

2019-20

SPONSOR ANNUAL REPORT



Building Communities and Rebuilding Lives

"We envision a future where all students have access to a high quality public education."

Buckeye Community Hope Foundation

Education Division

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Buckeye Community Hope Foundation (BCHF) submits this annual report summarizing the performance of each of our sponsored schools in the areas of academic performance; fiscal performance; organization and operation; and legal compliance. Beyond this summary, the report is an important informational source for our stakeholders about the nature and progress of our sponsored schools. We are proud of our schools and all that they do to serve learners in the State of Ohio!



Who are we?

Buckeye Community Hope Foundation is a non-profit organization with a mission of **Building Communities and Rebuilding Lives**. In support of the mission of the overall Foundation, and as part of its commitment that all students should have access to quality educational opportunities, the mission of the Education Division is to establish strong public community schools by adhering to quality authorizing practices, ensuring responsible oversight, and setting high standards for school performance.

Buckeye Community Hope Foundation is a statewide community school sponsor. During the 2019-20 school year, BCHF sponsored and provided oversight and technical assistance to forty-seven (47) schools in eleven Ohio cities, serving over 14,465 students.

Our portfolio of sponsored schools included thirty-five (35) traditional brick-and-mortar community schools, one (1) school serving a majority of special needs students, and eleven (11) alternative drop-out prevention and recovery program schools, one of which is an online school.

Last year, we welcomed three new schools to our portfolio through transfer of sponsorship.

As a community school sponsor, we are responsible for ensuring that only schools with quality programs, schools that provide students with meaningful educational opportunities which prepare them for future success in life, stay open. We are also responsible for closing poor performing schools.

At the end of the 2019-20 school year, four of our sponsored schools ceased operations. Three schools were closed due to non-renewal of their sponsorship contract for low academic performance and one school was voluntarily closed by resolution of their Governing Board.

Academic performance data for our schools for 2019-20 was limited by a lack of Spring state and local testing related to the COVID-19 outbreak. However, available data indicates our schools are trending upward. The BCHF team continues to monitor school progress closely through multiple measures and offer high levels of support for school improvement and progress. We are committed to seeking a better future for the children that we serve.

We truly act on our vision statement, which reads, “*We envision a future where all students have access to a high quality public education.*”



What do we do?

As a sponsor we have the responsibility of overseeing each school’s compliance with all applicable laws and rules, the charter contract, and providing technical assistance to our sponsored schools.

Performance contracting:

BCHF has a charter contract with each of its sponsored schools. The sponsorship contract includes all legal requirements, as well as each school’s unique education plan, financial plan, and governance plan. Additionally, the sponsorship contract includes the Performance Accountability Framework that details areas of oversight on which schools will be assessed. The framework includes academic and non-academic goals specific to each school.

Commitment and capacity:

BCHF employs a team of eighteen (18) professionals, located throughout the state, with extensive experience in various disciplines. Our Education staff experience includes expertise in law, finance, education, special education, data analysis, compliance, and communications. Our accountability and school improvement representatives have subject expertise in all academic core content areas, school leadership, social-emotional learning/restorative justice, and classroom management. This Department also includes regular consultants for English learners and online course instruction/professional development.

Ongoing oversight and evaluation:

The oversight of our sponsored schools is a responsibility that BCHF takes seriously. Our team monitors and assesses each school’s performance against the performance frameworks and the terms of the contract. Annually, each school is provided a cumulative report that summarizes the school’s academic performance, fiscal performance, and organizational and operational performance. The annual performance report identifies areas of strengths as well as areas in need of improvement and the school’s prospect for renewal.

We gather information through a variety of resources including: bi-monthly on-site visits to schools; attendance at governing authority board meetings; monthly financial reviews conducted by a licensed school treasurer; on-going data assessment of student achievement and growth; ongoing reviews of state and federal law compliance, academics, special education, operations and finance; and ongoing technical assistance provided by a team of experts with years of experience spanning various disciplines.

Last year members of our team attended hundreds of governing board meetings and on-site visits to schools prior to the mandatory shutdown of school buildings. Team members continued technical assistance through virtual means through the end of 2019-20SY.



What is our emphasis?

Buckeye Community Hope Foundation emphasizes technical assistance in all aspects of schooling, with an emphasis on effective teaching and learning. Annually, we assess each school's needs and implement a work plan to support success for ALL students. This plan includes supports for needs that schools have in common, as well as individualized, targeted supports to meet each school's unique needs.

Supports for all schools. In 2019-20, supports for all schools were organized around the theme of "3R²: Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Relationship, Responsibility, and Regulation." This theme emphasized a deeper study of social-emotional needs and best practices in teaching and learning. The Annual School Leader Summit in June 2019 initiated this theme. The theme was continued at BCHF's All Schools Meeting in September 2019, which featured writer and life coach, Dr. Joelle Hood. BCHF's Accountability and School Improvement Department emphasized offerings on this theme in the *2019-20 Professional Development Catalog*.

Many other supports were offered. BCHF continued to facilitate networks of educators, based on a professional learning community model. These networks included educators involved with Special Education, English Learners, Early Literacy, K-8 Mathematics, Data Analysis, and Drop Out Recovery. BCHF regularly analyzed data for student learning through Fall and Winter analyses of schools' norm-referenced testing and SMART goal data. Spring data was not available due to the COVID shutdown. Additional, customized professional development and technical assistance services were available to all schools upon request.

Due to the significant needs of our schools to develop remote learning options, BCHF planned and implemented its first virtual 2-day Leadership Summit on the topic of "Best Practices in Remote Learning" in June 2020.

Targeted technical assistance. Targeted technical assistance was provided based on school assignment to a tier of support. Schools designated as Tier 1 exceeded academic performance metrics of the Sponsor contract. Tier 2 schools met academic performance metrics. Tier 3 schools did not meet academic performance metrics of the contract and were assigned to academic corrective action. Tier 0 schools were designated as "new or incubating schools."

Schools received two high-stakes review visits annually. These visits were tailored to individual school needs, and to the school's unique data profile. Visits included interviews with various school stakeholders, classroom observations, and review of school data. A profile of school strengths and needs was developed at each review meeting, with a plan for follow-up. Individualized technical assistance from BCHF was provided based on the follow-up plan.

Schools in the Tier 3 category were required to engage in root cause analysis, and to develop an academic corrective action plan approved by the Board and Sponsor. BCHF monitored progress in academic corrective action quarterly. Tier 3 schools also received a Comprehensive School Review involving a visit from a team of experienced educators. A formal report of this review was shared with school leaders and governing board members as input into improvement planning. Tier 0 schools also received a comprehensive review, with the focus being on start-up and sustainability.

Our strong record and sustained emphasis on high-quality teaching and learning aligns to BCHF's mission of establishing "strong public community schools by adhering to quality authorizing practices, ensuring responsible oversight, and setting high standards for school performance." We support our schools in a continuous improvement process with the overall aims of making all schools high quality and all students successful!



How are we doing as a Sponsor?

Each year the Ohio Department of Education conducts evaluations of sponsors in three equally weighted components (Academic Performance, Compliance and Quality Practices). We are pleased to share Buckeye Community Hope Foundation received the highest rating of Exemplary on its most recent Sponsor evaluation rating (2018-19).



How diverse is our portfolio of schools?

In 2019-20, BCHF-sponsored schools served a significantly-more diverse population of students than schools overall in the state of Ohio (Figure 1 below). Black Non-Hispanic students constituted 62.5% of the students in our schools whereas over half of students (68.2%) statewide were White Non-Hispanic.

Schools in our portfolio served increased numbers of English learners (10.6% of our portfolio student population). This percentage significantly exceeded the state's overall percentage of English learners, which was 3.6% in 2019-20, and the percentage in corresponding challenged districts to our schools (9.9%). Figure 2 displays this diversity. Note that subgroups under .1% were not displayed.

Students with disabilities in BCHF schools constitute 16.1% of the portfolio population, as compared with the statewide average of 15.4%.

Figure 2 also emphasizes that **nearly all** (94.7%) of students who attend schools sponsored by BCHF qualify as economically-disadvantaged as indicated by eligibility for free- or reduced-lunches.

Figure 1. Demographics of Students in BCHF Portfolio of Schools

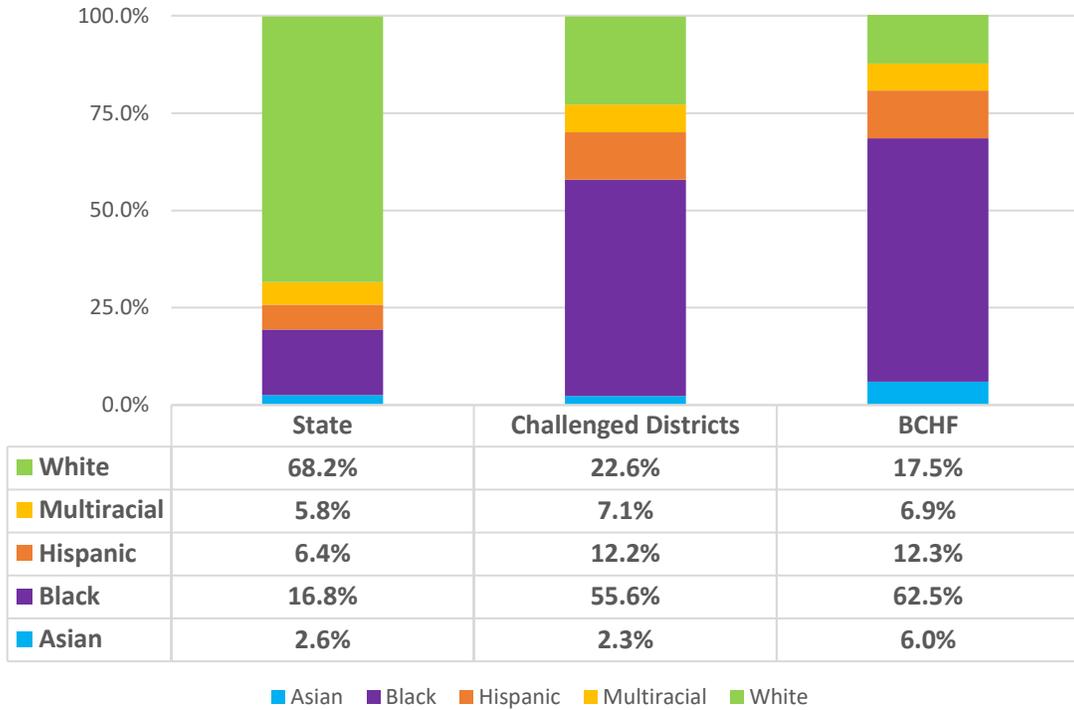
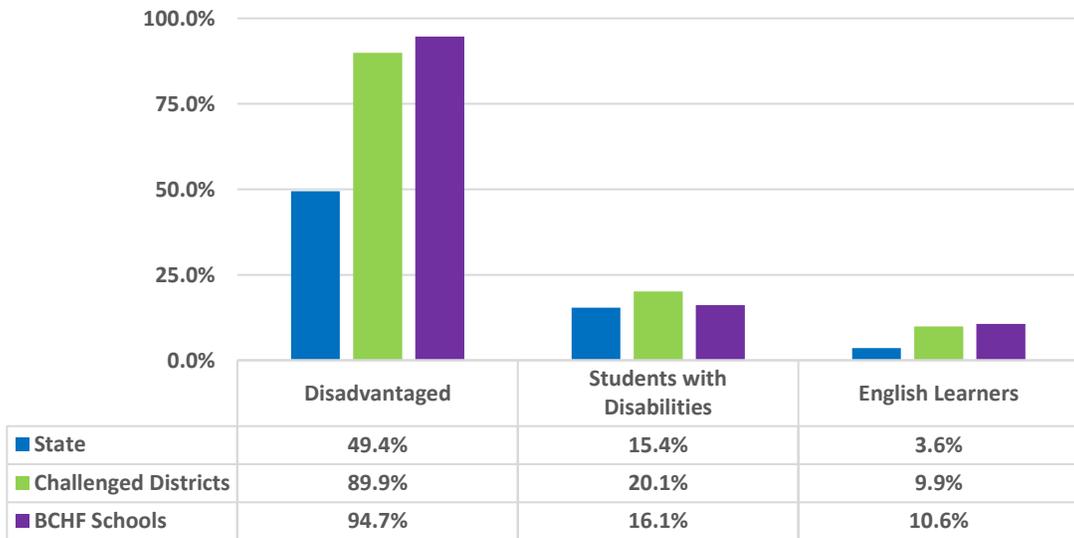


Figure 2. Other 2019-20 Demographic Data Students in BCHF Sponsored Schools



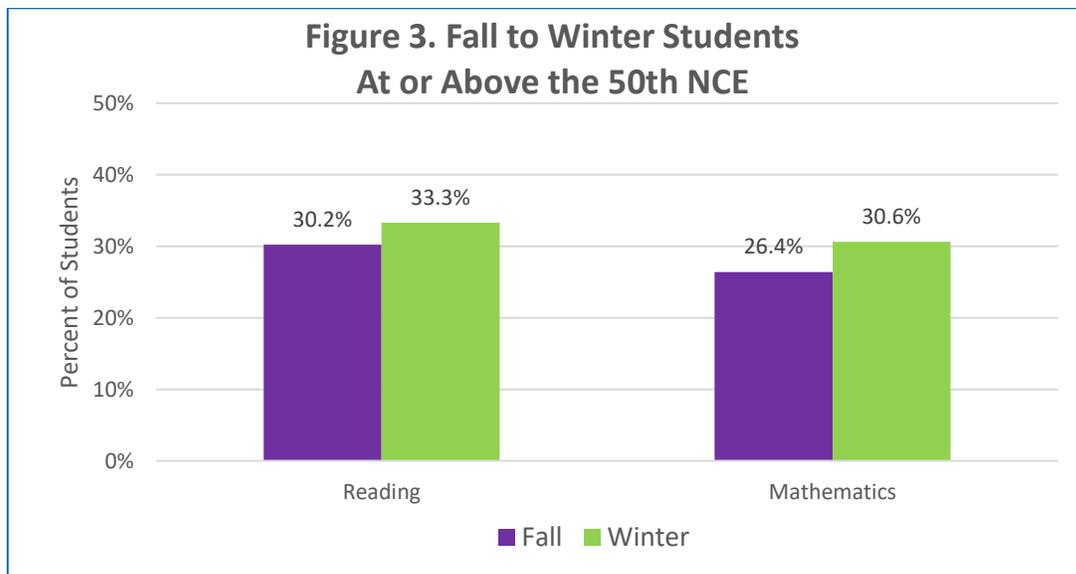


How are our schools performing?

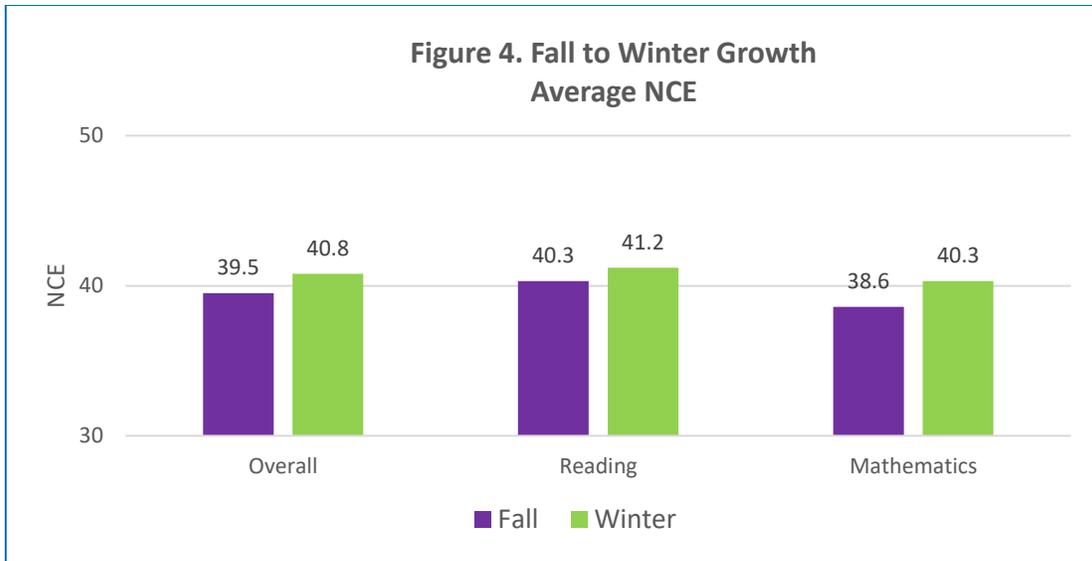
How are BCHF-sponsored schools performing?

BCHF continuously tracks multiple student academic performance measures including all Ohio report card measures, norm-referenced (local) test achievement and progress measures, achievement and chronic absenteeism rate, and SMART goal achievement. We also benchmark school performance with performance of respective challenged districts and statewide results. The lack of Spring state and local testing significantly reduced the academic data available for 2019-20. However, data supports that sponsored schools overall were making academic progress up to the point of the mandatory closure of school buildings in Spring 2020.

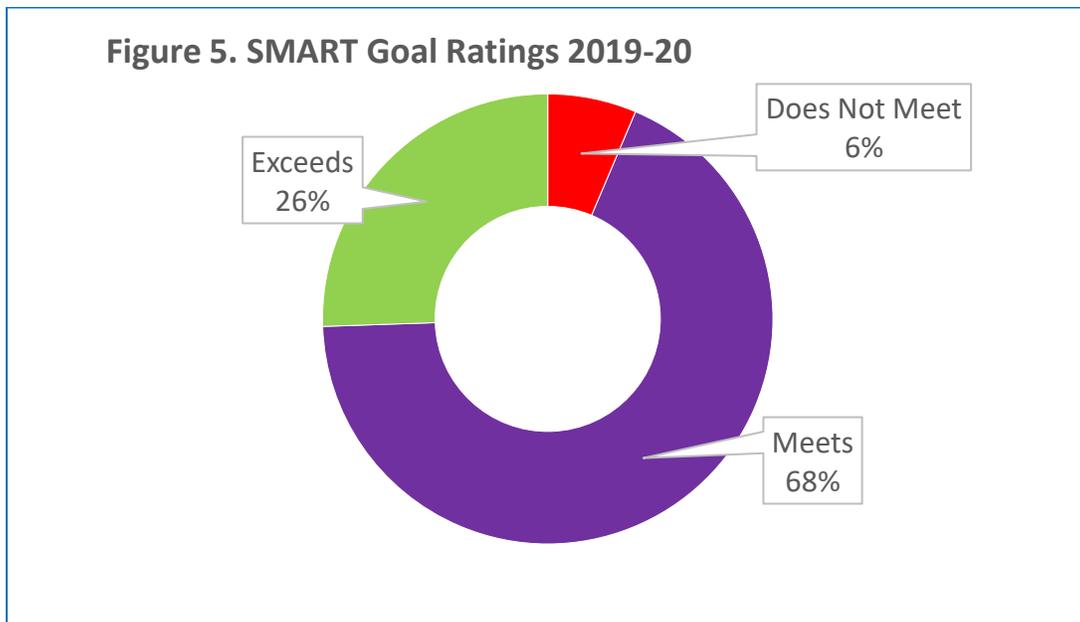
Each sponsored school administers norm-referenced testing in reading and mathematics at least twice annually. Norm-referenced testing data were available for all schools in Fall 2019 and for all but two sponsored schools in Winter 2020. BCHF was able to analyze achievement levels of students by looking at the percentage of students at or above the 50th percentile (grade level norm). As indicated in Figure 3, achievement levels in reading increased from 30.2% to 33.3% of students at or above the 50th percentile. Achievement levels in mathematics increased from 26.4% to 30.6%. While these results indicate improvement overall in student performance, they also underscore the fact that students in our schools still lag significantly behind their peers nationwide in these key academic subject areas.



BCHF was also able to analyze student growth in reading and mathematics on Fall to Winter norm referenced testing. Overall results in Figure 4 showed an average increase of 1.3 normal curve equivalents (NCE) from Fall to Winter, from 39.5 to 40.8. Growth in reading went from 40.3 to 41.2 (.9 NCE) and growth in mathematics went from an average NCE of 38.6 to 40.3 (1.7 NCE).



BCHF also challenges each sponsored school to set SMART goals that capture student outcomes related to each school’s unique mission. For example, schools may emphasize STEM/STEAM, the Arts, career-technical alternatives, or citizenship. A priority SMART goal is evaluated each year through data and information submitted by the school and onsite reviews. Ninety-four percent (94%) of our schools in 2019-20 met or exceeded their priority SMART goals, as shown in Figure 5 below.



It is gratifying to know that, even with more limited data, we have evidence that students in our schools were making progress and showing growth in 2019-20. Moreover, our schools were strongly aligned to their mission and to specific targets they set for the school year.



How is school performance assessed?

BCHF Assessment of School Performance 2019-20

The Ohio Department of Education requires all sponsors to annually evaluate, summarize and report on the performance and compliance of each of their sponsored schools in the areas of Academic Performance, Fiscal Performance, Organization and Operation and Legal Compliance. Schools receive a rating of either Meets, Exceeds or Did Not Meet expected performance in the areas of academic performance, fiscal performance and organization and operation. In the area of legal compliance schools receive a rating of Meets or Did Not Meet expected performance. Performance expectations for each sponsored school are defined in the charter contract.

Academic Performance – How the school performed on the academic contract goals

In evaluating academic performance, BCHF considers multiples measures, as indicated by the performance framework included in the charter contract. These measures include all Ohio report card data as well as mission-specific academic SMART goals, performance in comparison to the challenged district, performance to similar schools within the local market, norm-referenced test results, and attendance/performance of disaggregated groups. Ohio’s ordered school-building closure and subsequent emergency legislation had substantial impact on the state’s accountability system and School Report Cards for the 2019-2020 school year. For this reason, BCHF was unable to complete a full evaluation to the academic performance framework. Therefore, BCHF maintained schools’ academic performance ratings at the 2018-19 level except in cases where at least two more current (2019-20) data indicators would indicate improved performance. Five schools received an improved rating for 2019-20 based on new data. Available 2019-20 data indicators considered were: SMART goal attainment, high school graduation rates, chronic absenteeism improvement, norm referenced achievement levels, and growth in norm referenced results. Data for schools transferring into the portfolio was analyzed per the performance framework for 2018-19 data and the same 2019-20 available data was considered.

Fiscal Performance – How the school performed on its financial contract goals.

In evaluating a school’s Fiscal Performance, BCHF considers information from board approved financial reports, school’s monthly financial reviews, and information from independent sources such as the Auditor of State as well as information available through Ohio Department of Education (ODE). BCHF evaluates the schools on measures including: Current Ratio, Days, Cash on Hand, Operating Efficiency, Debt Management, Submission Timeliness and Accuracy, and Enrollment Management. A school rated “Exceeds” expected performance met or exceeded more than 70% of possible points from the fiscal performance framework. A school rated “Meets” expected fiscal performance scored 50-70% of possible points from the fiscal performance framework. A school rated “Did Not Meet” expected performance scored less

than 50 percent of possible points from the fiscal performance framework. *Schools placed on fiscal improvement plans were automatically rated as “Did Not Meet.”*

Organization and Operation – How the school performed on its governance duties and compliance with the community school contract.

In assessing a school’s organization and operational performance, BCHF considers the governing authority’s performance in conducting the required number of meetings and maintaining sufficient board minutes, complying with open meeting requirements, maintaining the required number of approved board members, fulfilling training requirements, monthly financial reviews and compliance with the governing authority’s Code of Regulations. A school rated “Exceeds” expected performance scored more than 90% of possible points from the performance framework. A school rated “Meets” expected performance scored 50-90% of possible points from the performance framework. A rating of “Did Not Meet” expected performance is assigned to schools that scored less than 50% of the possible points from the performance framework.

Legal Compliance – How the school performed on its legal requirements identified in statute and the community school contract.

BCHF evaluates a school’s performance on Legal Compliance based on the school’s compliance with legal requirements identified in statute and the community school contract and includes compliance items from the sponsor evaluation. A school rated “Meets” expected performance scored 80% or more of the possible points from the legal performance framework. A school rated “Did Not Meet” expected performance scored less than 80% of the possible points from the legal performance framework. **Schools that did not meet the legal indicator struggled primarily with Board training and this may have been partially due to accessibility of training during the statewide shutdown.** BCHF will make improvement in this area a priority in the coming year.

The results of BCHF’s Performance Assessment can be found in Table 1 that follows.

**Table 1. Buckeye Community Hope Foundation
Summary of School Performance 2019-20SY**

School Name	Academic Performance	Fiscal Performance	Organization & Operation	Legal Compliance
Academy for Urban Scholars - Youngstown	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Achieve Career Preparatory Academy	Exceeds ¹	Meets	Exceeds	Did Not Meet
Auglaize County Educational Academy	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets	Did Not Meet
Bennett Venture Academy	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Did Not Meet
Chapelside Cleveland Academy*	Did Not Meet	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Constellation Schools: Eastside Arts Academy	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Constellation Schools: Lorain Community Middle	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Constellation Schools: Old Brooklyn Community Middle	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Constellation Schools: Puritas Community Middle	Meets	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Constellation Schools: Stockyard Community Middle	Meets	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Constellation Schools: Westpark Community Middle	Meets	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Constellation Schools: Westside Community School of the Arts	Meets	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Dohn Community High School ⁺	Meets	Exceeds	Did Not Meet	Meets
Eagle Elementary	Meets	Did Not Meet	Exceeds	Did Not Meet
Flex High School	Meets	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Focus Learning Academy of Southeastern Columbus	Meets	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Focus Learning Academy of Southwest Columbus	Meets	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Focus North High School	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Great Western Academy	Meets	Exceeds	Exceeds	Did Not Meet
Hamilton County Mathematics & Science Academy	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Did Not Meet

* Denotes that the school closed at the end of the 2019-20 school year

⁺ Denotes the school was new to the BCHF portfolio in 2019-20.

¹Rating changed from 2018-19 due to two or more significantly improved data indicators.

**Table 1 continued. Buckeye Community Hope Foundation
Summary of School Performance 2019-20SY**

School Name	Academic Performance	Fiscal Performance	Organization & Operation	Legal Compliance
Horizon Science Academy Columbus Middle School	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Horizon Science Academy Dayton Downtown	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Horizon Science Academy Dayton High School	Did Not Meet	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Horizon Science Academy Elementary School	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Horizon Science Academy Lorain	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Horizon Science Academy Primary	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Horizon Science Academy Youngstown	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Imagine Akron Academy	Exceeds ¹	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Imagine Hill Academy	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Inspire Charter School Elementary*	Meets	Did Not Meet	Exceeds	Did Not Meet
International Academy of Columbus	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
L. Hollingworth School for the Talented and Gifted	Exceeds ¹	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Lincoln Park Academy	Did Not Meet	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Main Preparatory Academy	Did Not Meet	Did Not Meet	Exceeds	Meets
Noble Academy Cleveland	Exceeds ¹	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Noble Academy Columbus	Meets	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Promise Academy [†]	Meets	Meets	Exceeds	Meets
SMART Academy	Did Not Meet	Meets	Exceeds	Meets
Stambaugh Charter Academy	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
The Academy for Urban Scholars	Exceeds ¹	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
The Richland School of Academic Arts [†]	Exceeds ¹	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
University Academy*	Did Not Meet	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Village Preparatory School: Woodland Hills Campus	Meets	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets

* Denotes that the school closed at the end of the 2019-20 school year

† Denotes the school was new to the BCHF portfolio in 2019-20.

¹Rating changed from 2018-19 due to two or more significantly improved data indicators.

**Table 1 continued. Buckeye Community Hope Foundation
Summary of School Performance 2019-20SY**

School Name	Academic Performance	Fiscal Performance	Organization & Operation	Legal Compliance
Westside Academy	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Westwood Preparatory Academy	Meets	Exceeds	Exceeds	Meets
Winton Preparatory Academy*	Did Not Meet	Meets	Meets	Meets
YB Columbus Community School	Did Not Meet	Meets	Exceeds	Meets

* Denotes that the school closed at the end of the 2019-20 school year

+ Denotes the school was new to the BCHF portfolio in 2019-20.

¹Rating changed from 2018-19 due to two or more significantly improved data indicators.

Through our mission of “Building lives, rebuilding communities,” we feel a call to provide students with access to a successful future by giving them opportunities for an education that is a best fit and quality choice in the State of Ohio.



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