



Kathy Siebenaler-Wilson, Vice –President  
Findlay City Schools Board of Education  
1100 Broad Avenue  
Findlay, Ohio 45840

November 7, 2016

Office of Community Schools  
25 South Front Street, Mail Stop 307  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

To Whom It May Concern:

The Findlay City Schools (FCS), as sponsor for the Findlay Digital Academy (IRN 000402), is very pleased with how the Findlay Digital Academy (FDA) is addressing the needs of a very at-risk student population. The Findlay Digital Academy is a drop-out recovery school with a mission that states: The mission of the Findlay Digital Academy is to meet the needs of each student by providing state approved education through on-line instruction and individualized mentoring. The goals of the Findlay Digital Academy are as follows: (1) Provide an exemplary digital academy that addresses the needs of the students for whom the traditional model of school does not work; (2) achieve a 100% graduation rate while promoting self-confidence and self-esteem in every student; and (3) create an open, accepting environment for Findlay Digital Academy students. Additionally, Findlay Digital Academy is an eschool that offers a continuous progress curriculum model. The curriculum is aligned with the Ohio Content Standards.

Findlay Digital Academy was named the Charter School of the Year by the Ohio Alliance of Public Charter Schools for having Exceeded Standards in all areas of its 2013-14 report card and Exceeded Standards in all areas except one of the 2014-15 report card, and in 2015-16 the academy received an overall rating of Meets Standards. Findlay Digital Academy has received the Ohio Auditor of State Award for 2016 and for a number of years prior to that.

The Findlay Board of Education, at our October 17, 2016, board meeting reviewed and approved the Findlay Digital Academy 2015-2016 Annual Report. We are using the approval of this annual report as our means of affirming our satisfaction with the quality of the operation of the Findlay Digital Academy.

The chart below is the Findlay City Schools' assessment of performance in all areas based on the school's annual report, site visits, attendance at FDA board meetings, and numerous documents submitted to FCS by Findlay Digital Academy.

Area	Evidence	Compliance Rating
Academic Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exceeded Standards on Report Card in ALL areas except two in 2015-16, but had an <b>overall rating of Meets Standards</b></li> <li>• Eighty-four students graduated from FDA in 2016</li> <li>• Had a 95.6% attendance rate</li> <li>• Had 23 students attend career technical classes</li> <li>• Had 12 students take CCP classes</li> <li>• Students take MAP tests twice a year</li> </ul>	Meets Standards
Fiscal Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded the Ohio Auditor of State Award 2016 by Dave Yost</li> <li>• Budget was balanced as evidenced by the Annual Report and other reports to the FCS treasurer</li> <li>• The FDA board approves the fiscal reports and 5-Year Forecast at its board meetings</li> <li>• All required audits were performed and no findings were found.</li> <li>• Monthly financial reports were sent by the treasurer of FDA to the treasurer of FCS</li> </ul>	Meets Standards
Organization and Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance of FCS Superintendent at most all FDA board meetings</li> <li>• Updated policy book as needed</li> <li>• Observation of students working at FDA</li> <li>• FCS has NOT received any complaints about FDA from any source</li> <li>• Training for the board was provided by Brian DeSantis of Day-Ketterer</li> <li>• Required FDA board meetings were held and minutes are posted on the FDA webpage</li> <li>• FDA works in compliance with the sponsor contract</li> </ul>	Meets Standards
Legal Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FDA has honored all provisions in the FCS Sponsor Contract</li> <li>• FDA adheres to all ORC provisions</li> <li>• FDA Board meetings are held in compliance with the Ohio Sunshine Laws</li> </ul>	Meets Standards

The Sponsor Superintendent conducts in depth site visits twice a year. At that time, the contract, policies, procedures and general operation of Findlay Digital Academy are discussed and examined. The Sponsor Superintendent, Ed Kurt, also makes numerous impromptu visits throughout the school year. He will also bring visitors to the academy to see the academy in action. Mr. Kurt attends the FDA board meetings or sends a representative. A sponsor representative attended the May FDA graduation ceremony to celebrate the 84 graduates. Climate Data that tracks students exceeding standards, students on target and students performing below standards, number of visits to student homes, number of student visits to the lab, and number of Instructional Coaches contacts with students via phone, text or in person is reported to the Findlay City Schools Superintendent and the FDA Board quarterly. Monitoring is on going.

Academic goals are monitored primarily based on the Report Card achievement and if MAP requirements are being met. Also, the number of graduates is closely monitored. The number of students attending and being successful in the Millstream Career Center is routinely monitored as are the number of students who are involved in the College Credit Plus program. The Family & Student Engagement Coach makes home visits to students who are not progressing through the curriculum, as they should. Climate Data is reviewed quarterly.

Non-academic goals are monitored through site visits and discussion. Student attendance at school social events is tracked.

The school offers 24 hours of tutoring services a week to supplement the eSchool curriculum, which is available 24/7. Instructional Coaches, who are mostly retired teachers, are available to tutor students in regard to areas of their eSchool curriculum they are not understanding. The tutoring is one-on-one and the student volunteers to come into the lab for the tutoring. The student can come as often as he/she needs help. Test preparation sessions are offered before OGT and AIR testing dates. A College & Career Readiness Coordinator helps students map out their post-secondary goals. This Coordinator also helps students enroll in CTE and CCP programs. A Special Education Coordinator helps students set and achieve their IEP academic and non-academic goals.

The Findlay Digital Academy Board of Directors approved the 2015-16 Findlay Digital Academy Annual Report at their October 6, 2016 board meeting.

Sincerely,

Kathy Siebenaler-Wilson  
Findlay City Schools  
Board of Education Vice-President

Edward P. Kurt  
Findlay City Schools Superintendent