

Zanesville City Schools
Sponsoring Priorities and Interview Questions for Applicant Finalists & Previous/Current Sponsors
New Schools, Replicators, and Schools Seeking to Change Sponsorship

Sponsoring Priorities

The sponsoring priorities of Zanesville City Schools are consistent with the Mission, Vision and Goals Statements regarding Zanesville City Schools as a Sponsor as well as the ZCS Strategic Plan Goals and Strategies related to community school sponsoring. To view the ZCS Strategic Plan (Goal 7) as it applies to community sponsoring is https://filecabinet2.eschoolview.com/22229DD7-D361-4438-970E-952CE7D80403/08_12_23updateStrategicPlan2019_2024.pdf. The Mission, Vision and Goals statements can be found at <https://www.zanesville.k12.oh.us/CommunitySchoolSponsoring.aspx> and are listed below:

Zanesville City Schools
Mission & Vision as a Community School Sponsor

Mission Statement

The mission of Zanesville City Schools, as a community school sponsoring organization, is to provide a quality alternative pathway to graduation for non-traditional students who may be at-risk of not graduating; who may have unique needs that create barriers to attendance in a traditional academic setting; or, who have specialized academic interests not served in a traditional academic setting. As sponsors, we are committed to student academic success leading to high school graduation.

The mission of Zanesville City Schools, as a sponsor of Community Schools, is to provide both autonomy and oversight in a transparent manner to enhance the opportunity for all learners attending the community schools that are sponsored by the Zanesville City Schools District.

Vision Statement

The vision of Zanesville City Schools, as a community school sponsoring organization, is to actively provide support, guidance, and expertise in the areas of school operations, school finances, and student academics of the sponsored school through regular meetings and interactions with the sponsored school's administration and governing authority and the sponsor's (ZCS) board of directors and administration in a collaborative and collegial manner.

Goals

- The sponsored school will be invited to participate in the 5-step Ohio Improvement Process (OIP) including Teacher Based Teams (TBT-daily); Building Leadership Teams (BLT-monthly); and, the Zanesville City Schools District Leadership Team (DLT-monthly with the sponsor) to enhance student academic achievement.
- A representative of the sponsored school will meet the sponsor's Governing Board on a monthly basis to enhance the quality of all programs through support, guidance, and expertise of school finances, school operations, and student academics.

- A representative of the sponsored school will attend and provide a monthly report to the Zanesville City Schools Board of Education, at its regular school board meeting, on the progress of the sponsored school.
- A representative of the Governing Board will attend the monthly sponsored school's school board (Governing Authority) meeting to provide any updates to Zanesville City Schools (sponsor) and to provide guidance in contract decision-making to ensure that all such actions are consistent with the sponsor's strategic vision.

Oversight

The oversight of each community school sponsored by Zanesville City Schools will follow the updated (ODE/DEW) Quality Practices as listed below:

- A. Commitment and Capacity
- B. Application Process and Decision-Making
- C. Performance Contracting
- D. Oversight and Evaluation
- E. Termination and Renewal Decision-Making
- F. Technical Assistance

By and through this mission and vision, Zanesville City Schools supports the mission and vision of the community schools that are sponsored by the district.

Zanesville City Schools currently sponsors Zanesville Community High School. Zanesville Community High School is designated as a Grades 9 – 12 Dropout Prevention and Credit Recovery School that consistently achieves “Exceeds Standards” on the annual state issued school report card. As a sponsor, Zanesville City Schools is interested in sponsoring new community schools that have the initiative and capacity to achieve these high marks and expectations.

Zanesville City Schools is most interested in new community schools serving the K – 6 Grade Band, the 7 – 8 Grade Band, the 9 – 12 Grade Band as a traditional curriculum based school; and, community schools having a focus in the Visual & Performing Arts or Technology at any Grade Band.

Note to Interviewees: All Reviewers listed on the 2024 – 2025 Community School Application Rubric will be present during the interview phase. Please bring at least seven copies of any presentation material to provide one set to each of the Reviewers. Interview questions will be directly connected to the application questions whereas you are able to provide a more in-depth response than the written response provided on the application. Interviewees may include technology based information (i.e., slideshow) to enhance their responses during the interview on the questions below:

Section A: Education Plan

A.1 Mission, Vision, and Educational Philosophy

Discuss in detail “why” your developed Mission, Vision, and Educational Philosophy is important to your organization and can purposefully impact student academic achievement, student satisfaction with school and parent engagement.

A.2 Geographic Boundaries

How has your Market Research influenced your Geographical Boundary decision and how has this decision impacted your school’s Capacity to Implement your school plan?

A.3 Curriculum and Instruction

Demonstrate how the Curriculum and Instruction choices that have been made align with the State of Ohio’s (ODEW) Scope and Sequence and Learning Standards?

A.4 Target Population

Provide your background and experience in serving the needs of your school’s Targeted Population.

A.5 School Calendar and Daily Schedule

Describe how your school calendar and daily schedule will enhance student academic achievement and enhance student satisfaction with school.

A.6 Special Student Populations

Provide your background and experience in serving the needs of identified students needed specialized learning including accommodations and modifications, students who have been identified as Gifted, and students requiring English Language Learning services.

A.7 School-Specific Goals and Objectives

Provide details on how your organization will react should you fail to meet your identified goals and objectives.

Education Plan: A.8.

A.8.01 Assessment

Within the “Ohio Improvement Process (OIP),” how will your organization utilize your formative and summative assessments to inform instruction?

A.8.02 School Climate and Discipline

Provide an example of how the Positive Behavioral Intervention Program (PBIS) will be administrated at your school.

A.9 Assessments and Intervention

In addition to the regular curriculum and instruction process, what procedures will your organization utilize to assist students who are unsuccessful on the state assessments?

A.10. Prior Success in Raising Student Achievement

Present the procedures and techniques that your organization has utilized in the past that have been successful in raising student academic achievement.

Section B: Financial Plan

B.1 Budget & Business Plan

Walk us through the Market Research that identified this regional as a viable site for a community school and describe how the Market Research has influenced your organization’s Business Plan.

B.2 Financial Management

Discuss your history with the Financial Management staff personnel and/or vendor that will be overseeing the financial management of the school; outline any awards and/or citations that have been achieved.

B.3 Transportation, Food Service, Other Partnerships

Should your organization plan to provide student transportation and/or student food service, identify the vendors that you plan to utilize for these services and any past experiences that your organization has had with these vendors.

B.4 Insurance

If accepted as a community school sponsored by Zanesville City Schools, can your organization provide proof of insurance within two weeks from the date of sponsorship?

B.5 Pre-Opening Plan

If accepted as a community school sponsored by Zanesville City Schools, can your organization provide a rental agreement or sales agreement for purchase of a physical location within two weeks from the date of sponsorship?

Section C: Organizational and Governance Plan:

C.1. Governing Body

Discuss the typical training sequence that your organization's selected Governing Authority would receive during the first year of operations.

C.2 Governing Board Composition

Describe any potential "Conflicts of Interest" that any potential Governing Authority may have, if any, with the community school and/or other Boards that they may serve on.

C.3 Management and Operations

Walk us through your Organizational and Governance Chart cited the responsibilities of each position.

C.4 Staffing and Human Resources

Describe the process your organization will utilize to evaluate instructional and non-instructional staff members. Describe the process that your organization will utilize to evaluate administrative staff members.

C.5 Professional Development

Describe the on-boarding process and professional development that would be received by teachers who are new to your organization's community school.

C.6 Student Recruitment and Enrollment

Describe the student recruitment and on-boarding process for new students that your organization would utilize.

C.7 Community Involvement

Identify and discuss your most successful Community Involvement activity that your organization has utilized in the past.

C.8 Parent Engagement

Identify and discuss your most successful Parent Engagement activity that your organization has utilized in the past.

Section D: Facilities

Describe your facilities plan in relationship to having a viable physical school site for the start of the 2025 – 2026 school year.

Section E: Blended Learning

If implementing a Blended Learning format for students, discuss plans for students to access technology while not at the school site.

Additional interview questions for Replicator Schools and Schools Seeking a New Sponsor

Academic Data for the last two years of operation

Discuss the academic trend of your community school explaining strategies to increase student academic success moving forward.

Sponsor compliance reports for the last two years of operations

Review how any noted deficiencies outlined by the sponsor were addressed and resolved.

School Board meeting minutes for the last year of operation

Based upon the Governing Authority meeting minutes from the last school year, describe how Governing Authority directives were addressed and reported back to the Governing Authority in a timely manner.

Financial Records and audits for the last two years of operations

Discuss how any noted audit deficiencies were addressed over the past two years. What is your organization's policy regarding maintaining a general fund balance in relationship to expenses?

Improvement Plan/Feedback information from previous sponsor

Discuss any deficiencies cited by the current sponsor and your organization's remedies to address those deficiencies including the timeline in addressing those deficiencies.

Applicant's Current Sponsor Interview Questions

(For Replicators and Schools Seeking a Change in Sponsor)

Why do you believe the community school that you are currently sponsoring is seeking to replicate or change a sponsor at this time?

Describe any concerns you may have regarding the student academic achievement of the community school and how any deficiencies in academic achievement have been addressed by the community school.

How receptive has the community school been in addressing deficiencies that you (the sponsor) has noted in compliance reports and site visit reports? Have these deficiencies been addressed in a timely manner?

Have you found the community school's financial recordkeeping to be consistent with your organization's review of those financial records? Have the community school's audit reports identified any financial inconsistencies or concerns; and if so, were these inconsistencies and/or concerns addressed by the community school in an appropriate and timely manner?

Has your organization notified the community school that it is your intention not to renew the sponsor/community school contract? If not, would it be your plan to renew the sponsor/community school contract should acceptable terms and conditions be reached?