



Memorandum | Department of Community School

Date: March 31, 2023
To: GOAL Digital Academy Administrators and Governing Board Members
From: Jim Smith, Sponsor Liaison and Mid-Ohio ESC Sponsoring Staff
Subject: March Monthly Updates

General Update

Hello Everyone,

The Ohio Department of Education uses a Quality Practices Rubric to evaluate community school sponsors on their adherence to quality sponsoring practices. The rubric consists of 33 standards designed to evaluate sponsors on various sponsoring practices. These standards are aligned with the National Association of Charter Schools Authorizers (NACSA) standards and Ohio laws and rules.

One of the standards (F.04), “Relationships with Schools’ Governing Authorities” require that the sponsor takes steps to build a positive working relationship with each school’s governing authority. The sponsor must adhere to the following two key indicators to achieve the maximum number of points for this standard.

- The sponsor attends at least three governing authority meetings annually for each school.
- The sponsor communicates with and provides information about the school and written guidance on rules, laws, and/or policies that impact community schools at least quarterly, beyond the monthly financial and enrollment reviews.

This month, I am asking each school’s governing authority member to complete the survey (see link below). Over the course of the school year, I am required to collect data from stakeholder groups associated with the school. The responses to the survey questions provides the sponsor with valuable feedback regarding sponsorship practices.

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.

[Governing Board Member Survey](#)

Legislative and Policy Updates

The (Ohio) House Finance Committee has finished hearing presentations from the various Department heads regarding their agency's section(s) of the proposed biennial budget (**HB-33**) and has started to hear testimony from various interested parties. To view meeting agendas, learn who is testifying on what parts of the budget, and read the testimony of witnesses, visit: <https://ohiohouse.gov/committees/finance/meetings>. The General Assembly needs to complete its work on the budget and forward approved legislation to the Governor by the end of June. Unlike the Congress, which routinely approves stop-gap measures and continuing resolutions as it works through the budget process, the Ohio General Assembly has rarely failed to complete a budget by the June deadline.

While the House Finance Committee works on the Budget, other committees receive legislation of interest for consideration. For instance, the Senate has received legislation for consideration (**SB-79**), which is focused on Dropout Prevention and Recovery Schools. If enacted, SB-79 would provide some flexibility to such schools in completing state required testing, require that all related rules go through the 119-rule making process, and require ODE to establish a Dropout Prevention and Recovery Committee, which must include seven members representative of the field. The LSC** analysis of SB-79 can be viewed at: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=20652&format=pdf>.

Other measures recently introduced and under consideration by Senate committees, which may be of interest to schools include:

SB-92 which seeks modifications to recent restrictions on August elections. Under current law, the only elections permitted in August are for various matters associated with a political subdivision under a fiscal emergency. SB-92 seeks to permit special August elections to consider candidates to fill Congressional vacancies or for political parties to conduct primary elections. The bill also proposes to permit the scheduling of an August election to consider constitutional amendments proposed by the General Assembly. An analysis (LSC**) of SB-92 may be viewed at: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=20641&format=pdf>.

Although **SB-87** is focused on the state's public colleges and universities, one provision may be of interest to students (and their parents) in the K-12 environment considering taking college courses through college credit options as it would require schools to post course syllabi.

The progress of **SB-66** will be of interest to school administrators and counselors as it seeks to require the transmission of student records within five days.

Two bills recently introduced in the House bring back for consideration proposals introduced during the 134th General Assembly that did not complete the legislation process prior to the close of the 134th:

HB-103 seeks to establish a task force to develop new Social Studies standards. If enacted, the bill would require the new Social Studies standards to be based on the standards published in: "American Birthright: The Civics Alliance Model K-12 Social Studies Standards." An LSC** analysis of the bill is currently not available, but this short, three-page bill may be viewed at:

https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general_assembly_135/bills/hb103/IN/00/hb103_00_IN?format=pdf

HB-117 brings back for consideration the elimination of the 3rd Grade Reading Guarantee. Although a much longer bill than HB-103, it can be read at: https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general_assembly_135/bills/hb117/IN/00/hb117_00_IN?format=pdf. An analysis is not yet available.

All legislative proposals being considered by the General Assembly may be researched on the web at: <https://ohiohouse.gov/legislation/search>

** LSC = Legislative Services Commission



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