

November 30, 2018

Reesa Matthews, Governing Authority Chairperson  
Steel Academy  
1570 Creighton Avenue  
Akron, Ohio 44310

**Re: 2017-2018 Annual Report**

Dear Ms. Matthews,

Ohio law requires the Department to complete an annual review of the performance of the School. The Ohio Department of Education, Office of School Sponsorship, evaluates the School based upon its academic, fiscal, organizational/operational performance, and legal compliance. During the 2017-2018 school year, the Department began working on its strategic plan which looks at the impact of education on the whole child. As a result, a large part of the School's evaluation will consider the School's impact on the whole child.

As a result of the review, the Office of School Sponsorship has determined that the School serves as a special need in the community to offer education to students with disabilities in grades seven through twelve. The school encourages student academic, social, and emotional growth. Its unique approach to education caters to the community the school serves and this year the school is focusing on academic improvement. It is clear that the school is a true community school and staff, parents and the governing authority are dedicated to the success of the students and, in turn, the School. The School is rated as **working towards meeting expectations of the Office of School Sponsorship**. Our office is looking forward to working with the School during the school year.

**Academic Performance**

Overall, the School's performance is working towards meeting expectations of the Department. The School has struggled over the past year, however, with the supports from the new management company, and the academic improvement plan the school is developing, the school should show overall improvement over the next years. A more detailed review of the School's overall academics is contained in the attachments as well as available on the Department's website at [reportcard@education.ohio.gov](mailto:reportcard@education.ohio.gov). The School's governing authority and leadership are dedicated to ensuring the school's continued success.

**Fiscal Performance**

Overall the School meets the expectations of fiscal performance. A detailed analysis may be reviewed in the attachment.

**Legal Compliance**

During the 2017-2018 school year, we reviewed the School's policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the over 200 state laws and rules applicable to community schools. We

appreciate the School's desire to work closely with our office in drafting and revising policies to ensure compliance with our office's standards as well as statutory requirements. We have broken down the compliance into several sections and your compliance with each section is identified in the chart:

Category	Total Compliance Items	Items Compliant
Academic	80	80
Data and Technology	16	16
Enrollment/Admissions/Attendance	20	20
Fiscal	20	19
Governance and Employment	60	60
Health and Safety	34	34
Transportation	17	12
Other policies	11	11

We appreciate the School's hard work over the year.

### **Organization and Operational Performance**

Operationally, the School has strong organizational and operational leadership. The School's leadership team is committed to school improvement and continuing to have a strong relationship with the community. The School's governing authority is present in the school and is working on ensuring that the school remains viable for many years to come. Overall the School is in compliance with its contract, the staff is committed to the students, and the governing authority is committed to the continued viability of the school.

### **The 2018-2019 School Year**

Looking ahead to the 2018-2019 school year, we hope to continue to partner with the school as it is a strong community school choice in the Akron area. Our office will continue to be a partner to the School this year and in the future.

Sincerely,

*Sheila P. Vitale*

Sheila P. Vitale, Esq.  
Director, Office of School Sponsorship

# Steel Academy Performance Framework

The Performance Framework serves as the foundation for the performance and accountability plan for schools sponsored by the Ohio Department of Education's Office of School Sponsorship. The framework evaluates the school in four equally rated areas: academic and student performance; financial performance; operational performance; and additional evidence of the effectiveness of the community school.

## Academic and Student Performance

The goals in this section are measured based on the school's own academic and student performance measures, as well as the statewide similarly situated schools and comparable community schools.

In measuring the school's academic indicators, certain report card measures identified as "weighted report card measures" are areas that are weighted more heavily in considering whether the school is showing marked improvement in academics. The weighted report card measures include a look at the past three years of school performance and include a narrative regarding whether the school is making improvement year over year.

Additional consideration is given to schools that increase any component grade one level over the previous year. The school must have received a rating for the component grade in the prior school year for the school to receive additional consideration that it is meeting or exceeding goals.

The comparison groups by which the school is measured is an important tool in determining whether the school is meeting its academic goals. If a school meets or exceeds the results of the comparison group, the school will be considered to have met its goals. This measure also includes a narrative regarding the school's performance over the past three years compared to the comparison groups.

### Weighted Report Card Measures

Key	Exceeds Goals	Meets Goals	Making Progress Toward Goals	Needs Improvement	Three-Year Comparison
Performance Index	Grade A or B or exceeded the overall statewide average.	Grade C or meets the overall statewide average.	Grade D and is below the overall statewide average or an increase of 10 percent.	Grade F and is below the overall statewide average.	Has essentially remained the same
Value-Added	Grade A or B	Grade C	Grade D	Grade F	Remained the same from prior year
K-3 Literacy	Grade A or B	Grade C	Grade D	Grade F	Not rated – school doesn't serve K-3
4-Year Graduation Rate	Meets district average	10 percent below district average.	Greater than 10 percent below but less than 20 percent below district average.	Greater than 20 percent below district average.	Has made some good improvement, percentage increased
5-Year Graduation Rate	Meets district average as identified on report card	10 percent below district average as identified on report card.	Greater than 10 percent below district average as identified on report card.	Greater than 20 percent below district average as identified on report card.	

# Steel Academy Performance Framework

Key	Notes	Meets Goal	
Any component grade increased one level	Includes only component grades that were graded on the two most recent report cards.		None

## Comparison with Peers

Key	Notes/Considerations	Meets Goals	Need Improvement	Three-Year Comparison
Performance v. District of Residence – Performance index		Performed at the level of or above the district of residence.	Performed below the level of the district of residence.	Steel Academy is underperforming compared against the local district.
Performance v. Statewide Similarly Situated Community Schools – Performance Index	Similar schools are based on the community school's characteristics: 1. Brick and Mortar; 2. Special Education; 3. E-schools	Performed at the level of or above similar community schools.	Performed below the level of similar community schools.	Similar schools statewide are performing better than the school.

Notes:

## Other Report Card Measures

Key	Meets	Needs Improvement
Achievement (Overall)	A-C	D-F
Indicators Met	A-C	D-F
Progress (Overall)	A-C	D-F
Mobility		
Value-Added Gifted Students	A-C	D-F
Value-Added Lowest 20% in Achievement	A-C	D-F
Value-Added Students with Disabilities	A-C	D-F
Gap Closing	A-C	D-F
Prepared for Success	A-C	D-F
Chronic Absenteeism rate	Equal to or less than 10%	Greater than 10%

Notes:

Areas of Value-Added Gifted was not rated for Steel Academy.

## Academic and Student Performance – Dropout Prevention and Recovery Schools Only

### Weighted Report Card Measures

Key	Meets	Making Progress	Needs Improvement	Three-Year Comparison
Progress	Rated Exceeds Standards.	Rated Meets Standards.	Rated Does Not Meet Standards.	
Gap Closing	Rated Exceeds Standards.	Rated Meets Standards.	Rated Does Not Meet Standards.	
4-Year Graduation Rate	Rated Exceeds Standards.	Rated Meets Standards.	Rated Does Not Meet Standards.	
5-Year Graduation Rate	Rated Exceeds Standards.	Rated Meets Standards.	Rated Does Not Meet Standards.	

Key	Notes	Meets Goal	
Any Component Grade Increased One Level	Only includes component grades that were rated for two consecutive report cards.		

### Comparison with Peers

Key	Meets	Making Progress	Needs Improvement	Three-Year Comparison
Performance v. District of Residence – Performance index		Performed at the level of or above the district of residence.	Performed at the level of or above the district of residence.	
Performance v. Statewide Similarly Situated Community Schools – Performance Index	Similar schools are based on the community school's characteristics: - Dropout Prevention and Recovery Schools.	Performed at the level of or above similar community schools.	Performed below the level of similar community schools.	

Notes:

### Other Report Card Measures

Key	Meets	Needs Improvement
School Rating	Exceeds	Rated Meets Standards or Below
High School Test Passage Rate	32-100%	31.9% and below
6-Year Graduation Rate	12-100%	11.9% and below
7-Year Graduation Rate	12-100%	11.9% and below
8-Year Graduation Rate	12-100%	11.9% and below
Combined Graduation Rate	12-100%	11.9% and below
Attendance	80-100%	79.9% and below

Notes:

### Financial Performance

The financial performance looks at the financial status of the school to determine whether the school is financially viable.

Key	Notes	Compliant	Noncompliant and Corrective Action Required
Annual Audit		The most recent audit contains no findings for recovery, noncompliance citations, questioned costs or material weaknesses.	The most recent audit contains findings for recovery, noncompliance citations, questioned costs, material weaknesses or findings for recovery.
Fiscal Officer		The governing authority ensures that the fiscal officer (treasurer) timely and accurately provides financial information to the sponsor.	The fiscal officer (treasurer) did not timely and accurately provide financial information to the sponsor.

Notes:

## Key Financial Indicators of Fiscal Stability

Key	Definition	Measure	Meets Fiscal Standards	Approaching Fiscal Standards — Fiscal Plan Should be Adopted by the Governing Authority	Not Meeting Fiscal Standards – Corrective Actions Required and Sponsor-Approved Fiscal Plan Required
Current Ratio	Current Assets divided by Current Liabilities.	Identifies the current assets an agency has that easily can be changed into cash to pay current expenses.	$\geq 1.5$	$\geq 1.0, < 1.5$	$< 1.0$
Current Ratio (Multi-Year)	Current Assets divided by Current Liabilities for multiple years (three to five years).	Identifies the current assets an agency has that easily can be changed into cash to pay current expenses.	$\geq 1.5$ & Trends Up	$\geq 1.0, < 1.5$ & Stable	$< 1.0$ Trends Down
Working Capital	Current Assets minus Current Liabilities.	Measure of an entity's liquidity. If current assets exceed current liabilities, the entity is not expected to suffer from liquidity crunch in the near future. A negative working capital amount indicates the entity may not be able to pay its current liabilities when due.	Positive	Zero	Negative
Debt Ratio	Total Liabilities divided by Total Assets.	Measures the portion of the assets of a business that are financed through debt; a lower value is favorable because it indicates that a lower portion of assets is claimed by creditors. The amount identifies the percentage of assets financed through debts.	0 – 20%	$> 20\%, < 40\%$	$> 40\%$
Days Cash	Number of calendar days an entity can meet its current obligations using current cash balance including cash equivalents.	Measures calendar days a business can continue to operate without additional cash or resources from external sources.	30-60 Days	15-30 Days	$< 15$ Days

Key	Definition	Measure	Meets Fiscal Standards	Approaching Fiscal Standards — Fiscal Plan Should be Adopted by the Governing Authority	Not Meeting Fiscal Standards – Corrective Actions Required and Sponsor-Approved Fiscal Plan Required
Accounts Payable Past Due	Amounts owed to suppliers.	Identifies ability of entity to pay suppliers in a timely manner, usually within 30 days or payment is considered late. Identifies ability of entity to pay suppliers in a timely manner, usually within 30 days or payment is considered late.	=<30 Days	30-60 Days	>60 Days
Cash Flow (Operating)	Identifies how changes in balance sheet accounts and income affect cash and cash equivalents. (Source: Online)	Measures an entity's ability to generate positive cash flow from its primary (core) business activities. OCF=Income before interest and taxes + Depreciation + Amortization – Taxes.	Positive	Zero	Negative
Total Margin (Ratio)	A measure of the ability of an entity to generate excess revenue over expenditures. (Source: Online)	Measures the financial health of an entity. Total Margin = (Revenues – Expenses)/Total Revenue. Favorable if 25 percent (0.25) or greater.	>25% or >0.25	=>15% <25%	<15% or <0.15
FTE claw back	The school over-reported the number of full- time equivalent students and has received an overpayment from the Department.	Measures the financial health of the school and the additional debt of the school.	No claw back	Claw back less than \$500,000	Claw back greater than \$500,000

**Current Assets:** Cash, cash equivalents, accounts receivable, prepaid expenses, inventories and other items of value that can be converted to cash quickly.

**Current Liabilities:** Accounts payable, accrued expenses and liabilities, notes payable or short-term borrowings and the current portion of long-term debt.

Notes:



## Operational Performance

The operational performance of the school looks at various areas of the school's compliance with laws and rules and licensure. Specifically, operational performance looks to how the school operationally takes steps to ensure it is able to offer a quality educational option to its students. This factor looks at teachers, special education, use of federal funds and the effectiveness of the school's governing authority.

Key	Notes	Compliant	Noncompliant and Corrective Action Required
Appropriate Certification and Licensure		Each credentialed staff member holds the appropriate credential for his/her assigned position.	Some educators are not appropriately licensed for their assignment according to state statute.
Annual Report		Parents and sponsor received the school's annual report by the last day of October. The report was complete, accurate and included a self-evaluation of the school's performance over a multi-year period.	Parents and sponsor did not receive the school's annual report by the last day of October. The report was not complete and/or not accurate and/ or did not include a self-evaluation of the school's performance over a multi-year period.
Management Company Evaluation		Governing authority annually evaluates the management company's performance and provided the sponsor a copy of the evaluation.	Governing authority did not annually evaluate the management company's performance or did not provide the sponsor a copy of the evaluation.
Corrective Action Plans		School satisfied all corrective action plans in a timely manner.	School did not fully satisfy all corrective action plans in a timely manner.

### Notes:

### Operational Performance - Continued

Key	Compliant	Not Compliant	N/A
Federal Programs: Carryover Funds <sup>1</sup>	No large carryover of funds indicating ---.	Large carryover.	
Federal Programs: Timely Submission of Consolidated Application	Application submitted by July 1.	School submitted application late.	
Federal Programs: Timely and Complete Monitoring Documentation	Requested documentation or self-survey was submitted by the requested date.	Requested documentation and/ or self-survey was submitted with incomplete information and/or did not meet deadline.	
Federal Programs: Noncompliance Issues with ESEA Law	School has no programmatic or fiscal compliance issues over the last three years.	School did experience a programmatic or fiscal compliance issue over the last three years or the school has unresolved programmatic issues.	

<sup>1</sup> "Large carryover" is defined as 15 percent or more of Title I-A and more than 30 percent from other grants.

Notes:

## Special Education

Key	Meets	Does Not Meet
Special Education Indicator 3c: Reading Proficiency Rate	<b>24.18 percent or more</b> students with disabilities scored at or above the proficient level on statewide reading assessments; compliant.	<b>Fewer than 24.18 percent</b> of students with disabilities scored at or above the proficient level on statewide reading assessments; noncompliant.
Special Education Indicator 3c: Math Proficiency Rate	<b>28.57 percent or more</b> students with disabilities scored at or above the proficient level on statewide math assessments; compliant.	<b>Fewer than 28.57 percent</b> of students with disabilities scored at or above the proficient level on statewide math assessments; noncompliant.
Special Education Indicator 4b: Disproportionality – Discipline - Expulsion	Risk ratio <b>less than or equal to 3.50</b> : A risk ratio of 3.5 signifies that students with disabilities within a given racial/ ethnic group are 3.5 times more likely to be expelled for greater than 10 days than all students without disabilities; compliant.	Risk ratio <b>more</b> than 3.50: A risk ratio of 3.5 signifies that students with disabilities within a given racial/ethnic group are 3.5 times more likely to be expelled for greater than 10 days than all students without disabilities; noncompliant.
Special Education Indicator 4b: Disproportionality – Discipline – Suspension	Risk ratio <b>less than or equal to 3.5</b> : A risk ratio of 3.5 signifies that students with disabilities within a given racial/ ethnic group are 3.5 times more likely to be suspended for greater than 10 days than all students without disabilities; compliant.	Risk ratio <b>more</b> than 3.5: A risk ratio of 3.5 signifies that students with disabilities within a given racial/ethnic group are 3.5 times more likely to be suspended for greater than 10 days than all students without disabilities; noncompliant.
Special Education Indicator 9: Identification by Race	Risk ratio <b>less than or equal to 3.5</b> : A risk ratio of 3.5 signifies that students <b>within a specific racial/ ethnic group</b> are 3.5 times more likely to be identified <b>for special education</b> than students NOT in that racial/ethnic group; compliant.	Risk ratio <b>more</b> than 3.5: A risk ratio of 3.5 signifies that students <b>within a specific racial/ethnic</b> group are 3.5 times more likely to be identified <b>for special education</b> than students NOT in that racial/ethnic group; noncompliant.
Special Education Indicator 10: Identification for Specific Disability Categories by Race	Risk ratio <b>less than or equal to 3.5</b> : A risk ratio of 3.5 signifies that students <b>within a specific racial/ ethnic group</b> are 3.5 times more likely to be identified in a <b>specific disability category</b> than students NOT in that racial/ethnic group; compliant.	Risk ratio <b>more</b> than 3.5: A risk ratio of 3.5 signifies that students <b>within a specific racial/ethnic</b> group are 3.5 times more likely to be identified in a <b>specific disability category</b> than students NOT in that racial/ ethnic group; noncompliant.
Special Education Indicator 1: Graduation	<b>82.80 percent or more</b> students with disabilities graduated from high school with regular diplomas within four years; compliant.	<b>Fewer than 82.80 percent</b> of students with disabilities graduated from high school with regular diplomas within four years; noncompliant.
Special Education Indicator 2: Dropout	<b>21.80 percent or fewer</b> students with disabilities dropped out of high school; compliant.	<b>More than 21.80 percent</b> of students with disabilities dropped out of high school; noncompliant.
Special Education Indicator 13: Secondary Transition	<b>100 percent</b> : All students with an IEP ages 16 and older must have compliant transition plans in place; compliant.	<b>Less than 100 percent</b> : All students with IEPs ages 16 and older must have compliant transition plans in place; noncompliant.

**Notes:****Additional Evidence of Effectiveness of the School in the Community:**

This section measures the school's effectiveness in the community, taking in account the whole child and community involvement.

This section is important in determining whether the school is meeting the goal of being a quality school choice in the community.

Key	Meets	Does Not Meet
Community Engagement	Evidence of one or more community engagement activities for the school year.	Some educators are not appropriately licensed for their assignment according to state statute.
Social/Emotional	Evidence of a plan to address social/emotional needs of the students.	Did not provide sufficient evidence of a plan to address social/emotional needs of the students.
Parent Satisfaction	The school obtained 85 percent or higher parent satisfaction based on surveys of parents during the evaluation year.	The school obtained less than 85 percent parent satisfaction based on surveys of parents during the evaluation year or the school failed to take a parent satisfaction survey.
The School Enrolls a Sufficient Number of Students and Receives Sufficient State Foundation Payments to Support the School's Programs		

**Notes:**

Key	Exceeds	Meets	Does Not Meet
School's Climate, As Measured by Sponsor During the Site Visit	The school meets all three: (1) The school has a program in place to support the diverse needs of its students; (2) The school's core mission is clearly incorporated throughout all the school's programs; and (3) The school's professional climate incorporates professional collaboration and teacher development and formal teacher evaluations.	The school meets at least two of the following: (1) The school has a program in place to support the diverse needs of its students; (2) The school's core mission is clearly incorporated throughout all the school's programs; or (3) the school's professional climate incorporates professional collaboration and teacher development and formal teacher evaluations.	The school only meets one or none of the following: (1) The school has a program in place to support the diverse needs of its students; (2) The school's core mission is clearly incorporated throughout all the school's programs; or (3) The school's professional climate incorporates professional collaboration and teacher development and formal teacher evaluations.

**Notes:**

**Overall Results of School Performance Evaluation Narrative:**

Overall, Steel Academy does well at working cooperatively with the sponsor. Since the last school year, the school has had a change in management company/operator to now working with the Educational Empowerment Group (EEG). Additionally, there is new leadership within the building and the new school leader is very enthusiastic about the work he and his teachers and staff are doing in support of their students. With EEG's help, we are excited to see good results that will show a lot of improvement academically.

# Ohio School Report Cards



School Grade

## Steel Academy

Districts and schools report information for the Ohio School Report Cards on specific marks of performance, called measures, within broad categories called components. They receive grades for up to ten measures and six components.

### Achievement

The Achievement Component represents whether student performance on state tests met established thresholds and how well students performed on tests overall. A new indicator measures chronic absenteeism.

Performance Index

37.9%

Indicators Met

12.5%



Component Grade

### Progress

The Progress component looks closely at the growth that all students are making based on their past performances.

Value-Added

Overall  
Gifted  
Lowest 20% in Achievement  
Students with Disabilities



Component Grade

### Gap Closing

The Gap Closing component shows how well schools are meeting the performance expectations for our most vulnerable students in English language arts, math, graduation and English language proficiency.

Annual Measurable Objectives  
25.0%



Component Grade

F  
NR  
D  
F

F

### Graduation Rate

The Graduation Rate component looks at the percent of students who are successfully finishing high school with a diploma in four or five years.

Graduation Rates

76.2% of students graduated in 4 years

66.7% of students graduated in 5 years



Component Grade

### Improving At-Risk K-3 Readers

This component looks at how successful the school is at improving at-risk K-3 readers.

Improving At-Risk K-3 Readers  
0.0%



Component Grade

### Prepared for Success

Whether training in a technical field or preparing for work or college, the Prepared for Success component looks at how well prepared Ohio's students are for all future opportunities.



Component Grade

NR

F

F

F

F

