



**2018-2019**  
**Sponsor Annual School Performance Report**  
**for**  
**GOAL Digital Academy**



## **GOAL Digital Academy**

### **School Sponsor: Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center 2018-2019 Sponsor Annual Report**

#### **Description of the School**

GOAL Digital Academy is a public online community school, serving students in grades K-12, with a curriculum written to the Ohio Academic Content Standards. GOAL is a Drop-Out Prevention and Recovery School (DOPR) designed especially for students who are credit deficient, with the majority of students enrolled between the ages of 16-21.

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.

GOAL Digital Academy offers an array of educational services and programs for its students. Special education services and intervention programs are provided and small resource room hybrid courses are offered for all students who are on an Individualized Educational Program (IEP).

Licensed teachers instruct GOAL Digital Academy's high school students, enabling them to earn an accredited high school diploma. Advanced placement courses and college credit are available. In addition to its standard curriculum, GOAL offers credit flexibility, drop-out prevention and credit recovery programs to its high school students. GOAL provides educational opportunities for students up to 21 years of age, and up to 23 years of age when the student is on an IEP.

Licensed teachers instruct GOAL's middle and elementary students (K-8), while parents provide support from home. GOAL's reading and math intervention programs help elementary and middle school students make multiple-year gains. Teachers act as partners with parents, who work with the students on a daily basis. Tutoring services in GOAL's learning labs are also available for all students.

There are seven physical locations/labs in Cardington, Delaware, Galion, Mansfield, Marion, Mt. Vernon, and Newark.

#### **Vision and Mission**

At GOAL Digital Academy, we ignite our students with the desire to achieve positive accomplishments, explore the world around them, and obtain a quality education.

Please consider this letter the fulfillment of the requirement of sponsors for community schools to submit the Sponsor Annual Report for the 2018-2019 school year.

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)**

Mid-Ohio ESC has indicated below whether or not GOAL Digital Academy exceeds, meets, 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 – Exceeds***

GOAL Digital Academy is a Dropout Prevention and Recovery Community School. On the 2018-2019 State Report Card, the school “Exceed Standards” under the Dropout Prevention and Recovery Report Card Model.

GOAL Digital Academy’s **High School Test Passage Rate** for students who passed all five state tests was 40.4%, which “Meets Standards,” and is a slight increase from the previous year’s passage rate of 40%. When comparing GOAL to other Dropout Prevention and Recovery Schools in Ohio in this area, GOAL’s High School Test Passage rate is slightly above the average passage rate of all Dropout Recovery Program Schools, which is 36.6%.

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, meets state standards. The Gap Closing rating uses Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) and compares the performance of GOAL’s students in the three areas above to the state’s goals. GOAL received 16.5% points this year compared to 5.2% points received last year, which is still in the “Meets Standards” range of 1.0 to 35.9%.

The overall **Graduation Rate** for GOAL Digital Academy was 42%, which “Exceeds Standards.” When comparing GOAL to other Dropout Prevention and Recovery Schools in Ohio in this area, GOAL’s overall graduation rate is better than the average overall graduation rate of all Dropout Recovery Program Schools, which is 30.8%. This year’s overall graduation rate of 42% is an increase from last year’s overall rate of 40.8%. The Graduation Rate component looks at the percent of students who are successfully finishing high school with a diploma in four, five, six, seven, or eight years.

| <u>GOAL Digital Academy’s Graduation Rate</u> | <u>All DOPR Program Rate</u> |
|---|------------------------------|
| • 4-Year – 37.3% (“Exceeds Standards”)        | 26.8%                        |
| • 5-Year – 39.2% (“Meets Standards”)          | 31.2%                        |

- 6-Year – 44.0% (“Exceeds Standards”) 31.7%
- 7-Year – 44.6% (“Exceeds Standards”) 33.4%
- 8-Year – 45.5% (“Exceeds Standards”) 30.7%

The **Progress** component of the report card looks at the growth 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, “Exceeds Standards.”

## 2. *Fiscal Performance – Meets*

The fiscal office of the Mid-Ohio ESC prides itself on being a critical component of the organization in support of the 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 2018-2019 school year, GOAL Digital Academy met the expected performance level for fiscal performance as follows:

**GOAL Digital Academy’s Governing Board approved financial reports** – The GOAL Digital Academy’s Governing Board of Directors approve all monthly financial reports.

- a. At each official meeting of the Board, the GOAL Digital Academy’s 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 2018-2019 year were unanimously approved.

### **Financial Performance for the 2018-2019 school year**

- b. Revenue
  - Anticipated: \$4,907,034
  - Actual: \$5,190,158
    - Variance: 5.4%
- c. Expenditures
  - Anticipated: \$5,613,733
  - Actual: \$5,414,484
    - Variance: -3.68%
- d. Liquidity/Ending Cash Balance:
  - June 30, 2019 = \$431,236
  - Equivalent to 29 days of operation, falling below the state’s standard of acceptable reserve of 60 to 90 days.

**Auditor of State audits** – GOAL Digital Academy has a history of receiving excellent audit reports, which illustrates strong evidence of sound internal controls and accountability. An unqualified opinion was issued for 2018-2019, including no citations or findings for recovery.

**Financial Oversight and Review** – A critical component of GOAL Digital Academy’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 experienced tremendous student growth in 2017-2018, from 446 FTE in the previous year to 633 FTE (+42%), and in 2018-2019, increased enrollment from the previous year by 40 students. While operating revenues exceeded expectations, resulting overall actual expenditures for 2018-2019 exceeded revenues by \$879,347.

**3. *Organization and Operation – Exceeds***

GOAL Digital Academy is a Dropout Prevention and 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 exceeds 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 all have been fingerprinted and maintain current licensure. 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 who has expertise in the community school rules and regulations and monitors the delivery of service of the educational plan. As laws are enacted, GOAL Digital Academy and Mid-Ohio ESC monitor and implement all legal changes.

In the 2018-2019 sponsor evaluation rating, Mid-Ohio ESC received a compliance rating of “Exemplary,” with a “total school misses” of three. Those three compliance items as well as all of the other compliance items mandated by law have been or will be reviewed during the 2019-2020 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,

*Jim Smith*

Jim Smith, Sponsor Liaison  
Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center  
890 West 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Mansfield, Ohio 44906

cc: Kevin Kimmel, Superintendent, Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center  
cc: Patricia Jenkins, Superintendent, GOAL Digital Academy  
cc: GOAL Digital Academy's Governing Board of Directors



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COLLABORATION, CUSTOMIZATION AND CREATIVITY**

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