

Supreme Court sides with Concept Schools

It's not too late to celebrate a late spring Ohio Supreme Court ruling in favor of Concept Schools which will provide nearly \$10 million dollars in Quality Community Schools Support (QCSS) grant funding to 12 schools over a two-year period.

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) denied funding to 12 schools managed by Concept claiming that they did not meet the "in good standing" requirement because Concept did not register as a foreign corporation with the Ohio Secretary of State's office.

The ruling states that the legislature "intended the eligibility requirements to relate to performance-based factors," not a corporation's registration status.

"Here, an examination of the QCSS-grant-funding criteria as a whole indicates that the 'in good standing' requirement ... speaks solely to the operator's standing as a qualified and effective operator of community schools," the decision states.

As a result of the ruling, the schools are eligible for \$1,750 in additional state funding for economically disadvantaged students and \$1,000 per pupil for all other students.

"At Concept, we believe that a mistake has now been corrected, and we are excited that the 12 schools named in the case will now have access to the same Ohio Quality Community Schools Support Fund that five additional Concept-network schools in Ohio already received," Concept said in a statement released after the ruling.

"We're pleased with the peaceful closure to the lawsuit," said Christopher Murphy, who serves as chief strategic growth and communications officer for Concept Schools. We are very pleased with the court's decision that has confirmed Concept's standing as a qualified and effective operator of community schools. Now we can all focus on what both organizations care most about: providing quality educational opportunities for our students."



