23-24 Annual Report

FIND YOUR PATH
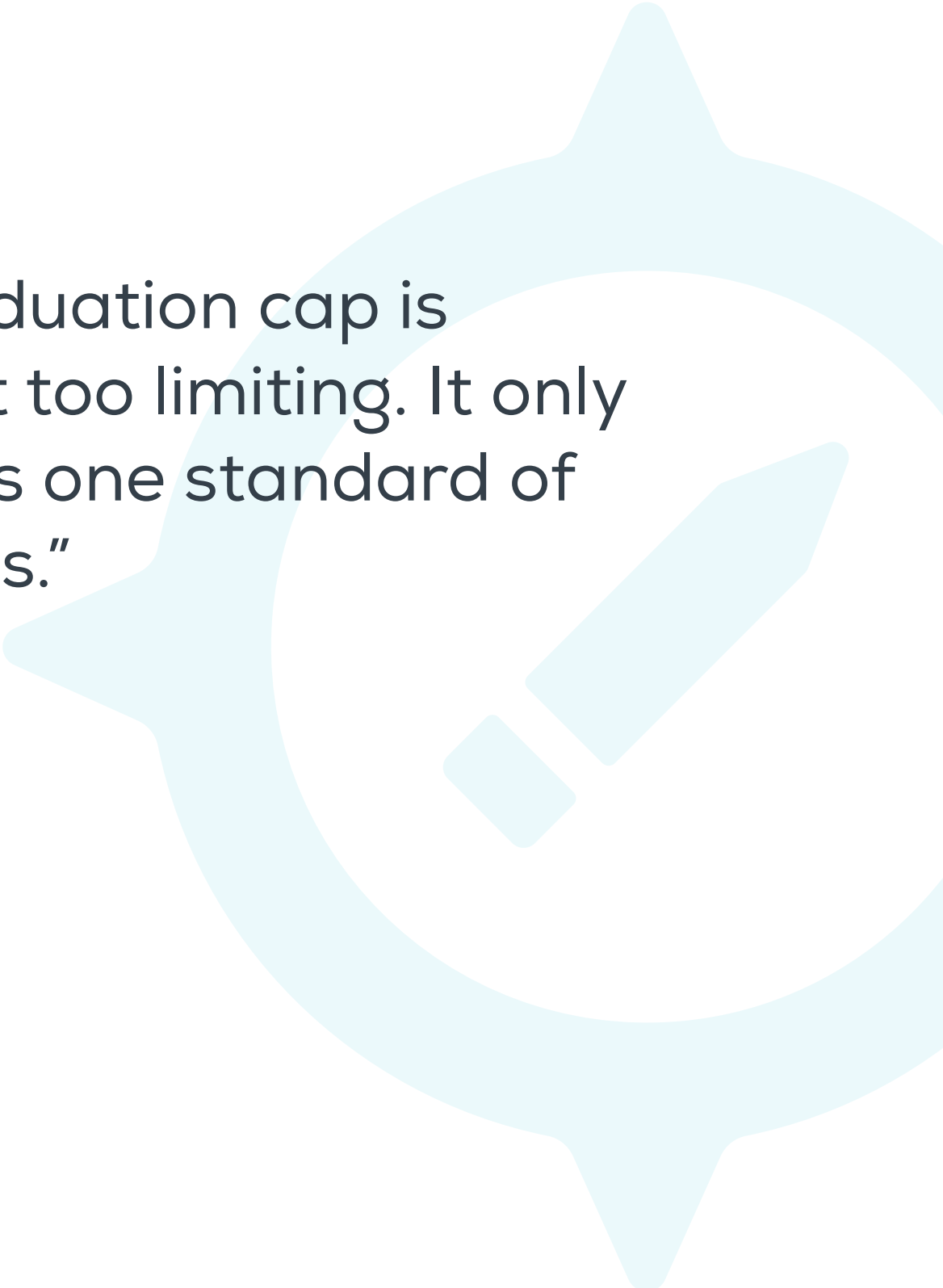
TRECA

"A graduation cap is almost too limiting. It only defines one standard of success."

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ABOUT US

Who We Are

TRECA Digital Academy is an online, non-profit K-12 public community school, chartered through the Ohio Department of Education. TRECA strives to provide the best possible distance learning opportunity to Ohio students who have decided that online education is a good alternative to the brick-and-mortar environment.

Students utilize a comprehensive and interactive curriculum that meets all of Ohio's Learning Standards. Students can attend class in a safe environment, taught by highly qualified teachers who offer personal attention and support. Students are required to attend school 180 days per school year and can access their online coursework 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from any computer.

Since 2009, TRECA has been identified as a Dropout Prevention and Recovery program. This designation is given to schools when a majority of students are between ages 16 and 21 and identified as at-risk for dropping out. In order to help all of our students

succeed, we believe their individual needs must come first. This is why we built our philosophy around one idea: helping students find their path.

Plain and simple, we're an online school for K-12 students. But we believe we're so much more! We're a safe place to learn, a place for students seeking an alternative to brick-and-mortar schools, and we're that extra push for anyone seeking a challenge! We're fully public and completely non-profit.

Board of Directors

Kate Fisher

Board President

As both owner of her own social media marketing company and president of the Marion City Council, Ms. Fisher brings a critical business perspective to our organization.

Jim Craycraft

Board Vice President

Mr. Craycraft is a Marion leader who has served numerous superintendent tenures with various districts. He now serves at OSU Marion to assist in developing their teachers.

Ray Funk

Board Member

Mr. Funk comes from a background in education. Over the course of his career, he has served numerous districts, businesses, and other educational entities.

Fran Voll

Board Member

Mr. Voll is another experienced educator who brings valuable insight to our table. He has a wealth of knowledge and expertise from years of service at Marion Catholic.
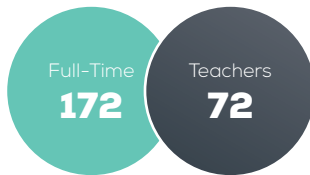
Vaughn Sizemore

Board Member

Mr. Sizemore is both a business leader and active supporter of the Marion community. His background in technology and government relations bring great value to our board.

School Demographics

STAFF

TRECA Staff

Even though we're online, that doesn't mean students are on their own! We have close to **172** staff members who serve and support the needs of our TRECA Digital Academy students.

Full-Time **172**   Teachers **72**

FULL-TIME STUDENT POPULATION

2,469

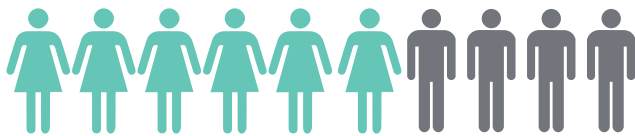### TRECA Digital Academy Student Population

As of spring 2022, TRECA served the equivalent of 2,280 full-time students in the Digital Academy program. Over the course of the year, enrollment peaked near 2,300 students.

Enrollment by Gender

Of the total number of students enrolled in TRECA Digital Academy, 55% are female and 44% are male.

Enrollment by Grade Level

Nearly 73% of TRECA Digital Academy students are in grades 9-12. The remaining 21% of students are in grades 4-8 and 4% are K-3.

K-3 **114** students   4-8 **533** students   9-12 **1822** students
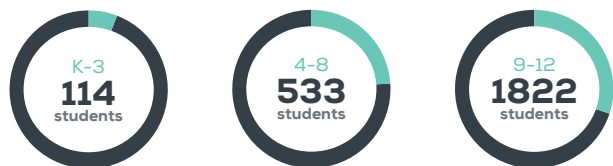
Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

The majority of TRECA Digital Academy students are white, followed by black, multiracial, and Hispanic.

- White, Non-Hispanic – 74.1%
- Black, Non-Hispanic – 10.7%
- Multiracial – 7.8%
- Hispanic – 6.7%
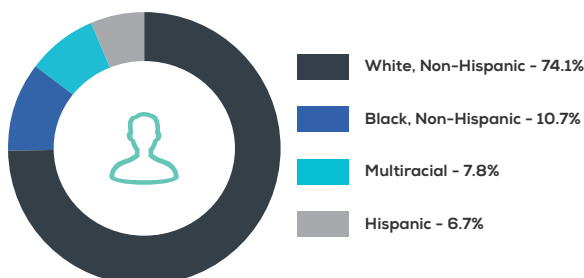
Enrollment by Subgroup

The following breaks down the student population in other specific subgroups measured by the Ohio Department of Education.

- Economically Disadvantaged – 56.4%
- Students with Disabilities – 19.6%
- Limited English Proficiency – 1.4%
- Homeless – 2.2%
- Adults (18-21) – 16.7%
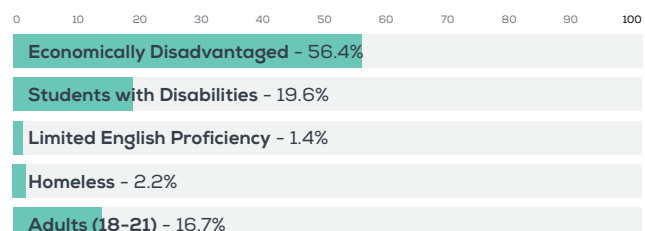
Our Executive Director

The Executive Director acts as the district leader with the support of the district's administrators, who make up the district leadership team.

A passion for education and technology brought me to TRECA fifteen years ago. I started as a teacher's aide and became a high school government teacher before moving into administration. My mission has always been more than putting diplomas in students' hands. We're about helping students find their path, and we are committed to that more than ever!

Adam Clark

ADAM CLARK

Our Treasurer

The Treasurer is the Board's chief fiscal officer and is responsible for the prudent accountability of all monies received and spent by the school. He or she maintains the Board's official records and is responsible for the duties required by law and the state auditor.

◀ **JESSICA WAKE:**

Mrs. Wake brings a fresh perspective to our financial team. As a recently-licensed treasurer, she's extremely knowledgeable of the latest rules, regulations, and contemporary practices. As a longtime employee with TRECA, she has a strong understanding of the fabric of our organization.

What Drives Us

Our great purpose at TRECA is to help others find their path! The primary focus of that is on the paths of our students and their families. However, our purpose isn't exclusive to that; we're also adamant about the betterment of our own people and community. It's part of our DNA. Our people make us who we are. We value them and build on their strengths. This all sets the stage for upholding our mission and values as an organization.

OUR MISSION

We firmly believe that all students deserve meaningful learning experiences despite the obstacles they face. We will prepare them for tomorrow by removing barriers, building relationships, and making learning relevant. This is the mission for which we aim. Each new adventure begins with this key belief in mind!

OUR VALUES

Our values are captured in three simple precepts:

• Student First
• Empower People
• Never Give Up!

These values drive everything we do. They define our choices, our policies, and our every interaction with students!

02

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

2022-2023 Highlights

The past year showed landmark growth in our educational program. We were excited to offer a multitude of new activities and benefits to our families. TRECA continued to seek new ways to engage students and serve its mission to help them find their path.

Admissions | Enrollment Growth
TRECA sustained its enrollment from the previous school year, reaching a peak of nearly 2,500 active students in 2022-2023.

Enrollment | Family Engagement
A unique component of TRECA Digital Academy is our in-person orientation requirement. Unlike some online schools, we require a face-to-face orientation with every new enrollee. This is a powerful component of our educational program because it serves as an opportunity to acclimate our students to our virtual tools, complete diagnostic exams, interact with families, and receive personalized support!

Student & Family Engagement | Field Trips
Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, TRECA provided students with several opportunities to attend field trips both in person and virtually across the state of Ohio. In addition to learning about Ohio's past and present, field trips provided students with opportunities to engage with TRECA teachers and their fellow students. Stops at the Greater Cleveland Aquarium, Airstream factory, Ohio History Center, COSI, National Veterans Memorial & Museum, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Stratford Ecological Center, National Museum of the United States Air Force, Warren Harding Presidential Home & Library, and the Ohio Statehouse highlighted the more than twenty opportunities that took place during the school year.

Attendance Intervention
Continuing in its effort to assist students and families, TRECA added a new layer of support in 2022-2023. A team of support staff were put in place to work with students facing chronic absenteeism. These devoted staff worked regularly with families to communicate absences and provide interventions to students. As a result, attendance among all TRECA students increased from 88% in 2021-2022 to 91% in 2022-2023.

Extended School Year | Summer Programs
TRECA has maintained efforts to provide students with learning opportunities beyond the regular school year. Throughout the summer of 2023, TRECA students were provided with ongoing internet connectivity and access to several instructional resources, including tutoring. In addition, TRECA provided students opportunities to attend STEM camps and offered resources to families to visit local museums and cultural sites throughout the state of Ohio.

Curriculum & Instruction

The State Model Courses of Study are the basis for TRECA Digital Academy curriculum. These are the content items around which the state testing program is built.

Our curriculum uses a variety of resources including teachers, community personnel, subscription sites, and the World Wide Web. A critical component of our program is our highly qualified teaching staff. Our teachers provide differentiated instruction to our students. Since our curriculum is accessible around the clock and our continuous progress instructional model is in place, students can move forward at rates that best meet their learning styles and needs.

PERSONALIZED

With a core value of "student first," it's essential that our curriculum and instruction live up to this precept. All of our materials are designed to cater to students' unique needs. We truly believe that personalization is a key advantage of online learning.

ENGAGING

Engagement of students and parents was a continued focus in 2022-2023. New additions to the Parent Portal were made to provide a detailed view of student attendance. Using the portal, parents can observe their child's regular attendance, down to the very minute. Such detail is necessary to ensure that families are aware of potential attendance concerns.

CHALLENGING

An undertaking at any school is to find that perfect blend of material that both challenges learners while providing them opportunities for success. We feel that our curriculum does just that! It grows our students and caters to a wide range of needs.

A major focus in 2022-2023 was to enhance our curricular program through the following:

DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT

TRECA implemented a new diagnostic assessment for reading and math among all students in 2022-2023. The STAR assessment was administered for all K-12 students at the start of the school year and again in either the winter or spring. Results from the assessment were immediately available to teachers, making it a powerful tool for information personalized instruction throughout the school year. The STAR assessments are also an essential component for measuring academic growth of students through the school year.

TUTORING

Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, TRECA provided all students with access to virtual tutoring. Tutoring provides students with the opportunity to address academic gaps that grew out of disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic. Students were able to schedule virtual tutoring sessions on-demand at times that work for them 24-7. This level of flexibility has proven invaluable for families attempting to work around their own busy schedules.

SUMMER SCHOOL

During the summer of 2023 TRECA provided summer school to even more students in need. Approximately 261 students had the opportunity to recover and/or complete classes that were incomplete from the school year, earning 173 credits. In grades K-8, 171 students were provided the opportunity to complete coursework to make up for incomplete classes during the school year. Of those students 76 7th and 8th grade 25 K-6 students earned promotions.

PBIS & The G.A.T.O.R Way

PBIS stands for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. PBIS is a schoolwide behavioral framework that embeds evidence-based practices and data-driven decision-making to improve school climate and culture, achieve improved academic and behavior outcomes, and increase learning for all students. PBIS encompasses a wide range of systemic and individualized positive strategies to teach school wide behavior expectations, reinforce desired behaviors, and diminish re-occurrences of challenging behaviors.

TRECA established The GATOR Way, a set of positive behavior expectations to help students be successful in school. Staff provided instruction on the positive behavior expectations in The GATOR Way, which students can exhibit in online classrooms, live sessions, and during in-person events. When TRECA staff notice that students are exhibiting the positive behaviors in The GATOR Way, they can acknowledge the behaviors with GATOR Gold. Students can redeem their GATOR Gold for rewards.

Our Report Card

The 2022-2023 school year was the 22nd year of TRECA Digital Academy's existence. Each year we learn more about our practice as online educators and our student population. For the second consecutive year, TRECA received an overall "Exceeds Standards" rating on its report card. The overall rating is a composite of four components; graduation, progress, gap closing and achievement.

Results from previous years of achievement testing have consistently indicated some successes and some areas for continued improvement. An area of concern continues to be overall achievement and the closing of gaps between student subgroups measured with the Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) calculation (also called Gap Closing). Results from the 2022-2023 school year reflected some of TRECA's highest marks on the Gap Closing measure to date, receiving a 44.1% score, or "Exceeds Standards." This score reflects academic gains among economically disadvantaged and minority students. While encouraging, additional work remains to be done to ensure that the needs of all students are being met.

Exceeds Standards
School Rating

School Overview

Schools that receive the dropout prevention and recovery report card receive ratings for up to eight measures and four components.

Exceeds Standards
Rating

Achievement Component

The Achievement component, previously called the High School Test Passage Rate component, represents the number of students who meet applicable criteria on assessments that are required for graduation.

Exceeds Standards
Rating

Gap Closing

This component shows how well school are improving or meeting the performance expectations for all students in English language arts, math, graduation, and English language proficiency.

Exceeds Standards
Rating

Progress

The Progress component looks closely at the growth all students are making during the school year.

Meets Standards
Rating

Graduation Rate

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

The second measure on the Dropout Prevention & Recovery report card is titled Progress. This component examines whether students demonstrate a year's worth of academic growth. It utilizes the results from the STAR reading and math assessments administered in the fall and spring to all high school students. For the 2022-2023 school year, TRECA received an "Exceeds Standards," designation, as students demonstrated growth in both reading and math. This is particularly encouraging as it demonstrates that TRECA students grew academically in both reading and math during the 2022-2023 school year.

A third component to the report card is titled High School Test Passage. As referenced previously, this measure examines the percentage of 12th graders that have successfully met the testing requirements towards graduation, earning the required points on the state's seven end-of-course exams. TRECA received a rating of "Exceeds Standards" for this component of the report card, with 68.3% of its 12th graders achieving the necessary points on their end-of-course exams.

GRADUATION

Given the at-risk population that TRECA serves, graduation rates have been a consistent area of emphasis, and it is anticipated that it will continue to be an area in which TRECA will focus its resources, including efforts put forth by teachers, counselors, advisors, and the SAFE program's social workers. In 2022-2023, TRECA's graduation rates continued an upward trend, reaching 38.4% among students graduating in four years. This rate continued a trend of improvement in each of the last five school years. The improvement among students', on-time graduation, can be attributed to the work of TRECA teachers and support staff. All of which have worked hard to identify at-risk students and guide them toward a path to success.

Parent & Community Involvement

As in the past, TRECA Digital Academy strongly encouraged parents and guardians to be actively involved in their student's education during 2022-2023. Each new enrollee was required to attend an orientation in the accompaniment of at least one parent/guardian. During this introduction to our online school, both students and adults were guided through a demonstration of how our school functions and how students participate in classes and communicate with teachers. Information was also provided to parents/guardians on how to access online tools to check their student's progress.

The use of web conferencing continued this year; teachers expanded their use of virtual meetings within Google Meet. Google Meet provides VOIP connections to allow teachers and students to connect through audio or video chats, instant messaging, desktop sharing, and use of a whiteboard, allowing even more two-way communication in real time. Other communication tools for parents/guardians included toll-free telephone access to the TRECA Help Desk and administrative offices, as well as access to students' data-only iPhone, allowing families to message teachers as a consistent means of communication. Finally, parents and students were invited to participate in educational family engagement events throughout every region of Ohio. TRECA teachers and staff met participants at various locations throughout the state, including Open Houses at a satellite office in each geographical region of the state.

The annual end-of-year survey of guardians indicated that 97% of respondents were "Satisfied" with the education their students received at TRECA. With nearly 1,300 responses to the survey, this was a positive indication that the services and opportunities provided by the TRECA program are supporting the needs of students and families.

98% Satisfied with TRECA

97% Would recommend TRECA

95% Agree their student develops good work habits while at TRECA

94% Agree their student develops values of hard work while at TRECA

98% Agree that their student uses technology to find, organize and present information while at TRECA

94% Agree their student establishes personal and career goals while at TRECA

Safe & Orderly Environment

As you may expect, online schooling requires administration to address safety issues that may differ from the traditional brick-and-mortar schools. Our cyber environment lends itself to safety issues such as inappropriate digital content within assignments, emails, and online classroom sessions.

256 BIT encryption

Custom Technology Solutions

Student computers are specifically designed to work within a "closed" environment yet allow access to the many resources available through the Internet. Students are not permitted to receive email from non-school entities. Websites are filtered for appropriateness through software installed on each machine. Social opportunities are provided through monitored online chats and discussion boards. Ensuring the security and safety of our students in an online environment is our number one priority.

100% participation

Acceptable Use Policies (AUPs)

All students and parents/guardians sign an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) as part of their induction into the school. This policy states that they agree to follow guidelines for appropriate use of the hardware and software. Should students violate this policy, procedures are in place to restrict their access to only what is necessary to complete school work within the intranet. All disciplinary actions are documented. While there are many reasons that students and parents choose to enroll in an online school, we know from parent feedback that a primary reason is the desire for a safer environment than was experienced in a prior educational setting. We are diligent in our efforts to meet those expectations for a safe school.

Collegiality & Professionalism

REMOTE & TRAVEL

Just as our students work from their homes, so do the majority of our teaching staff at TRECA. Teachers traveled several times during the year to the central office to team-build, collaborate, and receive training and support. In addition, they traveled to sites around the state to meet with students for face-to-face administration of state testing, fall diagnostics, and family engagement opportunities. We believe this face-to-face interaction is critical to our program because it encourages the building of a community of learners edified by teachers, support staff, and family members or other learning partners.

TOOLS & RESOURCES

To foster and facilitate communication throughout the year, the staff accessed many tools that encourage a sense of professional community. TRECA utilized Google tools, not only to collect and analyze staff feedback (via Forms and Sheets), but to hold virtual conferences and meetings (Google Meet), build Professional Development resources (Docs, Sheets, Forms, Sites), provide classroom walkthrough feedback related to OTES (Forms, Sheets, Docs), and even to support our Resident Educator mentoring programs (Sites).

INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

Teachers were required to post instructional times showing when they were available for immediate feedback and chats with students. Teachers went above and beyond the required time frames to assist individual students. This included making themselves available in the evenings and on weekends.

Collegiality & Professionalism Cont.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

All TRECA staff, licensed and unlicensed, create Individualized Professional Development Plans that outline their professional growth goals. Plans and activity hours are reviewed and approved by our Local Professional Development Committee. A few of the most impactful professional development opportunities teaching staff participated in during the 2022-23 school year started in October with Understanding by Design. Our initial PD was delivered by Dr. Eric Carbaugh, a full professor in the Department of Middle, Secondary, and Mathematics Education at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA, and consultant for McTighe and Associates. The Instructional Coaching staff developed professional development opportunities for our teaching staff to build on the principles that Dr. Carbaugh introduced to teachers. Our goal for this year was to identify priority standards by grade level and content area. Based on those priorities, teachers worked in K-12 content area teams to create vertically aligned maps. As a district, we continued our professional development for PBIS, which was fully implemented during the 2022-23 school year. In addition, district leadership worked closely with State Support Team 7 personnel for school improvement purposes. Staff also participated in the Ohio Leadership for Inclusion, Implementation, and Instructional Improvement, the Ohio Association of Administrators of State and Federal Education Programs Conference, Ohio School Counselor Association Conference, the National Dropout Prevention and Recovery Conference, Threat Assessment Training, Alternate Assessment Training, D2L webinars (LMS support), ODE webinars, ESC training opportunities regarding new graduation requirements, and continued Check and Connect Staff Training.

TEACHER-BASED TEAMS

Teacher-Based Teams, organized by subject area and/or grade band, met for collaboration surrounding students' instructional needs, curriculum review and evaluation, assessment data analysis, trend data analysis, and pedagogical professional development.

Financial Report

The following captures TRECA Digital Academy's income and expenses for fiscal year 2022-2023, as well as the cash balance.

2022-2023

INCOME

State Foundation Payments	$13,907,051.28	■
Federal Grants	$3,201,149.10	■
Other Revenue	$3,487,998.37	■
TOTAL INCOME	**$20,596,198.75**	

EXPENSES

Salaries & Wages	$8,023,152.53	■
Employee Benefits	$3,215,725.07	■
Purchased Services	$3,386,046.19	■
Supplies and Materials	$1,465,115.47	■
Capital Outlay	$673,379.34	■
Other	$1,817,455.10	■
Foundation "Clawback" Deduction	$167,063.32	■
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$18,747,937.02**	

CASH BALANCE $8,417,348.30

Governance & Operations

The governance and operations of TRECA Digital Academy is always in the best interest of its students, families, and staff members.

The TRECA Digital Academy Board of Directors met virtually, on a monthly basis, during the 2022-2023 school year. Meetings followed all public meeting regulations with minutes posted regularly to the school website. Day-to-day operations of the school were overseen by the Executive Director and Treasurer, each of which reported directly to the Board. Acting board members and minutes from each meeting can be found at www.treca.org/about.

Our TRECA Leadership Team consists of staff who represent over 140 years of experience in education with experience in traditional public schools (urban, suburban, and rural), community schools, eSchools, and juvenile detention centers. The majority of our leadership team hold advanced degrees.

TRECA