



**BUCKEYE COMMUNITY HOPE FOUNDATION
EDUCATION DIVISION**

*Sponsor Annual Report
2017-2018 School Year*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The mission of Buckeye Community Hope Foundation is Building Communities and Rebuilding Lives. The Education Division has a clear and focused mission statement that supports the overall mission of the Foundation through the sponsorship of high-quality community schools in Ohio.

The mission of the Education Division of Buckeye Community Hope Foundation is to establish strong public community schools by adhering to quality authorizing practices, ensuring responsible oversight, and setting high standards for school performance.

As a statewide community school sponsor, the Education Division of Buckeye Community Hope Foundation (BCHF) recognizes its critical role in opening and sustaining high-performing community schools and holding the governing authority of those schools accountable for performance results outlined in the charter contract. In carrying out its responsibilities, and in support of its schools, BCHF provides ongoing monitoring of compliance, evaluation of performance, and superior technical assistance to its sponsored schools.

Each year, BCHF provides a written annual report summarizing the performance and compliance of its sponsored schools in the areas of Academic Performance, Fiscal Performance, Organization and Operation, and Legal Compliance. A summary of each school's performance and compliance evaluation is detailed in this report.

In the 2017-2018 school year, Buckeye Community Hope Foundation sponsored and provided oversight and technical assistance to 48 community schools in Ohio – including 38 traditional community schools, one online school, eight drop-out recovery program schools, and one school serving a majority of special needs students. Schools sponsored by BCHF provided educational opportunities to more than 13,000 students.

Performance Contracting

Buckeye Community Hope Foundation has a charter contract with each of its sponsored schools. The sponsorship contract includes all legal requirements, as well as exhibits for each school's unique education plan, financial plan and governance plan. The sponsorship contract includes a Performance Accountability Framework that details areas of oversight on which schools will be assessed, as well as academic and non-academic goals specific to each school. The Performance Accountability Framework is the basis for school intervention, renewal or non-renewal and termination decisions

Buckeye Community Hope Foundation's team of experts monitors and assesses each school's performance against the performance frameworks and the terms of the contract and annually provides each school with a cumulative report that summarizes the school's academic performance, fiscal performance, and organizational and operational performance. The annual end of year performance report identifies the school's

areas of strengths, as well as areas in need of improvement and the school's prospects for renewal.

Focused Oversight and Assessment

The Education Division of Buckeye Community Hope Foundation employs a team of experts to provide monitoring oversight and technical assistance to its sponsored schools.

Through a network of regional representatives, BCHF monitors each school's compliance with state and federal laws and with the sponsorship contract. Regional representatives conduct bi-monthly site visits to schools, attend community school governing board meetings and attend various school activities. During each site visit, regional representatives gather data following specific protocols, including classroom observations, file reviews, attendance monitoring, and reports of governing board meetings. Representatives provide feedback to school leaders during site visits and deliver ongoing technical assistance to offer support in improving compliance and expected performance. Technical assistance, both in-person and online, is provided to sponsored schools' governing board members in areas of policies and procedures, understanding sponsor and management company contracts, foundations of governance, and understanding financial reports. BCHF's online training platform was used by individual board members and school administrators to complete 141 training hours during the 2017-2018 school year.

The Fiscal and Business Oversight Department Lead, an experienced charter finance professional and licensed school

treasurer, conducts monthly reviews of enrollment and financial records for each school to ensure the financial standing and the long term financial outlook of the schools remains positive. Reports are provided to the boards each month with documentation of the fiscal review and the school's compliance status noting any potential areas of strengths or concern. Additionally, the fiscal team lead attends audit meetings, annually reviews and assures that schools have board-approved financial policies and procedures in place, and provides board training designed to assist board members in understanding their fiduciary roles with regard to fiscal management and accountability of public funds.

The Accountability and School Improvement Department consists of a team of professionals with expertise in specific area(s) including educational leadership, special education, data analysis, behavioral management, teacher evaluation, and curriculum and instruction. This department monitors schools' academic performance including fidelity to the education plan, compliance in special education, and progress in the school's focused school improvement plan. Academic performance metrics of all schools are monitored frequently throughout the year. Ohio School Report Cards are reviewed, as well as schools' Fall, Winter, and Spring norm-referenced test data. This monitoring allows BCHF's accountability and school improvement representatives to have critical conversations with school leaders, board members and operators about the achievement and progress of their students.

STRATEGIC FOCUS ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

An emphasis on technical assistance to support high-quality teaching and learning is the hallmark of Buckeye Community Hope Foundation's sponsorship. BCHF continually assesses the needs of its schools through multiple data sources including close and continuous analysis of school performance data, annual surveys of school leaders, results of onsite reviews, results of diagnostic reviews, and stakeholder input.

BCHF's academic technical assistance consists of two major types of supports: Supports for All Schools and Targeted Supports. Supports for All Schools are based on best practices, common data threads among all schools, and current trends and initiatives. Targeted, or customized, supports are based on each school's progress toward meeting academic performance measures of the Sponsor contract.

Supports for All Schools in the 2017-2018 school year were organized around the theme of "Soar with HOPE." This theme emphasized best practices of schools serving students from high-poverty backgrounds. The theme was introduced at BCHF's Annual School Leader Summit in June 2017, and carried through professional development initiatives that spanned the school year. BCHF's All Schools Meeting in September 2017 featured Dr. Sue Szachowicz, a noted author and turnaround principal from Brockton High School. BCHF's Accountability and School Improvement Department aligned its professional development catalog to this theme, offering schools an opportunity to attend

Showcase Professional Development Sessions or customized professional development brought onsite to schools. These sessions drew more than 1600 participants from sponsored schools.

BCHF continued to offer networks of support to all schools including Fall and Winter networking opportunities for special educators and dropout recovery school leaders. In 2017-2018, BCHF expanded this support to include Fall and Winter networking on topics related to English learners. A "Survival Spanish" series was offered to help school leaders and other personnel relate better to growing numbers of learners from Spanish-speaking homes.

BCHF regularly analyzed data for student learning through Fall, Winter, and Spring analyses of schools' norm-referenced testing data. Representatives also assisted with building level and teacher-based team "data digs."

Additional professional development and academic technical assistance services were available to all schools based upon request.

Targeted Technical Assistance was provided to each school based on an assigned tier of support. Schools designated as Tier 1 were schools that exceeded academic performance metrics of the sponsor contract. Schools designated as Tier 2 were schools that met academic performance metrics. Schools designated as Tier 3 were schools that did not meet academic performance metrics of the contract, and were assigned to academic

corrective action. Tier 4 schools are designated as “new” or “incubating” schools within their first year of start-up and routinely receive a school start up diagnostic review. However, no Tier 4 schools were identified in BCHF’s portfolio for the 2017-2018 school year.

All schools received two review visits by a representative of the Accountability and School Improvement Department. These visits were tailored to individual school needs, and to the school’s unique data profile. Visits included interviews with various school stakeholders, classroom observations, and review of school data and documentation. A profile of school strengths and needs was developed at each review meeting, with a plan for follow-up. Individualized technical assistance from BCHF was provided based on the follow-up plan.

Schools in the Tier 3 category were required to engage in root cause analysis, and to develop an academic corrective action plan approved by the board and sponsor. BCHF monitored progress in academic corrective action quarterly. Tier 3 schools also received a School Improvement Diagnostic Review (SIDR) involving a visit from a team of experienced educators. A formal report was shared with school leaders and board members, and results were incorporated as “next steps” in the school’s improvement plan.

The technical assistance of BCHF’s Accountability and School Improvement Department echo BCHF’s mission of establishing “strong public community schools by adhering to quality authorizing practices, ensuring responsible oversight, and setting high standards for school performance.”

BCHF continuously engages its sponsored schools in a collaborative, meaningful process that strives to make teaching and learning the best it can be for *all* students. Each year, there has been evidence of improvements showing that schools are closing the gaps for some of the neediest students in Ohio.

SCHOOL ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Ohio School Report Cards for the 2017-2018 school year confirm that BCHF’s sponsored schools continued an upward trend in academic performance that outdistanced that of Ohio schools overall. A majority of BCHF schools also outperformed the challenged districts in which they are located, an indication of positive school choice options in BCHF’s portfolio overall.

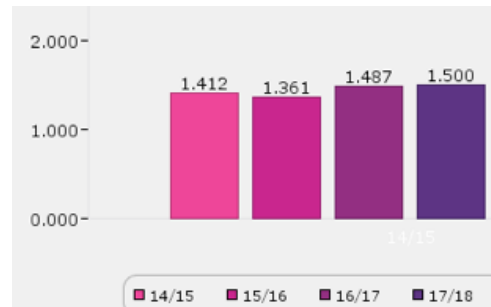
The Ohio Department of Education reported a 2.6 point rise in the average statewide performance index from the 2015-2016 school year (when the current AIR assessments were introduced) to 2017-2018. For that same period, schools sponsored by Buckeye Community Hope Foundation increased an average of 5.7 points. The performance measure is a composite measure of achievement levels attained by students on state tests.

Mean Performance Index Change

School years	2015-16 to 2016-17	2016-17 to 2017-18
Statewide	2.5	0.1
Schools sponsored by BCHF	4.5	1.2

BCHF schools also showed a steady, upward three-year trend in overall value added, a measure of student progress, as indicated in the following chart.

Mean Value Added Rating



The 2014-2015 school year was prior to inception of the higher-scaled AIR assessments. The fact that student growth measures now show a two-year positive trend is a reflection of schools’ dedicated efforts to grow individual students toward mastery of more rigorous learning standards.

The 2018 Ohio School Report Cards, for the first time, assigned overall grades — derived from weighted component grades — to schools. The table below compares BCHF’s sponsored schools’ overall ratings to that of corresponding urban districts (11 in total) which serve students with similar demographic profiles.

Overall Grades – BCHF Schools and Challenged District Comparison

Overall Grade	BCHF	Urban Districts
A	2.5%	0%
B	5%	0%
C	40%	0%
D	27.5%	36.3%
F	25%	63.7%

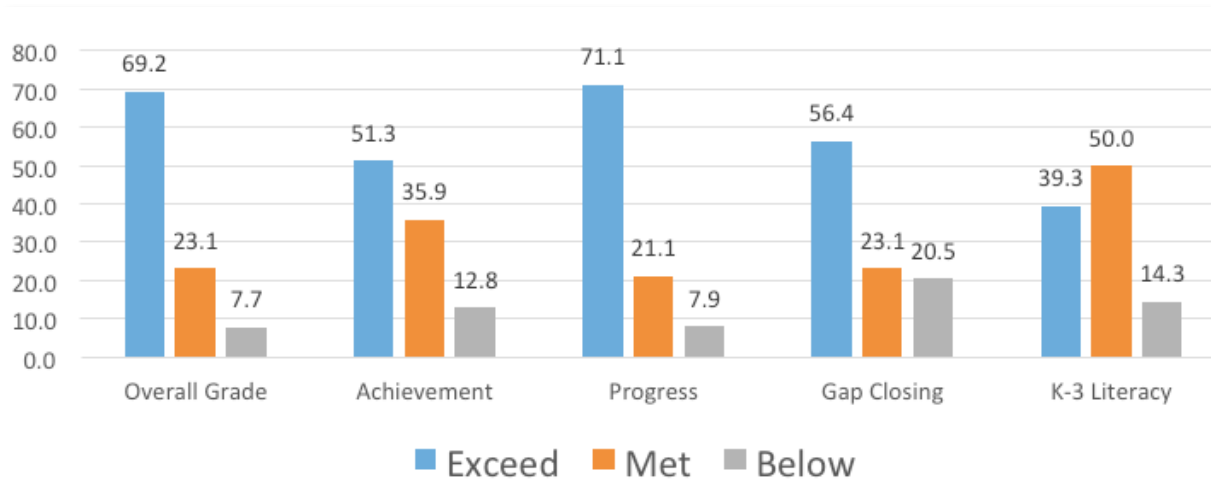
As indicated in the previous table, a significant percentage of BCHF sponsored schools earned overall grades of A, B and C, while none of their district counterparts earned grades of C or better. Seventy-one percent of BCHF sponsored schools exceeded their corresponding districts on the progress component rating that incorporates value added. Comparisons of BCHF sponsored schools overall report card grades and overall value added grades to their district counterparts illustrates that BCHF schools offer quality choice alternatives for students and families in a majority of cities where they are located. BCHF-sponsored schools perform especially well in Cleveland, Columbus, Euclid, Mt. Healthy, Toledo, and Youngstown.

When additional measures and components of the Ohio Report Card are considered, a majority of BCHF-sponsored schools outperformed traditional districts on measures that included gap closing and graduation rates.

BCHF SPONSORED DROPOUT RECOVERY PROGRAM SCHOOLS

BCHF sponsored eight dropout recovery schools in the 2017-2018 school year. Of these, seven (87.5%) received an overall rating of “Meets Standards.” Two dropout recovery schools exceeded standards in Progress ratings. Three schools exceeded standards on combined Graduation Rate. Three schools also received an “Exceeds Standards” on the Gap Closing component.

BCHF schools vs. Challenged Districts – 2018 Report Card Components



Overall Report Card Grades – BCHF and Challenged District Comparison (% of BCHF schools)

Urban District	Met or Exceeded District	Exceeded District
Akron	100%	33%
Cincinnati	0%	0%
Cleveland	100%	90%
Columbus	100%	67%
Dayton	100%	50%
Euclid	100%	100%
Lorain	100%	50%
Mt. Healthy	100%	100%
Springfield	100%	75%
Toledo	100%	75%
Youngstown	100%	100%

Overall Value Added – BCHF and Challenged District Comparison (% of BCHF schools)

Urban District	Met or Exceeded District	Exceeded District
Akron	100%	67%
Cincinnati	100%	0%
Cleveland	100%	60%
Columbus	100%	50%
Dayton	100%	50%
Euclid	100%	100%
Lorain	100%	50%
Mt. Healthy	100%	100%
Springfield	100%	0%
Toledo	100%	43%
Youngstown	100%	50%

The 2018 Ohio School Report Cards show continued statewide school improvement.

BCHF-sponsored schools have built upon this improvement with upward trends in both achievement and progress that outdistance state gains. Results of report cards, however, continue to document Ohio’s urban education problem. It is especially heartening to see BCHF-sponsored schools rallying to meet the challenges of urban education and quality school choice.

BCHF ASSESSMENT OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE 2017-2018

The Ohio Department of Education requires that all sponsors submit an annual report evaluating and summarizing the performance and compliance of each of their sponsored schools. Schools receive a rating of either meets, exceeds or did not meet expected performance in the areas of academic performance, fiscal performance, and organization and operation. In the area of legal compliance schools receive a rating of meets or did not meet expected performance. In assigning ratings, BCHF bases its assessment of a school's performance and gathers information by: attending school board meetings, conducting bi-monthly compliance site visits to schools, conducting classroom observations, completing monthly fiscal reviews, reviewing in-depth quarterly performance data, and ongoing review of state and school-specific assessments. Performance expectations for each sponsored school are defined in the charter contract.

Academic Performance – How the school performed on the academic contract goals

In assessing academic performance, BCHF considers the school's performance on all Ohio School Report Card measures, as well other performance measures included in the charter contract. These other measures are mission specific academic SMART goals, performance in comparison to the challenged district, performance to similar schools within the local market, norm-referenced test results, and attendance of disaggregated groups. BCHF assigns a rating of "Exceeds" to schools

having met 85 percent or more of applicable academic points in the academic framework of the charter contract. BCHF assigns a rating of "Meets" to schools scoring 50-84 percent of possible academic points in the framework. BCHF assigns a rating of "Did Not Meet" to schools with less than 50 percent of possible points from the academic performance framework. Schools with an "F" in performance index — or an overall "Does Not Meet" as a dropout recovery school — on the most recent Ohio School Report Card are automatically assigned to "Did Not Meet" status. All schools with a "Did Not Meet" status on the most recent performance review are required to submit an academic corrective action plan.

Fiscal Performance – How the school performed on its financial contract goals

In evaluating a school's Fiscal Performance, BCHF considers information from board approved financial reports, school's monthly financial reviews, and information from independent sources such as the Auditor of State and Ohio Department of Education. BCHF evaluates the schools on measures including: Current Ratio, Days Cash on Hand, Operating Efficiency, Debt Management, Submission Timeliness and Accuracy, and Enrollment Management. A school rated "Exceeds" expected performance scored more than 70 percent of possible points from the fiscal performance framework. A school rated "Meets" expected fiscal performance

scored 50-70 percent of possible points from the fiscal performance framework. A school rated “Did Not Meet” expected performance scored less than 50 percent of possible points from the fiscal performance framework.

Organization and Operation — How the school performed on its governance duties and compliance with the community school contract

In assessing a school’s organization and operational performance, BCHF considers the governing authority’s performance in conducting the required number of meetings and maintaining sufficient board minutes, complying with open meeting requirements, maintaining the required number of approved board members, fulfilling training requirements, monthly financial reviews and compliance with the governing authority’s Code of Regulations. A school rated “Exceeds” expected performance scored more than 90 percent of possible points from the

performance framework. A school rated “Meets” expected performance scored 50-90 percent of possible points from the performance framework. A rating of “Did Not Meet” expected performance is assigned to schools that scored less than 50 percent of the possible points from the performance framework.

Legal Compliance – How the school performed on its legal requirements identified in statute and the community school contract

BCHF evaluates a school’s performance on Legal Compliance based on the school’s compliance with legal requirements identified in statute and the community school contract and includes compliance items from the sponsor evaluation. A school rated “Meets” expected performance scored 80 percent or more of legal performance framework. A school rated “Did Not Meet” expected performance scored less than 80% of legal performance framework.

BCHF School Performance Ratings 2017-2018

School	Academic Performance	Fiscal Performance	Organization & Operations	Legal Compliance
Academy for Urban Scholars – Youngstown	Exceeds	Meets	Exceeds	Meets
Achieve Career Preparatory Academy**	Did Not Meet	Meets	Meets	Meets
Aurora Academy	Did Not Meet	Meets	Meets	Meets
Bennett Venture Academy	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
Buckeye Preparatory Academy	Did Not Meet	Did not meet	Exceeds	Meets
Chapelside Cleveland Academy	Did Not Meet	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Clark Preparatory Academy	Did Not Meet	Did Not Meet	Meets	Meets
Constellation Schools: Collinwood Village Academy*	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets
Constellation Schools: Eastside Arts Academy	Did Not Meet	Meets	Meets	Meets
Constellation Schools: Lorain Community Middle School	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
Constellation Schools: Old Brooklyn Community Middle School	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
Constellation Schools: Puritas Community Middle School	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
Constellation Schools: Stockyard Community Middle School	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
Constellation Schools: Westpark Community Middle School	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
Constellation Schools: Westside Community School of the Arts	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
Eagle Academy*	Did Not Meet	Did Not Meet	Exceeds	Meets
FLEX High School	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Focus Learning Academy of Southeast Columbus	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets

School	Academic Performance	Fiscal Performance	Organization & Operations	Legal Compliance
Focus Learning Academy of Southwest Columbus	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
Focus North High School	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
Great Western Academy	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Hamilton County Mathematics & Science Academy	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
Horizon Science Academy Elementary	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
Horizon Science Academy Columbus Middle School	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
Horizon Science Academy Dayton Downtown	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
Horizon Science Academy Dayton High School	Did Not Meet	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
Horizon Science Academy Denison Elementary*	Did Not Meet	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
Horizon Science Academy Lorain	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
Horizon Science Academy Youngstown	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
Imagine Akron Academy	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
Imagine Hill Academy	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
Insight School of Ohio*	Did Not Meet	Meets	Meets	Meets
International Academy of Columbus	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
L. Hollingworth School for the Talented and Gifted	Meets	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Lincoln Park Academy	Meets	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
Main Preparatory Academy	Did Not Meet	Did Not Meet	Exceeds	Meets
Noble Academy – Cleveland	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
Noble Academy – Columbus	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
R.E.A.C.H. Academy	Did Not Meet	Exceeds	Meets	Meets

School	Academic Performance	Fiscal Performance	Organization & Operations	Legal Compliance
Stambaugh Charter Academy	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
STEAM Academy	Did Not Meet	Meets	Meets	Meets
The Academy for Urban Scholars	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Toledo SMART Elementary School	Meets	Did Not Meet	Exceeds	Meets
University Academy**	Did Not Meet	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Westside Academy	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets	Meets
Westwood Preparatory Academy	Meets	Meets	Exceeds	Meets
Winton Preparatory Academy	Did Not Meet	Meets	Exceeds	Meets
Youthbuild Columbus Community Schools	Meets	Did not meet	Meets	Meets

*Denotes that the school closed at the end of the 2017-2018 school year

**Denotes that the school received an “F” in Performance Index or Overall Grade of “Does Not Meet” on the most recent Ohio School Report Card