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## 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, but authorizes the Chancellor of Higher Education to determine award amounts for the biennium if the amounts appropriated to support OCOG are inadequate to provide grants to all eligible students.

### 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.

## **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.

## **Extend Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program eligibility**

- Extends eligibility for the Ohio National Guard Scholarship to include individuals who are enrolled in a master's degree program.

## **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.

## **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 other qualifying employees.
- Requires the Chancellor and Department of Education to oversee the program, including developing the application process and repayment procedures for failure to meet program requirements.

## **Computer Science Education**

- Creates 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.

## **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**

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Teacher preparatory programs**

- Requires that metrics for educator preparation programs ensure specific coursework and preparation in effective literacy instruction and strategies aligned with instructional materials selected by the Department of Education.
- Requires the Chancellor to do all of the following:
  - Consult with, instead of working jointly with, the Superintendent of Public Instruction in establishing metrics for educator preparation programs.
  - Develop an auditing process that clearly documents the degree to which each institution of higher education offers educator training programs in alignment with the above literacy requirements.
  - By December 31, 2023, complete an initial survey of educator preparation program, establish metrics for the audits, and update standards to reflect these new requirements.

- Grant a one-year grace period to all institutions of higher education to meet the new standards and requirements, to begin on January 1, 2024. Requires the Chancellor to then begin conducting audits on January 1, 2025.
- In conjunction with ODE, complete and publicly release summaries of these audits by March 31 of each year; identify a list of approved vendors who can provide professional development experiences consistent with the science of reading; and develop a public dashboard that reports first time passage rates of students on the Foundations of Reading Licensure test.

### **In-demand jobs list**

- Requires the Department of Job and Family Services to update the list of in-demand jobs to include teachers.

### **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.

### **CCP statewide innovative waiver pathways**

- Permits the Chancellor to approve a proposal submitted by a public or private college, in collaboration with an industry partner, to establish a CCP statewide innovative waiver pathway.
- Requires a pathway to allow a student who does not meet traditional college readiness criteria to participate in CCP and earn an industry-recognized credential or certificate aligned with an in-demand job.

### **Board of Regents**

- Abolishes the Ohio Board of Regents.

### **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.<sup>88</sup>

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.

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<sup>88</sup> R.C. 3345.48, not in the bill.

## 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;
- 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](https://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.

The bill maintains current law for students who first enrolled prior to the 2023-2024 academic year. 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. 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 under the bill.

OCOG award amounts based on first enrollment in FY 2024 or later			
State university main campus students	FY 2024	FY 2025	Future fiscal years
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
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
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

However, the bill stipulates that, if the Chancellor determines the amounts appropriated to support OCOG are inadequate to provide grants to all eligible students in the amount prescribed in statute, the Chancellor must determine a method to calculate award amounts for students based on the bill's appropriations.

## 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.<sup>89</sup>

### **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.

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<sup>89</sup> 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](https://fsa.partners.ed.gov).



## Background

The Second Chance Grant Program was established in 2022 by S.B. 135 of the 134<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Ohio Work Ready Grant Program

(R.C. 3333.24; Section 381.160)

### Operation

The bill requires the Chancellor to establish the Ohio Work Ready Grant Program. Under the program, the Chancellor must award grants of 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 to participate in the program 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 designed 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 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 bill 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.

For the purposes of the 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 bill 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 old or younger;
    - ii. 25 to 34 years old;
    - iii. 35 to 49 years old;
    - 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.

## **Extend Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program eligibility**

(R.C. 5919.34)

The bill extends eligibility for the Ohio National Guard Scholarship to include individuals who are enrolled in a master’s degree program. Under current law, to be eligible for the Ohio National Guard Scholarship, an applicant may not possess a bachelor’s degree but must be actively enrolled as a full-time or part-time student in a two-year or four-year program. The bill maintains the 96 eligibility unit cap that recipients may accumulate under the scholarship.

## **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.<sup>90</sup>

## **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.

## **Grow Your Own Teacher College Scholarship program**

(R.C. 3333.393 and 3333.394)

The bill 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 is converted into a loan.

Specifically, the Chancellor and the Department of Education must award a four-year scholarship for up to \$7,500 per year to an eligible applicant. To receive a scholarship, the

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<sup>90</sup> R.C. 5910.03, not in the bill.

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 bill, 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 under the program, 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:
  - a. Is employed at a qualifying school; and
  - b. Holds any of the following:
    - i. An educational aide permit;
    - ii. An educational paraprofessional license; or
    - iii. A substitute teacher license.

The bill 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 bill further permits a teacher training program, in consultation with the Department, 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 bill requires the Chancellor and the Department to develop an application process for awarding scholarships under the program, including appointing a highly qualified and diverse application committee to assist in the selection of scholarship recipients. As part of that process, the Chancellor must require that all applicants file a statement of service status in compliance with continuing law, if applicable. Additionally, the Chancellor must require that all applicants have not been convicted of, plead guilty to, or adjudicated a delinquent child for any violation listed under continuing law.

### **Promissory note**

The bill requires any scholarship recipient 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 bill requires that the amount payable under the note be the amount of total scholarships accepted by the recipient under the program.

The bill 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 above award into a loan to be repaid. The bill requires that the loan to be repaid be the amount of the award made at the beginning of that school year.

The bill requires that an award be forgiven in the event that 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 bill specifies that 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 bill, a scholarship is considered "terminated" if a recipient withdraws from school or fails to meet standards as determined by the Department and the Chancellor. The scholarship is then converted to a loan to be repaid.

## **Computer Science Education**

### **Ohio Computer Science Promise Program**

(R.C. 3322.20 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 Chancellor, must approve eligible courses and providers. The Department also must publish a list of providers and courses annually.

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.

## **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 Chancellor 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.

## **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

### Notice regarding access to transcript and institutional debts

(R.C. 3345.60)

The bill 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.<sup>91</sup> Neither private nonprofit colleges and universities or private for-profit career colleges are subject to that prohibition.

### 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

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<sup>91</sup> R.C. 3345.027.

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.

### **Community college housing and dining facilities**

(R.C. 3354.121)

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

Under continuing law, a community college district that is located within one mile of a four-year private, nonprofit institution of higher education may acquire, lease, or construct housing and dining facilities.

### **Teacher preparatory programs**

(R.C. 3333.048)

The bill requires the Chancellor, in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, rather than in conjunction with the state Superintendent, to establish metrics to ensure that educator training programs 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 bill further requires the Chancellor to develop an auditing process that clearly documents the degree to which each institution of higher education that offers an educator training program is aligned with the bill's literacy requirements. The Chancellor, by December 31, 2023, must complete an initial survey of educator preparation program, establish metrics for the audits, and update standards to reflect these new requirements. The bill further requires the Chancellor to grant a one-year grace period to all institutions of higher education

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 bill requires the Chancellor to revoke approval for programs that are found not to be 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, the bill further requires the Chancellor to do all of the following:

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

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.

## **In-demand jobs list**

(R.C. 6301.113)

The bill requires the Department of Job and Family Services to update the list of in-demand jobs it must compile under continuing law<sup>92</sup> to include teachers. The bill does not apply the required methodology used to identify in-demand jobs to the addition of teachers to the list.

The current [In-Demand Jobs List](http://www.topjobs.ohio.gov) may be accessed at: [www.topjobs.ohio.gov](http://www.topjobs.ohio.gov).

## **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).

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<sup>92</sup> R.C. 6301.11, not in the bill.

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.<sup>93</sup>

### **CCP statewide innovative waiver pathways**

(R.C. 3365.131)

The bill 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 bill 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 Superintendent of Public Instruction, may adopt guidelines and procedures regarding statewide innovative waiver pathways.

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<sup>93</sup> R.C. 3365.13, not in the bill.

## 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 bill abolishes the Ohio Board of Regents. Under current law, the Board is an advisory body for the Chancellor of Higher Education, consisting of nine members who are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

In 2007, the General Assembly transferred most of the Board's powers and duties to the Chancellor.<sup>94</sup> That act specified that when the Board is referred to in any statute, rule, contract, grant, or other document, it must be construed to mean the Chancellor, except in specific circumstances. Subsequent legislation renamed the administrative office of the Board of Regents as the Department of Higher Education.<sup>95</sup> As a result, the only responsibility that the Board retained was to submit an annual report on the condition of higher education in Ohio, including the performance of the Chancellor, to the General Assembly and the Governor. The bill transfers that responsibility to the Chancellor, but removes the requirement that the report include the performance of the Chancellor.

## 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 126<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 134<sup>th</sup> 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

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<sup>94</sup> H.B. 2 of the 127<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

<sup>95</sup> H.B. 64 of the 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly.

2021-2022 academic year. Each student otherwise eligible to receive a scholarship under OhioCorps instead received a \$1,000 payment.<sup>96</sup>

### **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.<sup>97</sup>

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.”<sup>98</sup>

### **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.

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<sup>96</sup> Section 381.460 of H.B. 110 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

<sup>97</sup> Section 17 of H.B. 197 of the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly, not in the bill.

<sup>98</sup> 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](http://lsc.ohio.gov).