

2016-2017

# Findlay City Schools Sponsorship Annual Report



Findlay Digital Academy - 2017



Findlay Digital Academy - 2017







# FINDLAY DIGITAL ACADEMY

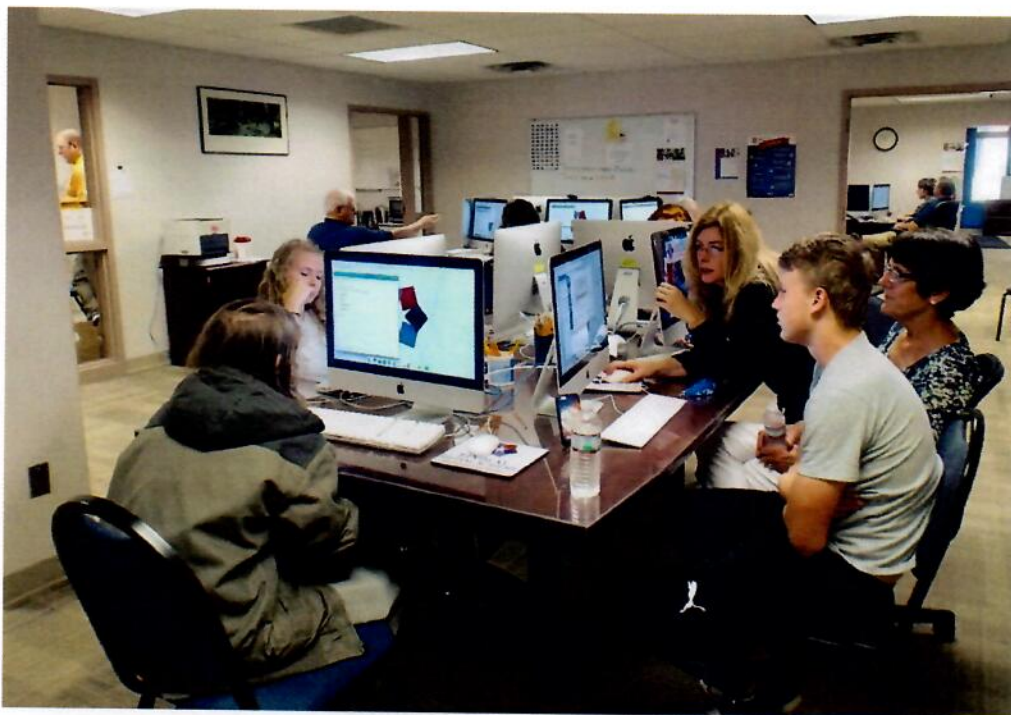
Where Learning Fits You™

## Findlay Digital Academy History & Curriculum

The Findlay community and Findlay City School District board and administrators in 2003-2004 responded to their concern in regard to the number of students who were dropping out of school or on the verge of dropping out of school by forming a task force to study this dropout concern. Findlay City School District personnel and members from the community which included the Hancock County Juvenile Court, Family Resource Center, Camp Fire USA, the Hancock County ADAMHS board, the Hancock County Educational Service Center, and others met throughout 2003-2004 to explore, select and put into place an educational delivery option to address the dropout concern. It was decided that offering an online learning opportunity that was totally flexible, provided tutoring, and a support system would be the best option. Through the task force's efforts, Findlay City Schools was awarded a federal grant to become the sponsor of an online community school. Findlay Digital Academy opened its doors in January 2005 with a student enrollment of 35 and has expanded to where it now serves over 200+ students every school year with an average fulltime enrollment of 142 students. During the 2016-2017 school year, 78 students graduated from the academy.

Findlay Digital Academy's curriculum has expanded to not only offer the online curriculum, but students can also choose to participate in Career Technical Programs at Millstream Career Center and/or take college classes through the College Career Plus program. During 2016-2017, 17 students participated in Millstream Career Center programs and 11 were enrolled in college courses.

The online curriculum is available to the students 24/7. It is an individualized continuous progress model of education that sets high expectations for every student. This online curriculum is aligned with the Ohio Academic Content Standards. Each course has a Highly Qualified online teacher that the student can contact via email, texting, or skypeing for assistance. Additionally, Findlay Digital Academy offers a lab setting that is staffed with licensed teachers and it is open Monday through Thursday from 10 AM - 4:00 PM to offer one-on-one tutoring. Each student is assigned an Instructional Coach who makes weekly contact with the student and/or parent. Students are expected to work 25 hours a week on their school assignments and complete at least one credit per quarter.



**Where Learning Fits You!**



# Sponsor Mission & Leadership

## Findlay City Schools Sponsoring Mission

Findlay City Schools, as a Community School Sponsor, is dedicated to "Educating and Empowering for Life," those students enrolled in the school(s) it sponsors.

## Findlay City Schools Sponsoring Goals (Based on the National Association of Charter School Authorizers Index of Essential Practices)

### Agency Commitment and Capacity

- Annually at the beginning of each new school year assign sponsor staff to oversee and assist Findlay Digital Academy, the only school the district sponsors.
- Provide technology support on an on-going basis as needed by the sponsored school.
- Dedicate time and financial resources to ensure the successful operation of the sponsored school.
- Conduct a minimum of four site visits a year (March, May, September, December) to make sure quality practices are taking place within the sponsored school structure in regard to academics, governance, finance and legal compliance.

The following boards and team members will supervise to make sure that both the mission and goals of the sponsor and the academy are met:

### Findlay City Schools Board Members

- Shane Pochard, President - [spochard@fcsboard.findlaycityschools.org](mailto:spochard@fcsboard.findlaycityschools.org)
- Barbara Dysinger, Vice President - [bdysinger@fcsboard.findlaycityschools.org](mailto:bdysinger@fcsboard.findlaycityschools.org)
- Jane Robertson - [jrobertson@fcsboard.findlaycityschools.org](mailto:jrobertson@fcsboard.findlaycityschools.org)
- Kathy Siebenaler Wilson - [kathysw@fcsboard.findlaycityschools.org](mailto:kathysw@fcsboard.findlaycityschools.org)
- Chris Aldrich - [caldrich@fcsboard.findlaycityschools.org](mailto:caldrich@fcsboard.findlaycityschools.org)



## Findlay Digital Academy Governing Authority Board Members

- Kimberly Bash, President – [kbash@findlaycityschools.org](mailto:kbash@findlaycityschools.org)
- Dr. Edie Wannemacher, Vice President – [ewannemacher@findlaycityschools.org](mailto:ewannemacher@findlaycityschools.org)
- Pastor Alfred Delacruz – [adelacruz@findlaycityschools.org](mailto:adelacruz@findlaycityschools.org)
- Melissa LaRocco – [mlarocco@findlaycityschools.org](mailto:mlarocco@findlaycityschools.org)
- Jeffrey Martin – [jmartin@findlaycityschools.org](mailto:jmartin@findlaycityschools.org)
- Bill O. Miller – [bmiller@findlaycityschools.org](mailto:bmiller@findlaycityschools.org)
- Rev. Will Miller – [wmiller@findlaycityschools.org](mailto:wmiller@findlaycityschools.org)

## Sponsoring Oversight/Leadership Team Members & Roles

Individual	Position	Role in Sponsoring
Edward P. Kurt <a href="mailto:ekurt@fcs.org">ekurt@fcs.org</a>	Findlay City Schools Superintendent	Assist the Findlay Digital Academy with keeping current with changes in ORC and ODE procedures. Supervise the operation, <b>accountability</b> , quality and compliance of Findlay Digital Academy. Share expertise and guidance in areas of <b>law, governance, facilities</b> and <b>Dropout Prevention and Recovery education</b> .
Dr. Kathy Siebenaler-Wilson <a href="mailto:kathysw@fcsboard.fcs.org">kathysw@fcsboard.fcs.org</a>	Findlay City Schools Board Representative	Be the <b>liaison</b> between the Findlay Schools Board of Education and the Findlay Digital Academy Administration and Governing Authority. Assist with <b>governance</b> guidance. <b>Share Career Technical expertise</b> .
Troy Roth <a href="mailto:troth@fcs.org">troth@fcs.org</a>	Findlay City Schools Assistant Superintendent	Assist Findlay Digital Academy in providing best practices <b>professional development</b> , assist with <b>personnel</b> needs and supervise <b>special education</b> compliance.
Rich Steiner <a href="mailto:rsteiner@fcs.org">rsteiner@fcs.org</a>	Director of Secondary Instruction	Assist Findlay Digital Academy in securing <b>curriculum/instructional practices</b> guidance that is aligned to the Ohio Academic Content Standards. Provide guidance <b>with assessment</b> preparation and administration and <b>professional development</b> .
Martin White <a href="mailto:mwhite@fcs.org">mwhite@fcs.org</a>	Director of Technology	Supervise the Findlay Digital Academy <b>technology</b> needs to make sure that they are current, operational and in line with the needs of an e-school.
Mike Barnhart <a href="mailto:mbarnhart@fcs.org">mbarnhart@fcs.org</a>	Findlay City Schools Treasurer	Monthly monitoring of the <b>financial</b> status and practices of Findlay Digital Academy.
Sandra White <a href="mailto:swhite@fcs.org">swhite@fcs.org</a>	Consultant	Assist Findlay City Schools with Sponsor oversight primarily in the areas of Sponsor Quality and Compliance.

The Sponsoring Oversight/Leadership Team meets once each month except for January & July.



# Findlay Digital Academy Academic Performance

The best indicator that Findlay City Schools can use for Findlay Digital Academy's academic performance is the academy's 2017 state report card. Based upon the analysis performed by the Ohio Department of Education Findlay Digital Academy's results are as follows:

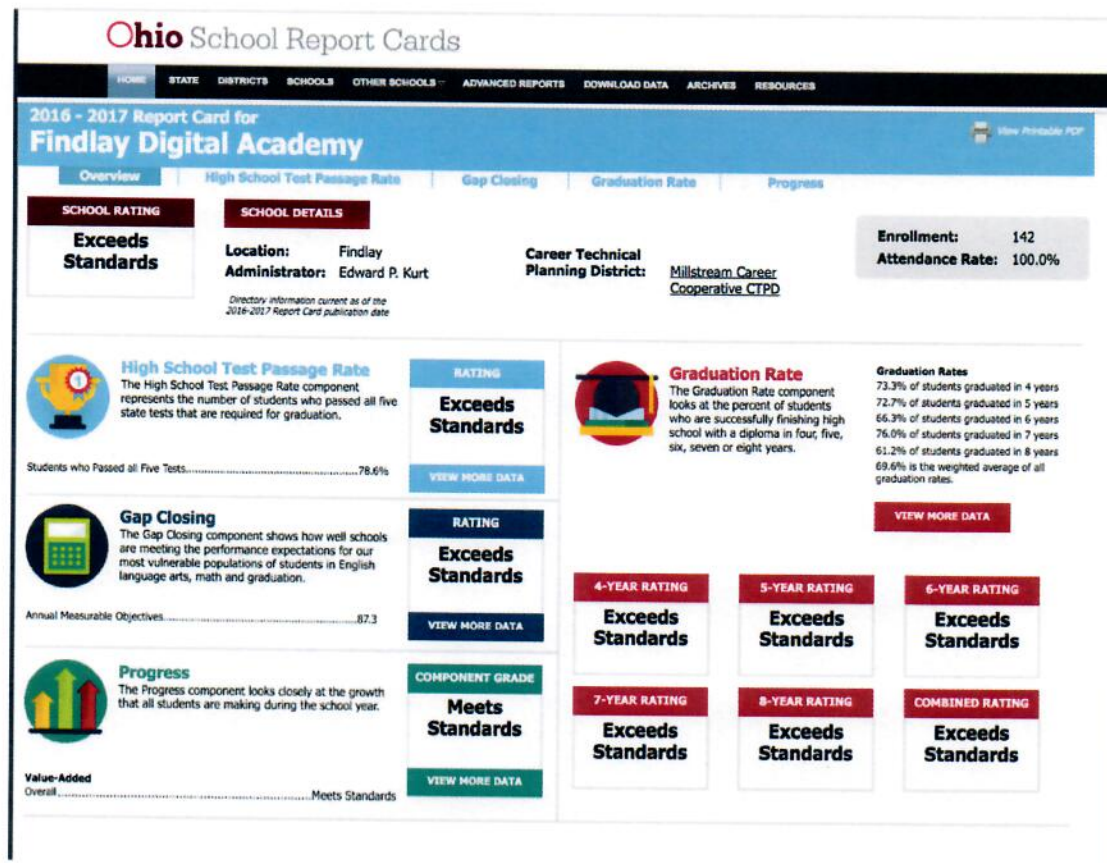
- Findlay Digital Academy Enrollment for 2016-17 was 142 students
- Attendance rate was 100%
- High School Test Passage Rate was 78.6% which Exceeds Standards
- Gap Closing component measurable objectives rate of 87.3% which Exceeds Standards
- Progress Component – Meets Standards
- Graduation Rates
  - 4-year Graduation Rate of 73.3 % - Exceeds Standards
  - 5-year Graduation Rate of 72.2% - Exceeds Standards
  - 6-year Graduation Rate of 66.3% - Exceeds Standards
  - 7-year Graduation Rate of 76.0% - Exceeds Standards
  - 8-year Graduation Rate of 61.2% - Exceeds Standard Combined Graduation Rate of 69.9% - Exceeds Standards

**Findlay City Schools as the sponsor of Findlay Digital Academy finds the academy to be**

**EXCEEDS STANDARDS**

in academic performance and definitely meets compliance indicators in this area.

Findlay City Schools is proud of the academy's academic success.



## Legal Performance

Findlay Digital Academy contracts with Pepple & Waggoner, Ltd., for legal support. Findlay City Schools contracts with Scriven Law Firm for its legal services. Findlay Digital Academy has met all legal obligations outlined in the Sponsor Contract and has filed all required documents with the Ohio Department of Education.

All of the Findlay Digital Academy Governing Authority Board Members have signed Ethics and Conflict of Interest forms and these forms are on file in the Findlay Digital Academy office. All Governing Authority members have received training in open records and the Sunshine laws.



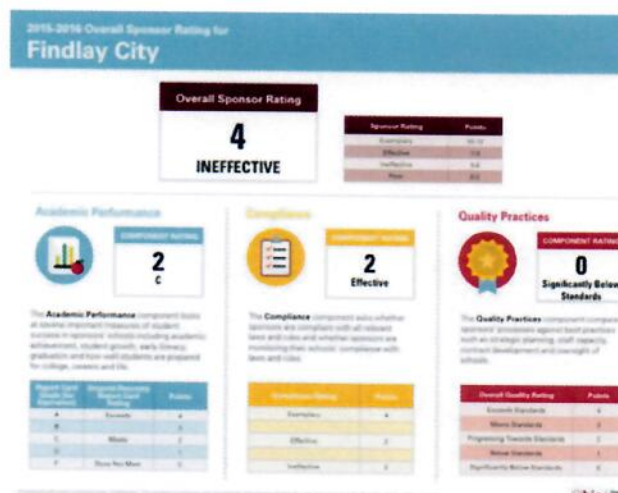
All Governing Authority Board meetings are published in the local newspaper and are posted on the Findlay Digital Academy webpage. The Findlay City Schools Superintendent or his designee attends all Findlay Digital Academy Governing Authority meetings.

Findlay City Schools, as the sponsor for Findlay Digital Academy, works with the academy to make sure that it is in compliance with all the provisions in the Ohio Revised Code.

Findlay City Schools finds Findlay Digital Academy to be **Meets Standards** in the area of Legal Performance.

HB 2 that became law in February 2015 mandated that all sponsors be evaluated on all laws set forth in the Ohio Revised Code. An extensive Sponsor Evaluation Rubric was developed by the Ohio Department of Education. Only five of 65 the sponsors in the state were rated as effective. The rest were rated as poor or ineffective.

Findlay City Schools, as a sponsor, was rated Ineffective for the 2015-2016 school year, but feels that it will receive a higher rating on the 2016-2017 Sponsor Evaluation.





# Organization/Operation/Governance Performance

Findlay Digital Academy was formed through the sponsorship of Findlay City Schools in 2004. It was established as an alternative for those students for whom the traditional model of school was not meeting their needs. Findlay Digital Academy is a Dropout Prevention and Recovery school that serves students in grades 9-12 who live in Findlay City School District. During the 2017-18 school year the academy will expand its enrollment borders to include students who attend adjacent school districts.

The Findlay Digital Academy Governing Authority Board meets in February, April, June, August, October and December for regular board meetings. Special Board Meetings are called on an as needed basis. All board meetings are open and are announced in the local newspaper, The Courier, and meetings dates are posted on the Findlay Digital Academy website. The board abides by all the provisions in Ohio Revised Code. The Governing Authority Board Members represent a large cross section of the community and come to the board with a heart for the student population that Findlay Digital Academy serves.

Findlay Digital Academy maintains an up-to-date Findlay Digital Academy Governing Authority Policy book that can be found on its webpage. All required board meeting minutes are available on the academy's webpage, along with the annual report and report card data.

The Findlay Digital Academy Governing Authority Board hired Rosemary Rooker, who holds a current State of Ohio Superintendent's license, as the Superintendent/Executive Director, and Greg Spiess, who holds a current State of Ohio Treasurer's license, as the Treasurer of Findlay Digital Academy. All academy personnel are hired through purchased service agreements with either Findlay City Schools, Hancock County Educational Service Center or TRECA.

Findlay Digital Academy is located in offices rented from the TLB Corporate Center and is located at 1219 West Main Cross, Suite 101, Findlay, Ohio. The academy office is open for tutoring of students Monday through Thursday, from 10 AM – 4 PM. The online curriculum is available to students 24/7.

Findlay City Schools is compliant with its obligations as outlined in the Sponsor Contract.

Those obligations from the Sponsor Contract are as follows:

#### **Article V. Responsibilities of the SPONSOR**

- Throughout the Term, the SPONSOR shall support the SCHOOL's establishment and operation by converting to the SCHOOL's use certain resources previously utilized by the SPONSOR, including but not limited to portions of the SPONSOR's facilities, staff, equipment, instructional materials, curriculum, and educational strategy, as determined to be appropriate by the SPONSOR in the SPONSOR's sole discretion.
- **Assessment and Accountability** As required by section 3314.03(D) of the Ohio Revised Code, the SPONSOR's duties shall include all duties pursuant to the written agreement entered into with the Ohio Department of Education under division (B) of section 3314.015 of the Revised Code and shall include the following:
  1. Monitor the SCHOOL's compliance with all laws applicable to the SCHOOL and with the terms of this Successor Contract;
  2. Monitor and evaluate the academic and fiscal performance and the organization and operation of the SCHOOL on at least an annual basis;
  3. Report on an annual basis the results of the evaluation conducted under subparagraph (2) immediately above to the department of education and to the parents of students enrolled in the SCHOOL;
  4. Provide technical assistance to the SCHOOL in complying with laws applicable to the SCHOOL and terms of this Successor Contract;
  5. Take steps to intervene in the SCHOOL's operation to correct problems in the SCHOOL's overall performance, declare the SCHOOL to be on probationary status pursuant to section 3314.073 of the Ohio Revised Code, suspend the operation of the SCHOOL pursuant to section 3314.072 of the Ohio Revised Code, or terminate this Successor Contract pursuant to section 3314.07 of the Ohio Revised Code as determined necessary by the SPONSOR;
  6. Have in place a plan of action to be undertaken in the event the SCHOOL experiences financial difficulties



or closes prior to the end of a school year.

7. Provide in writing the annual assurances for the SCHOOL no later than ten (10) business days prior to the opening of the SCHOOL, as required by R.C. Section 3314.19.

C. A representative of the SPONSOR shall meet with the Board of Directors or Treasurer of the SCHOOL and shall review the financial and enrollment records of the SCHOOL at least once every month at a mutually agreeable date and time, as required by Section 3314.023 of the Ohio Revised Code. Prior to or during that meeting, the SCHOOL shall furnish copies of all relevant financial and enrollment records to the SPONSOR, Operator (if applicable), Board of Directors, and the SCHOOL's treasurer. Not later than ten (10) calendar days after each review meeting, the SPONSOR shall provide the Board of Directors and the SCHOOL's treasurer with a written report regarding the review.

D. The SCHOOL will comply with sections 3302.04 and 3302.041 of the Revised Code, except that any action required to be taken by a school district pursuant to those sections shall be taken by the SPONSOR. However, the SPONSOR shall not be required to take any action described in division (F) of section 3302.04 of the Revised Code.

Findlay City Schools has met these obligations in the following ways (However, this list is not all inclusive due to the great support Findlay City Schools gives to the academy.):

- Four announced site visits a year and numerous unannounced site visits,
- Provides professional development;
- Provides technical support,
- Review of financial and records of the academy monthly,
- Completing Opening Assurances in accordance with the law,
- Findlay City Schools leadership attends professional development on sponsoring
- Provides an annual report to the school and its parents
- Sponsor Oversight/Leadership Team meets monthly to address Findlay Digital Academy progress and needs.

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**Overall Findlay City Schools rates Findlay Digital Academy as Exceeds Standards in the areas of Organization, Operation and Governance.**

# Fiscal Performance

Findlay Digital Academy ended August 2017, with an account balance of combined investments and checking account at \$1,663,110.09. This represents a very healthy cash flow, even considering the fact that expenditures out-paced revenue by \$18,303.62 for FY 17. This increase in expenditures resulted primarily due to large legal fees incurred due to an FTE appeal. FY 16 funding is still in the appeal process with the Ohio Department of Education and the Attorney General's Office. Findlay Digital Academy income consists of State Foundation Funding, Federal Grants, Federal Title Funds, Casino Revenue and interest on investments. See the detailed information below in regard to income and expenditures for FY 17:

## INCOME

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
State Foundation	\$1,082,416.68
Casino Revenue	\$17,279.02
Federal Title Grants	\$76,663.17
State Grants	\$1,800.00
Interest/Misc.	\$19,117.92
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,197,246.79</b>

## EXPENSES

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Student Instructional Fees	\$332,776.17
Capital Expenditures	\$66,642.50
Admin/Fiscal Services	\$496,245.54
Purchased Services	\$47,883.16
Professional Development	\$9,035.05
Instructional Coaches	\$221,611.14
Supplies	\$37,803.02
Miscellaneous Expenses	0
EMIS Services	\$13,603.83
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,215,550.41</b>





Biannually the Findlay Digital Academy Governing Authority Board approves the 5-Year Forecast and the 5-Year Forecast is then submitted to the Ohio Department of Education through Epicenter and it is also submitted to the Findlay City Schools Treasurer, Mike Barnhart.

Findlay Digital Academy had a fiscal audit performed in June 2016, and received the Auditor of State Award for a timely and clean audit report.



Findlay Digital Academy Treasurer, Greg Spiess, submits monthly enrollment and financial reports monthly during a face-to-face meeting with Mike Barnhart the Findlay City Schools Treasurer.

Findlay City Schools finds Findlay Digital Academy to be **Meets Standards** in Fiscal Performance.

Based on the data presented in this report, site visits, and other sources, Findlay City Schools finds Findlay Digital Academy to be **Meets or Exceeds Standards** in all areas.

AREA	SCORE
Academic Performance	Exceeds Standards
Legal Performance	Meets Standards
Organization/Operation/Governance Performance	Exceeds Standards
Fiscal Performance	Meets Standards
Summary Performance	Meets Standards

Findlay City Schools Board of Education is most pleased with Findlay Digital Academy's performance in all areas. This annual report was approved by the Findlay City Schools Board of Education at their meeting on October 2, 2017.



Shane Pochard

Findlay City Schools Board President



Edward P. Kurt

Findlay City Schools Superintendent







October 5, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

The Findlay City Schools Sponsorship Annual Report 2016-2107 for Findlay Digital Academy was approved by the Sponsor Oversight Committee/Leadership Team at its meeting on October 2, 2017. This annual report was also approved by the Findlay City Schools Board of Education meeting on October 2, 2017. Additionally, the Findlay City Schools Sponsorship Annual Report 2016-17 was discussed at the Findlay Digital Academy Governing Authority meeting on October 5, 2017. The Findlay Digital Academy Executive Director, Rosemary Rooker, was instructed at this meeting to send a copy of this annual report to the parent of every student currently enrolled in the academy. Any parents of students enrolled after October 5, 2017, will be given a copy of this report at the time of orientation.

Sincerely,

Shane Pochard  
Findlay City Schools Board President

Edward P. Kurt  
Findlay City Schools Superintendent