



H.B. 271

127th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Rep. Patton

BILL SUMMARY

- Permits a school district to establish a policy guaranteeing state institutions of higher education that certain of its graduates will not require remedial coursework in subject areas covered by the Ohio Graduation Tests or the district will pay the costs of remediation.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Background

Continuing law allows a school district, in accordance with State Board of Education rules, to establish a policy guaranteeing a specific level of competency of certain graduates of the district. The State Board's rules require the policy to include (1) criteria a graduate must meet to fall under the guarantee, (2) a list of functions that are guaranteed, and (3) a performance level for each guaranteed function.¹ If an employer or potential employer of a graduate covered by the policy believes that the graduate does not meet the level of competency guaranteed by the district, the employer may submit a written statement of that fact to the district. The district then must provide an opportunity for the graduate to complete additional education, regardless of the graduate's age or place of residence, until the graduate attains the promised level of competency. The district may not charge the graduate, employer, or any other person or government entity a fee for the additional education. It may use district funds for the extra education provided to guaranteed graduates, but it is prohibited from including those graduates in its average daily membership (ADM) or other student counts, if their inclusion would generate additional state funding for the district.

¹ Ohio Administrative Code 3301-49-01.

Guarantee policy for state institutions of higher education

(R.C. 3313.647)

In addition to providing a guarantee to employers, the bill permits a school district to guarantee state institutions of higher education that certain of its graduates have achieved a minimum level of competency. State institutions of higher education include state universities (including the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine), community colleges, state community colleges, university branches, and technical colleges. In other words, under the bill, a district may adopt a guarantee policy for employers, public institutions of higher education, or both. The bill also specifies that each graduate covered by the district's guarantee policy is to be known as an "Ohio public school guaranteed graduate."²

In the case of a guarantee policy for state institutions of higher education, the guarantee must apply only to district graduates who passed all five of the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT), which are given in the subject areas of reading, writing, math, science, and social studies.³ The policy must guarantee that those graduates will not need remedial coursework in any OGT subject area upon enrollment in a state institution of higher education.

Within two years after a guaranteed graduate's graduation from the district, the state institution of higher education in which the graduate is enrolled may submit a written statement to the district indicating that the institution has determined the graduate is deficient in one or more of the OGT subject areas and requires remedial coursework. Upon receipt of the statement, the district must provide the graduate an opportunity for additional education in each deficient subject area, regardless of the graduate's age or residency. If the graduate agrees to additional education by the district, that coursework must last no longer than one quarter or one semester, whichever coincides with the system used by the institution of higher education the graduate attends.

² Under continuing law, a district's guarantee policy cannot cover persons who receive a diploma of adult education rather than a traditional diploma.

³ Students generally must pass the five OGT and complete the high school curriculum to receive a diploma from a school district, community school, or chartered nonpublic school (R.C. 3313.61, 3313.611, 3313.612, and 3314.03(A)(11)(f), none in the bill). Students who pass all but one of the OGT and fail that one test by ten points or less may satisfy alternative testing conditions for graduation, but they could not be guaranteed graduates under the bill (see R.C. 3313.615, not in the bill).

However, if the graduate does not agree to additional education by the district, or if the graduate still requires remedial coursework in a deficient subject area after the district has provided additional education, the district must pay the tuition for each college-level remedial course the graduate must take in the deficient subject area. The graduate's institution of higher education must bill the district, rather than the student, for that tuition. As with guarantee policies for employers, the district may not charge any person or government entity a fee or collect state funding for the costs associated with a guaranteed graduate's remediation at the district or college level.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	06-21-07

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