

Outgoing auditor releases report on charter facility leases

In December, outgoing Auditor of State Dave Yost released a public interest report of charter school facility leases that identifies steps taken by some charter schools that “deserve scrutiny” by policy makers.

The report provides an overview of finance methods, funding sources and legal framework that can be problematic for charter schools seeking to acquire facilities.

“Shortcomings in current Ohio law, lax oversight, and support programs geared toward community schools have allowed private companies to enter into questionable lease agreements with community schools to their advantage at the expense of those schools and the Ohio tax payers who fund their operation,” the report states.



According to the report, exempting charter schools from competitive bidding requirements has resulted in lease agreements significantly above market rates.

It also notes “unique constraints” charter schools face in their ability to acquire and pay for facilities that have prompted some to resort to methods that deserve scrutiny by the legislature.

It also recommends the enactment of stricter operating and transparency policies for management companies.

Access the full report online at:

[https://ohioauditor.gov/auditsearch/Reports/2019/
Community_School_Facility_Procurement_Public_Interest_Report.pdf](https://ohioauditor.gov/auditsearch/Reports/2019/Community_School_Facility_Procurement_Public_Interest_Report.pdf)