



## Memorandum | Department of Community School

Date: May 30, 2023  
To: GOAL Digital Academy Administrators and Governing Board Members  
From: Jim Smith, Sponsor Liaison and Mid-Ohio ESC Sponsoring Staff  
Subject: May Monthly Updates

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### General Update

Hello Everyone,

GOAL Digital Academy honored its graduating class of 2023 on Friday, May 19 at 6:30 pm., with 114 students receiving diplomas. Ten additional students will have the opportunity to earn their diploma should they complete their coursework. There were nine student commencement speakers, each of whom offered a different perspective on their experiences at GOAL Digital Academy. Cameo guest appearances included Gary Levox and Archie Griffin. Gary Levox is an American singer and songwriter. He is known for being the lead vocalist of the contemporary country music band Rascal Flatts. Archie Griffin is college football's only two-time Heisman Trophy winner who was a running back for The Ohio State University.

Once again, this year, GOAL Digital Academy live streamed its graduation so those who were unable to attend could take part. The video was made available to families and students after graduation. The live stream captured speakers, videos, and all students who walked across the stage to receive their diplomas. The live stream of graduation is available on the school's website at <https://www.goaldigital.org/>.

A number of students were recognized during the ceremony for their achievements. Students wore cords recognizing those who were entering the armed services, belonged to a service club, had exemplary attendance, earned honor roll status, achieved a top ten grade point average, were part of a two-year career tech program.

The state of Ohio has twelve graduations seals that students can earn during their high school years. GOAL Digital Academy graduates earned anywhere from two to five of the nine graduation seals listed below (three graduation seals, Honors, Biliteracy, and Technology, were not earned by the graduates): **Military** (enlisted in the armed services), **Industry-Recognized Credential** (earned 12 points in an industry-recognized credential program aligned to a job considered in demand), **Citizenship** (achieved a proficient score on the American history and government end-of-course exams), **Science** (earned a proficient score on the biology end-of-course exam), **Fine and Performing Arts** (demonstrated skill in the fine or performing arts

according to an evaluation aligned to guidelines developed by the school board), **Ohio Means Jobs Readiness** (demonstrated work readiness and professional competencies), **College Ready** (achieved a certain score on the ACT), **Community Service** (completed a community service project that meets guidelines set by the school district board of education), and/or **Student Engagement** (participated in extracurricular activities – not limited to athletics, clubs, or student government, as determined by guidelines set by the school district board of education).

GOAL Digital Academy will be offering a Summer Enrichment Program this summer (summer school and extended learning options) for students during the months of June and July. See the attached flyer to review the class offerings.

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 Update

Stephanie Siddens, who is serving as Interim State Superintendent for the second time, will be leaving that position this summer to assume the post of Deputy Superintendent in the Upper Arlington Schools. The **State Board** considered two internal candidates to assume the post of Interim Superintendent when Staphanie Siddens vacates the position. Ultimately the Board selected Chris Woolard, who currently serves as ODE's Chief Program Officer, to become the new Interim Superintendent. In related action, the Board also approved employing Ray and Associates, a search firm from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to conduct the search for a new superintendent.

During its May meeting, the State Board of Education considered a resolution to seek an opinion from the Ohio Attorney General regarding SB-1 as approved by the Senate. SB-1 is proposed legislation seeking to transfer most duties of the State Board of Education and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to a new office under the Governor. A copy of the resolution may be viewed at:

<http://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/2023%20-%20Board%20Books/May%20-%202023/Member%20Proposed%20Resolutions/Resolution%20in%20Support%20of%20SB79>

The Board also considered a resolution in support of SB-79. A copy of this resolution may be viewed at:

<http://public.education.ohio.gov/StateBoardBooks/2023%20-%20Board%20Books/May%20-%202023/Member%20Proposed%20Resolutions/Resolution%20in%20Support%20of%20SB79%20-%20B.%20Shea.pdf>

SB-79 seeks to provide new flexibility to Dropout Prevention and Recovery Schools (DOPR) and would create a DOPR advisory committee within ODE. The bill may be viewed at:

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=20652&format=pdf>.

The **General Assembly**, and particularly the Senate, is focused on approving a new state budget for the 2023-2025 biennium (HB-33), which must be approved by the end of June. After approving a substitute version of HB-33 (now Sub HB-33), the bill moved to the Senate for

consideration. The Senate will likely approve its own version of the budget within the next couple of weeks after which a House-Senate Conference Committee will be convened to work out the differences between the two bills.

The Legislative Services Commission (LSC) has prepared a comparison document of HB-33 as introduced to Sub HB-33 as approved by the House which is available at:

<https://www.lsc.ohio.gov/assets/legislation/135/hb33/ph/files/hb33-edu-comparison-document-as-passed-by-the-house-135th-general-assembly.pdf>

Readers may be particularly interested in community school/DOPR funding items on pages 3, 6, and 11 of the comparison document. The sub bill also includes provisions to increase the state minimum teacher salary to \$40,000 (pg.17), consolidate the current three bands of teacher license to two: PreK-8 and 6-12 (pg. 18), create a teacher loan repayment program (pg. 23), and require the development of seizure action plans (pg. 30). The complete LSC comparison document (94 pages) as it relates to primary and secondary education may be view at:

<https://www.lsc.ohio.gov/assets/legislation/135/hb33/ph/files/hb33-edu-comparison-document-as-passed-by-the-house-135th-general-assembly.pdf>

Columns will be added to the comparison document as the Senate approves its version of the budget, and the Conference Committee creates a compromise budget.



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890 West Fourth Street, Suite 100, Mansfield, Ohio 44906 | Phone: 419-774-5520 | Fax: 419-774-5523 | [www.moesc.net](http://www.moesc.net)