



Memorandum | Department of Community School

Date: May 28, 2021
To: GOAL Digital Academy Administrators and Governing Board Members
From: Jim Smith, Sponsor Liaison and Mid-Ohio ESC Sponsoring Staff
Subject: May Monthly Updates

General Update

Hello Everyone,

GOAL Digital Academy honored its graduating class of 2021 on Friday, May 21 at 6:30 pm. 103 student received diplomas. There were five student commencement speakers each of whom spoke eloquently offering a different perspective on life experiences. Cameo guest appearances included Tony Hawk who gave simple but sound advice about being on time, and a message from Urban Meyer to students that they control their own future through the decisions they make and the efforts they put forth.

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 all speakers, videos, and all students who walked across the stage to receive their diplomas. Since graduation, the video has had over 1,200 views.

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 the career tech program, and/or earned the mindfulness and courage award. Several students also earned the following graduation seals: Military Enlistment (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), and/or College Ready (achieved a certain score on the ACT).

GOAL Digital Academy, in response to Governor DeWine's request for schools to work with their communities to help students advance and make up for any learning that may have been lost because of the coronavirus pandemic, will be participating in the Extended Learning Program. This summer, GOAL Digital Academy is offering multiple options for students. For all grade levels, GOAL Digital Academy will be conducting book clubs. Students will be given a bag of books as well as journaling materials. Each week, virtual book clubs will be held for the different grade levels and prizes will be given as students progress through the book club.

GOAL Digital Academy will continue with the i-Ready program/AIM Courses this summer. This supplemental reading and math program was started this past year in grades 6-8 and will be expanded during Summer 2021 to include grades 1-5. Students will participate in a series of exercises and games that will help foster academic success in these content areas. Students will have the opportunity to earn prizes in accord with the number of lessons they complete successfully.

GOAL Digital Academy will also offer a new Credit Recovery Program (Accelerate Education) this summer to high school students who need to retake classes they failed this past school year. This program will be taught by experienced Credit Recovery teachers as well as intervention specialists who will be able to help students earn academic credit upon successful completion.

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.

Policy Update

Although members of the General Assembly continue to introduce proposed legislation for consideration, for instance, a bill was recently introduced that seeks to return the State Board of Education to an 11-member elected board. All eyes in Columbus are focused on the Senate, which has taken up consideration of Ohio's proposed FY '22-'23 biennial operating budget. HB-110 was approved by the House of Representatives with modifications to the Governor's original budget proposal. Several changes in HB-110 approved by the House will, if sustained through the budget process, directly impact community schools. Most notably, while the Governor's budget essentially provided a place holder for school "basic aid," the House would move the State to adoption of the Cupp-Patterson funding proposal introduced into the previous General Assembly. The House proposal extends changes in how school funding is calculated to include community schools and would directly fund such schools from the state rather than as funds deducted from the student's district of residence. Student wellness/success funding would move to be a part of the Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid (DPIA) program.

Overall funding for ESC's would increase from the originally proposed \$40 million in each year of the budget to \$42.5 million in FY '22 and \$45 million in FY '23. HB-110 as approved by the House places Educational Service Center's into 3 tiers: less than 5,000 students, 5,000-35,000 students, and more than 35,000 students. All ESC's would receive a lump sum payment of \$356,250. ESC's serving 5,000 or more students would receive an additional per pupil allocation.

Several non-monetary proposals to HB-110 include:

1. A change in the calculation of when a community school sponsor can take advantage of certain incentives or face an evaluation once every three years from three consecutive years of an exemplary/effective ratings to receiving such a rating on two of the three most recent evaluations.
2. Waives the 72-hour rule related to the withdrawal of student when a student is absent "without legitimate excuse" for the 2021-2022 school year **only**.

3. Modifies the disciplinary actions the State Board might take relative to an educator license. For instance, the grounds for an automatic revocation of a license would be expanded to include a judicial finding of eligibility for intervention in lieu of conviction. Another provision seeks to require the State Superintendent to inactivate the license of an individual under investigation for certain alleged offenses. Currently information received during an investigation is expunged after two years if no disciplinary action is taken, but HB-110 would remove this requirement.
4. Although most school districts' employment application likely already includes a statement about falsifying information provided in one's employment application, HB-110 would require such a provision in employment applications. HB-110 would also require schools to consult ODE's educator profile database before making a hiring decision and permit districts to consult with the Office of Professional Conduct to determine if a candidate is the subject of a disciplinary report.
5. Seeks to establish a graduation requirement that students complete the Free Application for Federal Aid. There are a couple of exceptions specified to this requirement.
6. Seeks to add a requirement to teach about the harmful effects of vaping.

The Legislative Service Commission has developed a document, organized by departments, that compares each provision of the originally introduced budget with the budget approved by the House. A link to this document can be found at: <http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/pages/budget/current/CurrentGA.aspx?Budget=MainOperating&ID=MainOperating&Version=contentHP>

On this webpage will be found links to other informative documents related to the budget.

Since receiving HB-110 for consideration, the Senate Finance Committee has been holding multiple hearings each week concerning the provisions of the budget. To see which individuals and groups have been testifying about the bill and what their positions might be, visit the Senate Finance Committee's webpage: <https://ohiosenate.gov/committees/finance>.

When will Ohio have a replacement budget? Although sometimes missed, a replacement budget is required to be in place by June 30 to take effect on July 1.

Interested in other legislation that may be under consideration by the Ohio House or Senate? Visit LSC legislation search page: <https://ohiosenate.gov/committees/finance>



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