

Report on Student-Teacher Metrics for Internet- or Computer-Based Community Schools



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Report on Student-Teacher Metrics for Internet- or Computer-Based Community Schools

Ohio law¹ requires each internet- or computer-based community school (“e-school”) to prepare and submit to the Ohio Department of Education an annual report that contains information about all of the following:

- (a) Classroom size;
- (b) The ratio of teachers to students per classroom;
- (c) The number of student-teacher meetings conducted in person or by video conference;
- (d) Any other information determined necessary by the Department.

The statutory intent for this data collection is specified as follows:

“It is the intent of the General Assembly that teachers employed by internet- or computer-based community schools conduct visits with their students in person throughout the school year.”

Internet- or computer-based community schools were required to prepare this report for the first time at the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year. Of the 15 internet- or computer-based community schools, nine implement dropout prevention and recovery programs and receive alternate Ohio School Report Cards. The following is a summary of responses for each requirement of the law.

(a) Classroom size

Defining classroom for internet- or computer-based community schools has been a topic of ongoing discussion in reports issued by the Department about online learning² and funding for e-schools.³ For the purposes of this data collection, each internet- or computer-based community school was asked to provide the average class size in the school. The average class size was determined by dividing total number of students enrolled in a course/class by total number of courses/classes. The average class size based on these parameters was **38.14 students per course/class**, an increase from the 27.36 students per course/class reported in 19-20. Please see Table A for a full list of responses from each internet- or computer-based community school.

(b) The ratio of teachers to students per classroom

Each school was asked to report the ratio of teachers to students per classroom. To determine the ratio, the average number of students enrolled in a course/class was divided by the number of teachers for each course/class. Looking at the average per course/class provides a different perspective from how the Department typically calculates student/teacher ratios [total number of students/total number of teachers]. The average ratio of teachers to students per classroom based on these parameters was **one teacher to 26.87 students per classroom** an increase from the one teacher to 21.72 student per classroom reported in 19-20. Please see Table A for a full list of responses from each internet- or computer- based community school.

(c) The number of student-teacher meetings conducted in person or by video

To determine the total number of student-teacher meetings, each school was asked to provide the number of interactions between a student and teacher that occurred in a physical location (such as the school, tutoring center, in-home visits or other locations). In addition, to determine the number of student-teacher meetings conducted by video, each school provided “the number of student-teacher meetings conducted using Skype, FaceTime, GoTo Meeting or any other computer software that allows for video conferencing.” Using these parameters, schools reported a wide range of student-teacher meetings conducted in person or by video, from three sessions per student to more than 25 sessions per student. Please see Table A for the full count of interactions.

¹ Ohio Revised Code [3314.21\(D\)\(1\)](#)

² See the Department of Education’s [Recommendations of Definitions Related to Online Learning](#), November 2018

³ See the Department of Education’s [Study of Internet-or Computer-Based Community School Funding Models](#), December 2019

The Department will continue to collect and report this information to the State Board of Education in subsequent years.

Table A

Name of School	General Education or Dropout Prevention and Recovery (DPR)	Average Classroom Size	Ratio of teachers to students per classroom	Total number of student-teacher meetings conducted in person or by video conference.
Alternative Education Academy	General Education	40.00 (K-8) 150 (9-12)	11.00	143,325
Auglaize County Educational Academy	DPR	27.00	25.00	1,248
Buckeye On-Line School for Success	General Education	23.45	16.59	N/A*
Fairborn Digital Academy	DPR	7.90	7.90	3,353
Findlay Digital Academy	DPR	20.00	22.00	3,425
GOAL Digital Academy	DPR	30.00	22.00	118,000
Great River Connections Academy	General Education	38.00	31.00	82,790
Greater Ohio Virtual School	DPR	49.08	17.80	1,876
Mahoning Unlimited Classroom	DPR	31.00	25.00	N/A*
Ohio Connections Academy, Inc	General Education	53.00	42.00	358,634
Ohio Digital Learning School	DPR	29.00	21.00	12,213
Ohio Virtual Academy	General Education	29.70	73.70	61,259
Quaker Digital Academy	DPR	4.48	31.86	9,032
Quaker Preparatory Academy	General Education	8.76	17.33	5,601
TRECA Digital Academy	DPR	68.84	38.89	8,506

N/A* — The school reported all courses are live, virtual classes and did not track meetings outside of the day-to-day interactions with students.