
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

In-state undergraduate tuition and general fees

- Addresses restraints on in-state undergraduate tuition and general fee increases for FY 2026 and FY 2027, as follows:
 - Limits state universities and university branch campuses from tuition and general fee increases for student cohorts entering each of those years to not more than 4% of what was charged in the previous academic year;
 - Decreases the percentage state universities and university branch campuses may charge a subsequent cohort under the tuition guarantee program by either the percentage limit set by the General Assembly for a fiscal year or, if the General Assembly does not set a limit, the average rate of inflation over the past 36 months;
 - Limits community, state community, and technical colleges increases to their tuition and general fees to not more than \$10 per credit hour over what they charged in the previous academic year.

Student financial aid programs

Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program

- Establishes maximum Ohio College Opportunity Grant amounts for FYs 2026 and 2027, as follows:
 - For students at state institutions of higher education, \$4,000;
 - For students at private nonprofit colleges and universities, \$5,000;
 - For students at private for-profit colleges and schools, \$2,000.

Governor's Merit Scholarship

- Extends the operation of the Governor's Merit Scholarship Program to FYs 2026 and 2027 with changes, including expanding eligibility to students enrolled in nonchartered nonpublic schools who meet the other criteria to receive a scholarship.

Ohio Work Ready Grant Program

- Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to establish alternative criteria based on Ohio's emerging workforce needs to identify qualified programs for which a student may receive a first-time Ohio Work Ready Grant.
- Requires the Chancellor to collect and report data on technician-aligned associate degrees as a program metric.

Rural Practice Incentive Program

- Expands eligibility for attorneys to participate in the Rural Practice Incentive Program.

- Removes the requirement that repayments only be made for educational loans for eligible expenses incurred while enrolled in a law school and, instead, permits repayments for any educational loan for eligible expenses.
- Revises the factors used to determine whether a county is an underserved community for the purposes of determining an attorney's eligibility to participate in the program.
- Eliminates law that permits the Chancellor of Higher Education to enter into a contract with a participating attorney regarding service obligations and the obligation to repay the state for a failure to meet those obligations and, instead, requires an attorney to sign a promissory note payable to the state in the event that the individual does not satisfy those service obligations.

SSI – funds contingent on compliance with specified laws

- Earmarks \$100 million in FY 2027 from the State Share of Instruction (SSI) funds reserved for the university traditional SSI formula to be distributed based on each state university's percent share of traditional SSI formula funding.
- Prohibits the Chancellor from distributing the FY 2027 set-aside funds to a state university unless the House and Senate higher education committees find that the university has fully complied with specified laws in the prior fiscal year.
- Requires each state university to submit, by March 1, 2026, a report to the chairs demonstrating compliance with the specified laws.
- Requires the committees each to determine, by March 31, 2026, whether a state university is in full compliance and report that determination to the Office of Budget and Management.
- Subjects the release of funds to Controlling Board approval.

State institutions of higher education

Credential and work experience

- Requires each state institution to consider an applicant's work experience and credentials as part of its admissions process and grant credit for that or detail the opportunities and required documentation to gain that credit.

General education requirements

- Requires each state institution board of trustees to formally review, evaluate, and adjust its general education criteria in specified subject areas.

Guaranteed admission

- Guarantees each high school graduate in the top 10% of their graduating class admission to a state institution.

- Permits a state university to delay main campus admission and admit a high school graduate in the top 10% of the graduating class to a regional campus if the student does not meet the standards for unconditional admission.
- Guarantees admission to the main campus of a state institution of higher education for students who graduate in the top 5% of their graduating class, provided the student meets the application and acceptance deadlines for admission to the main campus.
- Requires the Chancellor, in consultation with the Director of Education and Workforce, to identify a process to provide each state institution with a list of all students who are eligible for guaranteed admission.

Co-Op Internship Program

- Requires state institutions to develop and implement, by the 2027-2028 academic year, a Co-Op Internship Program.
- Requires the Chancellor to consult with JobsOhio and other appropriate stakeholders to develop the goals, structure, and parameters of the program.
- Requires state institutions, by June 30 of the year following the implementation of the program, and annually thereafter, to report specified metrics.

Fiscal caution status

- Requires the Chancellor, in consultation with OBM, to adopt rules regarding:
 - Criteria for determining when to declare a state institution under fiscal caution;
 - Requirements for a state institution on fiscal caution to submit a financial recovery plan, submit a three-year forecast of revenues and expenditures, consult with the Auditor of State regarding steps to bring the institution's financial accounting and reporting into compliance with the Auditor's requirements, and submit regular reports related to the fiscal caution; and
 - Criteria for determining when to declare the termination of a fiscal caution.
- Permits the Chancellor to impose limitations on a state institution that fails to comply with requirements related to a fiscal caution or fails to take decisive action to improve the institution's financial condition.
- Expressly permits the Chancellor, OBM, or the Auditor of State to conduct any audit or analysis necessary to assess the fiscal condition of any state university or college.

Use of financial indicators to evaluate institutions

- Requires the Chancellor to use specified financial indicators to determine whether a state institution board of trustees has taken any action related to pausing or stopping enrollment, submitted a withdrawal of accreditation, or taken any other action indicating the institution will undergo a wind down and dissolution of existence.

Governance authority requirements

- Requires a governance authority appointed for a state institution under conservatorship to include one member with expertise in academic affairs and accreditation and one member with expertise in either state agency budgets or state institution finances.
- If the governance authority determines closure is necessary or is appointed to facilitate an orderly closure, requires the governance authority to include in its quarterly report all matters related to compliance with institution closure requirements specified by the Chancellor.

Student record preservation plans

- Requires each state institution and each private nonprofit college or university annually to certify to the Chancellor, and each private for-profit career college or school annually to certify to the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools, a plan to preserve student records indefinitely if the institution were to close.

Higher education institution program review

- Requires each state institution and private nonprofit college or university annually to submit specified information to the Chancellor, including accreditation status, a plan for the indefinite preservation of student records in case of closure, external degree program evaluations, and degree programs eliminated in the previous year.
- Requires each for-profit career college or school to submit the same information to the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools and the Chancellor.
- Permits the Chancellor to rescind program approval or institutional authorization if a college, university, or state institution does not submit the required information.
- Permits the State Board to suspend, withdraw, or revoke a career college's or school's certificate of registration or program authorization if it fails to submit the required information.
- Requires each state institution, private nonprofit college or university, and for-profit career college or school to notify the Chancellor, and, in the case of a for-profit career college or school, the State Board, if specified events occur related to federal government or accrediting organization monitoring, accreditation findings, and financial issues.

Contracts with online program managers

- Establishes requirements for private nonprofit institutions of higher education, for-profit career colleges or schools, and state institutions of higher education that enter a contractual agreement with an online program manager to receive certain services to support an online degree program.

College credit for military training, experience, and coursework

- Permits the Chancellor to require higher education institutions and schools to establish a process to evaluate military training, experience, and coursework and to award appropriate equivalent college credit to veterans.

Strategic Square Footage Reduction Fund

- Creates the Strategic Square Footage Reduction Fund to make revolving loans to state higher education institutions for voluntary physical square footage reduction.
- Requires the Treasurer of State to transfer funds from the Ohio Tuition Reserve Fund to the Strategic Square Footage Reserve Fund.

Eastern Gateway Community College

- Repeals the law establishing Eastern Gateway Community College on June 30, 2027, and requires the Chancellor to ensure continuity of postsecondary educational access in Eastern Gateway's former service district.
- Requires the Chancellor to serve indefinitely as the records custodian for Eastern Gateway Community College upon that college ceasing operations.

Annual College Credit Plus Program outcomes report

- Reinstates the requirement that the Chancellor issue an annual report on College Credit Plus Program (CCP) outcomes.

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.

Centers of Civics, Culture, and Society

- Requires the directors of the Centers for Civics, Culture, and Society at the state universities in which they are located to approve the center's courses that meet the state university's general education requirements, in addition to overseeing, developing, and approving the center's curriculum.
- Eliminates the requirement that the Civics Centers be physically located in a specific college at the university.
- Requires each university to provide adequate and appropriate space for its respective Civics Center.

Ohio Civics Board

- Establishes the Ohio Civics Board, consisting of the directors of the academic civics centers located at Ohio State University, Miami University, Cleveland State University, Wright State University, and the University of Toledo.

- Requires the board to support academic civics centers to more effectively pursue their missions of teaching and research.

American civic literacy course exemptions

- Requires each state institution of higher education board of trustees to adopt a resolution specifying the conditions under which the institution's president or the president's designee may grant an exemption from the American civic literacy course requirement to a student who has completed at least three credit hours, or the equivalent, in a course in American history or American government.
- Requires courses used for the exemption to include the study of the same documents required for the American civic literacy course.
- Eliminates the exemption after the 2030-2031 academic year.

Attainment level report

- Eliminates the annual report regarding the progress the state is making in increasing the percentage of adults in the state with a postsecondary degree or credential.
- Requires the Chancellor, in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, to establish the level of attainment necessary to achieve identified performance targets across a range of degrees and credentials by December 31, 2025.

Campus security and safety programs reports

- Requires the Chancellor to submit reports regarding the Campus Security Support Program and the Campus Student Safety Grant Program to chairpersons of the House and Senate higher education committees by July 1, 2026.

Higher education data reporting

- Permits the Chancellor to use data already submitted to the Higher Education Information System and other public data exchanges if the information is materially consistent to fulfill reporting requirements.

Campus Community Grant Program

- Eliminates the Campus Community Grant Program.

Educator preparation metrics

- Requires educator preparation program coursework in evidence-based strategies for effective literacy instruction to be aligned with the International Dyslexia Association's, or its successor organization's, Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading.
- Modifies language regarding clinical preparation for educators teaching reading, including assuring adherence to the Ohio Dyslexia Guidebook.

- Requires the Chancellor to post the summaries of literacy instruction strategies and practices in place for educator preparation programs on the Chancellor's publicly accessible website.

Statewide FAFSA support system

- Eliminates the statewide system of regional FAFSA support teams.

“Teach CS” Grant Program

- Expands the scope of teachers to whom the “Teach CS” Grant Program applies.
- Clarifies the purposes for which grant funds may be used.

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.

In-state undergraduate tuition and general fees

(R.C. 3345.48; Section 381.260)

For the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 academic years, the bill restrains the increases for in-state undergraduate tuition and fees at each state institution of higher education.

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 in-state undergraduate students pays an immediate increased rate for instructional and general fees, but that rate is guaranteed not to increase again for that particular cohort for the next four years.

For the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 academic years, the bill requires each state university and university branch campus to restrain increases in its in-state undergraduate tuition and general fees. Specifically, they cannot increase the guaranteed amount of instructional and general fees for students entering in those academic years by more than 4% over what was charged in the previous academic year.

The bill reduces the percentage a state university or university branch campus may increase its tuition and general fees for a subsequent cohort by limiting the increase to either the percentage amount the General Assembly restrains increases on in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees for the fiscal year, or, if the General Assembly does not set a limit for a fiscal year, the average rate of inflation for the past 36 months.

Under current law, the increase is the sum of the average rate of inflation for the past 36 months and the percentage amount set by the General Assembly for the fiscal year. If the General Assembly does not establish a limit, then a state university is not limited in increasing its tuition and fees.

Community colleges

For the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 academic years, the bill prohibits each community, state community, and technical college from increasing its tuition and general fees by more than \$10 per credit hour over what it charged in the previous academic year. Those limits explicitly exclude student health insurance, fees for auxiliary goods or services provided to students at the cost incurred to the college, fees assessed to students as a pass-through for licensure and certification exams, fees for elective courses associated with travel experiences, elective service charges, fines, and voluntary sales transactions.

Student financial aid programs

Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program

(Section 381.490)

The bill establishes maximum Ohio College Opportunity Grant award amounts for FY 2026 and FY 2027 for each higher education institutional sector. Specifically, for both years, the maximum amounts are as follows:

Institutional sector	Award amount
State institution of higher education	\$4,000
Private nonprofit college or university	\$5,000
Private for-profit career college or school	\$2,000

The Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program is the state's main needs-based financial aid program for higher education students. For more information about the program, see the LSC [Ohio College Opportunity Grant: Q&A \(PDF\)](#) Members Brief, which is available on LSC's website: lsc.ohio.gov/publications.

Governor's Merit Scholarship

(R.C. 3333.1210; Section 381.400)

The bill extends the operation of the Governor's Merit Scholarship Program to FY 2026 and FY 2027. Under the program, the Chancellor of Higher Education awards merit-based, four-year, \$5,000 scholarships to qualifying Ohio high school graduates attending state institutions of higher education or private nonprofit colleges or universities in Ohio. In addition to awarding scholarships to students who received one for the 2024-2025 academic year, the bill instructs the Chancellor to award first-time scholarships to recent high school graduates as follows:

1. For the 2024-2025 academic year, students who were in the top 5% of their graduating class at the end of their junior year;

2. For the 2025-2026 academic year, students who were in the top 2% of their graduating class at the end of their junior year.

Furthermore, the bill requires the Chancellor to award a first-time scholarship to at least one eligible student per high school for the 2026-2027 school year.

In addition to extending the program, the bill makes the following changes to it:

1. Permits the Chancellor to use the program's appropriations to pay for the program's administrative costs;

2. Expands eligibility for a scholarship to students enrolled in nonchartered nonpublic schools who meet the other criteria to receive a scholarship;

3. Clarifies that public or nonpublic schools must determine student eligibility using criteria established by the Chancellor, in consultation with the Director of Education and Workforce;

4. Requires school districts and nonpublic high schools to provide information requested by the Chancellor regarding scholarship eligibility determinations;

5. Prohibits the Chancellor from placing limits on the number of students receiving an award under the scholarship who enroll at an institution.

Additionally, beginning with first-time scholarships awarded for FY 2027, the bill requires a student who accepts a scholarship to commit to residing in Ohio for the three years immediately following the individual's graduation from college. The student must sign a promissory note payable to the state for the amount of total scholarship funds accepted by the individual under the program. The Chancellor must determine the period of repayment under the note and may not charge an interest rate on such payments.

The promissory note takes immediate effect if either of the following apply:

1. The individual does not satisfy the residency requirement; or

2. The individual disenrolls from an institution of higher education in Ohio without graduating or transfers to an institution in another state.

The promissory note does not take immediate effect if a student does not complete the residency requirement because the student pursues a graduate degree at an institution that is not located in Ohio. In that event, the individual must complete the residency requirement after receiving that graduate degree.

The note must stipulate that the obligation to make payments under the note is cancelled if the student meets the residency requirement or if the student dies or becomes totally and permanently disabled.

The program was first enacted in H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly, effective July 4, 2023, the main appropriations act of the FY 2024-FY 2025 biennium and began operation in FY 2025. For more information about the program and its operation, see page 328 of the LSC

[H.B. 33 Final Analysis \(PDF\)](#), which is available on the General Assembly's website: legislature.ohio.gov.

Ohio Work Ready Grant Program

(R.C. 3333.24)

The bill requires the Chancellor to establish, in consultation with the Office of Workforce Transformation, alternative criteria to identify qualified programs eligible for the Ohio Work Ready Grant Program. The criteria must be based on the emerging workforce needs of the state. The bill also specifies that the industry-recognized credential metric reported by the Chancellor include technician-aligned associate degrees. Current law requires that the Chancellor collect and report various program metrics including demographics, success rates of recipients, and total number of industry-recognized credentials disaggregated by subject or program area.

Rural Practice Incentive Program

(R.C. 3333.131, 3333.132, 3333.133, 3333.134, and 3333.135)

The bill revises the operation of the Rural Practice Incentive Program. Under that program, the Chancellor of Higher Education may repay up to \$50,000 of an educational loan taken by an attorney in exchange for the attorney's employment as a service attorney in an underserved community.

Loans eligible for repayment

The bill eliminates the requirement that the Chancellor only make repayments for educational loans taken out to pay eligible expenses incurred while attending law school. Instead, the Chancellor may make a payment for *any* educational loan taken out to pay for eligible expenses, not just for those incurred during law school.

Underserved community designation

Under continuing law, once every two years the Chancellor must designate by rule a county as an "underserved community" based on a ratio of attorneys to total county population. The bill changes the factors in determining that ratio to include only attorneys who have trust accounts in which to deposit client funds (IOLTA accounts), and to change the ratio of these attorneys to county population to 1:1500 from 1:700.

Expand attorney eligibility

The bill expands the eligibility of attorneys to participate in the program. Specifically, it:

1. Permits an attorney who is engaged in private practice of law, who practices civil law, or who works in an underserved community for a minimum of 520 hours each service year to participate. Under continuing law, certain public defenders, prosecuting attorneys, and counsel appointed by a court or selected by an indigent person in need in underserved communities may participate;

2. Permits an attorney who agrees to practice in an underserved community for a minimum of 520 hours each service year to participate. Continuing law already permits an attorney who is employed in an underserved community to participate;

3. Increases the window of eligibility for the program to attorneys that have been admitted to the practice of law in Ohio for less than 12 years, rather than eight years as under current law; and

4. Permits an individual enrolled in any other state or federally funded student loan repayment or debt forgiveness program, other than the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness or the John R. Justice Loan Repayment programs, to participate.

Approval of an application

The bill eliminates the requirement that the Chancellor approve individuals for participation in the program in a manner that is proportionate to the number of different types of attorneys who apply to the program, with an aim toward disbursing loan repayments equitably among attorneys employed by a county prosecuting attorney, attorneys employed by a state, county, or joint county public defender, and attorneys employed as a service attorney.

Repayment under a promissory note

The bill eliminates law that permits the Chancellor to enter into a contract with an attorney participating in the program establishing that attorney's service obligations and obligation to repay the state in the event the attorney does not satisfy those obligations. Instead, the bill requires a participating attorney to sign a promissory note payable to the state in the event that the individual does not satisfy those service obligations.

The amount payable to the state in the event the individual does not satisfy the service obligation must be the corresponding amount to the service obligation agreed upon in the promissory note – up to \$30,000 for a three-year service obligation and up to an additional \$20,000 for an additional fourth or fifth year of service. Current law requires an individual to pay the Chancellor an amount established by rules adopted by the Chancellor if the individual fails to complete the service obligation.

The bill requires an individual to remain employed as a service attorney within the underserved community for a duration specified in the promissory note. The bill also requires the promissory note to include terms as prescribed by the Chancellor including the individual's length of service in the underserved community and the maximum amount the Chancellor will repay on behalf of the individual.

The bill eliminates the current law requirement that a contract include the number of weekly or yearly hours an attorney will be engaged in practice in the underserved community.

SSI – funds contingent on compliance with specified laws

(Section 381.250)

The bill earmarks \$100 million from the remainder amount of the State Share of Instruction (SSI) line item reserved for the university traditional SSI formula to be distributed based on each state university's percent share of traditional SSI formula funding. The bill prohibits the Chancellor from distributing funds from the set-aside amount unless the House and Senate committees that consider higher education legislation determine that the state university

has fully complied with specified laws enacted by S.B. 1 of the 136th General Assembly. That act takes effect on June 27, 2025. The specified laws require all of the following:¹⁰³

1. Completion of required trustee training provided by the Chancellor;
2. Syllabus posting requirements;
3. Incorporating specified statements into a statement of commitment;
4. Adopting a policy containing specified requirements and prohibitions regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), intellectual diversity, and other concepts at the institution;
5. Developing an American civic literacy course and requiring completion of the course beginning with students graduating in the spring semester of the 2029-2030 academic year;
6. Establishing a written system of faculty evaluations;
7. Adopting and periodically updating a post-tenure review policy; and
8. A prohibition on accepting gifts or donations from the People's Republic of China and other related prohibitions and requirements.

To determine a state university's compliance, the bill requires each state university to submit a report to the committee chairs demonstrating its compliance by March 1, 2026. Each committee must make a determination by March 31, 2026, and report the determination to the Office of Budget and Management. The bill permits the Controlling Board to consider the release of the earmarked FY 2027 funds only for institutions found compliant. The release of funds is subject to the Controlling Board's approval.

The bill requires the Chancellor to distribute earmarked FY 2027 funds to compliant universities in monthly payments in the same manner as other SSI funds and to reduce SSI payments for universities found noncompliant by the share of the earmarked FY 2027 funds calculated for that university.

State institutions of higher education

Credential and work experience

(Section 381.740)

The bill requires each state institution of higher education, prior to admitting any students applying after July 1, 2025, to consider the applicant's work experience and credentials as part of the institution's admissions process. The bill states that an applicant's experience and credentials need not to align to the program or discipline the applicant is pursuing to be considered a positive reason for the state institution to admit the student.

¹⁰³ See R.C. 3333.045, 3345.029, 3345.0216, 3345.0217, 3345.451, 3345.453, and 3345.591, not in the bill, and R.C. 3345.382.

Upon a student's acceptance, a state institution must either grant credit for prior learning or experience or detail the potential opportunities and required documentation to grant such credit based on the review of the information the student provided in an application.

General education requirements

(Section 381.750)

Under the bill, each state institution of higher education board of trustees must formally review and evaluate the components of its general education curriculum and adopt a resolution acknowledging it has done so by December 31, 2026. Each board of trustees must submit its resolution to the Chancellor.

By March 31, 2027, each board of trustees must formally evaluate its general education curriculum to enhance content that furthers the state's postsecondary education attainment and workforce goals. In conducting the evaluation, the board of trustees must consider adjusting that curriculum in:

1. Civics, culture, and society, including U.S. and Ohio history, the foundations of American representative government, how to disagree in a civil manner, and the principles of civil discourse;
2. Artificial intelligence, STEM, and computational thinking;
3. Entrepreneurship and the principles of innovation;
4. Workforce readiness, including fundamental skills necessary for Ohio's graduates to gain employment in in-demand occupations.

Each board of trustees must, by June 30, 2027, adopt a resolution summarizing the changes made to its general education curriculum as a result of the evaluation process. A copy of that resolution must be submitted to the Chancellor. The bill subjects any adjustments to the curriculum to the Chancellor's program approval process as well.

The Chancellor must provide a copy of each resolution submitted under the process to the Governor, Speaker of the House, and President of the Senate.

Guaranteed admission

(R.C. 3345.06)

The bill guarantees each high school graduate who is in the top 10% of their graduating class as determined by the Chancellor admission to any state institution of higher education. If the student does not meet the standards for unconditional admission, a state university may delay main campus admission and instead admit the student to a university branch campus.

The bill also guarantees admission to the main campus of any state institution of higher education for each student who is in the top 5% of their graduating class, provided the student meets the application and acceptance deadlines for admission to the main campus.

The bill requires the Chancellor, in consultation with the Director of Education and Workforce, to identify a process to provide each state institution with a list of all students who are eligible for guaranteed admission.

Under continuing law, generally, state universities must accept for undergraduate coursework students who complete the requirements for high school graduation. If a state university determines a student needs academic remedial or developmental coursework, the university may delay admission or conditionally admit a student upon the student's completion of that coursework at a university branch, community college, state community college, or technical college.

Co-Op Internship Program

(R.C. 3345.83)

The bill requires each state institution of higher education to develop and implement a Co-Op Internship Program by the 2027-2028 academic year. The program must align with JobsOhio's target economic sectors and connect students with Ohio-based employers to facilitate work-based learning opportunities related to the student's course of study. This may include apprenticeships, internships, externships, and co-ops. The bill requires institutions to work with JobsOhio to develop and implement their program, including identifying industry and employer partners.

The bill requires the Chancellor to consult with JobsOhio and other appropriate stakeholders to develop the goals, structure, and parameters of the program. The Chancellor may consult with other stakeholders as well.

The bill requires each institution annually to issue a report to the Chancellor on the status of the program beginning June 30 following the academic year in which the program is implemented. This report must include the number of participating students, which employers are partnering with the institution, and the number of participating students that have received or accepted offers of post-graduation employment as a direct result of their participation in the program.

Fiscal caution status

(R.C. 3345.71 and 3345.721)

The bill requires the Chancellor, in consultation with OBM, to adopt rules that include:

1. Criteria for determining when to review and, if necessary, declare a state institution of higher education under fiscal caution. The criteria may include:

- a. A significant drop in enrollment from the prior year;
- b. A decline in enrollment for consecutive years;
- c. A significant increase in enrollment;
- d. A significant increase in adjunct faculty;
- e. An increase in student complaints;
- f. A substantial increase in the number of third-party service providers who are paid based on success;
- g. Federal financial aid processing delays;

- h. Reduced or increased reliance on State Share of Instruction;
 - i. Receipt of substantial nonrecurring revenue, from any source, that could signify a structural budget deficit;
 - j. Failure to reconcile or file annual reports promptly, which may cause a delay in completing a yearly audit even if granted an extension;
 - k. A lack of proper institutional segregation of critical duties, functions, or responsibilities;
 - l. Significant turnover of faculty, staff, or administrators;
 - m. A significant amount of past due student receivables;
 - n. A significant increase in tuition or fee waivers;
 - o. Change in accreditation status by a nationally recognized accrediting agency;
 - p. A significant increase in indebtedness;
 - q. A federal program review or actions taken by a federal agency that adversely affects the state university's or college's finances, cash management, or educational program offerings; and
 - r. Significant changes in a state university's or college's educational program eligibility or compliance with satisfactory academic progress requirements in federal law, including an increase in the use of correspondence or asynchronous learning materials.¹⁰⁴
2. A requirement that a state institution declared to be on fiscal caution submit a financial recovery plan, within a defined period of time after the declaration as determined by the Chancellor, that may include:
- a. Projections of revenue and expenditures over a three-year time horizon and on such other time horizons as may be requested by the Chancellor;
 - b. A comprehensive review of current staffing levels, a comparison of staffing levels to the number of enrolled students, and a five-year historical summary of staffing levels;
 - c. A review of the most recent submission of institutional recommendations for courses and programs based on enrollment and duplication with other state institutions, as required under continuing law,¹⁰⁵ and submission of revised recommendations as determined to be necessary;
 - d. A review of any approved tuition waivers, tuition guarantees, reciprocity agreements, or scholarship programs;
 - e. A plan to reduce expenditures over a six-month, 12-month, 18-month, and 24-month period, as necessary, to align ongoing revenue with ongoing expenses;

¹⁰⁴ 34 C.F.R. 668.34.

¹⁰⁵ R.C. 3345.35, not in the bill.

f. A review of contracts that are the largest portion of the state institution's expenditures; and

g. A program viability analysis, or analyses, as determined by the Chancellor to be necessary in accordance with law unchanged by the bill.¹⁰⁶

3. A requirement that a state university institution declared to be on fiscal caution submit a three-year forecast of revenues and expenditures, approved in a resolution adopted by the university's or college's board of trustees. The three-year forecast must be structurally balanced based on a set of underlying assumptions, including enrollment projections, tuition revenue, and state funding levels, that are evidence-based and practicable.

4. A requirement that a state institution declared to be on fiscal caution consult with the Auditor of State regarding any necessary or appropriate steps to bring the books of account, accounting systems, and financial procedures and reports of the institution into compliance with requirements prescribed by the Auditor of State regarding desirable modifications and supplementary systems and procedures pertinent to the university or college. The Auditor of State must provide a written report to the institution's board of trustees outlining the nature of the financial accounting and reporting problems of the university or college and recommendations for actions to be undertaken to correct the financial accounting and reporting problems. If requested by the institution or recommended by the Chancellor, the Auditor of State may additionally perform a performance audit of the institution.

5. A requirement that for the duration of a fiscal caution, a state institution must submit regular reports on any of the above matters or new matters identified by the Auditor of State or the Chancellor as contributing to the reason for the declaration, preventing the recovery of the institution, or the inability to be removed from fiscal caution; and

6. Criteria for determining when to declare the termination of the fiscal caution of a state institution.

The bill requires a state institution to provide the Chancellor with all information requested in the time and manner determined by the Chancellor. Failure to comply in a satisfactory manner, as determined by the Chancellor, may result in a declaration of a fiscal watch.¹⁰⁷ The bill also permits the Chancellor to impose limitations on a state institution that fails to comply with the law or rules adopted regarding fiscal cautions or that fails to take decisive action to improve the institution's financial condition. Those limitations may include:

1. Limitations on eligibility to participate in grants and programs administered by the Chancellor;

2. Limitations on approval of a new degree program or associated certificates;

3. Suspension of additional enrollment in an educational program;

¹⁰⁶ R.C. 3333.073, not in the bill.

¹⁰⁷ R.C. 3345.72, not in the bill.

4. Restriction of an increase in any special fee or a creation of a new fee;
5. Limitations on the power of the board of trustees to enter into any new or renewed contracts without prior approval from the Chancellor; and
6. Withholding approval of any Controlling Board request for capital projects.

Finally, the bill expressly permits the Chancellor, OBM, or the Auditor of State to conduct any audit or analysis necessary to assess the fiscal condition of any state university or college.

Use of financial indicators to evaluate institutions

(R.C. 3345.74)

The bill requires the Chancellor to use the financial indicators and standards adopted by the Chancellor under continuing law to determine if a state institution board of trustees has taken any action related to pausing or stopping enrollment, submitted a withdrawal of accreditation, or taken any other action indicating it will no longer offer educational activity or will undergo a wind down and dissolution of existence.

Under continuing law, the Chancellor must adopt financial indicators and standards used to determine whether a state university or college under a fiscal watch is experiencing sufficient fiscal difficulties to warrant the appointment of a conservator.¹⁰⁸

Governance authority requirements

(R.C. 3345.75)

The bill requires a governance authority appointed for a state institution of higher education under conservatorship to include one member with expertise in academic affairs and accreditation and one member with expertise in either state agency budgets or state institution finances.

The bill also requires a governance authority to include in its quarterly report if the governance authority determines closure is necessary or, if the governance authority is appointed to facilitate an orderly closure, as determined to be necessary by the board of trustees prior to the governance authority's appointment, all matters related to compliance with the requirements of a closure of an institution of higher education as specified by the Chancellor.

Under continuing law, a governance authority appointed for a state institution must submit a quarterly report to the Chancellor, the Governor, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House, and the President and Minority Leader of the Senate, that sets forth information on the general conditions of the college, expenses, progress with improvements, and matters the governance authority considers useful.

¹⁰⁸ R.C. 3345.73, not in the bill.

Student record preservation plans

(R.C. 1713.033, 3332.17, and 3345.601)

The bill requires each state institution and private nonprofit college or university to annually certify to the Chancellor, and each private for-profit career college and school to annually certify to the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools, a plan to preserve student records indefinitely if it was to cease operations. The plan must include the designation and signed confirmation of an official custodian of student records. If the Chancellor determines it necessary for a state institution or nonprofit college or university, or the State Board determines it necessary for a career college or school, the Chancellor or the State Board may require an institution to produce an executed agreement with the designated custodian of students that is paid in full, to ensure the institution's plan can be implemented.

The bill permits the Chancellor to consult with the Higher Learning Commission, the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools, and other appropriate entities to establish plans, processes, and procedures for institutions and schools to provide indefinite access to student records. Similarly, the State Board's Director may consult with the Chancellor, the Higher Learning Commission, and other appropriate entities for the same purposes.

Higher education institution program review

(R.C. 1713.041, 3332.21, and 3333.074)

Annual reporting

The bill requires each state institution of higher education, private nonprofit college or university, and for-profit career college or school to annually report information to the Chancellor and, for for-profit career colleges and schools, to the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools. This information includes all of the following:

1. Verification of current accreditation status and a copy of the most recent institutional report from the Higher Learning Commission, for state institutions, or from the institution's accrediting organization, for private nonprofit colleges or universities and for-profit career colleges and schools;
2. A plan to preserve student records indefinitely in the event of closure of the institution or discontinuation of service. The plan must include a method by which students and alumni of the institution may retrieve student records by request. The plan also must include a designation and signed confirmation of an official custodian of student records. Student records preserved under the plan must include academic transcripts, financial aid documents, international student forms, and tax information;
3. The results of any external degree program evaluations that occurred in the last year;
4. Any degree programs eliminated in the last year; and
5. Any other information requested by the Chancellor or, for for-profit career colleges and schools, the State Board.

Private nonprofit colleges and universities and for-profit career colleges and schools must also provide a list of current degree programs offered in Ohio and the latest financial statement for the most recent fiscal year compiled and audited by an independent certified public accountant, including any management letters provided by the independent auditor.

If a state institution fails to submit the required information, or if the Chancellor finds the information is insufficient, the Chancellor may rescind program approval. If a private nonprofit college or university fails to submit the required information or the Chancellor finds the submitted information is insufficient, the Chancellor may suspend, withdraw, or revoke the college or university's institutional authorization or a program's authorization. If a for-profit career college or school fails to submit the required information or the State Board or the Chancellor finds the submitted information is insufficient, the State Board may suspend, withdraw, or revoke a school's certificate of registration or program authorization.

Notice requirements

The bill requires each state institution, private nonprofit college or university, and for-profit career college or school to immediately inform the Chancellor and, for for-profit career colleges and schools, the State Board, if the institution does any of the following:

1. Receives notice from the federal government or an institutional accrediting organization that the institution is subject to heightened reporting standards or special monitoring status, such as the U.S. Department of Education's heightened cash monitoring process;
2. Receives preliminary or final accreditation findings;
3. Becomes the subject of an investigation by a government agency related to the institution's academic quality, financial stability, or student consumer protection;
4. Fails to make any payments to applicable retirement systems. For state institutions, the bill presents the Public Employees Retirement System or the State Teachers Retirement System as examples;
5. Fails to make any scheduled payroll payments;
6. Fails to make any payments to vendors when due as a result of a cash deficiency or a substantial deficiency in the payment processing system of the institution;
7. Fails to make any scheduled payment of principal or interest for short- or long-term debt;
8. Makes budget revisions resulting in a substantially reduced ending fund balance or larger deficit; or
9. Becomes aware of significant negative variance between the most recently adopted annual budget and actual revenues or expenses as projected at the end of the fiscal year.

A state institution must also immediately notify the Chancellor if the institution requests an advance of a state subsidy.

The bill clarifies that a document received by the Chancellor from a private nonprofit college or university pertaining to heightened reporting standards, special monitoring status, accrediting findings, or government investigations that is confidential under federal law is not subject to release under a public record request until such time as that document is released publicly by the appropriate entity. Further, financial documentation received by the Chancellor is not considered a public record under the bill.

Contracts with online program managers

(R.C. 1713.03, 1713.032, 3332.22, and 3333.0420)

The bill defines an “online program manager” as an entity that is not an institution of higher education as defined under The Higher Education Act of 1965¹⁰⁹ that enters into an agreement with (1) a private nonprofit institution of higher education, (2) a for-profit career college or school, or (3) a state institution of higher education, to provide marketing and recruitment services and at least one additional service, including course design, technology, or faculty training, to support an online degree program.

The bill requires any such institution that enters into a contract with an online program manager, to:

1. Ensure the contract is in compliance with relevant program standards and requirements;
2. Post on each online degree program website it maintains that it utilizes an online program manager for services; and
3. Require the online program manager to identify itself when providing services to students.

Further, the bill prohibits any of those institutions from permitting an online program manager to control, make decisions regarding, administer, or disburse student financial aid.

Each private nonprofit institution of higher education must also disclose on its annual report to the Chancellor any contract entered with an online program manager. The bill states that a contract specifically between a private nonprofit institution of higher education and an online program manager is not subject to the public records law.

College credit for military training, experience, and coursework

(R.C. 3333.164)

The bill permits the Chancellor to require a state institution of higher education, private nonprofit college and university, and private, for-profit career college and school to establish a process to systematically evaluate military training, experience, and coursework and to award appropriate equivalent college credit to a student who is a veteran of the armed forces. The Chancellor may adopt rules to implement those requirements.

¹⁰⁹ 20 U.S.C. 1001.

Background

Continuing law requires the Chancellor to develop a set of standards and procedures for state institutions to utilize regarding military training and college credit.

Strategic Square Footage Reduction Fund

(R.C. 3333.96 and 3334.11)

The bill creates in the state treasury the Strategic Square Footage Reduction Fund to make revolving loans to state institutions of higher education that enable the voluntary reduction of physical square footage. The fund must consist of money credited or transferred to it, grants, gifts, and contributions made directly to it, or any funds transferred from the Ohio Tuition Trust Reserve Fund.

The bill requires the Chancellor to administer and award, in consultation with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (FCC), the revolving loans and requires the Chancellor to establish all of the following:

1. Procedures and forms by which state institutions may apply for a loan;
2. A competitive process for ranking applicants and awarding the loans, with priority consideration given to state institutions that have experienced a decrease in their general student population, as determined by the Chancellor; and
3. Procedures and timelines for distributing loans and collecting payments for the Strategic Square Footage Reduction Fund.

Application

The bill requires each state institution to include in its application all of the following:

1. The extent to which the square footage may have value if sold or reallocated to serve other purposes, which may include K-12, career-technical, or adult educational purposes, community interests, or business and industry partnerships;
 2. The relative age and condition of the facilities to be deconstructed;
 3. Historical enrollment patterns as well as future enrollment projections;
 4. The composition of classes offered in person versus in an online format;
 5. The level of deferred maintenance;
 6. The prior level of state investment;
 7. The amount of annual operating expenses defrayed by eliminating the square footage;
- and
8. A report from OBM detailing the extent and status of past capital budget appropriations supporting the project and the existence of any outstanding bonded debt derived from that support.

The Chancellor and the FCC must consider this information supplied by a state institution in its application when making final awards.

Loan requirements

Each state institution that receives a loan must certify to the Chancellor, on a date and in a form and manner prescribed by the Chancellor, a summary of financial information regarding the loan. Prior to a state institution using the loan to pay demolition costs of a facility, the following must occur:

1. The board of trustees of the state institution must adopt a resolution approving the demolition; and
2. Any net proceeds received from any demolition of property must, at the direction of the Director of OBM, be credited to the Strategic Square Footage Reduction Fund.

The bill prohibits each state institution that is receiving a loan for the reduction of physical square footage from constructing any new facility during the period in which demolition is occurring.

Transfer of funds from the Ohio Tuition Trust Reserve Fund

The bill requires the Treasurer of State, upon request by the Chancellor and approval by the Director of OBM, to transfer funds from the Ohio Tuition Reserve Fund to the Strategic Square Footage Reduction Fund.

Ohio Tuition Trust Fund and the Ohio Constitution

The Ohio Tuition Trust Fund and the Ohio Tuition Reserve Fund are used to support the Guaranteed Savings Plan Program. The Ohio Constitution and continuing law establish that program to allow individuals to open accounts to purchase tuition units that can be redeemed against the cost of tuition at state institutions of higher education. However, in 2003, the opening of accounts and sale of units were suspended, in accordance with continuing law, due to concerns about the program's actuarial soundness.

Article VI, Section 6(B) of the Ohio Constitution requires that any assets maintained in the Ohio Tuition Trust Fund be used solely for the purposes of that fund and provides that, upon the Guaranteed Savings Plan Program's termination, any funds left in the Trust Fund must be transferred to the General Revenue Fund. The Ohio Tuition Trust Reserve Fund is a subfund of the Ohio Tuition Trust Fund.

Eastern Gateway Community College

(R.C. 3333.053 and 3354.24, repealed; conforming change in R.C. 3354.19; Sections 105.10, 381.730, and 733.40)

The bill addresses the recent decision to dissolve Eastern Gateway Community College in several ways. First, it provides for the repeal of the law establishing Eastern Gateway, effective June 30, 2027. The Chancellor must serve indefinitely as the records custodian for the college upon the college ceasing operations. It also requires the Chancellor, in consultation with postsecondary educational institutions and other stakeholders, to monitor and evaluate the ongoing availability of postsecondary educational offers in Eastern Gateway's former four-county service district.

To the extent practicable, the Chancellor must seek to ensure strong continuity of postsecondary educational access to residents of the district, with a particular focus on access to programs aligned with regional workforce priorities. If determined necessary, the Chancellor may seek favorable outcomes by engaging with other postsecondary educational institutions to encourage access to educational opportunities, including outcomes associated with academic program offers, program-related equipment, or physical facilities.

Finally, the bill specifically states that nothing prohibits any other community, state community, or technical college from serving Eastern Gateway's former district. Though, such college is still subject to the Chancellor's academic program approval process and must seek approval under rules adopted by the Chancellor.

Eastern Gateway was established in H.B. 1 of the 128th General Assembly, effective October 16, 2009, the main appropriations act of that biennium. That act added Columbiana, Mahoning, and Trumbull counties to the existing territory of Jefferson Community College's district (Jefferson County), renamed Jefferson Community College as Eastern Gateway Community College, and established a new board of trustees to operate the college.

According to the Department of Higher Education's website, Eastern Gateway announced a pause in registration and enrollment for future semesters on February 21, 2024. On May 15, 2024, it further announced it would dissolve by October 31, 2024, with all instruction ending no later than August 31, 2024. For more information see [Eastern Gateway Community College Information](#) on the Department's website: highered.ohio.gov.

Annual College Credit Plus Program outcomes report

(R.C. 3365.15)

The bill eliminates the December 2023 sunset on the law requiring the Chancellor and the Department of Education and Workforce to submit a report on the outcomes of CCP to the Governor, the Senate President, the Speaker of the House, and the chairs of the Senate and House education committees. As a result, the bill permanently reinstates the requirement that that report be submitted by the end of December each year.

Direct Admissions Pilot Program

(Section 381.770)

Purpose

The bill requires the Chancellor, in consultation with the Director of Education and Workforce, to establish the Direct Admissions Pilot Program. Under the pilot program, the Chancellor must determine whether high school seniors in participating schools meet the admissions criteria for participating postsecondary institutions. The Chancellor then must notify participating students 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 2026-2027 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 Director. 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 Director, 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, the Speaker of the House, the Director of Education and Workforce, the OBM Director, and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation.

Program criteria and technical support

Under the bill, the Chancellor must determine and provide the criteria for approving accelerated 90-hour degree programs established under the program. The Chancellor also must provide technical assistance to each state university during the development of accelerated 90-hour degree programs and aligned model CCP pathways. Finally, the Chancellor must publish annually on the Chancellor's website the information reported by the state universities.

Credit transfer

The Chancellor also must identify how students can count credit earned in high school, a nontraditional training program, another state institution of higher education, or work experiences as part of a state university's 90-hour degree programs. Each university must then accept credit from incoming students that meet the criteria identified by the Chancellor.

Centers for Civics, Culture, and Society

(R.C. 3335.39, 3339.06, 3344.07, 3345.58, 3352.16, and 3364.07)

The bill makes several changes regarding the operation of the Cleveland State University Center for Civics, Culture, and Society, Miami University Center for Civics, Culture, and Society, Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society at Ohio State University, the Institute of American Constitutional Thought and Leadership at the University of Toledo, and the Wright State University Center for Civics, Culture, and Workforce Development ("Civic Centers").

Curriculum

The bill requires the directors of the Civic Centers to approve the center's courses that meet the university's general education requirements, in addition to overseeing, developing, and approving the center's curriculum.

Civics Centers location

The bill eliminates the requirement that the Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society within Ohio State University, the University of Toledo Institute of American Constitutional Thought and Leadership, the Miami University Center for Civics, Culture, and Society, and the Cleveland State University Center for Civics, Culture, and Society be physically located in the College of Public Affairs, the College of Law, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Levin College of Public Affairs and Education, respectively.

The bill requires each university to provide adequate and appropriate space for its respective Civic Center, as jointly determined by the center's director and either the university president or provost and prohibits each university from charging or assessing overhead or indirect fees, costs, expenses, or charges to the center.

The bill also eliminates the requirement that the director of each Civic Center must consult with a respective faculty member as follows: for Ohio State University, the Dean of the College of Public Affairs, for University of Toledo, the Dean of the College of Law, for Miami University, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, for Cleveland State University, the Dean of the College of Public Affairs.

Ohio Civics Board

(R.C. 3345.58)

The bill establishes the Ohio Civics Board, consisting of the directors of the academic civics centers located at Ohio State University, Miami University, Cleveland State University, Wright State University, and the University of Toledo, as ex officio members. If a civics center does not have a director, the center's acting or interim director must serve on behalf of that center until a

director is selected. No additional appointment or confirmation by any authority is required for membership.

The board must:

1. Support the academic civics centers to more effectively pursue their missions of teaching and research in the historical ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped American and Ohio constitutional order and society;

2. Aid voluntary cooperation coordination between the centers, including coordinating intercollegiate efforts and initiatives among the centers to promote collaboration and serve the entire state of Ohio;

3. Advise the General Assembly and Chancellor on matters pertaining to civic education, including best practices, program development, and statewide initiatives to enhance civic literacy and engagement;

4. Advise the General Assembly and Chancellor on curriculum development and standards at state institutions of higher education and public primary and secondary education providers, and on the operations of the centers;

5. Assist the academic councils of the centers in fulfilling their statutory duties, including facilitating the selection process for directors;

6. Serve without compensation, but requires a member be reimbursed for a member's actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official board member duties;

7. Annually appoint a chair, who must preside over meetings and serve as the primary liaison to the Chancellor and the General Assembly, and a vice-chair, who must perform the duties of the chair in the absence of the chair, from among its members; and

8. Meet as necessary at the call of the chairperson or on written request of three or more members of the board but must meet at least twice per year.

The board must submit an annual report to the General Assembly and the Chancellor by the December 1 each year. The report must detail the board's activities, recommendations, and findings related to civic education, higher education curricula, primary and secondary public education curricula, and the operations of the academic civics centers.

The board may, in consultation with the Chancellor, adopt rules as necessary to fulfill its requirements.

American civic literacy course exemptions

(R.C. 3345.382)

The bill requires each state institution of higher education board of trustees to adopt a resolution specifying the conditions under which the institution's president or the president's designee may grant an exemption from the American civic literacy course requirement to a student who has completed at least three credit hours, or the equivalent, in a course in American history or American government. The bill limits this exemption by requiring the alternative course

to include the study of the same documents required for the American civic literacy course and by eliminating the exemption after the 2030-2031 academic year.

Under S.B. 1 of the 136th General Assembly, effective on June 27, 2025, each state institution of higher education must develop an American civic literacy course that is worth at least three credit hours and includes the study of the American economic system and capitalism. The course must also require students to read specified documents, including the Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Independence, at least five Federalist Papers, the Emancipation Proclamation, the Gettysburg Address, Letter from Birmingham Jail, and the writings of Adam Smith, including a study of the principles in *The Wealth of Nations*. Law unchanged by the bill prohibits state institutions from granting a bachelor's degree to a student who has not completed the course or received an exemption, beginning with students graduating in the spring of the 2029-2030 academic year.

Attainment level report

(R.C. 3333.0415)

The bill eliminates the requirement for the Chancellor, in collaboration with the Department of Education and Workforce, to prepare an annual report regarding the progress Ohio is making in increasing the percentage of adults in the state with a college degree, industry certificate, or other postsecondary credential to 65% by 2025. Instead, the bill requires the Chancellor, in collaboration with the Department and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, to establish the level of attainment necessary to achieve identified performance targets across a range of degrees and credentials by December 31, 2025.

Campus security and safety programs reports

(Section 381.220)

The bill requires the Chancellor to submit reports by July 1, 2026, regarding both the Campus Student Safety Grant Program and the Campus Security Support Program to the chairpersons of the House and Senate higher education committees. Each report must include at least information about the number of award recipients and how the funds have been spent under each program.

Under the Campus Security Support Program, the Chancellor distributes funds to institutionally sanctioned student organizations located on or off campus and affiliated with communities that are at risk for increased threats of violent crime, terror attacks, hate crimes, or harassment to enhance security measures and increase student safety.

Under the Campus Student Safety Grant Program, the Chancellor awards grants to institution of higher education to enhance security measures and increase student safety, with priority given to institutions that demonstrate increased threats of violent crime, terror attacks,

hate crimes, or harassment toward students and institutionally sanctioned student organizations.¹¹⁰

Higher education data reporting

(R.C. 3333.04)

The bill permits the Chancellor, in an effort to reduce duplicative reporting, to use data or information submitted to the higher education information system and other public data exchanges, as determined appropriate, to fulfill reporting requirements, so long as the information is materially consistent.

Under law unchanged by the bill, the Chancellor's duties include responding to requests for information about higher education from members of the General Assembly and directing staff to conduct research or analysis as needed for that purpose.

Campus Community Grant Program

(R.C. 3333.801, repealed)

The bill abolishes the Campus Community Grant Program. Under the program, the Chancellor of Higher Education provides funding to institutionally sanctioned student organizations at state institutions of higher education and private colleges to support intergroup and interfaith outreach and cultural competency between institutionally sanctioned student organizations. The program was established under S.B. 94 of the 135th General Assembly, which took effect on October 24, 2024.

Educator preparation metrics

(R.C. 3333.048)

The bill makes the following changes to the metrics established by the Chancellor of Higher Education for educator preparation programs:

1. Requires coursework in evidence-based strategies for effective literacy instruction to be aligned with the International Dyslexia Association's, or its successor organization's, Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading.

2. Modifies language regarding clinical preparation for educators teaching reading by requiring clinical preparation for those educators to occur only in *educational learning environments* where the local education agency has verified that the *cooperating* practicing teachers have *completed* training *that adheres to the Ohio Dyslexia Guidebook*.

Continuing law requires the Chancellor, in consultation with the Director of Education and Workforce, to establish metrics for the institutions of higher education that have educator preparation programs.

Continuing law also requires the Chancellor to annually create a summary of literacy instruction strategies and practices in place for all educator preparation programs based on

¹¹⁰ R.C. 3333.80, not in bill.

program audits. The bill requires the Chancellor to post these summaries on the Chancellor's publicly accessible website.

Statewide FAFSA support system

(R.C. 3333.303, repealed)

The bill eliminates the statewide system of regional Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) support teams to support public schools with FAFSA completion and college access programming. Under the law repealed by the bill, the Chancellor must divide the state into regions and assign one FAFSA support team to operate in each region.

“Teach CS” Grant Program

(R.C. 3333.129)

The bill expands the scope of teachers to which the “Teach CS” Grant Program applies. Under the bill, the purpose of the program is to support increasing the number of teachers who qualify to teach computer science or expanding the knowledge of existing teachers. Originally, the purpose is to fund coursework, materials, and exams to support the increasing number of existing teachers who qualify to teach computer science.

It also clarifies that grant funds may be used for coursework, materials, exams, teacher stipends, performance-based incentives, and other purposes as determined by the Chancellor to support the expansion of computer science education.