



**2020-2021**

**Sponsor Annual School Performance Report**

**for**

**GOAL Digital Academy**

Prepared by: Jim Smith, Sponsor Liaison

Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center  
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## **GOAL Digital Academy**

**School Sponsor: Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center**

### **2020-2021 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 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 Plan (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 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 elementary and middle school 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 at 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 School Performance Report for the 2020-2021 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 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 – Meets***

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, the annual Ohio Department of Education's state report card for the 2020-2021 school year did not have grades or ratings per Ohio law. Largely because of the lack of academic data, Mid-Ohio ESC is using GOAL Digital Academy's mission goals and the academic data that was available from the state report card to determine last year's Academic Performance rating.

The following mission goals are included in the Performance Framework for GOAL Digital Academy (students are surveyed to obtain results):

- Students develop good work habits such as being responsible, on time, and disciplined
- Students develop values of hard work, honesty, and tolerance of others
- Students use technology to find, organize, and present information
- Students establish both personal and career goals and
- Would you recommend your school to others?

In each of the five mission goals, GOAL Digital Academy received an Exceeds Standards based on the criteria that 50% or more of the students "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement (four ratings available: Exceeds Standards, Meets Standards, Approaching Standards, or Falls Far Below Standards).

One significant impact of the pandemic was an enrollment increase at GOAL Digital Academy especially among elementary school-aged students. This, though, caused GOAL Digital Academy to lose their dropout prevention and recovery report card designation because they no longer had a majority of students who were between the ages of 16 to 21. GOAL Digital Academy has applied for the Dropout Prevention and Recovery designation once again for the 2021-2022 school year. The school will be notified in January 2022 if they meet the requirements to receive the dropout prevention and recovery report card designation.

One of the measures or components reported on the 2020-2021 state report card that was not completely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic was the graduation rate. The Graduation Rate component looks at the percent of students who are successfully finishing high school with a diploma in four or five years. GOAL Digital Academy's 4-Year Graduation Rate of 40.8% and 5-Year Graduation Rate of 46.1% would have compared favorably to the 4-Year Graduation and 5-Year Graduation Rate average for Dropout Prevention and Recovery Schools of 29.8% and 35.2% respectively, but not favorably when compared to the state's 4-Year Graduation Rate of 87.2% and 5-Year Graduation Rate of 88.3%.

While the 2020-2021 state report card did not have grades or ratings, there were several academic highlights to which GOAL Digital Academy should be commended.

GOAL Digital Academy students participated in the first ever Summer Extended Learning Program, which was encouraged and supported by Governor Mike DeWine. Elementary students (grades 1-8) participated in an extension of the AIM course taken during the school year. AIM is an individualized reading and math course that provides each student with enrichment and intervention in his/her areas of strength/weakness. High school students were offered the opportunity to make up credit deficiencies in English, math, social studies, personal finance, health, physical education, and careers. Book Club activities were offered to all students as well. Each grade level received books to match their reading abilities and interests. Students read assigned sections and met virtually once a week to have group discussions and make connections to text. Over 60 students participated in the Summer Extended Learning Program.

The Class of 2021 earned 14 Industry Credentials, two in Digital Video using Adobe Premiere, two in Graphic Design and Illustration using Adobe Illustrator, one in CompTIA Network, one in CompTIA Security, and eight in State Tested Nursing Assistant. An industry-issued or recognized credential is a verification of a student's qualifications or competence and is one of three pathways for earning a high school diploma.

## 2. *Fiscal Performance – Meets*

The fiscal office of 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 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 year were unanimously approved.

### **Financial Performance for the 2020-2021 school year**

- b. Revenue
  - Anticipated: \$5,983,908
  - Actual: \$6,173,902
    - Variance: 3.2%
- c. Expenditures
  - Anticipated: \$5,654,000
  - Actual: \$5,666,067
    - Variance: <1%
- d. Liquidity/Ending Cash Balance:
  - June 30, 2021 = \$1,087,691
  - Equivalent to 69 days of operation, falling within 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 2019-2020, 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 during the 2020-2021 school year. Enrollment went from 680 FTE in the previous year to 769 FTE (+89). The increase in enrollments contributed to operating revenues far exceeding expectations, resulting in a net gain in general fund cash for 2020-2021 of \$507,835.

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

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 students 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. In 2020-2021, 45.4% of students, who, because they moved into or out of the district, did not spend a majority of the year within the district.

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.

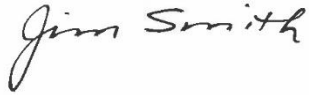
### ***4. Legal Compliance – Meets***

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 current Sponsorship Contract with GOAL Digital Academy is in effect from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2025. Throughout the term of the contract, adjustments/modifications 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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