

As Introduced

**133rd General Assembly
Regular Session
2019-2020**

S. B. No. 292

Senator Blessing

A BILL

To amend section 3314.03 and to enact section 1
3314.261 of the Revised Code regarding student 2
attendance at internet- or computer-based 3
community schools that are not dropout 4
prevention and recovery schools. 5

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 3314.03 be amended and section 6
3314.261 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 7

Sec. 3314.03. A copy of every contract entered into under 8
this section shall be filed with the superintendent of public 9
instruction. The department of education shall make available on 10
its web site a copy of every approved, executed contract filed 11
with the superintendent under this section. 12

(A) Each contract entered into between a sponsor and the 13
governing authority of a community school shall specify the 14
following: 15

(1) That the school shall be established as either of the 16
following: 17

(a) A nonprofit corporation established under Chapter 18

1702. of the Revised Code, if established prior to April 8, 19
2003; 20

(b) A public benefit corporation established under Chapter 21
1702. of the Revised Code, if established after April 8, 2003. 22

(2) The education program of the school, including the 23
school's mission, the characteristics of the students the school 24
is expected to attract, the ages and grades of students, and the 25
focus of the curriculum; 26

(3) The academic goals to be achieved and the method of 27
measurement that will be used to determine progress toward those 28
goals, which shall include the statewide achievement 29
assessments; 30

(4) Performance standards, including but not limited to 31
all applicable report card measures set forth in section 3302.03 32
or 3314.017 of the Revised Code, by which the success of the 33
school will be evaluated by the sponsor; 34

(5) The admission standards of section 3314.06 of the 35
Revised Code and, if applicable, section 3314.061 of the Revised 36
Code; 37

(6) (a) Dismissal procedures; 38

(b) A requirement that the governing authority adopt an 39
attendance policy that includes a procedure for automatically 40
withdrawing a student from the school if the student without a 41
legitimate excuse fails to participate in seventy-two 42
consecutive hours of the learning opportunities offered to the 43
student. 44

(7) The ways by which the school will achieve racial and 45
ethnic balance reflective of the community it serves; 46

(8) Requirements for financial audits by the auditor of 47
state. The contract shall require financial records of the 48
school to be maintained in the same manner as are financial 49
records of school districts, pursuant to rules of the auditor of 50
state. Audits shall be conducted in accordance with section 51
117.10 of the Revised Code. 52

(9) An addendum to the contract outlining the facilities 53
to be used that contains at least the following information: 54

(a) A detailed description of each facility used for 55
instructional purposes; 56

(b) The annual costs associated with leasing each facility 57
that are paid by or on behalf of the school; 58

(c) The annual mortgage principal and interest payments 59
that are paid by the school; 60

(d) The name of the lender or landlord, identified as 61
such, and the lender's or landlord's relationship to the 62
operator, if any. 63

(10) Qualifications of teachers, including a requirement 64
that the school's classroom teachers be licensed in accordance 65
with sections 3319.22 to 3319.31 of the Revised Code, except 66
that a community school may engage noncertificated persons to 67
teach up to twelve hours per week pursuant to section 3319.301 68
of the Revised Code. 69

(11) That the school will comply with the following 70
requirements: 71

(a) The school will provide learning opportunities to a 72
minimum of twenty-five students for a minimum of nine hundred 73
twenty hours per school year. 74

(b) The governing authority will purchase liability 75
insurance, or otherwise provide for the potential liability of 76
the school. 77

(c) The school will be nonsectarian in its programs, 78
admission policies, employment practices, and all other 79
operations, and will not be operated by a sectarian school or 80
religious institution. 81

(d) The school will comply with sections 9.90, 9.91, 82
109.65, 121.22, 149.43, 2151.357, 2151.421, 2313.19, 3301.0710, 83
3301.0711, 3301.0712, 3301.0715, 3301.0729, 3301.948, 3313.472, 84
3313.50, 3313.536, 3313.539, 3313.5310, 3313.608, 3313.609, 85
3313.6012, 3313.6013, 3313.6014, 3313.6015, 3313.6020, 86
3313.6024, 3313.643, 3313.648, 3313.6411, 3313.66, 3313.661, 87
3313.662, 3313.666, 3313.667, 3313.668, 3313.67, 3313.671, 88
3313.672, 3313.673, 3313.69, 3313.71, 3313.716, 3313.718, 89
3313.719, 3313.7112, 3313.721, 3313.80, 3313.814, 3313.816, 90
3313.817, 3313.818, 3313.86, 3313.89, 3313.96, 3319.073, 91
3319.321, 3319.39, 3319.391, 3319.41, 3319.46, 3321.01, 92
3321.041, 3321.13, 3321.14, 3321.141, 3321.17, 3321.18, 3321.19, 93
~~3321.191~~, 3327.10, 4111.17, 4113.52, and 5705.391 and Chapters 94
117., 1347., 2744., 3365., 3742., 4112., 4123., 4141., and 4167. 95
of the Revised Code as if it were a school district and will 96
comply with section 3301.0714 of the Revised Code in the manner 97
specified in section 3314.17 of the Revised Code. 98

(e) The school shall comply with Chapter 102. and section 99
2921.42 of the Revised Code. 100

(f) The school will comply with sections 3313.61, 101
3313.611, 3313.614, 3313.617, 3313.618, and 3313.6114 of the 102
Revised Code, except that for students who enter ninth grade for 103
the first time before July 1, 2010, the requirement in sections 104

3313.61 and 3313.611 of the Revised Code that a person must 105
successfully complete the curriculum in any high school prior to 106
receiving a high school diploma may be met by completing the 107
curriculum adopted by the governing authority of the community 108
school rather than the curriculum specified in Title XXXIII of 109
the Revised Code or any rules of the state board of education. 110
Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first time 111
on or after July 1, 2010, the requirement in sections 3313.61 112
and 3313.611 of the Revised Code that a person must successfully 113
complete the curriculum of a high school prior to receiving a 114
high school diploma shall be met by completing the requirements 115
prescribed in division (C) of section 3313.603 of the Revised 116
Code, unless the person qualifies under division (D) or (F) of 117
that section. Each school shall comply with the plan for 118
awarding high school credit based on demonstration of subject 119
area competency, and beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, 120
with the updated plan that permits students enrolled in seventh 121
and eighth grade to meet curriculum requirements based on 122
subject area competency adopted by the state board of education 123
under divisions (J) (1) and (2) of section 3313.603 of the 124
Revised Code. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, the 125
school shall comply with the framework for granting units of 126
high school credit to students who demonstrate subject area 127
competency through work-based learning experiences, internships, 128
or cooperative education developed by the department under 129
division (J) (3) of section 3313.603 of the Revised Code. 130

(g) The school governing authority will submit within four 131
months after the end of each school year a report of its 132
activities and progress in meeting the goals and standards of 133
divisions (A) (3) and (4) of this section and its financial 134
status to the sponsor and the parents of all students enrolled 135

in the school. 136

(h) The school, unless it is an internet- or computer- 137
based community school, will comply with section 3313.801 of the 138
Revised Code as if it were a school district. 139

(i) If the school is the recipient of moneys from a grant 140
awarded under the federal race to the top program, Division (A), 141
Title XIV, Sections 14005 and 14006 of the "American Recovery 142
and Reinvestment Act of 2009," Pub. L. No. 111-5, 123 Stat. 115, 143
the school will pay teachers based upon performance in 144
accordance with section 3317.141 and will comply with section 145
3319.111 of the Revised Code as if it were a school district. 146

(j) If the school operates a preschool program that is 147
licensed by the department of education under sections 3301.52 148
to 3301.59 of the Revised Code, the school shall comply with 149
sections 3301.50 to 3301.59 of the Revised Code and the minimum 150
standards for preschool programs prescribed in rules adopted by 151
the state board under section 3301.53 of the Revised Code. 152

(k) The school will comply with sections 3313.6021 and 153
3313.6023 of the Revised Code as if it were a school district 154
unless it is either of the following: 155

(i) An internet- or computer-based community school; 156

(ii) A community school in which a majority of the 157
enrolled students are children with disabilities as described in 158
division (A) (4) (b) of section 3314.35 of the Revised Code. 159

(l) The school will comply with section 3321.191 of the 160
Revised Code, unless it is an internet- or computer-based 161
community school that is subject to section 3314.261 of the 162
Revised Code. 163

(12) Arrangements for providing health and other benefits 164
to employees; 165

(13) The length of the contract, which shall begin at the 166
beginning of an academic year. No contract shall exceed five 167
years unless such contract has been renewed pursuant to division 168
(E) of this section. 169

(14) The governing authority of the school, which shall be 170
responsible for carrying out the provisions of the contract; 171

(15) A financial plan detailing an estimated school budget 172
for each year of the period of the contract and specifying the 173
total estimated per pupil expenditure amount for each such year. 174

(16) Requirements and procedures regarding the disposition 175
of employees of the school in the event the contract is 176
terminated or not renewed pursuant to section 3314.07 of the 177
Revised Code; 178

(17) Whether the school is to be created by converting all 179
or part of an existing public school or educational service 180
center building or is to be a new start-up school, and if it is 181
a converted public school or service center building, 182
specification of any duties or responsibilities of an employer 183
that the board of education or service center governing board 184
that operated the school or building before conversion is 185
delegating to the governing authority of the community school 186
with respect to all or any specified group of employees provided 187
the delegation is not prohibited by a collective bargaining 188
agreement applicable to such employees; 189

(18) Provisions establishing procedures for resolving 190
disputes or differences of opinion between the sponsor and the 191
governing authority of the community school; 192

(19) A provision requiring the governing authority to 193
adopt a policy regarding the admission of students who reside 194
outside the district in which the school is located. That policy 195
shall comply with the admissions procedures specified in 196
sections 3314.06 and 3314.061 of the Revised Code and, at the 197
sole discretion of the authority, shall do one of the following: 198

(a) Prohibit the enrollment of students who reside outside 199
the district in which the school is located; 200

(b) Permit the enrollment of students who reside in 201
districts adjacent to the district in which the school is 202
located; 203

(c) Permit the enrollment of students who reside in any 204
other district in the state. 205

(20) A provision recognizing the authority of the 206
department of education to take over the sponsorship of the 207
school in accordance with the provisions of division (C) of 208
section 3314.015 of the Revised Code; 209

(21) A provision recognizing the sponsor's authority to 210
assume the operation of a school under the conditions specified 211
in division (B) of section 3314.073 of the Revised Code; 212

(22) A provision recognizing both of the following: 213

(a) The authority of public health and safety officials to 214
inspect the facilities of the school and to order the facilities 215
closed if those officials find that the facilities are not in 216
compliance with health and safety laws and regulations; 217

(b) The authority of the department of education as the 218
community school oversight body to suspend the operation of the 219
school under section 3314.072 of the Revised Code if the 220

department has evidence of conditions or violations of law at 221
the school that pose an imminent danger to the health and safety 222
of the school's students and employees and the sponsor refuses 223
to take such action. 224

(23) A description of the learning opportunities that will 225
be offered to students including both classroom-based and non- 226
classroom-based learning opportunities that is in compliance 227
with criteria for student participation established by the 228
department under division (H) (2) of section 3314.08 of the 229
Revised Code; 230

(24) The school will comply with sections 3302.04 and 231
3302.041 of the Revised Code, except that any action required to 232
be taken by a school district pursuant to those sections shall 233
be taken by the sponsor of the school. However, the sponsor 234
shall not be required to take any action described in division 235
(F) of section 3302.04 of the Revised Code. 236

(25) Beginning in the 2006-2007 school year, the school 237
will open for operation not later than the thirtieth day of 238
September each school year, unless the mission of the school as 239
specified under division (A) (2) of this section is solely to 240
serve dropouts. In its initial year of operation, if the school 241
fails to open by the thirtieth day of September, or within one 242
year after the adoption of the contract pursuant to division (D) 243
of section 3314.02 of the Revised Code if the mission of the 244
school is solely to serve dropouts, the contract shall be void. 245

(26) Whether the school's governing authority is planning 246
to seek designation for the school as a STEM school equivalent 247
under section 3326.032 of the Revised Code; 248

(27) That the school's attendance and participation 249

policies will be available for public inspection; 250

(28) That the school's attendance and participation 251
records shall be made available to the department of education, 252
auditor of state, and school's sponsor to the extent permitted 253
under and in accordance with the "Family Educational Rights and 254
Privacy Act of 1974," 88 Stat. 571, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, as amended, 255
and any regulations promulgated under that act, and section 256
3319.321 of the Revised Code; 257

(29) If a school operates using the blended learning 258
model, as defined in section 3301.079 of the Revised Code, all 259
of the following information: 260

(a) An indication of what blended learning model or models 261
will be used; 262

(b) A description of how student instructional needs will 263
be determined and documented; 264

(c) The method to be used for determining competency, 265
granting credit, and promoting students to a higher grade level; 266

(d) The school's attendance requirements, including how 267
the school will document participation in learning 268
opportunities; 269

(e) A statement describing how student progress will be 270
monitored; 271

(f) A statement describing how private student data will 272
be protected; 273

(g) A description of the professional development 274
activities that will be offered to teachers. 275

(30) A provision requiring that all moneys the school's 276

operator loans to the school, including facilities loans or cash 277
flow assistance, must be accounted for, documented, and bear 278
interest at a fair market rate; 279

(31) A provision requiring that, if the governing 280
authority contracts with an attorney, accountant, or entity 281
specializing in audits, the attorney, accountant, or entity 282
shall be independent from the operator with which the school has 283
contracted. 284

(32) A provision requiring the governing authority to 285
adopt an enrollment and attendance policy that requires a 286
student's parent to notify the community school in which the 287
student is enrolled when there is a change in the location of 288
the parent's or student's primary residence. 289

(33) A provision requiring the governing authority to 290
adopt a student residence and address verification policy for 291
students enrolling in or attending the school. 292

(B) The community school shall also submit to the sponsor 293
a comprehensive plan for the school. The plan shall specify the 294
following: 295

(1) The process by which the governing authority of the 296
school will be selected in the future; 297

(2) The management and administration of the school; 298

(3) If the community school is a currently existing public 299
school or educational service center building, alternative 300
arrangements for current public school students who choose not 301
to attend the converted school and for teachers who choose not 302
to teach in the school or building after conversion; 303

(4) The instructional program and educational philosophy 304

of the school; 305

(5) Internal financial controls. 306

When submitting the plan under this division, the school 307
shall also submit copies of all policies and procedures 308
regarding internal financial controls adopted by the governing 309
authority of the school. 310

(C) A contract entered into under section 3314.02 of the 311
Revised Code between a sponsor and the governing authority of a 312
community school may provide for the community school governing 313
authority to make payments to the sponsor, which is hereby 314
authorized to receive such payments as set forth in the contract 315
between the governing authority and the sponsor. The total 316
amount of such payments for monitoring, oversight, and technical 317
assistance of the school shall not exceed three per cent of the 318
total amount of payments for operating expenses that the school 319
receives from the state. 320

(D) The contract shall specify the duties of the sponsor 321
which shall be in accordance with the written agreement entered 322
into with the department of education under division (B) of 323
section 3314.015 of the Revised Code and shall include the 324
following: 325

(1) Monitor the community school's compliance with all 326
laws applicable to the school and with the terms of the 327
contract; 328

(2) Monitor and evaluate the academic and fiscal 329
performance and the organization and operation of the community 330
school on at least an annual basis; 331

(3) Report on an annual basis the results of the 332
evaluation conducted under division (D) (2) of this section to 333

the department of education and to the parents of students 334
enrolled in the community school; 335

(4) Provide technical assistance to the community school 336
in complying with laws applicable to the school and terms of the 337
contract; 338

(5) Take steps to intervene in the school's operation to 339
correct problems in the school's overall performance, declare 340
the school to be on probationary status pursuant to section 341
3314.073 of the Revised Code, suspend the operation of the 342
school pursuant to section 3314.072 of the Revised Code, or 343
terminate the contract of the school pursuant to section 3314.07 344
of the Revised Code as determined necessary by the sponsor; 345

(6) Have in place a plan of action to be undertaken in the 346
event the community school experiences financial difficulties or 347
closes prior to the end of a school year. 348

(E) Upon the expiration of a contract entered into under 349
this section, the sponsor of a community school may, with the 350
approval of the governing authority of the school, renew that 351
contract for a period of time determined by the sponsor, but not 352
ending earlier than the end of any school year, if the sponsor 353
finds that the school's compliance with applicable laws and 354
terms of the contract and the school's progress in meeting the 355
academic goals prescribed in the contract have been 356
satisfactory. Any contract that is renewed under this division 357
remains subject to the provisions of sections 3314.07, 3314.072, 358
and 3314.073 of the Revised Code. 359

(F) If a community school fails to open for operation 360
within one year after the contract entered into under this 361
section is adopted pursuant to division (D) of section 3314.02 362

of the Revised Code or permanently closes prior to the 363
expiration of the contract, the contract shall be void and the 364
school shall not enter into a contract with any other sponsor. A 365
school shall not be considered permanently closed because the 366
operations of the school have been suspended pursuant to section 367
3314.072 of the Revised Code. 368

Sec. 3314.261. This section shall not apply to an 369
internet- or computer-based community school in which a majority 370
of the students are enrolled in a dropout prevention and 371
recovery program. 372

(A) For purposes of this section, "instructional 373
activities" means the following classroom-based or nonclassroom- 374
based activities that a student is expected to complete, 375
participate in, or attend during any given school day: 376

(1) Online logins to curriculum or programs; 377

(2) Offline activities; 378

(3) Completed assignments within a particular program, 379
curriculum, or class; 380

(4) Testing; 381

(5) Face-to-face communications or meetings with school 382
staff or service providers; 383

(6) Telephone or video conferences with school staff or 384
service providers. 385

(B) (1) Each internet- or computer-based community school's 386
attendance policy adopted in accordance with division (A) (6) (b) 387
of section 3314.03 of the Revised Code shall specify that a 388
student is considered in attendance at the school when the 389
student satisfies either of the following conditions: 390

(a) The student participates in at least ninety per cent 391
of the hours of instructional activities offered by the school 392
in that school year; 393

(b) The student is on pace for on-time completion of any 394
course in which the student is enrolled. 395

(2) In the event that a student has thirty or more hours 396
of unexcused absences in any semester, the internet- or 397
computer-based community school in which the student is enrolled 398
shall submit a written report to the student's parent, guardian, 399
or custodian. 400

(C) Notwithstanding section 3321.191 of the Revised Code, 401
each internet- or computer-based community school shall develop 402
and adopt a policy regarding failure to participate in 403
instructional activities. The policy shall state that a student 404
shall become subject to certain consequences, including 405
disenrollment from the school, if both of the following 406
conditions are satisfied: 407

(1) After the student's parent, guardian, or custodian 408
receives a written report under division (B) (2) of this section, 409
the student fails to comply with the policy adopted under 410
division (C) of this section within a reasonable period of time 411
specified by the school; 412

(2) Other intervention strategies contained in the policy 413
adopted under division (C) of this section fail to cause a 414
student's attendance to comply with the policy. 415

(D) If an internet- or computer-based community school 416
disenrolled a student pursuant to a policy adopted under 417
division (C) of this section, the student shall not be eligible 418
to enroll in another internet- or computer-based community 419

school for one calendar year from the date of the student's 420
disenrollment. 421

(E) If an internet- or computer-based community school 422
disenrolls a student pursuant to a policy adopted under division 423
(C) of this section, the school shall do both of the following: 424

(1) Provide the student's parent, guardian, or custodian 425
with a list of alternative educational options available to the 426
student; 427

(2) Within forty-eight hours of the student's 428
disenrollment, notify the student's resident school district in 429
writing. 430

Section 2. That existing section 3314.03 of the Revised 431
Code is hereby repealed. 432