



## **Memorandum** | Department of Community School

Date: January 28, 2022  
To: GOAL Digital Academy Administrators and Governing Board Members  
From: Jim Smith, Sponsor Liaison and Mid-Ohio ESC Sponsoring Staff  
Subject: January Monthly Updates

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### **General Update**

Hello Everyone,

GOAL Digital Academy was notified on January 13, 2022, that based on the school's 2021-2022 enrollment data as reported in the Ohio Department of Education's Educational Management Information System (EMIS), the school met the requirements to receive the dropout prevention and recovery report card designation.

Based on the data submitted, 50.3% of the students the school serves are between the ages of 16 and 21. This enrollment percentage meets the requirements that a majority, or more than 50% of the students enrolled in the dropout prevention and recovery program, are between the ages of 16 and 21 as required by the Ohio Administrative Code 3301-102-10(A)(2)(a).

GOAL Digital Academy will receive the dropout prevention and recovery report card designation for the 2021-2022 school year. The school is required to apply for this designation annually.

Also, every year, districts and community schools receive the Special Education Profiles report displaying their performance on key indicators established by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The Special Education Profile helps schools facilitate continuous improvement in their special education programs with longitudinal data. The data are organized around five essential questions, with a total of 15 key indicators addressing the following: assessing kindergarten readiness, achievement levels, preparedness for life beyond high school, services for children with disabilities, and equitable services and supports.

The profile also informs schools of any required activities based on these indicators. According to the report (based on 2020-2021 data) emailed to GOAL Digital Academy on December 16, 2021, all indicators were Met or Not Rated.

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.

## Legislative and Policy Updates

The **Ohio Department of Education (ODE)** is currently accepting public comment regarding several proposed rule changes, including:

1. The Local Report Card - comments due 2/9/2022
2. Blended/Online Learning - comments due 2/16/2022
3. Standards for School Counselors - comments due 2/21/2022 (for specific information regarding the standards being proposed for school counselors visit ODE's counselor standards web page: <https://education.ohio.gov/Media/Ed-Connection/Jan-18-2022/Public-comment-open-for-proposed-addition-to-Ohio>.)

ODE has put in place a general web page (<https://education.ohio.gov/About/Ohio-Administrative-Code-OAC-Rule-Comments>) with information about rules open for public comments, how to submit comments, etc. Specific information concerning proposed rules related to the Local Report Card and blended/online learning can be found on this page.

The **Ohio House of Representatives** is currently considering legislation (**HB 447**) related to eligibility for Workers' Compensation benefits. This legislation could impact schools with employees working from home. If enacted, HB 447 would limit Workers' Compensation claims filed by work-at-home employees to claims meeting all three of the following criteria:

- the injury/disability arises out of the employee's employment,
- the employee's employment necessarily exposes her/him to conditions that substantially contribute to the risk of injury/disability, and
- the injury/disability is sustained during an activity undertaken for the exclusive benefit of the employer.

HB 447 has been assigned to the Insurance Committee for initial consideration. The committee has heard supporting testimony from both the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Independent Businesses. An analysis of HB 447 as introduced can be found at: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=17667&format=pdf>.

**HB 529**, newly introduced legislation related to school curriculum, has been assigned to the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee for initial consideration. As of this writing, the committee has not conducted any hearings on the proposal. If enacted, HB 529 would require schools to post course syllabi, identify textbooks and other instructional materials, and provide information about instruction. Public universities participating in College Credit Plus would need to post similar information for any course enrolling a secondary student. An analysis of HB 529 is available on the web at: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=18221&format=pdf>.

**SB 276**, which was introduced in the **Ohio Senate** just prior to the winter holidays, seeks to permit the use of sick leave for parental leave. Under the provisions of the bill, an employee who accrues sick leave daily would be able to use up to 60 days of accrued sick leave for parental leave. Employees accruing sick leave on an hourly basis could use up to 480 sick leave hours for parental leave. Members of the Senate's Primary and Secondary Education Committee will be the first members to consider SB 276. The committee, however, has not yet received any testimony supporting or opposing this legislation. As of this writing, an analysis of SB 276 is not available; however, the full text of the proposal can be viewed at: [https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general\\_assembly\\_134/bills/sb276/IN/00/sb276\\_00\\_IN?format=pdf](https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general_assembly_134/bills/sb276/IN/00/sb276_00_IN?format=pdf).

The Senate's Insurance Committee has been assigned **SB 280** for initial consideration. Although the committee has not received any testimony on SB 280, as of this writing, retired educators and educators approaching retirement are sure to have interest in this bill as it seeks to permit the STRS Board to grant COLA increases above the statutory cap when certain conditions are met. STRS benefit recipients have not received a COLA increase in several years. The full text of SB 280 may be viewed at: [https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general\\_assembly\\_134/bills/sb280/IN/00/sb280\\_00\\_IN?format=pdf](https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general_assembly_134/bills/sb280/IN/00/sb280_00_IN?format=pdf). As of this writing an analysis of the bill is not yet available.

The **Occupational Safety and Health Administration** (OSHA) has taken steps to rescind previous OSHA rules related to COVID vaccinations concerning large employers. Details of OSHA's action can be reviewed at: <https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2022-01532.pdf>. Ohio Attorney General Yost's statement concerning OSHA's action to withdraw the vaccine mandate may be viewed at: <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/January-2022/AG-Yost-s-Statement-on-OSHA-s-Decision-to-Withdraw>.

Over the past year the **U.S. Department of Education** has provided guidance and funding to help schools safely reopen and meet the needs of students. Recently, the Department released a fact sheet to review the steps taken over the year by the U.S. Department of Education to assist schools - see: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USED/bulletins/306c876>.



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