

## Renewal, Nonrenewal, and Termination of Community School Sponsorship Contracts

### **Renewal of Community School Sponsorship Contracts:**

Upon the expiration of a community school sponsorship contract between the Board of Education of the Cleveland Municipal School District and a community school, the Board of Education may renew the contract for a period of time determined by the Board of Education, but not ending earlier than the end of any school year. The Board of Education shall renew a sponsorship contract only if the Board of Education finds that the school's compliance with applicable laws and terms of the contract and the school's progress in meeting the academic goals prescribed in the contract have been satisfactory.

The Board of Education shall base the community school sponsorship contract renewal process and renewal decisions on thorough analysis of a comprehensive body of objective evidence defined by the Performance Framework (Attachment 4) in the contract. Such evidence shall include at least all of the following:

- a) Multiple years of student achievement and multiple measures of student achievement;
- b) Financial audits;
- c) Site visit reports and/or other compliance reports; and
- d) Status reports on corrective action plans or other required interventions, if necessary.

The Board of Education shall grant renewal only to community schools that:

- a) Are fiscally and organizationally viable based on criteria in the Performance Framework with rigorous, specific goals and targets;
- b) Achieve their contractual academic standards and targets; and
- c) Are faithful to the terms of their contract.

**Renewal Application Process:** The Board of Education shall have a publicized renewal application process that requires all community schools seeking contract renewal to apply through a renewal application. The requirements for renewal shall be publicly available and include written guidance regarding the process, the content and format for renewal applications, criteria or standards used to evaluate the applicant; and a timeline.

As part of the renewal application process, the District shall provide each community school, in advance of the renewal decision, a cumulative Renewal Performance Report that summarizes the school's performance record over the contract term and states the District's summative findings concerning the school's performance and its prospects for renewal. The renewal application process shall provide each community school an opportunity and reasonable time to respond to its cumulative Renewal Performance Report; correct the record, if needed; and present additional evidence regarding its performance.

The Board of Education shall make renewal decisions in a public meeting and promptly notify each community school of its renewal (or nonrenewal) decision, including providing written explanation of the reasons for the decision.

## **Nonrenewal and Termination of Community School Sponsorship Contracts:**

The Board of Education may choose not to renew a community school sponsorship contract at its expiration or may choose to terminate a contract prior to its expiration for any of the following reasons:

- a) Failure to meet student performance requirements stated in the contract;
- b) Failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management;
- c) Violation of any provision of the contract or applicable state or federal law; or
- d) Other good cause.

The Board of Education may terminate a community school's contract during the contract term when there is clear evidence of some or all of following:

- a) Extreme underperformance;
- b) An egregious violation of law;
- c) Violation of the public trust that imperils students' health and well-being or public funds; or
- d) Unfaithfulness to the terms of the contract.

In addition, the Board may choose to terminate a contract prior to its expiration if the Board has suspended the operation of the contract under state law.

The Board of Education shall base any decision not to renew a community school contract on thorough analysis of a comprehensive body of objective evidence defined by the Performance Framework (Attachment 4) in the contract. Such evidence shall include at least all of the following:

- a) Multiple years of student achievement and multiple measures of student achievement;
- b) Financial audits;
- c) Site visit reports and/or other compliance reports; and
- d) Status reports on corrective action plans or other required interventions, if necessary.

Notification Timeline: In the event of a decision not to renew or to terminate a community school sponsorship contract, the Board of Education shall notify the school of the proposed action in writing no later than January 15 in the year in which the Board intends to terminate or take actions not to renew the contract. The notice shall include the reasons for the proposed action in detail, the effective date of the termination or nonrenewal, and a statement that the school may, within 14 days of receiving the notice, request an informal hearing before the Board of Education. Such request must be in writing. The informal hearing shall be held within 14 days of the receipt of a request for the hearing. No later than 14 days after the informal hearing, the Board of Education shall issue a written decision either affirming or rescinding the decision to terminate or not renew the contract.

Closing Procedures: In the event of closing any community school, the District shall follow the procedures described in the Ohio Department of Education's (ODE) published guidance on Community School Closing Procedures (Community Schools Guidance Letter #2010-3). The District shall oversee and work with the school's governing authority and leadership in carrying out a detailed closure protocol as set forth in the Assurance to ODE Form, which ensures timely notification to parents including assistance in finding new placements; orderly transition of students records to home school districts; disposition of school funds, property, and assets in accordance with law; and submission of Closing Assurances to ODE. The District has the capacity and commitment to carry out a closure to the extent possible if the school's governing authority fails to carry out the protocols.

Parents and students shall have ample time and information to make informed choices for the coming school year when a school's contract is non-renewed. Children attending a Board of Education-sponsored community school whose contract has been terminated, not renewed, or suspended or that closes for any reason shall be admitted to District schools if the children are entitled to attend under state law, and admission deadlines shall be waived for such students in accordance with state law.

Any community school whose contract is terminated or not renewed shall close permanently at the end of the current school year or on a date specified in the notification of termination or nonrenewal.

#### LEGAL REFERENCES

ORC 3313.64  
ORC 3313.65  
ORC 3313.97  
ORC 3313.98  
ORC 3314.03  
ORC 3314.07  
ORC 3314.072  
ORC 3314.074