

ODE releases annual sponsor ratings

As required by state law, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) released ratings assigned to all charter school sponsors – based on school academic performance, sponsor and school compliance, and sponsor quality practices – on Nov. 15.

Ratings for the 2016-2017 school year showed improvement over the previous year with three sponsors being rated “Exemplary” (compared to none last year), 21 rated “Effective” (compared to 5), 13 rated “Ineffective” (compared to 39), and eight – all districts, Educational Service Centers and technical schools – rated “Poor” (compared to 21).

State law provides incentives for sponsors rated “Exemplary,” and penalties for sponsors rated “Ineffective” (prohibited from sponsoring additional schools) and “Poor” (revocation of sponsorship authority). Sponsors rated “Ineffective” for three consecutive years are also subject to revocation of sponsorship authority.

Sponsors were unsuccessful in efforts earlier this year to make legislative modifications to the sponsor performance assessment and implementation guidelines, including weighting value-added more heavily than other report card metrics in assessing school academic performance.

Buckeye Community Hope Foundation maintained its “Effective” rating.