



Memorandum | Department of Community School

Date: February 27, 2023
To: GOAL Digital Academy Administrators and Governing Board Members
From: Jim Smith, Sponsor Liaison and Mid-Ohio ESC Sponsoring Staff
Subject: February Monthly Updates

General Update

Hello Everyone,

As a sponsor of GOAL Digital Academy, one of the requirements is to collect data from stakeholder groups over the course of a school year. One of the stakeholder groups I recently collected data from was the students at GOAL Digital Academy. They were asked to complete a survey, with a total of 672 responses completed. This represented approximately 83% of the 804 active students enrolled at GOAL Digital Academy as of December 21, 2022. The sponsor wanted to obtain information on how students felt about the school. The results of the survey will be shared with GOAL Digital Academy's superintendent, and in turn, she will share the results with her faculty.

Below is a summary of the survey results, which are rounded to the nearest whole number. The actual graphs as well as comments made by the students are attached to this newsletter.

If you have any questions, please contact me. As always, thank you for all you do to support the students and staff at GOAL Digital Academy.

I like my school.

- a. 247 or 37% of the students strongly agree.
- b. 278 or 41% of the students agree.
- c. 116 or 17% of the students neither agree nor disagree.
- d. 9 or 1% of the students strongly disagree.
- e. 17 or 3% of the students disagree.
- f. 0 or 0% of the students replied, "not applicable."
- g. 5 or 1% of the students replied "other."

2. I feel successful at my school.

- a. 156 or 23% of the students strongly agree.
- b. 261 or 39% of the students agree.

- c. 162 or 24% of the students neither agree nor disagree.
 - d. 22 or 3% of the students strongly disagree.
 - e. 60 or 9% of the students disagree.
 - f. 4 or 1% of the students replied, “not applicable.”
 - g. 7 or 1% of the students replied “other.”
- 3. **At my school, I develop good work habits such as being responsible, on time, and disciplined.**
 - a. 149 or 22% of the students strongly agree.
 - b. 295 or 44% of the students agree.
 - c. 166 or 25% of the students neither agree nor disagree.
 - d. 11 or 2% of the students strongly disagree.
 - e. 41 or 6% of the students disagree.
 - f. 5 or 1% of the students replied, “not applicable.”
 - g. 5 or 1% of the students replied “other.”
- 4. **Staff members at my school treat students with respect.**
 - a. 346 or 51% of the students strongly agree.
 - b. 249 or 37% of the students agree.
 - c. 53 or 8% of the students neither agree nor disagree.
 - d. 7 or 1% of the students strongly disagree.
 - e. 6 or 1% of the students disagree.
 - f. 5 or 1% of the students replied, “not applicable.”
 - g. 6 or 1% of the students replied “other.”
- 5. **At my school, I develop values of hard work, honesty, and tolerance of others.**
 - a. 204 or 30% of the students strongly agree.
 - b. 321 or 48% of the students agree.
 - c. 122 or 18% of the students neither agree nor disagree.
 - d. 2 or 0% of the students strongly disagree.
 - e. 15 or 2% of the students disagree.
 - f. 4 or 1% of the students replied, “not applicable.”
 - g. 4 or 1% of the students replied “other.”
- 6. **I feel safe in my school.**
 - a. 300 or 45% of the students strongly agree.
 - b. 285 or 42% of the students agree.
 - c. 68 or 10% of the students neither agree nor disagree.
 - d. 3 or 0% of the students strongly disagree.
 - e. 6 or 1% of the students disagree.
 - f. 4 or 1% of the students replied, “not applicable.”
 - g. 6 or 1% of the students replied “other.”

7. **Staff members really care about me.**
 - a. 262 or 39% of the students strongly agree.
 - b. 286 or 43% of the students agree.
 - c. 95 or 14% of the students neither agree nor disagree.
 - d. 7 or 1% of the students strongly disagree.
 - e. 8 or 1% of the students disagree.
 - f. 8 or 1% of the students replied, "not applicable."
 - g. 6 or 1% of the students replied "other."
8. **Staff members and other adults at my school listen to students' ideas about the school.**
 - a. 229 or 36% of the students strongly agree.
 - b. 280 or 42% of the students agree.
 - c. 124 or 18% of the students neither agree nor disagree.
 - d. 4 or 1% of the students strongly disagree.
 - e. 8 or 1% of the students disagree.
 - f. 17 or 3% of the students replied, "not applicable."
 - g. 10 or 1% of the students replied "other."
9. **I attend school regularly and try not to be absent.**
 - a. 220 or 33% of the students strongly agree.
 - b. 265 or 39% of the students agree.
 - c. 128 or 19% of the students neither agree nor disagree.
 - d. 12 or 2% of the students strongly disagree.
 - e. 26 or 4% of the students disagree.
 - f. 11 or 2% of the students replied, "not applicable."
 - g. 10 or 1% of the students replied "other."
10. **My school provides me with technologies to find, organize, and present information.**
 - a. 300 or 45% of the students strongly agree.
 - b. 314 or 47% of the students agree.
 - c. 43 or 6% of the students neither agree nor disagree.
 - d. 2 or 0% of the students strongly disagree.
 - e. 7 or 1% of the students disagree.
 - f. 2 or 0% of the students replied, "not applicable."
 - g. 4 or 1% of the students replied "other."
11. **My school assists me in establishing both personal and career goals.**
 - a. 245 or 36% of the students strongly agree.
 - b. 319 or 47% of the students agree.
 - c. 82 or 12% of the students neither agree nor disagree.
 - d. 5 or 1% of the students strongly disagree.
 - e. 10 or 1% of the students disagree.
 - f. 7 or 1% of the students replied, "not applicable."
 - g. 4 or 1% of the students replied "other."

12. I would recommend my school to others?

- a. 606 or 90% of the students replied “yes.”
- b. 39 or 6% of the students replied “no.”
- c. 27 or 4% of the students replied “other.”

Legislative and Policy Updates

After what some may consider having been a bit of a dysfunctional beginning to the 135th General Assembly, the Ohio House of Representatives got to work during February. Leadership appointments and committee assignments have been made. Over 60 bills have been introduced for initial consideration by the Chamber.

The two most important committees in both chambers (the House and the Senate) for K-12 educators are likely the **Education** (Primary and Secondary Education in the House*) and the **Finance** committees. The House **Primary and Secondary Education Committee** will be led by Representative Bird (Chair), Rep. Fowler-Arthur (Vice Chair), and Rep. Lightbody (Ranking Member**). Rep. Bird has a long history of service as a public-school teacher, building administrator, and superintendent. Prior to being elected to the Ohio House, Rep. Fowler-Arthur served on the State Board of Education. She was home educated. Rep. Lightbody has many years of service as a public-school teacher and college level instructor. The complete membership of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee may be viewed at: <https://ohiohouse.gov/committees/primary-and-secondary-education> (click on each member's picture to learn more about her/him).

The House **Finance Committee** is chaired by Rep. Edwards. The Vice Chair is Rep. LaRe and the Ranking Member is Rep. Sweeney. The Finance Committee is divided into several subcommittees focused on areas of the Budget. The **Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education** is chaired by Rep. Richardson with Rep. Isaacsohn serving as Ranking Member. Visit: <https://ohiohouse.gov/committees/finance-subcommittee-on-primary-and-secondary-education> for more information regarding the members of the Primary and Secondary Education Sub-Committee. Visit: <https://ohiohouse.gov/committees/finance> for more information about the members of the full committee.

Senator Brenner is Chair of the Senate **Education Committee***. Other senators helping to lead the Committee are Senator O'Brien (Vice Chair) and Senator Ingram (Ranking Member**). All three leaders bring to the Committee experience in the field. Senator Brenner has previously chaired this committee. He holds a Master of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus in Leadership. Senator O'Brien holds both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Education. She has taught at both the elementary school level and at the college level. Senator Ingram brings to the Committee over 20 years of service on the Cincinnati Board of Education. She is a former member of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of the Ohio School Boards Association. More information on Committee members can be found at: <https://ohiosenate.gov/committees/education>.

Unlike the House Finance Committee, **Senate Finance** does not have subcommittees. Committee leadership includes two very experienced legislators: Senator Dolan

(Chair) and Senator Sykes (Ranking Member). The third member of committee leadership, Senator Cirino, is in his first term as a state senator. If you would like to know more about the members of this committee visit: <https://ohiosenate.gov/committees/finance>.

Recently Introduced Legislation

Ohio House

Although over 60 bills were introduced into the House during February for consideration, many of the proposals relating to primary and secondary education represent a reintroduction of bills that were considered during the 134th General Assembly but did not complete the legislative process prior to the sunset of the 134th. For instance:

HB-12 reintroduces the idea of creating a new department under the Governor, the Department of Education and Workforce, that would assume most of the responsibilities of the current Department of Education and the State Board of Education.

HB-9 reintroduces Rep. Lightbody's proposal to create the *Grow Your Own Teacher Program*.

New Proposals Introduced for House Consideration

HB-33 - The Biennial Budget. As you might suspect this bill is quite lengthy, even the LSC analysis of the bill is well over 300 pages. The LSC analysis may be viewed at: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=20391&format=pdf>. The analysis of the provisions related to primary and secondary education may be read on pages 84-106.

HB-38 seeks to give schools permission to grant students up to three mental health days per school year. A doctor's excuse would not be needed, and the time missed would not be considered in the calculation of hours of absence for the purpose of parental notification. Once a student uses a mental health day, the school may refer him/her for appropriate school support services. Schools could prohibit the use of a mental health day on certain days, such as when standardized testing is being conducted.

HB-46 seeks to require educators to report their district/school of employment when applying for their license. In the long term, ODE would be required to develop a system so that educators could annually report this information.

HB-47, if enacted, would expand the availability of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and the people trained to use them. Schools would be required to develop a plan for the use of an AED (or adopt the plan that the Ohio Department of Health will be required to develop).

HB-11, if approved, would eliminate the EdChoice Scholarship program, and direct the State Treasurer to open special savings accounts for eligible students funded with state money. Funds in these accounts could be used to pay for tuition, purchase textbooks, access to tutoring services, etc.

In the Senate

SB 17 seeks to require the ODE to develop standards for the instruction of concepts related to "free market capitalism" and incorporate those standards into the model curriculum related to financial literacy. Certain concepts, such as the forms of private ownership of capital, market prices and supply and demand, and free market societies and political/personal freedom, would be required to be included.

SB-49, the Religious Expression Days (RED) Act, if enacted, would compel schools to grant teachers up to three days of leave per year for "sincerely held religious beliefs."

You can view these bills as introduced and/or their LSC (Legislative Services Commission) analysis, at: <https://ohiohouse.gov/legislation/search>

* While the House has separate committees for the initial consideration of proposals related to primary and secondary education, and higher education, the Ohio Senate has a single committee that initially considers proposals related to education (Pre-K-16/20)

** Committee chairs and vice chairs are members of the chamber's majority party, ranking members are drawn from the chamber's minority party.



CONFIDENTLY LEADING THROUGH
COLLABORATION, CUSTOMIZATION AND CREATIVITY

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