

Unique Roles defined in Ohio's Community School System



State laws define the roles and responsibilities of each entity that comprises Ohio's system of community schools and serve as the foundation for clear, reasonable expectations for performance. The key responsibilities of each entity are listed below.

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- Oversight of all sponsors
- Evaluation of all sponsors (using the Sponsor Evaluation System)
- Provide technical assistance to sponsors
- Prepare annual community school report
- Legal sufficiency review of all community school contracts
- Revocation of sponsor authority

ODE/SPONSOR CONTRACT

Provides for the number of schools a sponsor may authorize, the physical territory in which the schools may be located and outlines the sponsor's obligations under state law and administrative code.

SPONSOR (AUTHORIZER)

- Oversight and monitoring of each school
- Monthly fiscal reviews
- Compliance monitoring including special education file review
- Attend governing authority meetings
- Provide professional development recommendations to address academic deficiencies
- Gatekeeper: evaluate educational needs across the State and encourage new schools to open that will enhance and expand the educational options for students.
- Provide technical assistance to address operational deficiencies
- Contract renewals/non-renewals (based on assessment of student performance, fiscal management, violation of contract or state/federal laws, other good cause)
- Placing schools on probation (when appropriate)
- Suspend or take over operations of noncompliant schools

SPONSOR/GOVERNING AUTHORITY CONTRACT

Includes all state and federal requirements as well as additional requirements of the sponsor as it pertains to academics, operational and organizational and legal compliance.

GOVERNING AUTHORITY (SCHOOL BOARD)

- Monitor academic performance of the school
- The ultimate responsibility for every aspect of the school's operations and performance
- Hiring/firing/evaluating the "operator" (principal/head of school or management company)
- Fiscal management
- Development/adoption of administrative policies and procedures
- Continuous, comprehensive assessment of school performance and compliance (attendance, enrollment, discipline, special education, HR, testing results, parent issues, planning, etc.)

SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

Governing authorities may choose to enter into contracts with individual operators or management companies to oversee the day-to-day operations of the school.

PRINCIPAL/HEAD OF SCHOOL

- Educational Leader of school
- Manage day-to-day operations of the school
- All other responsibilities as listed under Management Company

Vs.

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

- Day-to-day operations of school
- Curriculum selection and implementation
- Testing/assessment
- Facilities Management
- Stakeholder relations (students, staff, parents/caregivers, board, district, state, media and community)
- Recruitment, hiring, retention of employees
- Compliance