

**As Introduced**

**133rd General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2019-2020**

**H. B. No. 409**

**Representative Koehler**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Jones, Cupp, Patterson**

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**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

<u>Revised Code.</u>	163
(12) Arrangements for providing health and other benefits to employees;	164 165
(13) The length of the contract, which shall begin at the beginning of an academic year. No contract shall exceed five years unless such contract has been renewed pursuant to division (E) of this section.	166 167 168 169
(14) The governing authority of the school, which shall be responsible for carrying out the provisions of the contract;	170 171
(15) A financial plan detailing an estimated school budget for each year of the period of the contract and specifying the total estimated per pupil expenditure amount for each such year.	172 173 174
(16) Requirements and procedures regarding the disposition of employees of the school in the event the contract is terminated or not renewed pursuant to section 3314.07 of the Revised Code;	175 176 177 178
(17) Whether the school is to be created by converting all or part of an existing public school or educational service center building or is to be a new start-up school, and if it is a converted public school or service center building, specification of any duties or responsibilities of an employer that the board of education or service center governing board that operated the school or building before conversion is delegating to the governing authority of the community school with respect to all or any specified group of employees provided the delegation is not prohibited by a collective bargaining agreement applicable to such employees;	179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189
(18) Provisions establishing procedures for resolving disputes or differences of opinion between the sponsor and the	190 191

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. This division does not prohibit a disenrolled 421  
student from enrolling in another internet- or computer-based 422  
community school if a majority of the students of that school 423  
are enrolled in a dropout prevention and recovery program. 424

(E) If an internet- or computer-based community school 425  
disenrolls a student pursuant to a policy adopted under division 426  
(C) of this section, the school shall do both of the following: 427

(1) Provide the student's parent, guardian, or custodian 428  
with a list of alternative educational options available to the 429  
student; 430

(2) Within forty-eight hours of the student's 431  
disenrollment, notify the student's resident school district in 432  
writing. 433

**Section 2.** That existing section 3314.03 of the Revised 434  
Code is hereby repealed. 435