



2019-2020

Sponsor Annual School Performance Report

GOAL Digital Academy

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GOAL Digital Academy

School Sponsor: Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center

2019-2020 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 Digital Academy is a Dropout 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 Digital Academy offers credit flexibility, drop-out prevention and credit recovery programs to its high school students. GOAL Digital Academy provides educational opportunities for students up to 21 years of age, and up to 22 years of age when the student is on an IEP.

Licensed teachers instruct GOAL Digital Academy's middle and elementary students (K-8), while parents provide support from home. GOAL Digital Academy'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 Digital Academy's learning labs are also available for all students.

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

Vision and Mission

GOAL Digital Academy ignites 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 2019-2020 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 Academic Performance, Fiscal Performance, and Organization and Operation. In the area of 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 – Not Rated

As an Ohio community school sponsor, Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center has a duty to monitor and provide oversight and technical assistance to all sponsored schools, which includes an assessment of each sponsored school's academic performance on an annual basis. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ohio ordered the closure of all schools, effective March 17, 2020, and canceled all in-person academic assessments and the release of report card ratings for the 2019-2020 school year. Largely because of the state-ordered closure and lack of academic data, Mid-Ohio ESC is unable to fully complete its assessment of the academic performance of its sponsored schools for the 2019-2020 school year.

GOAL Digital Academy is a Dropout Prevention and Recovery Community School. One of the measures or components reported on the 2019-2020 state report card that was not completely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic was the graduation rate. While a rating (Exceeds Standards, Meets Standards, Does Not Meet Standards) was not given for the overall graduation rate, nor the 4-year through 8-year or combined rates, the

Graduation Rate component did look at the percent of students who are successfully finishing high school with a diploma in four, five, six, seven, or eight years.

When comparing GOAL Digital Academy to all other Dropout Prevention and Recovery Programs in Ohio, GOAL Digital Academy's combined graduation rate (weighted average of 4- through 8-year graduation rates) of 44.6% is better than the combined graduation rate of all Dropout Prevention and Recovery Programs, which is 33.5%. GOAL Digital Academy's 2019-2020 combined graduation rate of 44.6% is an increase from the previous year's combined graduation rate of 42.0%.

<u>GOAL Digital Academy's Graduation Rates</u>	<u>All DOPR Program Graduation Rates</u>
4-Year – 40.8%	29.8%
5-Year – 48.1%	35.2%
6-Year – 44.3%	34.7%
7-Year – 45.7%	33.3%
8-Year – 45.3%	34.6%

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 Mid-Ohio 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, Mid-Ohio ESC expects this same level of excellence in financial reporting and compliance from the school.

For the 2019-2020 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 2019-2020 year were unanimously approved.

Financial Performance for the 2019-2020 school year

- b. Revenue
 - o Anticipated: \$5,173,000
 - o Actual: \$5,286,743
 - Variance: 2%

- c. Expenditures
 - Anticipated: \$5,339,747
 - Actual: \$5,359,707
 - Variance: <1%

- d. Liquidity/Ending Cash Balance:
 - June 30, 2020 = \$579,856
 - Equivalent to 39 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 Digital Academy 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. Operating revenues and expenditures were both very close to expectations, resulting in a net gain in general fund cash for 2019-2020 of \$148,397.

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. The Code of Regulations is followed in detail by the Governing Board of Directors for GOAL Digital Academy.

4. Legal Compliance – Meets

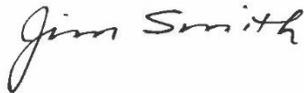
The Governing Board of Directors for GOAL Digital Academy meets regularly in oversight of the policies and procedures as implemented through the delivery of the educational services to students. The Board employs a treasurer who is knowledgeable of community school rules and responsibilities and provides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

Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center’s Sponsorship Contract with GOAL Digital Academy that expired on June 30, 2020, was renewed by both the Mid-Ohio ESC and GOAL Digital Academy’s Governing Board of Directors during the 2019-2020 school year. The current Sponsorship Contract with GOAL Digital Academy is in effect from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2025.

Adjustments to the contract for GOAL Digital Academy will be made to reflect any major compliance changes that are enacted by the Board or to reflect any changes in law and rules in the state of Ohio that pertain to Community Schools.

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

Sincerely,



Jim Smith, Sponsor Liaison
Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center
890 West Fourth Street
Mansfield, Ohio 44906

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



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COLLABORATION, CUSTOMIZATION AND CREATIVITY**

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