TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Board of Governors recognizes that it is required to provide technical assistance as a sponsor. This policy provides an overview of technical assistance that Mid-Ohio ESC will provide.

Needs Assessment

Annually, Mid-Ohio ESC conducts a needs assessment of each sponsored school. For purposes of this policy, a needs assessment is defined as a planning process, assessment or survey used to determine future needs of a school, clarity in areas of weaknesses or understanding identified by a school, address deficiencies, set technical assistance or professional development priorities, make organizational improvements and allocate Mid-Ohio ESC resources. The Board directs the Superintendent to follow a process for conducting needs assessments.

Ongoing Technical Assistance

Mid-Ohio ESC shall provide technical assistance to each school it sponsors. Technical assistance is defined by administrative rule as targeted and customized supports by professionals with subject matter expertise relevant to the operations of a community school toward successfully fulfilling its obligations under applicable rules, laws, and the terms of its community school contract.

To determine relevant technical assistance, Mid-Ohio ESC shall engage in the following processes:

1. Mid-Ohio ESC shall annually solicit information about the technical assistance needs from each sponsored school through a needs assessment.

2. Mid-Ohio ESC shall communicate with sponsored schools on a regular basis to identify issues, problems and concerns.

3. Mid-Ohio ESC shall determine sponsor school needs through Mid-Ohio ESC's own policies, procedures, observation and interaction with sponsored schools.

Through these processes, Mid-Ohio ESC shall provide both reactive and proactive, timely and comprehensive assistance with any issues, problems, or concerns.

On an annual basis, Mid-Ohio ESC shall seek formal feedback through a survey, or as part of a needs assessment, about the quality and impact of the technical assistance that it provides to its sponsored schools. Throughout the year, Mid-Ohio ESC shall also seek informal feedback about the quality and impact of its technical assistance.

Legal and Policy Updates

Mid-Ohio ESC shall provide sponsored schools with written guidance publications regarding changes to rules and laws that may impact the schools. Such guidance publications shall be provided on a regular basis and pursuant to a procedure developed by the Superintendent. Mid-Ohio ESC will further offer guidance, through annual training, to assist schools in understanding changes to rules and laws. Sponsored schools shall not be required to attend, but are encouraged to attend training offered or recommended by Mid-Ohio ESC.

Professional Development

Professional development opportunities shall be regularly communicated and/or offered to the sponsored schools through a written process developed by the Superintendent or designee. Mid-Ohio ESC uses a needs assessment to determine which opportunities it communicates and/or offers. At least one professional development opportunity will be specific to community schools.

At the discretion of the Sponsor, some professional development may be mandatory, if beyond the scope of training required by the community school contract and determined to be necessary due to assessments done by the Sponsor.

Fostering Relationships with Schools

Mid-Ohio ESC shall have regular communication and strive to build a positive working relationship with the sponsored schools. This communication will include communicating and providing guidance, beyond financial and enrollment reviews, at least quarterly. Examples of guidance include, but are not limited to, guidance on the role of the sponsor, attendance at school governing authority meetings, reviewing meeting minutes, an oversight calendar, legal and policy updates, technical assistance, site visit reports, annual performance reports, a needs assessment report, a high stakes review, monthly guidance updates, intervention guidance, and closure guidance. A representative from Mid-Ohio ESC will also attend at least three (3) or more governing authority meetings per school year.

LEGAL REF: O.A.C. 3301-102-02
Quality Practices Rubric: F.01 – Ongoing Technical Assistance, F.02 – Legal and Policy Updates, F.03 – Professional Development for Schools, F.04 – Relationships with Schools' Governing Authorities

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