



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

Date: November 29, 2022  
To: GOAL Digital Academy Administrators and Governing Board Members  
From: Jim Smith, Sponsor Liaison and Mid-Ohio ESC Sponsoring Staff  
Subject: November Monthly Updates

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### **General Update**

Hello Everyone,

As the sponsor of GOAL Digital Academy, one of the requirements is that the sponsor conducts Onsite Visit Reviews, beyond the monthly enrollment/attendance and financial reviews. The Onsite Visit Reviews must occur at least twice per year while the school is in session, with one review occurring during the first semester of the review year, and the other review occurring during the second semester of the review year. The Onsite Visit Review includes an examination of the school's compliance with all applicable laws, rules, contractual obligations, and academic performance measures.

Besides collecting data regarding the compliance with laws and rules, contractual obligations, and how well the school is doing academically during the Onsite Visit Review, the sponsor must also collect data from school employees, including at least one administrator and one or more instructors.

Prior to any Onsite Visit Review, the sponsor is required to provide the school with a written visit protocol that explains the goal of the visit and prescribed adherence to a specific set of actions or procedures for the collection of data and their sources, types of data being collected, observation and interview guidance, and instruments being used during the visit.

My first semester Onsite Visit Review was conducted on November 16 and 18 at GOAL Digital Academy's Delaware and Mansfield labs. A report that includes the information collected, a summary of findings, including areas of strength, and if applicable, areas needing improvement will be emailed to the governing board members and school leaders next week.

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 General Assembly** returned to Columbus the week of November 14 following a general election that resulted in Republicans maintaining their majority in the 135th General Assembly. The 135th General Assembly is set to open in January 2023. Members of the General Assembly could be found working in their districts and observing the Thanksgiving holiday during the week of the November 21. Members will return to Columbus during the week of November 28 and will continue to be in Columbus for committee meetings and session (when they actually vote to approve/disapprove proposed legislation) through at least the week of December 12. The following week (12/19) is held for possible meetings if needed. The 134th General Assembly will close at the end of the year. Any legislative proposals that have not been approved by both the House and Senate, and signed by the Governor, at that time will sunset. Bills that sunset will need to be reintroduced in the 135th General Assembly if the proposals are to receive further consideration.

The use of wireless communication devices appears to have been on the minds of members of the **Ohio House** when members met in session on November 16 for the first time since the election as one of the first measures approved that day was **HB-283**. HB-283 seeks to expand current law regarding texting and driving to the use of other wireless communication devices while driving. The measure was quickly sent to the Senate and introduced in that chamber on November 22 for its consideration. Of greater importance to school administrators and boards of education is the House's approval of **HB-403**. This proposal seeks to close a gap in current law by requiring boards and administrators to report teachers who, when facing disciplinary action, elect to retire. HB-403 was introduced into the Senate on November 22 for consideration by that chamber.

The **House Education Committee** met on November 15 for the initial consideration of five legislative proposals. One of the bills considered on November 15, **HB-115**, is of particular interest to community schools. If enacted, HB-115 would eliminate the requirement that traditional school districts provide community schools with “the right of first refusal” of unused property that the district is planning to dispose of. **HB-748** is another bill of particular interest receiving initial consideration on November 15. HB-748 seeks to require schools to enact policies relating to the relationship between co-workers and staff performance of their duties. Adopted policies would need to specifically include provisions related to unfairly evaluating students because of their political or religious beliefs, as well as prohibiting staff from engaging in political or religious advocacy that seeks to compel a student to adopt or adhere to a particular belief. HB-748 is the only bill considered on November 15 that is currently scheduled for a second hearing when the committee meets again on November 29.

Although the **Senate** also met in full session on November 16, no legislation of particular interest to K-12 Education was considered. The **Senate's Education Committee** also met that week conducting hearings on proposals to issue temporary educator licenses to those educators having an expired license (**HB-554**) and require the schools to develop seizure action plans (**HB-606**, a.k.a. Sarah's Law). The Education Committee will meet again on November 29 and 30 when the committee will consider **HB-333**, which seeks to impact the development of a job description for the role of school counselors and **SB-178**, which proposes a legislative intent to enact legislation to reform the function of the State Board of Education. The committee will also consider legislation (**HB-361**) seeking to grant teaching licenses to certain veterans without a degree in Education, such as veterans who may have served as an instructor in the military.

Last month (October) a member of the **State Board of Education** proposed a resolution opposing the recent expansion of (federal) rules relating to the implementation of Title IX and supporting court action initiated by several states' attorney generals, including Ohio's Attorney General, to forestall implementation of those rules. A second member of the Board proposed an amended resolution. The Board elected to forward both proposals to its Executive Committee for discussion. During its November meeting, **the Executive Committee** reviewed these proposals, as well as several other related member proposals suggested over the course of the intervening month. Details of each proposal may be viewed at:

<https://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/2022%20-%20Board%20Books/November%20-%202022/Executive%20Committee/>

**119 Rules hearings** were conducted by the full board on proposed rule changes relating to phonics instruction and special education. In short, the proposed change to phonics would require that instruction be offered in a meaningful context. The proposals related to special education seek to bring Ohio's rules into compliance with federal regulations. Complete information on the 119 hearings may be found at:

[https://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/2022%20-%20Board%20Books/November%20-%202022/Chapter%20119%20-%20Public%20Hearing%20Exhibits%20-%20Nov\\_2022.pdf](https://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/2022%20-%20Board%20Books/November%20-%202022/Chapter%20119%20-%20Public%20Hearing%20Exhibits%20-%20Nov_2022.pdf)

Specific information on changes to the rules relating to phonics instruction may be found on pages 21-27. Details of the proposed special education rule changes may be found on pages 28-262.



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