
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 over those charged in the prior academic year, except as otherwise permitted in an undergraduate tuition guarantee program.
- 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 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.

Ohio College Opportunity Grant program

- Beginning with students who first enroll in the 2023-2024 academic year, generally limits eligibility for an Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program (OCOG) award to students enrolled at a state university main campus, a private nonprofit university or college, or a private for-profit career college.
- Increases the income eligibility threshold for an OCOG award from an expected family contribution (EFC) of \$2,190 or less to \$10,000 or less, beginning with students who first enroll in the 2023-2024 academic year.
- Prescribes OCOG award amounts in statute for students who first enroll in the 2023-2024 academic year or later.

Second Chance Grant Program

- Increases the award amount for the Second Chance Grant Program from \$2,000 to \$3,000.
- Increases, from one-time, to each academic year until the student completes their degree, the frequency a grant may be awarded under specified conditions.
- Expands eligibility for the program to students who enroll in a qualifying institution within ten, rather than five, years of disenrollment.
- Designates eight months as the metric for determining a student's disenrollment period for eligibility purposes for the program for institutions that do not operate on a semester calendar.

War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans scholarship and veterans' tuition waiver

- Disqualifies children of World War I veterans from receiving a War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarship.

- Disqualifies World War I veterans from receiving a tuition waiver from any state-supported school, college, or university, and instead qualifies World War II veterans for such a waiver.

Mentor Scholarship Program

- Establishes the Mentorship Scholarship Program, under which approved community-based organizations establish mentorship programs and participating mentees may receive \$2,500 scholarships for use at qualifying institutions.

Governor's Merit Scholarship

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

Office of Computer Science Education

- Transfers all matters of computer science education to the newly created Office of Computer Science Education.
- Creates the Office of Computer Science Education, the Teach CS Grant Program, the Ohio Computer Science Promise Program, the Ohio Computer Science Council, and the Ohio Computer Science Council Gifts and Donations Fund, collectively establishing a Computer Science Education Framework within the system of higher education.

Public service program and curriculum

- Requires institutions of higher education to develop a program and curriculum to prepare students enrolled in public or chartered nonpublic high schools for public service careers.
- Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to adopt rules governing the operation of the program that include a procedure under which students who take courses established under the model program may earn both high school and college credit pursuant to the College Credit Plus Program.

ApplyOhio

- Establishes the Office of ApplyOhio within the Department of Higher Education to perform duties related to promoting access to an affordable postsecondary education.

Direct Admissions Pilot Program

- Establishes the Direct Admissions Pilot Program to notify students in participating high schools if they meet the admissions criteria for participating postsecondary institutions.

State institution policies and rules

College transcripts

- Requires each state institution of higher education to adopt a resolution determining whether to end the practice of transcript withholding by December 1, 2023.

- 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.

Administrative rules

- Exempts state institutions of higher education from complying with the rule adoption procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act or R.C. 111.15 when adopting administrative rules that currently must be posted on the institution's website and are exempt from the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review's review, unless the institution is specifically required to follow either procedure.
- Requires the Director of the Legislative Service Commission to remove from the electronic Administrative Code any rules adopted by a state institution of higher education before the provision's effective date that the institution posted on its website under continuing law.

Teacher preparatory programs

- Requires metrics and educator preparation programs to ensure that all educators complete coursework in evidence-based strategies for effective literacy instruction.

College Credit Plus Program

- Permits the Chancellor, in consultation with the state Superintendent, 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 Superintendent 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.

Obsolete reports and programs

- Abolishes the Ohio Instructional Grant Program.
- Abolishes the OhioCorps Pilot Program.
- Eliminates a requirement for the Chancellor to 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.

DEPARTMENT 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

(Section 381.260)

In-state undergraduate instructional and general fees

State universities

Under law unchanged by the bill, each state university is required to establish an undergraduate tuition guarantee program. Under that program, each entering cohort of 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. That 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.³⁵

For FY 2024 and FY 2025 (the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 academic years), the bill prohibits each state university and each university branch campus from increasing its in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees over what the institution charged in the prior academic year. Therefore, a state university may only increase those fees in each of those years by the average rate of inflation in the prior 36 months.

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.

Exclusion

The bill'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;

³⁵ R.C. 3345.48, not in the bill.

- 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 bill'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.

Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program

(R.C. 3333.122; Section 381.490)

The bill makes several changes to the Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program (OCOG) regarding student eligibility and award amounts. OCOG is the state's sole need-based financial aid program for Ohio residents pursuing an undergraduate education at an institution of higher education in Ohio.

For more information on OCOG, see the LSC [Ohio College Opportunity Grant: Q&A \(PDF\)](#) Members Brief, which is available at LSC's website: lsc.ohio.gov/publications.

Eligibility

Beginning with students who first enroll in the 2023-2024 academic year, the bill revises eligibility requirements to receive an OCOG award. It increases the income eligibility threshold for an award from an expected family contribution (EFC) of \$2,190 or less to \$10,000 or less. It also generally limits eligibility for an award to students enrolled at the main campus of a state university, a private nonprofit college or university, or a private for-profit career college.

Under current law, which under the bill continues to apply to students who first enrolled prior to the 2023-2024 academic year, students at university branch campuses, community colleges, state community colleges, and technical colleges also may qualify for OCOG awards. However, in practice, few students in those institutions receive awards due to the state's "Pell-first" policy. For a further discussion of the "Pell-first" policy, see the LSC Ohio College Opportunity Grant: Q&A Members Brief linked above.

Award amount

Current law requires the Chancellor to determine the OCOG award amount for each institutional sector by subtracting the maximum Pell grant and maximum EFC from a sector's

average instructional and general fees. Customarily, though, the main operating budget act has modified award amounts for a biennium.³⁶

The bill maintains current law for students who first enrolled prior to the 2023-2024 academic year and prescribes specific award amounts for them for the biennium. However, for students who first enroll in the 2023-2024 academic year or later, the bill establishes award amounts in statute. As a result, the bill provides students with the same award amount for each fiscal year in which they receive a grant. That is, students will receive the same award amount in their final year in an institution as in their first year. Generally, in the past, OCOG award amounts have changed each fiscal year for all students receiving awards.

The tables below include the award amounts prescribed for students under the bill.

OCOG award amounts based on first enrollment			
State university main campus students	FY 2024	FY 2025	Future fiscal years
Prior to the 2023-2024 academic year	\$2,700	\$2,700	Amount determined by Chancellor
In the 2023-2024 academic year	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
In the 2024-2025 academic year or later	N/A	\$6,000	\$6,000
Private nonprofit college or university students	FY 2024	FY 2025	Future fiscal years
Prior to the 2023-2024 academic year	\$4,200	\$4,200	Amount determined by Chancellor
In the 2023-2024 academic year	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
In the 2024-2025 academic year or later	N/A	\$6,000	\$6,000
Private for-profit career college students	FY 2024	FY 2025	Future fiscal years
Prior to the 2023-2024 academic year	\$1,600	\$1,600	Amount determined by Chancellor

³⁶ For example, Section 381.360 of H.B. 110 of the 134th General Assembly required the Chancellor to determine award amounts.

OCOG award amounts based on first enrollment			
In the 2023-2024 academic year	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600
In the 2024-2025 academic year or later	N/A	\$1,600	\$1,600
State institution students who are not at a state university main campus	FY 2024	FY 2025	Future fiscal years
Prior to the 2023-2024 academic year	\$2,700	\$2,700	Amount determined by Chancellor

Institutional financial aid requirements

The bill establishes new requirements regarding scholarship and financial aid programs for state universities, private nonprofit colleges or universities, and private for-profit career colleges that enroll students receiving OCOG awards.

Specifically, it prohibits those institutions from making any change to their scholarship or financial aid programs with the goal or net effect of shifting the cost burden of the programs to OCOG. It also requires them to provide at least the same level of needs-based financial aid to their students as in the immediately prior academic year, on either an aggregate or per student basis. Even so, the bill authorizes the Chancellor to grant a temporary waiver from that requirement if the Chancellor determines exceptional circumstances make it necessary. The Chancellor must determine the waiver's terms.

Miscellaneous

The bill eliminates the prohibition against an OCOG award exceeding the state cost of attendance. Instead, it prohibits an award exceeding an individual student's cost of attendance. For a further discussion of the state cost of attendance prohibition, see the LSC Ohio College Opportunity Grant: Q&A Members Brief linked above.

The bill also authorizes the use of a measure of student financial need established under federal law that is different from EFC to determine student eligibility. According to a U.S. Department of Education press release, EFC is being replaced by a new measure of student financial need, the student aid index.³⁷

³⁷ See [Beginning Phase Implementation of the FAFSA Simplification Act](#), which is also available at the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid website: fsa.partners.ed.gov.

Second Chance Grant Program

(R.C. 3333.127)

The bill makes changes to the Second Chance Grant Program. It increases the award amount and frequency, under specified conditions, expands eligibility, and makes other changes.

First, the bill increases the award amount for the Second Chance Grant Program from \$2,000 to \$3,000. Second, it increases the frequency of grant awards from one-time to each academic year until the student completes their degree. A student may receive the subsequent awards if the Chancellor, in consultation with the institution of higher education, determines that subsequent awards beyond the first are an essential element of student success and degree completion.

The bill further expands eligibility to students who enroll in a qualifying institution within ten, rather than five, years of disenrollment. Thus, a person who has been disenrolled for a longer period of time may qualify for the award.

Finally, to qualify for the grant, a student must have been disenrolled for at least two semesters. The bill designates eight months of disenrollment as the metric for institutions that do not operate on a semester calendar.

Background

The Second Chance Grant Program was established in 2022 by S.B. 135 of the 134th General Assembly. Under the program, the Chancellor must award a one-time grant of up to \$2,000 to students who previously had disenrolled from higher education. To be approved, a student must enroll in a qualifying Ohio institution and have a remaining cost of attendance, as defined under federal law, after all other financial aid has been applied to the applicant's account.

A student is eligible for the program if the student:

1. Is an Ohio resident;
2. Has not attained a bachelor's degree;
3. Disenrolled from a qualifying institution, while being in good standing including with respect to academics and the student's disciplinary record, and did not transfer to a "qualifying institution" or an institution of higher education in another state in the two semesters immediately following disenrollment;
4. Enrolls in a "qualifying institution" within five years of disenrollment;
5. Is not enrolled in the College Credit Plus Program; and
6. Meets any other eligibility criteria determined necessary by the Chancellor.

War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans scholarship

(R.C. 5910.01)

The bill disqualifies the children of World War I veterans from receiving a War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarship.

A child is eligible for the War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarship if the child's parent is deceased or disabled veteran and the child: (1) is between the ages of 16 and 25, (2) at the time of applying for the scholarship, is a child of a "veteran," as defined for purposes of the scholarship, who entered the armed forces as either (a) a legal resident of Ohio who resided in the state for the last preceding year or (b) not as a legal resident of Ohio and having resided in Ohio for the year preceding the year the scholarship application is made, in addition to any other four of the last ten years, and (3) is in financial need, as determined by the Ohio War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarship Board.³⁸

Veterans' tuition waiver

(R.C. 3333.26)

The bill disqualifies World War I veterans from receiving a tuition waiver from any state-supported school, college, or university and instead qualifies World War II veterans for the waivers. The bill does this by changing the time period of eligibility from veterans who served between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, to veterans who served between September 1, 1939, and September 2, 1945.

In addition to having served during that period, to qualify for the tuition waiver, a veteran must be a citizen of Ohio who has resided within the state for at least one year, who was in the active service of the United States as a soldier, sailor, nurse, or marine, and who has been honorably discharged from that service. The waiver requires that the veteran be admitted to any school, college, or university that receives state funding without being required to pay any tuition or matriculation fees. The waiver does not exempt the veteran from paying laboratory or similar fees.

Mentor Scholarship Program

(R.C. 3333.129)

Purpose

The bill requires the Chancellor to establish and, with the assistance of approved community-based organizations, administer the Mentorship Scholarship Program (MSP). Community-based organizations participating in MSP must establish mentorship programs to provide mentors and specified supports to participating mentees. In turn, participating mentees may qualify for and receive a scholarship if they enroll in any of the following qualifying institutions:

1. A state institution of higher education;
2. A private nonprofit college or university;
3. DeVry University; or
4. An Ohio technical center.

³⁸ R.C. 5910.03, not in the bill.

To the extent practicable, the Chancellor and the community-based organizations must ensure that individuals in every county in the state are able to participate as mentees in MSP.

Chancellor's oversight of community-based organizations

The bill requires the Chancellor to establish a process to select at least five tax exempt, 501(c)(3) charitable organizations to participate in MSP as a community-based organization. The process must ensure that the northeast, northwest, southwest, southeast, and central regions of the state each have at least one organization operating in it.

The Chancellor must monitor each community-based organization's compliance with its responsibilities in MSP. If the Chancellor determines an organization is noncompliant, the Chancellor may remove it from MSP.

Community-based organization general responsibilities

A community-based organization must assist the Chancellor in administering and supporting MSP. To that end, an organization must establish partnerships with local stakeholders to increase MSP's capacity to provide effective mentoring and supports in any county in each region in which the organization operates.

Each community-based organization must establish and operate a mentorship program that meets requirements established in the bill (see below). The organization must recruit individuals to serve as mentors and mentees in the program. To identify mentees for recruitment, the organization must work with public and nonpublic schools that offer any of grades 6 to 12, other community organizations, and similar entities.

Mentorship programs

Application requirements

A community-based organization must require an individual to apply to be a mentee or mentor in a form and manner prescribed by the Chancellor, in consultation with the community-based organizations. The application form must be designed to assist community-based organizations in matching appropriate mentees and mentors. An individual may apply directly to participate using an internet-based application. To the extent practicable, an organization must approve each eligible applicant as a mentee or mentor.

Mentees

To receive approval to participate as a mentee, an individual must sign a mentorship contract that enumerates the program's expectations. Each mentee is responsible for actively participating in regular contact with the mentee's assigned mentor, as prescribed by the community-based organization in consultation with the Chancellor.

A community-based organization must provide each participating mentee with:

1. Individualized support from the mentee's mentor throughout the program;
2. Networking opportunities with other students, mentors, and professionals from across the state;
3. Academic, college, and career advice and support; and

4. Any other benefits the organization determines appropriate.

Mentors

A community-based organization must approve an applicant to be a mentor if that applicant:

1. Is at least 18 years old;
2. Passes a criminal records check;
3. Completes a training program prescribed by the organization, which must include training on appropriate mentor-mentee boundaries; and
4. Agrees to operate within the confines of appropriate mentor-mentee boundaries.

In addition, each community-based organization must perform an annual criminal records check for each participating mentor and require them to complete professional development training prescribed by the organization. An organization also must determine whether to provide a stipend to participating mentors. Finally, an organization may assign up to three mentees to each mentor.

Scholarships

Eligibility

The bill qualifies for an MSP scholarship an individual who:

1. Is an Ohio resident;
2. Has received a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalence;
3. Has actively participated in a mentorship through the program for at least one year;
4. Has completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); and
5. Has enrolled in a qualifying institution for at least six hours in a semester or the equivalent number of credit hours for a quarter or clock hours for a program for which credit is not awarded.

Chancellor's administrative responsibilities

An eligible individual must apply for a scholarship in a form and manner prescribed by the Chancellor, in consultation with the community-based organizations. The Chancellor must approve the application of an eligible applicant and award the applicant a first-time scholarship of \$2,500 for the academic year in which the individual applied.

Each scholarship recipient may apply to renew that scholarship for each academic year in which the recipient is enrolled in a qualifying institution. The Chancellor must award an additional scholarship of \$2,500 to each recipient who is still an Ohio resident, who completes the FAFSA, who is still enrolled in the minimum number of credits or hours, and who meets any other criteria determined by the Chancellor.

However, the total number of years the recipient may receive a scholarship cannot exceed the number of years the individual participate in an MSP mentorship program in high

school. In addition, the bill prohibits any recipient receiving a scholarship for more than four academic years.

If funds available to support the MSP are inadequate to award a full scholarship to each eligible individual, the Chancellor may prorate scholarship amounts or establish a method to determine which individuals receive scholarships.

The Chancellor must pay each scholarship to the qualifying institution in which a scholarship recipient is enrolled. The institution must apply the scholarship to the recipient's cost of attendance, or the recipient's general and instructional fees if the institution does not have a published cost of attendance, after all other financial aid for which the recipient qualifies has been exhausted. The institution must return to the Chancellor any scholarship amount remaining after a recipient graduates or disenrolls from the institution.

Delegation of Chancellor's responsibilities

The bill authorizes the Chancellor to delegate administrative responsibilities related to the scholarship to the community-based organizations. This can include the payment of scholarships. If the Chancellor chooses to delegate all administrative responsibilities, including payments, the Chancellor must transfer funds to the organizations for administering and paying scholarships. However, any funds returned by a qualifying institution must be returned to the Chancellor and not a community-based organization.

On the other hand, if the Chancellor delegates administrative responsibilities regarding scholarships, excluding scholarship payments, the Chancellor must transfer funds to the organizations for use in administering the delegated responsibilities. The organizations must certify to the Chancellor any information necessary for the Chancellor to make scholarship payments.

Mentorship Scholarship Fund

The bill establishes the Mentorship Scholarship Fund in the state treasury. The fund must consist of the amounts designated for the fund's purposes by the General Assembly, the federal government, or other sources, as well as refunds of MSP payments disbursed by the Chancellor. The Chancellor must administer the fund. Revenues credited to the funds must be used by the Chancellor to support MSP, including establishing and administering mentorship programs and funding scholarships.

Governor's Merit Scholarship

(Section 381.400)

The bill establishes the Governor's Merit Scholarship Program (GMS) to award merit-based aid 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 Superintendent of Public Instruction. 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 state Superintendent, also must determine merit-based eligibility criteria for students who were home schooled to provide them with a similar level of access to GMS.

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

The bill 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 GMS. Institutions enrolling GMS 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 GMS.

Office of Computer Science Education

(R.C. 3333.96)

The bill creates the Office of Computer Science Education and tasks the Chancellor with selecting a director and staff for it. The Office must serve as a center for all computer science education-related matters in Ohio. It must focus on expanding access to school districts and schools, providing expertise, assisting with current and future programming, and other related functions as determined by the Chancellor. The Office may contract with consultants and other educational entities to support school districts and schools.

In addition, the bill requires the Office to:

1. Work with and assist institutions of higher education to integrate computer science standards and curriculum into a preservice teacher preparation program;
2. Create a plan, in consultation with stakeholders, for teaching computer science to provide individualized support to districts and schools in creating computer science courses, which includes project- and work-based learning, course sequencing, computer science teaching basics, and other topics determined by the Chancellor; and
3. Consult with the state Superintendent on computer science education-related matters.

Teach CS Grant Program

(R.C. 3333.97)

The bill requires the Office of Computer Science Education to create and administer the "Teach CS" Grant Program to fund coursework, materials, and exams to support (1) existing teachers who qualify to teach computer science through supplemental licenses, endorsements, and continuing education, and (2) individuals who complete the alternative resident educator

license. The bill expressly permits the Office to consult with the State Superintendent when implementing the program.

Ohio Computer Science Promise Program

(R.C. 3322.20, 3322.21, and 3322.24; conforming changes in R.C. 3314.03 and 3326.11)

The bill 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 fees related to participating 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. The Department of Education, in consultation with the Office of Computer Science Education, must approve eligible courses and providers. The Department also must publish a list of providers and courses annually.

However, the availability of courses is limited by the funding administered by the Office, with the assistance of the Department. The Office may determine how funding is prioritized to address situations in which funding is expected to be exhausted.

The Chancellor, in consultation with the state Superintendent, must adopt rules governing the program. But, in a separate provision enacted in the bill, the Ohio Computer Science Council (see below) is authorized to adopt rules for the administration of the program. Finally, the bill requires the Office to determine rules regarding payment rates, processes, terms, and schedules for approved providers. In establishing payment rates, the Office may consider the rates provided under the College Credit Plus Program (CCP) or other rates determined by the Chancellor.

The bill requires the Department to work with the Chancellor and the Office to calculate and make payments to approved providers for approved courses. It also permits the Office to reimburse or otherwise arrange for payments to help defray costs for enrollment in CCP courses and courses offered for high school credit by an approved provider.

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

“Computer science” defined

Under the bill, “computer science” includes logical reasoning computing systems, networks and the internet, data and data analysis, algorithms and programming, impacts of computing, web development, and structured problem solving skills related to these disciplines. A similar definition for “computer science” that applies generally to education law.

Ohio Computer Science Council

(R.C. 3322.01, 3322.02, 3322.03, 3322.04, 3322.05, and 3322.06)

The bill creates the Ohio Computer Science Council to foster and encourage increased participation in computer science education across all counties through afterschool programs, summer camps, and other educational enrichment partnerships.

Council members – terms of office

The Council consists of:

1. Eleven voting members appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate;
2. Two nonvoting members of the House, who cannot be from the same political party, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and
3. Two nonvoting members of the Senate, who cannot be from the same political party, appointed by the Senate President.

Voting members will serve five-year terms beginning on July 2 and ending on July 1. They must continue in office after the expiration of the member’s term until the successor takes office, or until a 60-day period has elapsed, whichever occurs first. Nonvoting members must be appointed within ten days of the first regular session of each General Assembly and must serve through December 31 of the following year.

The Governor selects the Council’s chair and vice-chair. Council members serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in connection with the official business. The Council must meet at least once per year; however, Council members may not receive expenses for attendance at more than four meetings each year.

Members appointed by the Governor must have broad knowledge and experience in computer science, business, primary education, secondary education, or postsecondary education.

The Office of Computer Science Education must provide staff and other administrative services for the Council.

Council powers and duties

The Council must:

1. Survey the computer science educational resources and needs of the state;
2. Develop a plan for and fund grants for afterschool, summer, and related enrichment programs; and

3. Create and maintain records on the distribution of funds awarded through the Council.

The Council may:

1. Award and administer grants for afterschool, summer, and other enrichment programs that support the objectives of the Council using appropriated state funds;

2. Receive and administer federal funds for purposes compatible with the mission of the Council and Computer Science Promise Program;

3. Establish advisory committees to assist in the performance of its functions;

4. Contract with consultants to facilitate its work;

5. Adopt rules necessary for administration of its programs and the Ohio Computer Science Promise Program; and

6. Accept and administer any gifts, donations, or bequests made to it for the encouragement and development of its programs.

Ohio Computer Science Council Gifts and Donations Fund

The bill establishes the Ohio Computer Science Council Gifts and Donations Fund in the state treasury. The fund will consist of gifts, donations, and fees paid for conferences the Council sponsors. The fund may be used to pay for the Council's operating expenses. All moneys must be spent pursuant to the Council's duty to foster and encouraged increased participation in computer science education across all counties through afterschool programs, summer camps, and other educational enrichment partnerships.

Public service program and curriculum

(R.C. 3333.0419)

The bill requires state institutions of higher education and private nonprofit institutions of higher education to develop a program and curriculum to prepare students enrolled in public or chartered nonpublic high schools interested in public service careers. The program and curriculum must align with rules adopted by the Chancellor.

Programs and curriculum must include the following courses:

1. Public service leadership;

2. Careers and communication;

3. Experiential learning;

4. Preapprenticeship and apprenticeship opportunities with local and state agencies. The bill requires the Chancellor to adopt rules governing the operation of the program.

The rules must include a procedure under which students who take courses established under the model program may earn both high school and college credit pursuant to the College Credit Plus Program (CCP). The Chancellor and the state Superintendent must collaborate to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to utilize CCP to the extent practicable to make the model program and curriculum available to as many students as possible.

ApplyOhio

(R.C. 3333.302)

The bill establishes the Office of ApplyOhio within the Department of Higher Education to perform duties related to promoting access to an affordable postsecondary education. Specifically, ApplyOhio must:

1. Coordinate efforts to support Ohio residents in accessing a postsecondary education after high school, including at an ASPIRE program, Ohio technical center, state institution of higher education, or other institution or program;
2. Help lead efforts to increase Ohio's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion rate to increase college affordability;
3. Coordinate efforts to develop innovations that improve the postsecondary admissions process for Ohio residents;
4. Endeavor to coordinate statewide efforts to recruit Ohio residents who have some college credit, but no degree, to reenroll in a postsecondary institution or program;
5. Provide operational support for state institutions participating in programs and compacts that help Ohio residents with some college credit, but no degree, including the College Comeback Program;
6. Coordinate efforts to assist U.S. armed forces service members and veterans seeking a postsecondary education, including by attaining college credit for military training, experience, and coursework; and
7. Perform any other duty assigned by the Chancellor.

Direct Admissions Pilot Program

(R.C. 3333.302)

Purpose

The bill requires the Chancellor, in consultation with the state Superintendent, to establish the Direct Admissions Pilot Program. Under the pilot program, the Chancellor must determine whether high schools seniors in participating schools meet the admissions criteria for participating postsecondary institutions. The Chancellor then must notify participating seniors of the determination. The bill expressly prohibits requiring any student, school, or institution from participating in the pilot program.

Operation

To facilitate the pilot program, the Chancellor must establish a process that uses a student's academic record to determine whether the student meets the admissions requirements. To the extent practicable, and in accordance with applicable law, the Chancellor must use existing student information systems to automate the process. The Chancellor also must use information held by the student's school to minimize the need for a student to provide additional information.

The bill authorizes the Chancellor to establish eligibility requirements for students, schools, and postsecondary institutions who elect to participate in the pilot program. The Chancellor also may consult with stakeholders and form advisory councils as necessary to design and operate the pilot program.

The Chancellor must “endeavor” to implement the pilot program so students graduating in the 2024-2025 school year may participate in it. Conversely, the bill also authorizes the Chancellor to terminate the pilot program if it is impracticable to operate.

Participating schools and institutions

The bill permits any school district, community school, STEM school, or chartered nonpublic school to apply to participate in the pilot program. Similarly, any state institution of higher education, private nonprofit college or university, or Ohio technical center may apply to participate. The Chancellor must approve the application of any school or institution that meets any eligibility requirements established by the Chancellor.

The governing body of a participating district or school may adopt a policy authorizing any high school it operates to participate in the pilot program. Within 90 days of adopting a policy, the governing body must transmit it to the Chancellor and the state Superintendent. The governing body also must develop a procedure to determine whether a student who wants to participate in the pilot program meets any eligibility requirements established by the Chancellor.

Report

The Chancellor, in consultation with the state Superintendent, must issue a report on the pilot program at least once each school year by a date set by the Chancellor. The report must include information about the number of students who participate in the program. It also must evaluate, to the extent practicable, the impact of the pilot program on postsecondary outcomes for students from populations traditionally underserved in higher education. The Chancellor must submit the report to the Governor, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the House.

State institution policies and rules

College transcripts

(R.C. 3345.027)

The bill requires the board of trustees of each state institution of higher education 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 all of 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, as documented by the Attorney General;
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.

Current law prohibits state institutions from withholding a student's official transcripts from a potential employer because the student owes money to the institution, provided the student has authorized the transcripts to be sent to the employer and the employer affirms to the institution that the transcripts are a prerequisite of employment, but has no other prohibitions against state institutions withholding transcripts.

Administrative rules

(R.C. 3345.033 and 111.15; Section 701.20; conforming changes in R.C. 124.14, 1506.01, 1521.01, 3345.033, 3345.14, 3345.57, 3345.69, and 3798.12)

The bill exempts a state institution of higher education from complying with the administrative rule adoption procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (R.C. Chapter 119) or R.C. 111.15, unless the law requiring or permitting rule adoption requires the institution to use one of the procedures. Currently, a state institution of higher education adopts administrative rules through the R.C. 111.15 rulemaking procedure (the APA requires notice and a hearing before adopting proposed rules; R.C. 111.15 does not).

Continuing law exempts a state institution of higher education's rules from review by, or a recommendation of invalidation from, the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR). Continuing law also requires an institution of higher education to post an adopted rule to its official website. The institution may not rely on a rule that is not officially posted.

The bill directs the LSC Director to remove from the electronic Administrative Code any rule adopted by an institution and posted to its website before the provision's effective date.

Teacher preparatory programs

(R.C. 3333.048)

The bill requires metrics and educator preparation programs, established under current law, to ensure that all educators complete coursework in evidence-based strategies for effective literacy instruction.

Under continuing law, the Chancellor jointly with the state Superintendent must establish metrics and preparation programs for educators and other school personnel and the higher education institutions that offer the programs. The Chancellor must, based on the metrics and preparation programs, approve institutions with preparation programs that maintain satisfactory training procedures and records of performance.

College Credit Plus Program

(Section 381.720)

The bill permits the Chancellor, in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, 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 bill requires the Chancellor and state Superintendent 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 state Superintendent, in consultation with the Governor’s Office of Workforce and Transformation.

Under current 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. Current law does not prescribe specific professional fields for model pathways.³⁹

Obsolete reports and programs

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 bill abolishes the Ohio Instructional Grant Program (OIG).

OIG paid grants to full-time Ohio resident students pursuing an undergraduate degree at a public, private nonprofit, or private for-profit institution of higher education in Ohio. In 2005, H.B. 66 of the 126th General Assembly phased out OIG and established the Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program (OCOG) to replace it. OIG was last funded in FY 2009.

OhioCorps

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

The bill abolishes the OhioCorps Pilot Program.

³⁹ R.C. 3365.13, not in the bill.

Enacted in 2018, OhioCorps was designed to guide at-risk high school and middle school students toward higher education through mentorship programs, operated by state institutions of higher education in the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, and future \$1,000 college scholarships upon meeting specified criteria.

In 2021, H.B. 110 of the 134th General Assembly prohibited the addition of new students to OhioCorp after the 2020-2021 academic year and terminated its operation at the end of the 2021-2022 academic year. Each student otherwise eligible to receive a scholarship under OhioCorps instead received a \$1,000 payment.⁴⁰

Statewide plan on college credit for career-tech courses

(Repealed R.C. 3333.167)

The bill eliminates a requirement for the Chancellor to develop and, if appropriate, implement a statewide plan permitting high school students to receive college credit for approved career-technical education courses. The Chancellor was required to submit the completed plan to the Governor, the President and Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House by July 31, 2020.⁴¹

The Chancellor submitted the completed plan in a report on July 31, 2020. As is explained in the report, the Career-Technical Credit Transcript workgroup determined that the plan would not be implemented because the “Higher Learning Commission regulations make the transcription of CTPD coursework in a manner comparable to CCP not viable.”⁴²

College credit transfer study

(R.C. 3333.16)

The bill 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.

The Board was established by the Chancellor to study current rules regarding the transfer of college credit between state institutions of higher education. It was required to submit to the General Assembly by March 2, 2022, a report including the findings of the study, as well as any recommendations regarding changes to the rules.

⁴⁰ Section 381.460 of H.B. 110 of the 134th General Assembly.

⁴¹ Section 17 of H.B. 197 of the 133rd General Assembly, not in the bill.

⁴² See the Ohio Department of Higher Education [Career-Technical Credit Transcript Workgroup Report \(PDF\)](#), also accessible on the Legislative Service Commission’s website: lsc.ohio.gov.