

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chairman Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Education Committee thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony on House Bill 96, the State Operating Budget.

My name is Tish Jenkins and I serve as Superintendent for GOAL Digital Academy. GOAL Digital is an online community school that offers a unique learning model focused on student success. We serve students in the central Ohio region and offer seven in-person learning lab locations in Cardington, Delaware, Galion, Mansfield, Marion, Mt. Vernon, and Newark. Through these learning labs, GOAL Digital offers, but cannot require, a blended model of learning where students receive face-to-face adult support to help them learn, set goals, and prepare for their futures.

While there are many items in House Bill 96 that we are following, we are requesting language for a pilot program to allow GOAL Digital to operate a blended learning model that would require students to attend some in-person classes. Under current law, an online community school cannot offer other models. This pilot program would allow an existing, established, and quality online community school to offer both an online learning program and a blended learning program. Through this program, GOAL would be able to serve some of our highest risk and most in need of additional support students through in-person learning for at least 50% of the time (i.e., blended learning model), while other students may continue to learn online for at least 50% of the time (i.e., online instructional method).

It is important to note that this pilot program would not need additional funding, however, an online community school that participates in the pilot, would be eligible to receive the additional funds provided to brick-and-mortar community schools for DPIA, building, transportation, and nutrition services.

I have attached the proposed amendment language (SC0759X1) for your review and would appreciate your support as we hope to maximize our ability as educators to help our students succeed.

I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Tish Jenkins

Goal Digital Academy Superintendent

Am. Sub. H. B. No. 96  
As Passed by the House

\_\_\_\_\_ moved to amend as follows:

After line 140858, insert:

"Section 733.00.01. (A) The E-School Hybrid Educational Pilot Program is established for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years. Under the pilot program, and notwithstanding division (C) of section 3302.41 of the Revised Code, the governing authority of a qualifying internet- or computer-based community school may operate using a blended learning model and retain its classification as an internet- or computer-based community school under this section for those school years.


(B) A community school that meets all of the following criteria shall qualify to participate in the pilot program:

(1) The school is an internet- or computer-based community school, as defined in section 3314.02 of the Revised Code.

(2) The school serves all of grades kindergarten through twelve.

(3) The school has an enrollment of not greater than one thousand two hundred fifty students at the time of its initial participation in the program.

Legislative Service Commission

  
6uhkkmacghvywrwt9agpku

(4) The school has a sponsor that was not rated 19  
"ineffective" or "poor" on its most recent evaluation conducted 20  
under section 3314.016 of the Revised Code. 21

(5) The school began operating as an internet- or 22  
computer-based community school on or before July 1, 2005. 23

(C) For a qualifying community school to participate in 24  
the pilot program, both of the following shall apply: 25

(1) The governing authority of the school shall adopt a 26  
resolution to operate concurrently as an internet- or computer- 27  
based community school and as a community school using a blended 28  
learning model, as defined in section 3301.079 of the Revised 29  
Code. 30

(2) The school's sponsor shall agree to the resolution 31  
adopted under division (C)(1) of this section by amending the 32  
contract entered into under section 3314.03 of the Revised Code. 33

(D) The qualifying community school shall notify the 34  
Department of Education and Workforce of its participation in 35  
the pilot program. 36

(E) The school shall identify student participation by the 37  
model of delivery by which the student receives instruction and 38  
comply with the requirements of that model of delivery. 39

(F)(1) At all times during participation in the pilot 40  
program, the school shall comply with all provisions of law with 41  
respect to internet- or computer-based community schools that do 42  
not conflict with section 3302.41 of the Revised Code. 43

(2) At all times during the use of a blended learning 44  
model, the school shall comply with the rules and requirements 45  
of that model, including section 3302.41 of the Revised Code, 46

except for division (C) of that section. 47

(G) A qualifying community school shall receive state 48  
funding for each student that participates in blended learning 49  
in the same manner as any other community school that is not an 50  
internet- or computer-based community school. 51

(H) A participating school shall comply with section 52  
3314.05 of the Revised Code and concurrently may continue to use 53  
locations as authorized under sections 3314.25 and 3314.251 of 54  
the Revised Code." 55

The motion was \_\_\_\_\_ agreed to.

#### SYNOPSIS

**E-School Hybrid Educational Pilot Program** 56

**Section 733.00.01** 57

Establishes the E-School Hybrid Educational Pilot Program 58  
for the biennium, under which qualifying internet- and computer- 59  
based community schools ("e-schools") may adopt a resolution to 60  
operate a blended learning model and retain their classification 61  
as an e-school. 62  
63

Requires that a qualifying school receive state funding 64  
for each student that participates in blended learning in the 65  
same manner as any other community school that is not an 66  
internet- or computer-based community school. 67

Requires participating schools to generally follow blended 68  
learning and e-school requirements under continuing law, but 69

permits both instructional methods to be conducted in the same  
learning space.

70

71