



To: GOAL Digital Academy Parents

Fr: Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center

Re: GOAL Digital Academy Annual Performance Report

Date: November 27, 2017

2016-2017 Sponsor Annual School Performance Report
for
GOAL Digital Academy

Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center provides oversight to GOAL Digital Academy as its sponsor.

Mid-Ohio ESC has completed file reviews of the school operations and school compliance relating to statutory and contractual requirements, including the continual updating of information through Epicenter. A representative of Mid-Ohio ESC attends GOAL Digital Academy Governing Board of Directors meetings to disseminate helpful information and to provide technical assistance, as needed.

GOAL Digital Academy (IRN-149047)

The vision of GOAL Digital Academy is to ignite students with the desire to achieve positive accomplishments, explore the world around them, and obtain a quality education. GOAL Digital Academy takes pride in creating flexible and innovative individual educational plans that support their students as they work to achieve their educational goals.

Mid-Ohio ESC has indicated below whether or not GOAL Digital Academy meets, exceeds, or did not meet the expected performance in the areas of 1-Academic Performance, 2-Fiscal Performance, and 3-Organization and Operation. In the area of 4-Legal Compliance, Mid-Ohio ESC is required to provide a rating of meets or did not meet.

Mid-Ohio ESC rates GOAL Digital Academy in these areas as follows:

1. Academic Performance – Meets

GOAL Digital Academy is a Dropout Prevention & Recovery Community School. On the 2016-2017 Local Report Card, the school met standards under the Dropout Recovery Report Card Model.

GOAL Digital Academy's **High School Test Passage Rate** for students who passed all five state tests was 62.6%, which met state standards, and an increase from the previous year's passage rate of 45.9%. When comparing GOAL to other Dropout Recovery Schools in Ohio in this area, GOAL exceeded the Comparison Group's average by 5.1% (average passage rate for students who attend Dropout Recovery Schools and who passed all five tests was 57.5%).

The **Gap Closing** rating, which shows how well all students are succeeding in English Language Arts, math, and graduation, regardless of income, race, ethnicity, or disability, met state standards. The Gap Closing rating uses Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) and compares the performance of GOAL's students in the three areas to the state's goals. GOAL received 29 points this year compared to 7.7 points received last year, which means they are improving on closing the achievement gaps that exist between groups of students.

The 4-year **Graduation Rate** for GOAL Digital Academy was 32.8%, exceeding the average of all Dropout Recovery Program Schools by 8%, but lower than last year's 4-year graduation rate of 42%. This percentage for GOAL Digital Academy improves when adding additional years to the graduation cohort (5-year graduation rate, 6-year graduation rate, 7-year graduation rate, 8-year graduation rate, and combined graduation rate), meeting standards for each one and again exceeding the average of all Dropout Recovery Program Schools in each category.

The **Progress** component of the report card looks at the growth that all students are making during the school year. GOAL Digital Academy's average progress for its students in math and reading, using the NWEA Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) test in grades 9-12, met state standards.

2. ***Fiscal Performance – Exceeds***

The fiscal office of the Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center prides itself on being a critical component of the organization in support of the Mid-Ohio ESC's mission: "to lead education through collaboration, customization and creativity". High standards of performance are set on all services provided by the ESC.

Fiscal performance is measured by solid work practices, accurate and timely financial reporting, sound internal controls and accountability. As a sponsor of GOAL Digital Academy, the ESC expects this same level of excellence in financial reporting and compliance from the school.

For the 2016-2017 school year, GOAL Digital Academy exceeded the expected performance level for fiscal performance as follows:

GOAL Governing Board of Directors approved financial reports – The GOAL Board approves all monthly financial reports.

- a. At each official meeting of the Board, the GOAL treasurer provides current financial statements (budget vs. actual), a detailed check payment report and an updated 5-year forecast (when appropriate) for approval. All financial reports presented for the 2016-2017 year were unanimously approved.

b. For the 2016-2017 school year, the school performed as follows:

Anticipated Revenue: \$3,590,750 Actual: \$3,674,977

Positive Variance: 2.35%

Anticipated Expenditures: \$3,867,000 Actual: \$3,887,156

Variance: (0.58%)

Liquidity/Ending Cash Balance: \$1,411,285 – equivalent to five months reserve. The Auditor of State has set the acceptable standard of two to three months reserve.

Debt to equity ratio: .31 (below .4 is considered good)

Auditor of State Audits – GOAL has a history of receiving excellent audit reports, which illustrates strong evidence of sound internal controls and accountability. An unqualified opinion was issued for 2015-2016 including no citations or findings for recovery. The audit for 2016-2017 is currently in process.

Financial Oversight and Review – A critical component of GOAL’s financial stability and success can be attributed to its strong leadership. The school’s superintendent and treasurer have many years of experience overseeing the school and its finances. Their knowledge and understanding of community school law and finance is thorough and current. GOAL performed well in 2016-2017 with operating revenue exceeding operating expenditures by \$186,982 and enrollment growing by over 8%.

3. *Organization and Operation – Meets*

GOAL Digital Academy is a Dropout Prevention & Recovery Community School. As such, GOAL Digital Academy works with local and regional districts to enroll students who are behind normal matriculation and academic progress and who are considering leaving their home school district. GOAL Digital Academy’s priority is to support each student with an educational plan designed to allow them to progress toward their educational goals and potential re-enrollment in their home school district. Thus, there is significant movement of students who enroll and leave the program to return to their home school district or to other educational settings.

GOAL Digital Academy in partnership with the sponsor follows the community school contract and meets compliance in all areas. GOAL Digital Academy Governing Board members have attended the Auditor of State training on Sunshine Laws, have completed paperwork for disclosure of conflicts of interest, and have been fingerprinted most recently as of September 2016. The Code of Regulations is followed in detail by the Governing Board of Directors for GOAL Digital Academy.

4. *Legal Compliance – Meets*

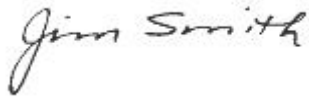
The Governing Board of Directors for GOAL Digital Academy meets regularly in oversight of the policies and procedures as implemented through the delivery of the educational services to students. The Board employs a treasurer who is knowledgeable of community school rules and responsibilities and provides appropriate reports to the

Board for analysis and review. The Board also employs a superintendent/principal who has expertise in the community school rules and regulations and monitors the delivery of service of the educational plan. As laws are enacted, such as House Bill 2, Mid-Ohio ESC monitors and implements all legal changes.

In the 2016-2017 sponsor evaluation rating, Mid-Ohio ESC received a compliance rating of exemplary, with a “total school misses” of six. Those six compliance items as well as all of the other compliance items mandated by law have been or will be reviewed during the 2017-2018 school year and approved by the GOAL Digital Academy’s Board to strengthen its mission of educating students. Adjustments to the contract for GOAL Digital Academy will be made to reflect any major compliance changes that are enacted by the Board.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this report, please contact me at 419-774-5520, ext. 2600.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Smith".

Jim Smith, Consultant
Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center
890 West 4th St.
Mansfield, Ohio 44906
smith.jim@moesc.net

cc: Linda T. Keller, Superintendent, Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center
cc: Patricia Jenkins, Superintendent/Principal, GOAL Digital Academy



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890 West Fourth Street, Suite 100, Mansfield, Ohio 44906 | Phone: 419-774-5520 | Fax: 419-774-5523 | www.moesc.net