
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Restriction on instructional fee increases

- For the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 academic years, prohibits state universities and university branch campuses from increasing instructional and general fees for students above 3% of what was charged in the previous academic year.
- For the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 academic years, permits community colleges, state community colleges, and technical colleges to increase instructional and general fees by not more than \$5 per credit hour over the previous academic year.
- Excludes from the fee increase restrictions: student health insurance, auxiliary goods or services fees provided to students at cost, pass-through fees for licensure and certification exams, study abroad fees, elective service charges, fines, and voluntary sales transactions.

Financial aid programs

Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program

- Increases the income eligibility threshold for an Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program (OCOG) award from an expected family contribution (EFC) of \$2,190 or less to \$3,750 or less.
- Prescribes OCOG award amounts in uncodified law for FY 2024 and FY 2025 for students enrolled in different types of institutions, as follows:
 - State institutions of higher education, \$3,200 in FY 2024 and \$4,000 in FY 2025;
 - Private nonprofit colleges or universities, \$4,700 in FY 2024 and \$5,000 in FY 2025; and
 - Private for-profit career colleges, \$1,850 in FY 2024 and \$2,000 in FY 2025.
- Prohibits an institution of higher education that enrolls OCOG students from making changes to its scholarship or financial aid programs with the goal or net effect of shifting the cost burden of those programs to OCOG.
- Requires each institution to provide at least the same level of need-based financial aid to its students as in the immediately prior academic year in terms of either aggregate aid or on a per student basis, but permits the Chancellor of Higher Education to temporarily waive this requirement for exceptional circumstances.

Second Chance Grant Program

- Increases the award amount for the Second Chance Grant Program from \$2,000 to \$3,000.
- Designates eight months as the minimum disenrollment period to qualify for a grant for students enrolled in institutions that do not operate on a semester calendar.

Ohio Work Ready Grant Program

- Requires the Chancellor to establish the Ohio Work Ready Grant Program to award grants of up to \$3,000 to eligible students enrolled in qualified programs at community, state community, or technical colleges, state university branch campuses, or Ohio technical centers.

Governor's Merit Scholarship

- Establishes the Governor's Merit Scholarship Program to award \$5,000 of merit-based scholarships in FY 2025 to eligible students to pay eligible expenses at qualifying institutions.

War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarship

- Updates eligibility standards for receiving a War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarship by removing references to children of World War I veterans.

Veterans' tuition waivers

- Updates eligibility standards for tuition waivers at state-supported colleges and universities by replacing references to World War I veterans with references to World War II veterans.

State institutions of higher education boards of trustees

Ohio State University student trustees (VETOED)

- Would have prohibited student members of the Ohio State University board of trustees from having voting power on the board, being considered members of the board in determining whether a quorum is present, and being entitled to attend executive sessions (VETOED).

Two-year institution boards of trustees

- Permits a member of a technical, community, or state community college board of trustees whose term has expired to continue in office until the trustee's successor takes office.
- Establishes the quorum for a technical, community, or state community college board of trustees meeting as a majority of the sitting board members at the time of a meeting.

Technical college trustee appointments

- Transfers appointing power for technical college boards of trustees from school district boards of education and educational service center governing boards to trustee selection committees, beginning with trustees appointed after 2023.

College transcripts

Notice regarding access to transcript and institutional debts

- Requires each state institution of higher education, private nonprofit college or university, and private for-profit career college to post on its website:
 - An explanation that students have a right to access transcripts for employment-seeking purposes, regardless of whether the student owes an institutional debt; and
 - A list of resources for students who owe an institutional debt.

Resolution to end transcript withholding

- Requires each state institution of higher education to adopt a resolution by December 1, 2023, determining whether to end the practice of transcript withholding.
- Requires the Chancellor to provide a copy of each resolution to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President by January 1, 2024.

Centers and institutes at state universities

- Establishes the Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society as an independent academic unit at the Ohio State University.
- Establishes the Institute of American Constitutional Thought and Leaderships as an independent academic unit at the University of Toledo.
- Establishes centers for civics, culture, and society as independent academic units at Miami University, Cleveland State University, and the University of Cincinnati.

College student authority to decline vaccines (VETOED)

- Would have authorized a student – if required by a private college or state institution of higher education to receive a vaccine – to decline the vaccine for medical contraindications or reasons of conscience, including religious convictions, and would have established a process by which a student may decline (VETOED).

Community college housing and dining facilities

- Permits a community college district to acquire, lease, or construct housing and dining facilities if it is located within one-quarter mile of a facility that rented at least 75 rooms to students at the district on January 1, 2023.

Community college programs in Fairfield County

- Establishes a procedure to permit a community, state community, or technical college that is not co-located with an institution of higher education to develop and offer a program, certificate, or degree in Fairfield County, subject to the Chancellor's approval.

Wright State University land lease

- Permits developers desiring to lease land from Wright State University to first submit their plans for development to the University board of trustees (rather than the Department of Administrative Services (DAS)), if the land to be leased is held in trust by the board.
- Permits the board of trustees to direct the developer to submit the plans instead to DAS, if the board desires that DAS lease the land to the developer.
- Permits the board of trustees to lease land it holds in trust if certain conditions are met.

Teacher preparatory programs

- Requires that the metrics for educator preparation programs ensure that specific coursework and preparation in effective literacy instruction and strategies align with instructional materials selected by the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW).
- Establishes a procedure under which the Chancellor must audit the degree to which each institution of higher education offers educator training programs in alignment with the above literacy requirements..

Grow Your Own Teacher College Scholarship program

- Establishes the Grow Your Own Teacher College Scholarship program to award four-year scholarships for up to \$7,500 per year to qualifying high school seniors and qualifying employees.
- Requires the Chancellor and DEW to oversee the program, including developing the application process and repayment procedures for failure to meet program requirements.

High school advanced standing programs

College Credit Plus Program

- Permits the Chancellor, in consultation with the DEW Director, to take action as necessary to ensure that public colleges and universities and school districts are fully engaging and participating in the College Credit Plus Program (CCP).
- Requires the Chancellor and Director to work with public secondary schools and partnering public colleges and universities to encourage the establishment of model pathways that prepare participants to successfully enter the workforce in certain fields.
- Permits the Chancellor to approve a proposal submitted by a public or private college, in collaboration with an industry partner, to establish a statewide innovative waiver pathway to allow students who do not meet traditional college-readiness criteria to participate in CCP and earn an industry-recognized credential or certificate.

International Baccalaureate course credit

- Requires the Ohio Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council, by April 15, 2025, to recommend standards to the Chancellor for awarding college course credit based on scores attained on International Baccalaureate (IB) exams.

- Requires each state institution to comply with standards adopted by the Chancellor in awarding course credit to students who attain a passing score on an IB exam.
- Requires each state institution to make its standards and policies on course credit for IB courses available to the public in an electronic format.

Advanced Placement course credit

- Requires each state institution to make its standards and policies on course credit for Advanced Placement courses available to the public in an electronic format.

FAFSA support team system

- Requires the Chancellor to establish and administer a statewide system of regional FAFSA support teams to support public schools with FAFSA completion and college access programming.

Ohio Computer Science Education Promise Program

- Creates the Ohio Computer Science Promise Program.

“Teach CS” Grant Program

- Requires the Chancellor to administer the “Teach CS” Grant Program to fund coursework, materials, and exams to support those who wish to teach computer science courses.

Eliminate Board of Regents, obsolete programs and reports

- Abolishes the Ohio Board of Regents.
- Abolishes the Ohio Instructional Grant Program.
- Abolishes the OhioCorps Pilot Program.
- Eliminates a requirement that the Chancellor develop and implement a statewide plan permitting high school students to receive college credit for approved career-technical education courses.
- Eliminates an obsolete requirement that the Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network Oversight Board issue a report to the General Assembly by March 2, 2022, regarding college credit transfer rules for state institutions of higher education.

As used in this chapter of the analysis:

A **state institution of higher education** means any of the 14 state universities and each community college, state community college, technical college, and university branch campus. The state universities are the University of Akron, Bowling Green State University, Central State University, University of Cincinnati, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, Miami University, Northeast Ohio Medical University, Ohio University, Ohio State University, Shawnee State University, University of Toledo, Wright State University, and Youngstown State University.

Ohio technical centers are career-technical centers and schools that provide adult education and are recognized as such by the Chancellor of Higher Education.

Restriction on instructional fee increases

(R.C. 3345.48; Section 381.260)

In-state undergraduate instructional and general fees

State universities

Under law unchanged by the act, each state university is required to establish an undergraduate tuition guarantee program. Under that program, each entering cohort of in-state undergraduate students pays an immediate increased rate for instructional and general fees, but that rate is guaranteed not to increase again for that particular cohort for the next four years.

For the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 academic years, the act requires each state university and university branch campus to restrain increases in its in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees. Specifically, they cannot increase the guaranteed amount of instructional and general fees for students entering in those academic years by more than 3% over what was charged in the previous academic year.

Otherwise, under law unchanged by the act, the increase is the sum of the average rate of inflation for the past 36 months and the percentage amount the General Assembly restrains increases on in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees for the fiscal year.

Community, state community, and technical colleges

For the same years as state universities, each community college, state community college, and technical college may not increase its instructional and general fees more than \$5 per credit hour over what it charged in the previous academic year.

Special fees

Increases for all other special fees, including newly created ones, are subject to the approval of the Chancellor of Higher Education.

Exclusion

The act's limits on fee increases explicitly exclude:

- Student health insurance;
- Fees for auxiliary goods or services provided to students at the cost incurred to the institution;
- Fees assessed to students as a pass-through for licensure and certification exams;
- Fees in elective courses associated with travel experiences;
- Elective service charges;
- Fines; and
- Voluntary sales transactions.

As in previous biennia when the General Assembly capped tuition increases, the act's provisions do not apply to increases required to comply with institutional covenants related to the institution's obligations or to meet unfunded legal mandates or legally binding prior obligations or commitments. Further, the Chancellor, with Controlling Board approval, may approve an increase to respond to exceptional circumstances identified by the Chancellor.

Financial aid programs

Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program

(R.C. 3333.122; Section 381.490)

Awards and eligibility

The act increases the income eligibility threshold for an Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program (OCOG) award from an expected family contribution (EFC) of \$2,190 or less to \$3,750 or less. It also prescribes award amounts for OCOG recipients for FY 2024 and FY 2025, as indicated in the table below.

OCOG recipient award amounts		
Institutional sector	FY 2024	FY 2025
State institution of higher education	\$3,200	\$4,000
Private nonprofit college or university	\$4,700	\$5,000
Private for-profit career college	\$1,850	\$2,000

If the appropriated funds are insufficient to support all eligible students, the Chancellor must either proportionally reduce award amounts or prioritize awards to students with higher financial need.

No cost burden shifting

The act prohibits any institution of higher education that enrolls OCOG recipients from making any change to the institution's scholarship or financial aid programs with the goal or net effect of shifting the cost burden of those programs to the OCOG Program.

Need-based financial aid requirement

The act also requires each institution to provide at least the same level of need-based financial aid to its students as in the immediately prior academic year in terms of either aggregate aid or on a per student basis. However, the act permits the Chancellor to grant an institution a temporary waiver from that requirement if exceptional circumstances make it necessary.

Second Chance Grant Program

(R.C. 3333.127)

The act increases the amount of a Second Chance Grant from \$2,000 to \$3,000. It also designates eight months as the minimum disenrollment period to qualify for a grant for students enrolled in institutions that do not operate on a semester calendar. Under continuing law, students enrolled in other institutions must be disenrolled for at least two semesters.

Ohio Work Ready Grant Program

(R.C. 3333.24; Section 381.160)

Operation

The act requires the Chancellor to establish the Ohio Work Ready Grant Program. Under the program, the Chancellor must award up to \$3,000 to eligible students who are enrolled in qualified programs at a community, state community, or technical college, a state university branch campus, or an Ohio technical center.

Students may apply in a form and manner prescribed by the Chancellor. The Chancellor must adopt rules about how to compute grant award amounts for full- or part-time students. The Chancellor also must determine the form and manner of payments. A student cannot receive a grant for more than six semesters or the equivalent of three academic years.

The program must be funded in a manner designated by the General Assembly, though the Chancellor may receive funds from other sources to support the program. If the amounts available for the program are inadequate to provide grants to all students who apply in an academic year, the Chancellor may establish different grant amounts based on the number of applicants and the amount of the program's funds.

Student eligibility

The act qualifies a student to participate in the program if the student:

1. Is an Ohio resident;
2. Has completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); and
3. Is enrolled in a qualified program.

A qualified program is a credit or noncredit program that leads to an industry-recognized credential, certificate, or degree and which prepares a student for a job that is either:

1. Identified as an "in-demand" or "critical" job, as determined by the Office of Workforce Transformation; or
2. Submitted by a community, state community, or technical college, state university branch campus, or Ohio technical center and will meet regional workforce needs, as approved by the Chancellor.

Report

The act requires the Chancellor, in consultation with qualified program providers, to collect and report program metrics, including:

1. Demographics of recipients, including:
 - a. Age, disaggregated as follows:
 - i. 24 years or younger;
 - ii. 25 to 34 years;
 - iii. 35 to 49 years;
 - iv. 50 years or older;
 - b. Gender;
 - c. Race and ethnicity;
 - d. Enrollment status as full- or part-time;
 - e. Pell grant status.
2. Success rate of recipients, including program retention and completion;
3. Total number of industry-recognized credentials awarded, disaggregated by subject or program area.

Governor's Merit Scholarship

(Section 381.400)

The act establishes the Governor's Merit Scholarship Program to award merit-based aid in FY 2025 to eligible students at qualifying institutions, with the goal of allowing high-achieving high school graduates to remain in Ohio to pursue their postsecondary studies and contribute to Ohio's expanding economic opportunities. Qualifying institutions include any state institution of higher education or any private nonprofit college or university in Ohio.

To the extent that sufficient funds are available, the Chancellor must provide a \$5,000 per academic year scholarship to eligible students in the top 5% of their public or chartered nonpublic high school graduating class, as determined by the Chancellor in consultation with the Director of Education and Workforce (DEW Director). Eligible students may receive the scholarship for up to the equivalent of four academic years of instruction at a qualifying institution, contingent on satisfactory academic progress.

The Chancellor, in consultation with the Director, also must determine merit-based eligibility criteria for students who were home schooled to provide them with a similar level of access to the program.

A scholarship must be used to pay eligible expenses, as determined by the Chancellor, included within a qualifying institution's published cost of attendance.

The act prohibits a qualifying institution from changing its scholarship or financial aid programs with the goal or net effect of shifting the cost burden of those programs to the program. Institutions enrolling scholarship recipients must maintain the same level of merit-based financial aid they offered in the most recent academic year, either in terms of aggregate aid or on a per-student basis.

The Chancellor must establish guidelines to implement the program.

War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children scholarship

(R.C. 5910.01)

The act updates the eligibility standards for receiving a War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children scholarship by removing references to children of World War I veterans.

Veterans' tuition waiver

(R.C. 3333.26)

The act updates the eligibility standards to qualify for a tuition waiver from any state-supported school, college, or university by replacing references to World War I veterans with references to World War II veterans.

State institutions of higher education boards of trustees

Student trustees at the Ohio State University (VETOED)

(R.C. 3335.02 and 3335.09)

The Governor vetoed provisions that would have prohibited the student members of the OSU board of trustees from having voting power, being considered members for purposes of quorum requirements, and from attending the board's executive sessions. Under continuing law, OSU's board of trustees is authorized to change the voting status of student trustees by adopting a resolution.

Two-year institution boards of trustees

(R.C. 3354.05, 3357.05, and 3358.03)

The act permits a member of a technical college, community college, or state community college board of trustees whose term has expired to continue in office until the trustee's successor takes office.

The act also states the quorum for a meeting of the board of trustees of a technical, community, or state community college as a majority of the sitting board members at the time of a meeting.

Technical college trustee appointments

(R.C. 3357.05 and 3357.021)

Under continuing law, a technical college may be created by school districts, educational service centers (ESCs), or qualified electors residing in school districts or ESCs. The territory of a technical college is the territory of those school districts and ESCs.⁸⁵

⁸⁵ See R.C. 3357.02, not in the act.

Generally, prior law required the board of education and governing board presidents of the school districts and ESCs that comprise a technical college's district to make a specified number of appointments to the technical college's board of trustees. Under continuing law, the Governor appoints the remainder of a technical college's trustees.

Beginning with appointments on or after January 1, 2024, the act transfers the appointing power of board of education and governing board presidents to a trustee selection committee selected by the technical college board of trustee's executive committee.

The selection committee must consist of either three or five members who are local business, civic, or nonprofit leaders who are not current sitting members of the technical college's board of trustees.

Under the act, the board of trustees must nominate individuals for consideration by the selection committee. The act permits a selection committee to select new trustees from those nominees or other applicants.

The act requires trustees appointed by a selection committee to reside within the technical college's district and to be appointed with the advice and consent of the Senate. Trustees appointed by a selection committee must, to the greatest extent possible, be individuals who hold leadership positions within significant industries in the technical college's district. The act establishes three-year terms of office for trustees appointed by a selection committee.

College transcripts

Notice regarding access to transcript and institutional debts

(R.C. 3345.60)

The act addresses information each state institution of higher education, private nonprofit college or university, and for-profit career college must post on its website about college transcripts and institutional debts. It requires those institutions to explain on their websites that a student has a right to access a transcript for the purposes of seeking employment, regardless of whether the student owes an institutional debt. Institutions also must post a list of resources for students who owe an institutional debt, including payment plans, settlement opportunities, and other dropout prevention programs.

Continuing law prohibits a state institution from withholding a student's official transcripts from a potential employer because the student owes the institution money, if the student authorizes transmission of the transcripts and the employer affirms the transcripts are a prerequisite of employment.⁸⁶ Neither private nonprofit colleges and universities or private for-profit career colleges are subject to that prohibition.

⁸⁶ R.C. 3345.027.

Resolution regarding ending transcript withholding

(R.C. 3345.027)

The act requires each state institution of higher education board of trustees to adopt a resolution by December 1, 2023, determining whether to end the practice of transcript withholding. The board must submit a copy of the resolution to the Chancellor. When adopting the resolution, each board must consider and evaluate the following factors:

1. The extent to which ending the practice will promote the state's postsecondary education attainment and workforce goals;
2. The rate of collection on overdue balances resulting from the historical practice of transcript withholding; and
3. The extent to which ending the practice will help students who disenroll from the state institution complete an education at the same or a different state institution.

If the board resolves to maintain transcript withholding, the board must include a summary of its evaluation of the required factors.

Finally, the Chancellor must provide a copy of each resolution to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President by January 1, 2024.

Centers and institutes at state universities

Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society

(R.C. 3335.39)

The act establishes the Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society as an independent academic unit at Ohio State University, initially physically located in the College of Public Affairs. The Center is required to conduct teaching and research in the historical ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped the American constitutional order and society.

The act grants the Center the authority to establish its own bylaws but requires that the Center do all of the following, and that the following must take priority over any other bylaws adopted by the Center:

1. Educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry to seek the truth;
2. Affirm its duty to equip students with the skills, habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own informed conclusions on matters of social and political importance;
3. Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher education and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of the university;
4. Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion that must naturally exist in a public university community.

The act permits the university board of trustees to change the Center's name in accordance with the university's philanthropic naming policies and practices.

Instructional requirements

The act requires the Center to offer instruction in all of the following:

1. The books and major debates which form the intellectual foundation of free societies, especially the United States;
2. The principles, ideals, and institutions of the American constitutional order;
3. The foundations of responsible leadership and informed citizenship.

The act further requires the Center to focus on offering university-wide programming related to the values of free speech and civil discourse as well as expanding the intellectual diversity of the university's academic community.

The act grants the Center the authority to offer courses and develop certificate, minor, and major programs as well as graduate programs and offer degrees.

Academic council

The university board of trustees must appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, a seven-member Chase Center academic council by November 20, 2023. The act further prohibits a new member from beginning service until confirmed by the Senate and states that four members form a quorum.

The act requires the academic council be comprised of scholars with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member of the council may be an employee of the university, and best efforts must be made to have not fewer than three members be from Ohio.

The act further prescribes the term length for initial members of the academic council. Three members of the council are required to serve initial terms of two years and four members are required to serve initial terms of four years. The members must determine which members will serve which terms at its first meeting and select replacements for vacant seats as needed. However, the act does not specify the duration of terms after the initial ones.

Director search and responsibilities

The act requires the academic council to conduct a nationwide search for candidates for the director of the Center. The act specifically requires that the nationwide search adhere to all relevant state and federal laws. The academic council must submit to the university's President a list of candidates, from which the President must appoint a director. This appointment is subject to the approval of the board of trustees. Upon appointment, the director will have the protection of tenure or tenure eligibility. The act further requires that the director consult with the dean of the College of Public Affairs; however, the director must report directly to the Provost or the President.

The act requires the director to have the sole and exclusive authority to manage the recruitment and hiring process and to extend offers for employment for all faculty and staff, and

to terminate employment of all staff. Additionally, the director must oversee, develop, and approve the Center's curriculum.

The director must annually submit a report to the university's board of trustees and the General Assembly. The report must provide a full account of the Center's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles in the development of the academic unit.

Faculty

The act permits, but does not require, faculty appointed to the Center to hold joint appointments within any other division of the university. It requires that the Center be allotted not fewer than 15 tenure-track faculty positions to teach under the Center. The act expressly prohibits faculty from outside of the Center from blocking faculty hires.

Institute of American Constitutional Thought and Leadership

(R.C. 3364.07)

The act establishes the Institute of American Constitutional Thought and Leadership as an independent academic unit (initially physically located in the College of Law) within the University of Toledo. The purpose of the Institute is to create and disseminate knowledge about American constitutional thought and to form future leaders of the legal profession through research, scholarship, teaching, collaboration, and mentorship.

The act requires the Institute to:

1. Enrich the curriculum in American constitutional studies, including the core texts and great debates of western civilization;
2. Educate students in the principles, ideals, and institutions of the American and Ohio constitutional order;
3. Educate students in the foundations of responsible leadership and informed citizenship and to cultivate the next generation of leaders in the legal profession;
4. Offer university-wide programming related to the values of open inquiry and civil discourse;
5. Expand the intellectual diversity of the university's academic community and to create a rich forum for the development of ideas across the political and ideological spectrum;
6. Support faculty and graduate student scholarship that advances understanding of American constitutional thought and institutions;
7. Promote scholarly collaboration within the university and beyond; and
8. Host lectures, debates, and symposia, and sponsor visiting scholars, jurists, and teachers.

The act authorizes the Institute to offer courses and develop certificate, minor, and major programs as well as graduate programs and offer degrees.

The act permits the university board of trustees to change the Institute's name in accordance with the university's philanthropic naming policies and practices.

Policy requirements

The act requires the Institute to:

1. Educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry to seek the truth;
2. Equip students with the skills, habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own informed conclusions on matters of legal, social, and political importance;
3. Value intellectual diversity in higher education, including in faculty recruitment, hiring, and appointment, and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of academic life at the university; and
4. Create a community dedicated to an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion that naturally occur in a public university community.

Academic council

The Talent, Compensation, and Governance Committee of the university board of trustees, if such a committee exists, must appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, a seven-member Institute academic council by December 2, 2023. If no such committee exists, the board of trustees must appoint the members.

The act requires the academic council be comprised of scholars with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member of the council may be an employee of the university, and best efforts must be made to have at least three members from Ohio. The act further prohibits a new member from beginning service until confirmed by the Senate and states that four members form a quorum.

Three members of the council must serve initial terms of two years and four members must serve initial terms of four years. The members must determine which members will serve which terms at its first meeting and select replacements for vacant seats as needed. However, the act does not specify the duration of terms after the initial ones.

To fill a vacancy for the director of the Institute, the act requires the academic council, following a national search, to transmit to the President of the university a list of finalists from which the president must select a director, subject to the approval of the Talent, Compensation, and Governance Committee of the university board of trustees.

Director appointment and responsibilities

The act requires the Institute to be led by a director who must report directly to the President and Provost of the university and consult with the dean of the College of Law. The President must appoint an initial director by November 2, 2023. The director's term is for five years and may be renewed. The act requires the director to be an expert of the western tradition, the American founding, and American constitutional thought, and have shown a commitment to the purposes, goals, and policies of the Institute.

Upon appointment, the director will have the protection of tenure or tenure eligibility. Any existing tenure with the university held by a director must be maintained with the university.

The act requires the director to have the sole and exclusive authority to manage the recruitment and hiring process and to extend offers for employment for all faculty and staff, and to terminate employment of all staff. The director is required to oversee, develop, and approve the Institute's curriculum. The act specifically requires that for any employment contracts offered by the director to tenure-track faculty, those individuals are guaranteed reappointment elsewhere in the university, at the same rank and compensation, in the event the Institute is discontinued.

The act requires the director to submit annually a report to the university's board of trustees and the General Assembly. The report must provide a full account of the Institute's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles in the development of the academic unit.

Faculty

The act permits, but does not require, faculty appointed to the Institute to hold joint or courtesy appointments within any other division of the university. The act requires that the Institute be allotted not fewer than five tenure-track faculty positions to teach under the Institute. The act also expressly prohibits faculty from outside of the Institute from blocking faculty hires.

Other centers for civics, culture, and society

(R.C. 3339.06, 3344.07, and 3361.06)

The act also establishes centers for civics, culture, and society as independent academic units at Miami University, Cleveland State University, and the University of Cincinnati. The centers at Miami University and the University of Cincinnati must be physically located in the College of Arts and Sciences, while the center at Cleveland State University must be physically located in the Levin College of Public Affairs and Education.

Each center must conduct teaching and research in the historical ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped the American constitutional order and society. The act grants each center the authority to establish its own bylaws, but requires that it do all of the following, and that the following must take priority over any other bylaws adopted by the center:

1. Educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry to seek the truth;
2. Affirm its duty to equip students with the skills, habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own informed conclusions on matters of social and political importance;
3. Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher education and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of the university;
4. Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion that must naturally exist in a public university community.

The act permits each university's board of trustees to change the center's name in accordance with the university's philanthropic naming policies and practices.

Instructional requirements

The act requires each center to offer instruction in:

1. The books and major debates which form the intellectual foundation of free societies, especially that of the United States;
2. The principles, ideals, and institutions of the American constitutional order;
3. The foundations of responsible leadership and informed citizenship.

The act further requires each center to focus on offering university-wide programming related to the values of free speech and civil discourse as well as expanding the intellectual diversity of the university's academic community.

The act grants each center the authority to offer courses and develop certificate, minor, and major programs as well as graduate programs and offer degrees.

Academic council

Each university's board of trustees must appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, a seven-member academic council. A new member cannot begin service until confirmed by the Senate. Four members form a quorum.

The act requires the academic council be comprised of scholars with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member of the council may be an employee of the university, and best efforts must be made to have not fewer than three members be from Ohio.

Three members of the council must serve initial terms of two years and four members must serve initial terms of four years. The members must determine which members will serve which terms at the first meeting and select replacements for vacant seats as needed. However, the act does not specify the duration of terms after the initial ones.

Director search and responsibilities

The act requires the academic councils to conduct a nationwide search for candidates for the director of a center. It specifically requires that the nationwide search adhere to all relevant state and federal laws. The academic council must submit a list of candidates to the university president, from which the president must select and appoint a director. This appointment is subject to the approval of the board of trustees. Upon appointment, the director will have the protection of tenure or tenure eligibility. The act further requires that the director consult with the college's dean; however, the director must report directly to the provost or the president.

The act requires the director to have the sole and exclusive authority to manage the recruitment and hiring process and to extend offers for employment for all faculty and staff, and to terminate employment of all staff. Additionally, the director must oversee, develop, and approve the center's curriculum.

The act requires the director to submit annually a report to the university's board of trustees and the General Assembly. The report must provide a full account of the center's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles in the development of the academic unit.

Faculty

The act permits, but does not require, faculty appointed to the center to hold joint appointments within any other division of the university. The act requires that the center be allotted not fewer than ten tenure-track faculty positions to teach under the center. The act expressly prohibits faculty from outside of the center from blocking faculty hires.

College student authority to decline vaccines (VETOED)

(R.C. 3792.05)

The Governor vetoed a provision that would have authorized a student – if required by a private college or state institution of higher education to receive a vaccine in order to attend class or reside in on-campus housing – to decline the vaccine for medical contraindications or reasons of conscience, including religious convictions.

To decline a vaccine for reasons of conscience, including religious convictions, a student would have had to present to the institution the student’s written statement to that effect. Under the vetoed provision, reasons of conscience, including religious convictions, would have been determined solely by the student.

To decline a vaccine for medical contraindications, a student would have had to present to the institution a physician’s certification in writing that vaccination is medically contraindicated for the student.

The vetoed provision would have stated that a student who presents either a statement or certification to the college or institution was not required to receive the vaccine.

Community college housing and dining facilities

(R.C. 3354.121)

The act permits a community college to acquire, lease, or construct housing and dining facilities if the college is located within one-quarter mile of a facility that, on January 1, 2023, rented at least 75 rooms to students at the district.

Community college programs in Fairfield County

(R.C. 3357.131)

The act establishes a procedure under which a community, state community, or technical college that is not co-located with an institution of higher education may develop and offer an academic or certificate program that grants college credit, an associate’s degree, or certain bachelor’s degree in Fairfield County. Academic programs, certificates, and associate’s degrees offered under this procedure must be issued pursuant to the Chancellor’s standards and procedures for academic program approval. Continuing law permits community and technical colleges to offer applied bachelor’s degrees and bachelor’s degrees in nursing and prelicensure nursing.

To offer those programs, the college must create a document that demonstrates a workforce need in the county and includes a request for the program, certificate, or degree. The

college must submit the document to a workforce advisory board established by the Fairfield County board of county commissioners. The advisory board must consist of:

1. An individual appointed by the board of county commissioners, who must serve as chairperson of the advisory board, or the individual's designee;
2. A representative of the local workforce development board, who is appointed by the board of county commissioners, or the representative's designee;
3. A representative of Hocking College, who is appointed by the board of county commissioners, or the representative's designee;
4. A representative of the Fairfield County Educational Service Center, who is appointed by the board of county commissioners, or the representative's designee; and
5. Ohio University's vice provost for regional higher education and partnerships, or the vice provost's designee.

The advisory board must review the document and vote on:

1. Whether the document demonstrates a legitimate workforce need in Fairfield County;
2. Whether to support an institution of higher education offering the program, certificate, or degree in Fairfield County; and
3. Which institution of higher education to recommend to the Chancellor to offer the program, certificate, or degree in Fairfield County.

If the advisory board unanimously votes that the document demonstrates a legitimate workforce need and to support an institution offering the program, certificate, or degree, it must transmit that fact and its recommended institution to the Chancellor.

The provision states that it does not preclude Ohio University from developing or expanding degrees or programs at its branch campus in Fairfield County. It also states that it does not replace or supersede existing processes for the development and approval of programs, certificates, or degrees.

Wright State University land lease

(Section 733.80)

This provision only applies to a state institution of higher education located in a county with a population between 165,000 and 175,000 as of the 2020 federal decennial census. In practice, this only applies to Wright State University.

The act permits a developer desiring to lease land held in trust by the board of trustees of Wright State University to submit their development plans directly to the board of trustees, rather than to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) as required for other developers

under continuing law.⁸⁷ Under the usual process, DAS leases the land with board of trustee approval. Under the act, the board of trustees may lease the land directly to developers.

The board of trustees may lease the land to the developer if the board finds that five conditions are met. Three are continuing law conditions that normally are determined by DAS: the board must find that the best interests of the university will be promoted by entering into a lease with the developer, the development plans are satisfactory, and the developer has established the developer's financial responsibility and satisfactory plans for financing the development. Additionally, the board must find that the lease has commercially reasonable terms favorable to the university, and the land to be leased is not required for the university's use for the term of the lease.

If a developer submits a plan directly to the board of trustees, but the board desires that the land be leased by DAS under the preexisting process, the board must notify the developer in writing and direct the developer to submit the plans to DAS under that process.

Teacher preparatory programs

(R.C. 3333.048)

The act requires the Chancellor to establish metrics for educator training programs in "consultation" with the DEW Director, rather than in "conjunction" with the Superintendent of Public Instruction under former law. In addition, it requires training programs to include evidence-based strategies for effective literacy instruction aligned to the science of reading, including phonics, phonemic awareness, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary development, and is part of a structured literacy program.

The act further requires the Chancellor to develop an auditing process that documents the degree to which each institution of higher education that offers an educator training program is aligned with the act's literacy requirements. The Chancellor, by December 31, 2023, must complete an initial survey of educator preparation programs, establish metrics for the audits, and update standards to reflect these new requirements. Furthermore, the Chancellor must grant a one-year grace period to all institutions to meet the new standards and requirements, to begin on January 1, 2024. The Chancellor must begin conducting audits on January 1, 2025.

Upon completion of an audit, the Chancellor must revoke approval for programs that are not in alignment and do not address the findings of the audit within a year. All programs must be reviewed every four years thereafter to ensure continued alignment. The Chancellor also annually must create a summary of literacy instruction strategies and practices in place for all educator preparation programs based on the program audits, including institution level summaries, until all programs reach the required alignment.

In conjunction with the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW), the act further requires the Chancellor to do the following:

1. Complete and publicly release summaries of audits by March 31 of each year;

⁸⁷ R.C. 123.17, not in the act.

2. Identify a list of approved vendors who can provide professional development experiences that are consistent with the science of reading to educators who are responsible for teaching reading, including faculty in educator preparation programs; and

3. Develop a public dashboard that reports the first-time passage rates of students, by institution, on the Foundations of Reading Licensure test.

Grow Your Own Teacher College Scholarship program

(R.C. 3333.393 and 3333.394)

The act establishes the Grow Your Own Teacher College Scholarship program to provide scholarships to eligible high school seniors and district employees who commit to teach in a “qualifying school” operated by their school district after becoming a teacher. If a scholarship recipient does not fulfill that obligation, the scholarship converts to a loan.

Specifically, the Chancellor and DEW must award a four-year scholarship for up to \$7,500 per year to an eligible applicant. To receive a scholarship, the applicant must commit to teaching in a “qualifying school” for at least four years within six years of completing a teacher training program. The teacher training program may be at a state institution of higher education or a private, nonprofit college or university in Ohio.

Under the act, a “qualifying school” is a school building:

1. Identified as “high need” by the Chancellor;
2. That has difficulty attracting and retaining classroom teachers who hold valid educator licenses; and
3. Operated by the same school district from which the scholarship recipient graduated high school or was employed.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a scholarship, an applicant must be either:

1. A low-income high school senior, who must receive a high school diploma to be awarded the scholarship; or
2. An individual who is employed at a qualifying school and holds any of the following:
 - a. An educational aide permit;
 - b. An educational paraprofessional license; or
 - c. A substitute teacher license.

The act expressly permits a qualifying employee to complete coursework associated with a teacher training program on evenings or weekends as necessary while maintaining employment at a qualifying school.

The act further permits a teacher training program, in consultation with DEW, to grant credit to a qualifying employee who has commensurate work experience at a qualifying school for completion of a teacher training program.

Application process

The act requires the Chancellor and DEW to develop an application process, including appointing a highly qualified and diverse application committee to assist in the selection of scholarship recipients

Promissory note

The act requires all scholarship recipients to sign a promissory note payable to the state if the recipient either does not satisfy the four-year teaching commitment within six years of completing the teacher training program or if the scholarship is terminated.

The amount payable under the note must be the amount of total scholarships accepted by the recipient under the program.

The act further stipulates that each recipient be awarded up to \$7,500 at the beginning of each school year in which the recipient begins or maintains qualifying employment. Upon completion of that school year, the amount the recipient received at the beginning of the year is forgiven. Failure to complete a full school year of employment converts the award into a loan to be repaid. The act requires that the loan to be repaid be the amount of the award made at the beginning of that school year.

The act requires that an award be forgiven in the event the recipient dies, becomes totally and permanently disabled, or is unable to complete the commitment as a result of a reduction in force at the recipient's school of employment before the end of the academic year.

For any scholarship that is converted to a loan, the Chancellor and the Attorney General must collect payment on the loan in accordance with continuing law, but may not charge an interest rate on such payments.

Termination of scholarship

Under the act, a scholarship is considered "terminated" if a recipient separates from employment at a qualifying school or fails to meet standards as determined by DEW and the Chancellor. The scholarship is then converted to a loan to be repaid.

High school advanced standing programs

College Credit Plus Program

(Section 381.720)

The act permits the Chancellor, in consultation with the DEW Director, to take action as necessary, to ensure that public colleges and universities and school districts are fully engaging and participating in the College Credit Plus Program (CCP). These actions may include publicly displaying program participation data by district and institution.

For the "model pathways" required under continuing law, the act requires the Chancellor and Director to work with public secondary schools and partnering public colleges and universities, as necessary, to encourage the establishment of model pathways that prepare participants to successfully enter the workforce in certain fields – which may include any of the following:

1. Engineering technology and other fields essential to the superconductor industry;
2. Nursing, with particular emphasis on models that facilitate a participant's potential progression through different levels of nursing;
3. Teaching and other related education professions;
4. Social and behavioral or mental health professions;
5. Law enforcement or corrections; and
6. Other fields as determined appropriate by the Chancellor and Director, in consultation with the Governor's Office of Workforce and Transformation.

Under continuing law, each public secondary school, in consultation with at least one public partnering college, is required to develop two model pathways for courses offered under CCP. One model pathway must be a 15-credit hour pathway and one must be a 30-credit hour pathway. Pathways may be organized by desired major or career path and may include various core courses required for a degree or professional certification by the college. Continuing law does not prescribe specific professional fields for model pathways.⁸⁸

CCP statewide innovative waiver pathways

(R.C. 3365.131)

The act permits one or more public or private colleges, in collaboration with at least one industry partner, to submit to the Chancellor a proposal to establish a CCP statewide innovative waiver pathway. Under a pathway, a student who does not meet traditional college readiness criteria may participate in CCP and earn an industry-recognized credential or certificate aligned with an in-demand job. The act authorizes the Chancellor to approve a pathway. It also permits any public or nonpublic secondary school or public or private college to use an approved pathway.

The Chancellor, in consultation with the DEW Director, may adopt guidelines and procedures regarding statewide innovative waiver pathways.

International Baccalaureate course credit

(R.C. 3333.163 and 3345.38)

The act requires the Ohio Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council, by April 15, 2025, to recommend standards to the Chancellor for awarding course credit toward degree requirements at state institutions of higher education based on scores attained on International Baccalaureate (IB) exams. The recommended standards must include a score on each IB exam that the Council considers a passing score for which course credit may be awarded.

After the Chancellor adopts the standards, the act requires each state institution to comply with them in awarding course credit to any student who has attained a passing score on

⁸⁸ R.C. 3365.13, not in the act.

an IB exam. State institutions also must make standards and policies available to the public in an electronic format.

Under continuing law, each state institution of higher education is required to adopt and implement a policy for granting undergraduate course credit to a student who has successfully completed an IB diploma program.

Advanced Placement course credit

(R.C. 3333.163)

The act requires each state institution of higher education to make its standards and policies on course credit for Advanced Placement (AP) exams available to the public in an electronic format. The Council recommended standards, which state institutions adopted, for awarding course credit for AP exams in 2008.

FAFSA support team system

(R.C. 3333.303)

The act requires the Chancellor to designate a statewide system of Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) support teams to support public schools with FAFSA completion and college access programming. The Chancellor must divide the state into regions based on available resources and assign at least one FAFSA support team to each region. A FAFSA support team may include existing efforts by educational service centers, colleges and universities, and community-based organizations.

To administer the FAFSA support team system, the act requires the Chancellor to:

1. Develop, in coordination with state and local stakeholders, a comprehensive, multiyear, and statewide strategy for increasing FAFSA completion in Ohio that coordinates the efforts to increase completion at the state and local level;
2. Oversee the selection and coordination of FAFSA support teams;
3. Provide information updates to FAFSA support teams;
4. Identify strategies that have been successful nationally to increase FAFSA completion and college access and share them with stakeholders;
5. Develop and expand partnerships with existing organizations that work to expand college access and success for the purpose of assisting high school students; and
6. Partner with states that have implemented FAFSA requirements to learn best practices.

The act requires each FAFSA support team to:

1. Offer FAFSA programming and training for all public schools in the team's region, including supplementing existing programming;
2. Provide annual updates on FAFSA changes to all public schools in the team's region;
3. Coordinate and financially support FAFSA and college application completion events for public schools in the team's region;

4. Contribute to the marketing of local FAFSA and college access events;
5. Analyze FAFSA data and report the results of that data to the Chancellor;
6. Partner with local institutions of higher education to expand current strategies and services to public schools in the team's region;
7. Commit to participate in professional development regarding any updated FAFSA requirements; and
8. Develop new strategies to increase FAFSA completion rates based on the team's knowledge and experiences.

Ohio Computer Science Promise Program

(R.C. 3322.20 and 3322.24; conforming changes in R.C. 3314.03 and 3326.11)

The act establishes the Ohio Computer Science Promise Program. Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, under the program, an Ohio student in any of grades 7-12 may enroll in one computer science course per school year that is not offered by the student's school. Students cannot be charged for tuition, textbooks, or other related fees to participate in the program.

Any eligible student enrolled in a public secondary school or participating nonpublic secondary school may participate. To participate, a student must be accepted into an eligible course offered by an approved provider. DEW, in consultation with the Chancellor, must approve eligible courses and providers. DEW also must publish a list of providers and courses annually.

The Chancellor, in consultation with the DEW Director, must adopt rules governing the program.

High school credit

Public and participating nonpublic schools must award high school credit toward graduation and subject area requirements for successful completion of program courses. If a completed course offered by an approved provider is comparable to one offered by the school, the school must award comparable credit. If no comparable course is available, the school must grant an appropriate number of elective credits. Evidence of completion of each course and the number of credits awarded must be indicated on the student's record with a designation that they were earned through the program and the name of the approved provider.

The act creates an appeals process for disputes regarding the credits granted for approved courses. DEW makes the final decision regarding any appeal.

“Teach CS” Grant Program

(R.C. 3333.129)

The act establishes the “Teach CS” Grant Program. The Chancellor must administer the program and use it to fund coursework, materials, and exams to support the increasing number of existing teachers who qualify to teach computer science through:

1. A supplemental license with a mentorship-based pathway for existing teachers;

2. A university endorsement program involving a coursework-based pathway for existing teachers;

3. An alternative resident educator licensure pathway for industry experts and other nonteachers; and

4. A continuing education program offering professional development to existing teachers, including those that teach pre-k-12 who are generalists and those seeking advanced content knowledge.

The act requires the Chancellor, in consultation with DEW, to develop an application process and criteria for awards. It permits the Chancellor to prioritize education consortia that include economically disadvantaged schools in which there are limited computer science courses offered or where there is an unmet need for teachers able to teach computer science.

Elimination of Board of Regents, obsolete programs and reports

Board of Regents

(R.C. 3333.01, 3333.012, 3333.032, 3333.04, 3333.045, and 3333.70; repealed R.C. 3333.01, 3333.011, and 3333.02)

The act abolishes the Ohio Board of Regents.

Ohio Instructional Grant Program

(Repealed R.C. 3333.12; conforming changes in R.C. 3315.37, 3332.092, 3333.04, 3333.044, 3333.28, 3333.375, 3333.38, 3345.32, and 5107.58)

The act abolishes the Ohio Instructional Grant Program (OIG).

OhioCorps

(Repealed R.C. 3333.80, 3333.801, and 3333.802)

The act abolishes the OhioCorps Pilot Program.

Statewide plan on college credit for career-tech courses

(Repealed R.C. 3333.167)

The act eliminates a requirement that the Chancellor develop and, if appropriate, implement a statewide plan permitting high school students to receive college credit for approved career-technical education courses.

College credit transfer study

(R.C. 3333.16)

The act eliminates the requirement that the Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network Oversight Board issue a report to the General Assembly by March 2, 2022, regarding college credit transfer rules for state institutions of higher education, as the deadline for the report has passed.