Code of Regulations which describes a governance structure that is distinct from the management of the school. Reviewers will also look for the use of a committee structure to help facilitate the work of the governing authority.

B. Sponsor Discipline

Were you ever on corrective action, probation, or have operations suspended (or threatened) by your sponsor for deficiencies or noncompliance? If yes, please explain and note how it was remedied.

Evaluation Criteria: Reviewers will look at the number, types of incidents, and remedies.

C. Sponsor Expectations

What are your expectations of an authorizer? (Please limit to 250 words.)

Why have you selected the Council as a possible new authorizer? (Please limit to 250 words.)

Evaluation Criteria: Reviewers will determine how the governing authority's expectations align with the Council's expectations and approach.

Organizational Capacity

A. Operations

Describe the organizational structure of the school and provide the organizational chart. Describe the roles and responsibilities of the school leader and other key personnel. If applicable, describe what role your management company plays in the ongoing support of the school.

Requested Attachments:

- Compliance Reports
- Management Company Contract

Evaluation Criteria: *Reviewers will look for a compliant school that operates effectively and efficiently. Additionally, reviewers will determine capacity and support capabilities of the staff.*

B. Staff and Student Retention

Summarize the recruitment process and marketing plan. What are the student and staff retention rates for the school?

What are the frequency and results of parent satisfaction surveys? Include an example.

Evaluation Criteria: *Reviewers will look for trends in retention rates and how the recruitment, enrollment, and marketing plans are implemented. Additionally, reviewers will be mindful of parent satisfaction results and any changes to operations due to parent/family feedback.*

Financial Information

A. Viability

Please list full-time equivalency (FTE) figures for the past five years.

Who is your fiscal officer?

For the last two years, please submit annual budgets, three-year forecasts, all monthly and year-end financial statements, and audit reports.

Requested Attachments:

- Budget
- Three-Year Forecast
- Financial Audits
- Financial Statements (last two years)

Evaluation Criteria: *Reviewers will look for a budget and three-year forecast that utilizes reasonable enrollment numbers and state per-pupil allocation, strategies to ensure the school's financial viability, and detail regarding supplemental revenue. Reviewers will also look for effective and responsible use of funds through the budget, audit, and financial statements.*

TRANSFER SCHOOL APPLICATION EVALUATION RUBRIC

Responses provided by the applicant, along with the corresponding documentation or attachments, are evaluated by the Contracting Team according to the scoring rubric outlined below. The Contracting Team will issue a score for each of the eligible sections based on the quality of the information provided by the applicant. The scores from each section will be weighted equally; however, any application where an entire section “Falls Far Below Standards” or any application receiving two or more “Falls Far Below Standards” in any two criteria will be rejected.

The scoring rubric is as follows:

Exceeds Standards (3 Points): Meeting the targets for this rating category implies that the application exceeds expectations and has clearly demonstrated the capacity for developing and operating a successful community school. Schools repeatedly receiving this rating warrant consideration for the Contracting Team to encourage approval of the application. Schools repeatedly receiving this rating have clearly outlined expectations of the component questions and have exceeded review criteria established for the standard.

Meets Standards (2 Points): The targets for this rating category set the minimum expectations for a community school that is likely to be successful. Schools repeatedly earning this rating or higher are likely to perform well and are on solid ground for the Contracting Team to consider approval of the application. Schools repeatedly receiving this rating or higher have outlined expectations of the component questions and have met review criteria established for the standard.

Does Not Meet Standards (1 Point): Schools in this rating category have failed to adequately address the component questions and/or meet the established review criteria. Schools repeatedly achieving this rating are more likely to fail to meet minimum expectations for performance. Schools that fall into this category have failed to meet the component questions sufficiently and will not be approved.

Falls Far Below Standards (0 Points): Schools that fall into this rating category are evaluated as highly likely to perform well below the sponsor’s expectations and will not be approved. Schools that fall into this category have not addressed the component questions sufficiently and have significantly failed to meet minimum expectations set by the review criteria.



TRANSFER SCHOOL APPLICATION SCORING SUMMARY

School Name _____

Academic and School Information

- A. Academic Outcomes _____
- B. Mission _____
- C. Vision _____
- D. Core Values _____

Governance

- A. Governing Authority _____
- B. Sponsor Discipline _____
- C. Sponsor Expectations _____

Organizational Capacity

- A. Operations _____
- B. Staff and Student Retention _____

Financial Information

- A. Viability _____

GRAND TOTAL

Did the application receive at least 75% of possible points?

_____ Yes, continue to interview and possible
recommendation to Committee

_____ No, do not continue or recommend partnership