



## Annual Performance Report for Contract Renewal

Name of Sponsor: Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center

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Name of Community School: GOAL Digital Academy

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School Year: 2021-2022

The Annual Performance Report is part of the Contract Renewal process. The sponsor annually provides GOAL Digital Academy with a cumulative report that summarizes the school's academic record and its fiscal and organizational/operational performance against the terms of the contract. This report identifies areas of strength and areas identified for improvement.

The state's education community has experienced unprecedented impacts due to the coronavirus pandemic during the past two years. Due to the ordered school-building closures statewide during the 2019-2020 school year and the disruptions that occurred again during the 2020-2021 school year due to the pandemic, the state report card for the second year in a row looked different than in prior years. Even though there is data available, per Ohio law, there were no ratings issued for the second year in a row.

The current community school contract between the Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center and GOAL Digital Academy expires on June 30, 2025.

The Annual Performance Report evaluation is considered using a five (5) point scale as found below.

<b>Excellent</b> <b>5</b>	<b>Very Good</b> <b>4</b>	<b>Good</b> <b>3</b>	<b>Fair</b> <b>2</b>	<b>Poor</b> <b>1</b>
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The school's rating for individual components of the Performance Framework that summarizes the school's academic, fiscal, and organizational/operational record for multiple years over the contract term will be provided to the governing board members and to the administrative team in May.

## 1. Academic Accountability

How is the school performing in relation to the Educational Plan and Performance Framework?

5

4

3

2

1

Comments: GOAL Digital Academy did meet the requirement this year to receive the Dropout Prevention and Recovery (DOPR) report card designation. To receive this designation, a school must enroll more than 50% of students between the ages of 16 and 21 as required by the Ohio Administrative Code 3301-102-10(A)(2)(a). Based upon the data, 50.3% of students enrolled at GOAL Digital Academy this year met this threshold.

Schools who receive the DOPR status must administer the Renaissance STAR assessments in English language arts and mathematics twice a year to generate student growth reports per state law. Dropout Prevention and Recovery Schools must test all students in grades 9 and higher who enroll at the beginning of the school year within the first few weeks of the school year. Students who enroll after the fall testing window must test immediately upon entry into the school. Students who are enrolled for at least 13 weeks must test again after a minimum of 13 weeks of instruction for growth determination.

GOAL Digital Academy will provide the sponsor with the Star Growth Report that shows growth of students over time, with emphasis on Student Growth Percentile, at the end of the current school year. This information will be shared with governing board members as well as the school's administrative team.

As mentioned previously, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were no report card ratings issued for the 2020-2021 school year. The school's Performance Framework this year indicates that GOAL Digital Academy is exceeding their mission specific goals. The school's academic, financial, and organizational/operational performance ratings over multiple years can be found in the Performance Framework that will be provided to the governing board members and the school's administrative team in May.

Note: *The last time the state issued report card ratings for schools was during the 2018-2019 school year. At that time, GOAL Digital Academy received an overall school rating of Exceeds Standards, with the subcategories of High School Test Passage Rate and Gap Closing both earning a rating of Meets Standards while the subcategories of Progress and Graduation Rate each received a rating of Exceeds Standards.*

## 2. Financial Health

Rate the degree to which the school performed its obligations noted in the Financial Plan of the Contract (Exhibit 1, Part B.).

5

4

3

2

1

Comments: The March 2022 FTE is 711, which is 65 FTE lower than the same period last year as GOAL Digital Academy returned to pre-COVID enrollment. FY21 showed higher FTE numbers because of increased online education methods chosen by families. Improving revenues in FY21 with the higher FTE, and while controlling expenditures, has boosted unreserved fund balance. GOAL Digital Academy continues to meet its obligations including ODE's "clawback" amounts for FY20 and FY21 (remaining balance of \$258,534 as of March 2022). Federal ESSER funds have helped to improve the financial position. Continued monitoring will be essential as the impact of temporary higher enrollments and federal stimulus money runs out.

### 3. Technical Assistance, Monitoring, and Intervention

Rate the frequency and degree of severity of these processes. Have any Corrective Action Plans (CAP's) or probationary notices been issued?

5

4

3

2

1

Comments: During the 2021-2022 school year, GOAL Digital Academy has had a few minor areas needing improvement as indicated during the Onsite Visit Reviews that took place on November 30 and December 2, 2021, and March 16 and 18, 2022. Also, there have been a few minor areas that needed to be addressed during several of the monthly Enrollment/Attendance Reviews. GOAL Digital Academy has responded within the timeframe to correct the issues noted on the Onsite Visit Review reports and the Enrollment/Attendance Review reports.

### 4. Enrollment

Rate the level of student retention/transiency during the life of the contract (see Enrollment and Staffing Projections in contract).

5

4

3

2

1

Comments: GOAL Digital Academy has seen a slight decrease in enrollment of approximately 45 FTEs from this same period last year. The March 2022 FTE of 731.85 is below the March 2021 FTE of 776.31 but is above the projected enrollment estimation of 725 for the 2021-2022 school year as indicated in Exhibit 1 in the Education Plan of the contract. The decrease in enrollment has occurred in the elementary grades as some younger students have transferred back to their residential districts once the COVID-19 pandemic lessened and brick and mortar schools returned to the classroom.

As stated earlier, GOAL Digital Academy met the requirements this year to receive the dropout prevention and recovery report card designation. Based on the data submitted, 50.3% of the students the school serves this year are between the ages of 16 and 21 (last school year, only 44.2% of the students enrolled were between the ages of 16 and 21). This is another indication that there are fewer students below the age of 16 enrolled at GOAL Digital Academy this year.

## 5. Governance Functioning and Compliance

Rate the overall leadership of the governing authority.

5

4

3

2

1

Comments: The governing authority is very committed to the school and students. GOAL Digital Academy's Governing Board meets six times during the year at least once every two months as per ORC 3313.15. The five members of the Governing Board are actively engaged and fully participate in discussions, while providing support, input, and feedback to the superintendent on various issues and approve policies and programs that are designed for the best interest of the students and the school. Members annually complete a conflict-of-interest statement and have current criminal background checks. Members also participate in the annual Sunshine Laws Training regarding Ohio's Public Records and Open Meetings Laws as required by Sections 149.43 and 109.43 of the Ohio Revised Code.

## 6. Contract Sufficiency (per ORC section 3314.03)

The level of contract sufficiency – the Ohio Department of Education checklist will be used to determine whether the contract has been updated to their standards.

Comments: All areas have been met.

## 7. Summary of Performance over Contract Term and Prospects for Renewal

Comments: The current sponsorship contract with GOAL Digital Academy is in effect from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2025.

It is important to keep in mind that during a contract renewal year, a review is completed in conjunction with the renewal application process. This is called a High Stakes Review. As part of the High Stakes Review for renewal, data over the term of the contract will be collected and reviewed. It is important each year to review the Assessment and Accountability Standards (Performance Framework) in Exhibit 3 of the contract. The following information is included in the Performance Framework of the contract:

- All state report card measures and indicators
- Student attendance measures and targets
- Mission-specific performance measures and targets
- Financial measures and targets
- Organizational performance measures and targets described in the school's Education Plan (located in the contract)

GOAL Digital Academy is on track for a successful renewal of its contract if all processes continue to be successfully completed.

## **8. Conclusion**

How is the school performing in relation to the contractual requirements?

### **Area(s) of Strength**

Comments: The school's administrative team, teachers and staff, and the governing board truly care and are invested in the students and the school. The students feel they are successful at school, are treated with respect, feel the staff care about them, develop values of hard work, honesty, and tolerance of others. The student interviews conducted by the sponsor during Onsite Visit Reviews and the sponsor-generated student survey completed during this school year substantiate these findings.

The school's leadership has been exceptional during the COVID-19 pandemic, communicating often with parents, students, faculty, and staff to keep them abreast of the constant changes coming from the Ohio Department of Education and COVID-related issues as directed by the federal and state governments as well as local health officials. The administrative team meets monthly and sometimes twice a month to keep everyone abreast and informed of events and emerging issues, facilitate program development, strengthen communication, and build camaraderie.

Teachers at GOAL Digital Academy use the state curriculum standards as guidelines but are also involved in writing their own curriculum, which allows them the freedom to spend more time on topics that interest students and the flexibility to deeply explore connections between various content areas.

Last school year, the Office for Exceptional Children conducted an IDEA Monitoring Review of the special education services at GOAL Digital Academy. A final report of their findings was released to the school in August 2021, which resulted in several action steps that were completed during this school year. The review by OEC has helped bring about significant change and growth in the special education program. The special education staff have participated in several professional development trainings initiated by OEC and State Support Team #7 to implement suggestions made in OEC's final report. GOAL Digital Academy developed an Academic Assist class where IEP students can work weekly with their intervention specialist on their IEP goals. A process was developed to track specially designed instruction for students identified with IEPs, and a formalized written process, including Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), was developed and implemented to support student learning and provide interventions before determining if a student needs to be evaluated for an IEP. PBIS teams were formed, and all staff were assigned students to mentor to provide guidance, motivation, and emotional support with the goal of bringing about increased student achievement. GOAL Digital Academy is sharing these successes with other community schools.

### **Area(s) of Concern**

Comments: This year's staff attendance has been sporadic and inconsistent more so than any other school year, which may have been an anomaly due to COVID. This will be monitored more closely next school year to determine if staff attendance policies need to be changed or updated.

How does GOAL Digital Academy get teachers additional endorsements to meet Ohio's continuing requirement for highly qualified teachers?

### **Area(s) of Improvement**

Comments: Improve student math performance across all grade levels by doing the following: increase training for staff, expand opportunities in math for students through the summer learning program, complete an audit of the math curriculum to determine if it meets state standards, and apply for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Grant.

Develop written procedures or guidelines with the purpose of recognizing and possibly promoting individuals who may possess leadership characteristics for the benefit of the school and its students.

Increase family engagement connections. Through targeted family engagement strategies involving administrators, teachers, and school staff, GOAL Digital Academy will ensure each child and every family will have the resources and opportunities to enhance student engagement and achievement. One way to increase engagement is through improving the required student orientations from the parent perspective to better help parents understand how to navigate the learning management system (monitoring their children's academic performance – grading, attendance, etc.).

A report will be provided to the sponsor at the end of each quarter during the 2022-2023 school year showing evidence of the progress being made to address the areas of concern and areas needing improvement listed above.

**Note:** *The school's Annual Performance Report and prospects for renewal will be communicated to and discussed with GOAL Digital Academy's governing board.*