ROLE AS SPONSOR

The Board of Governors recognizes the importance of communicating and developing Mid-Ohio ESC's roles and responsibilities as a sponsor. This policy seeks to promote that understanding and to further develop the sponsor's own quality practices.

Written Guidance

Mid-Ohio ESC shall communicate its sponsorship roles and responsibilities through written guidance ("Written Guidance") to be provided prior to the first day of school. Written Guidance shall further delineate the roles and responsibilities of the sponsor, the school, and other parties associated with sponsorship, and shall be aligned with the responsibilities of the sponsor and the school's community school contract.

Written Guidance shall be presented annually to the sponsored school's administrators and governing authority prior to the first day of school. Mid-Ohio ESC shall also offer training on the roles and responsibilities of Mid-Ohio ESC as sponsor. Said training shall be offered by November 30 of the review year. Sponsored schools shall not be required to attend training offered by Mid-Ohio ESC.

Staff Expertise

The Board directs the Superintendent to develop an organizational chart and job descriptions that indicate a clear structure of sponsoring responsibilities designated to specific staff and/or contractors that will fulfill those responsibilities ("Sponsor Staff"). Sponsor Staff shall have expertise in the areas of curriculum, instruction, assessment, special education, school accountability, school governance, and, as needed, English Language Learners ("ELL") instruction, school facilities, and community school law.

Staff Development

The Board expects the Sponsor Staff to participate in professional development that is aligned with sponsoring responsibilities (e.g., compliance monitoring, state and federal funding, education programs, special education, school governance, state assessments, health and safety). Professional development shall be based, in part, on areas identified as needing further development, as identified through the Mid-Ohio ESC's collection and analysis of data and/or other documentation. Professional development shall also align with the Mid-Ohio ESC's strategic plan.

All Sponsor Staff must participate in at least one (1) professional development session each year prior to January 1.

Sponsor Improvement Plan

Annually, Mid-Ohio ESC shall evaluate its sponsoring obligations pursuant to a defined improvement process. The defined improvement process shall be based on the prior year's performance as a sponsor, as reflected in the Ohio Department of Education's ("ODE") Overall Sponsor Rating. To the extent Mid-Ohio ESC is required by ODE to adopt a sponsor improvement plan, this shall constitute the defined improvement process. If Mid-Ohio ESC is not required by ODE to adopt a sponsor improvement plan, it should review areas where it was found deficient on the Sponsor Performance Review rubric and when compared to national sponsorship standards (e.g. those established by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers) and develop an improvement plan, which shall include written goals for improvement, to improve deficient areas. The improvement process and specific action steps based on the findings from the improvement process will be implemented prior to January 1 each year.

Mid-Ohio ESC shall also compare its work to national standards for sponsoring.

Allocation of Resources

Mid-Ohio ESC shall adopt a budget that reflects expenditures and revenues related to sponsoring. Mid-Ohio ESC budget shall reflect sufficient funds for fulfilling its sponsoring responsibilities. The budget shall be accompanied by a narrative that explicitly addresses how revenues and expenditures relate to and align with sponsoring responsibilities.

Resources allocation shall be determined based on a needs assessment and data analysis, which shall be conducted prior to March 1 and must align with Mid-Ohio ESC's strategic plan and the needs of its sponsored schools.

Quality Practices Rubric: A.02 – Goals and Self Evaluation; A.03 – Roles and Responsibilities; A.05 – Staff Expertise; A.06 – Staff Development; A.07 – Allocation of Resources

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