

Sponsor Tri-Rivers Career Center's Annual Report
2019-2020

OVERVIEW

Pursuant to Ohio law, Tri-Rivers Career Center ("TRCC") is required to monitor and evaluate the academic and fiscal performance, organization and operation; and legal compliance of each community school it sponsors.

SPONSOR BACKGROUND

About TRCC as Sponsor

TRCC has sponsored TDA since 2001. In the last Sponsor Evaluation TRCC received an "Effective" rating for Compliance scoring 4 out of a possible 4 and a "Meets Standards" in Quality Practices by scoring 3 out of a possible 4, and 2 out of possible 4 for academic performance. The overall total points received for sponsor rating was 9 out of a possible 12 points for an overall sponsor rating of "Effective" for this past school year.

Sponsorship Mission

It is the Sponsorship Mission of TRCC to develop a proactive and exemplary sponsorship program that ensures Ohio residents have meaningful educational choices. The District seeks to sponsor innovative community schools that are academically successful, operationally compliant, and fiscally accountable.

TDA PROFILE

TDA continues to innovate by modifying delivery and instructional systems to meet the challenges of academic achievement and individualizing to meet students' academic needs.

Name of School:	TRECA Digital Academy
Address of School:	107 N. Main Street, Marion, OH 43302
Telephone Number:	740-389-4798
School IRN:	143305
Superintendent / Executive Director:	Adam Clark
Fiscal Agent / Treasurer:	Jessica Wake
Governing Board Members:	Ray Funk, Jim Craycraft, Fran Voll, Kate Fisher, Vaughn Sizemore
Year Opened:	2001
Grade Levels Served:	K – 12 (Since 2009 identified as a Dropout Prevention and Recovery School)

School Mission & Values:

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 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 every interaction with students!

2019-2020 TRCC SPONSORED COMMUNITY SCHOOL EVALUATION

This year, ODE provided guidance as to the contents of this Report. ODE's Guidance provides that this Report must provide a snapshot of TDA's performance in the following areas: (1) academic performance, (2) fiscal performance, (3) organization and operation, and (4) legal compliance. ODE's guidance also requires TRCC to indicate if TDA "**meets, exceeds or did not meet**" the expected performance level for the following areas: academic; fiscal; and organization and operation. Legal compliance must be rated "**meets**" or "**did not meet.**" Finally, ODE's Guidance indicates that the annual report also should provide a brief justification to explain how a school's rating was determined.

1. Academic Performance

ODE's guidance indicates that Academic Performance is to be based on the Ohio School Report Card Measures and the Academic performance goals included in the TDA Contract. Consistent with this, TRCC's Sponsor Contract includes all Ohio School Report Card Measures and includes additional performance goals. These are discussed below.

A. Academic Performance Rating

Meets Standards

B. Performance Justification

The 2019-2020 school year was the 20th year of TRECA Digital Academy's existence. Each year more is learned about our practice as online educators and the School's student population. Results from previous years of achievement testing have consistently indicated some successes and some areas for continued improvement.

TRCC's Sponsor Contract contains two levels of academic indicators: primary indicators and secondary indicators. TDA "met standards" on all eight (8) primary indicators. TDA rated "exceeded standards" or "meet standards" on all other eleven (11) secondary indicators. Based on the overall academic performance on the state report card and on the above and the items required for review by ODE, TRCC has determined that for this Report TDA "Meet standards" for academic performance.

2. Fiscal Performance

ODE's Guidance indicates that fiscal performance includes information in governing authority approved financial reports, Auditor of State annual fiscal audits, monthly financial reviews, and compliance with internal controls. Consistent with this, TRCC's TDA Sponsorship Contract contains five measures of fiscal performance that evaluated ODE's identified areas.

A. Fiscal Performance Rating

Meets Performance Level

B. Performance Justification

TRCC's Sponsorship Contract with TDA contains five (5) indicators of Fiscal Performance. Of

those measures, TDA “meets standards” on four (3) indicator and “exceeds standards” on one (2) indicators. Based on the above and the items required for review by ODE, TRCC has determined that for this Report TDA “meets standards” for financial performance. All indicators are more fully described in TRCC’s performance spreadsheet and are summarized below.

The financial reports, such as the five-year forecast, were compliant and met contractual requirements. Ongoing financial reviews took place at monthly Board meetings to ensure sustainability of the School. These reviews were complete and on time. This met the Sponsor Contract’s performance requirements. The Auditor of State’s Report contained corrective action plans that have been completed to remedy any identified weaknesses. This met the Sponsor Contract’s performance requirements. Finally, internal financial controls met contractual performance requirements with regard to cash flow and the ratio of assets to liabilities. All items are more fully described in the attached spreadsheet.

3. Organizational Compliance

ODE’s Guidance indicates that organizational and operational compliance should address governing authority compliance with the community school contract, including the Code of Regulations and other requirements such as meeting and training requirements, monthly financial reviews, maintaining sufficient board minutes and open meeting requirements. Consistent with this, TRCC’s Sponsorship Contract contains eight measures of Organizational and Governance.

A. Organizational Performance Rating

Meets Performance Level

B. Organizational Performance Justification

TRCC’s Sponsorship Contract with TDA contains eight (8) relevant measures in these areas. TDA “exceeded standards” in two (2) measures and “met standards” in six (6) measures. There were no measures that “did not meet” standards. Based on the above and the items requested by ODE for review, TRCC has determined that for this Report TDA “meets standards” for organizational compliance.

The TRECA Digital Academy Board of Directors meets on a monthly basis at the main office in Marion, Ohio. This exceeded the Sponsor Contract’s performance requirements. Meetings follow all public meeting laws. Minutes are posted regularly to the school website. This met the Sponsor Contract’s performance requirements. Additionally, TDA met the Sponsor Contract’s performance requirements in regards to policies & procedures related to enrollment practices, service of students with disabilities, alignment to academic content standards, EMIS reporting, graduation requirements, staff background checks & credentialing, and other components outlined within the School contract.

The TDA Leadership Team consists of staff who have a number years of experience in education with experience in traditional public schools (urban, suburban, and rural), community schools, eSchools. The majority of the leadership team hold advanced degrees.

4. Legal Compliance

ODE's Guidance indicates that this includes legal requirements identified in statute and the community school contract. ODE's guidance also indicates that this should include compliance items from the sponsor evaluation and that the report should rate TDA's compliance as "meets" or "did not meet" expected performance levels.

A. Legal Performance Rating.

Meets Performance Level

B. Legal Compliance Justification.

TRCC's Sponsorship Contract with TDA contains one (1) relevant indicator in these area. TDA "Meets Performance Standards" in legal compliance. Furthermore, pursuant to TRCC's site visits during the 2019-2020, it determined that the School was in compliance with items reviewed. As a result, TRCC's evaluation indicates that TDA's compliance "Meets Performance Standards."

The Ohio Department of Education's 2019-2020 Sponsor Evaluation reviewed TDA and sponsor items for compliance. Of those items reviewed, TDA was found to have a compliance rate that met all performance standards for compliance.

Based on the above, TRCC has determined that for this Report TDA has "met standards" for legal compliance.