



Memorandum | Department of Community School

Date: December 26, 2022
To: GOAL Digital Academy Administrators and Governing Board Members
From: Jim Smith, Sponsor Liaison and Mid-Ohio ESC Sponsoring Staff
Subject: December Monthly Updates

General Update

Hello everyone,

As a sponsor of GOAL Digital Academy, one of the requirements is that the sponsor submits evidence its community schools complete a Needs Assessment to determine what type of professional development opportunities and the type of technical assistance it offers to its schools. The Needs Assessment was completed by the leadership team from GOAL Digital Academy in early November.

During the school year, the sponsor is required to regularly share information about professional development opportunities with its community schools, which it does. GOAL Digital Academy's faculty is aware that they can view available learning opportunities on the Mid-Ohio ESC website at www.moesc.net by clicking on the professional learning tool bar. Several GOAL Digital Academy's faculty members have participated in Mid-Ohio ESC's Networks (Principal, District Test Coordinator, Technology Director, Related Services, School Counselor).

The sponsor must use the results of the Needs Assessment to determine which professional development opportunities it offers that are specific to the needs of GOAL Digital Academy. At the request of GOAL Digital Academy, the Dropout Prevention and Recovery School Network Group that was established two years ago continues. The DOPR School Network Group was formed by sponsors from the ESC of Central Ohio, North Central Ohio ESC, and Mid-Ohio ESC to address some of the professional development needs of DOPR schools and to connect these schools with each other for networking, collaboration, and support. Professional development has been provided in Gap Closing (November 10, 2022) so far this year.

During the school year, the sponsor must provide timely assistance to its schools in response to issues, problems, and/or concerns once they are identified by either the school or the sponsor. The sponsor is required to provide at least three different instances of technical assistance to its schools throughout the school year. The sponsor is also required to solicit feedback on the quality and impact of the technical assistance that it provides to its schools through a survey.

To date, Mid-Ohio ESC's Tech Manager has provided technical assistance in helping to set up for GOAL Digital Academy's all-staff meetings (equipment, Zoom capabilities) as well as assisting with fixing an old server, helping with security issues, and consulting with GOAL's tech personnel. The Sponsor Liaison has provided legal and community school updates from the information gathered at the monthly meetings held with the Ohio Department of Education's Director of the Office of Community Schools.

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

Both chambers of the **134th General Assembly** have conducted their last scheduled sessions and the **Ohio Board of Education** has held its last planned meeting of the year. The State Board of Education will reconvene next month, and the **135th General Assembly** will be called into session for the first time in January 2023, as well. Both bodies will have new members and will select new leadership. The General Assembly will continue to be dominated by members from the Republican Party.

During its last meeting of the year, the State Board continued discussions of a member proposed resolution to oppose changes to the rules implementing Title IX, which are seeking to extend Title IX protections to members of the LGBTQ community. The resolution also provides support to Ohio's Attorney General and attorneys general from several other states seeking to overturn the expanded rules through the court system. The Board did approve a modified version of the resolution which does maintain its opposition to the rule changes. A copy of the resolution may be viewed at:

https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:66dd6cc5-14be-44e6-bd87-b30c303c9a21&clickref=1100lwpEQ7yh&mv=affiliate&mv2=pz&as_camptype=&as_channel=affiliate&as_source=partnerize&as_campaign=skimlinks_phg.

The Board also considered a resolution to change the School Counselor Standards relative to a counselor's knowledge of educational options. The proposed change was recommended to the Board by the Educator Standards Board. The resolution may be viewed at: <http://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/2022%20-%20Board%20Books/December%20-%202022/Voting%20Items/Item%2021%20-%20Ohio%20Standards%20for%20School%20Counselors%20-%20Resolution.pdf>.

The Board continues to move through the process of searching for the next State Superintendent, hearing proposals from three search firms, including a proposal from the national association representing state boards of education (National Association of State Boards of Education). Copies of each vendor's written proposal, as well as a copy of the PowerPoint used in the vendor's presentation to the Board, may be viewed at: <http://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/2022%20-%20Board%20Books/December%20-%202022/Executive%20Committee/>

While the State Board was finishing its work for the year, the Board was also on the minds of members of the Ohio General Assembly. **SB-178**, introduced in the spring of 2021, was originally a short bill expressing the Legislature's intent to reform the roles and responsibilities of the State Board of Education and the Ohio Department of Education. This past November, the bill expanded to 2100+ pages seeking to join most of the functions of the Department of Education into a new department to be known as the Department of Education and Workforce (a.k.a. DEW). The new department would be under the control of the Governor with a director appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate. DEW would assume responsibilities from ODE for such functions as curriculum standards and assessments, the state report card system, oversight of community schools and their sponsors, and funding. ODE and the State Board of Education would retain responsibility for such functions as educator licensing, investigations of professional misconduct and resulting discipline, and transfers of school territory. The bill was approved by the Senate with both bi-partisan support and opposition. The bill then moved to the House for consideration where it was met again with bi-partisan support and opposition. House members expressed concern about the ability to digest the provisions of a 2100+ page bill within the time remaining in the 134th General Assembly. Members were also concerned about the lack of opportunity for input by the House in such a major change in government operations. An analysis of SB-178 (just 6 pages), as approved by the Senate, is available at: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=20001&format=pdf>.

Other late session activity included passage of **HB-554**, which permits educators with an expired license to immediately renew the license for two years. If, during the two years, the educator completes either 18 continuing education credits or six semester hours of credit related to the license the educator can then obtain a new 5-year professional license. Other education measures, not directly related to licensing, added to HB-554 prior to passage include:

1. provisions related to students considered to be developmentally delayed and associated funding.
2. a requirement for ODE to prescribe standards permitting transfer students to use scores from pre-transfer state assessments to meet high school graduation requirements at their new school.
3. a requirement for high schools to develop a process for children of members of the military to complete requirements online should the parent be transferred to a new duty station.
4. removal of behavior technicians and analysts as individuals who can provide intervention services under the Autism Scholarship.

Another example of quasi related proposals being added to a bill headed for passage in lame duck is the measures added to **HB-45**. Originally proposing a tax amnesty, HB-45 was amended to add several spending proposals. Of most importance to schools are the additional \$1.75 billion in COVID Relief funds, and the increase in the phase-in of Disadvantaged Pupil funds, adding \$56 million in funding.