

Education

H.B. 99

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Hall

Effective date: September 12, 2022; appropriations effective June 13, 2022

Ohio School Safety and Crisis Center

- Creates the Ohio School Safety and Crisis Center within the Department of Public Safety to be operated by the Ohio Mobile Training Team (see below).

Firearms and school safety training

- Requires the Mobile Training Team to develop curriculum and provide instruction and training, including firearms training, that qualifies a person for an exception to go armed in a school safety zone (see below).
- Permits a school district board or school governing body to adopt alternate curriculum, instruction, and training, with Center approval, that individuals may complete to qualify for the exception to convey deadly weapons or dangerous ordnance into a school safety zone.

List of authorized individuals

- Requires each district board or school governing body to provide the Center with a current list of the qualified personnel authorized to convey deadly weapons or dangerous ordnance into a school safety zone who have completed training through the Center or an approved alternate training.

Ohio Mobile Training Team

- Establishes the Ohio Mobile Training Team within the Department of Public Safety.
- Requires the Director of Public Safety to appoint a Chief Mobile Training Officer and 16 regional mobile training officers who provide services regarding school and campus safety and security to primary and secondary schools.
- Requires an officer (1) to be either a licensed peace officer or a veteran of the U.S. armed forces and (2) to have completed any additional training requirements required by rule of the Department.
- Establishes duties for the Chief Mobile Training Officer and regional mobile training officers.
- Appropriates \$6 million for each of FYs 2022 and 2023 to the Department for the Ohio Mobile Training Team.

Weapons in a school safety zone

- Modifies an exception to the prohibitions against having a weapon in a school safety zone, for a person a school district board or school governing body authorizes to have weapons in such a zone, provided that:
 - The person either has successfully completed the new curriculum and training established under the act, has received a certificate of satisfactory completion of an approved basic peace officer training program, or is a law enforcement officer; and
 - The board or governing body has notified the public that it has authorized one or more persons to go armed within a school.
- Requires a person who qualifies for the exception and is authorized by a district board or school governing body to submit to an annual criminal records check.

H.B. 353

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Click and Miranda

Effective date: April 3, 2023

- Requires each state institution of higher education to adopt a policy that reasonably accommodates the sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of students.
- Entitles the act “The Testing Your Faith Act.”

H.B. 554

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Lightbody and Bird

Effective date: April 6, 2023; state university logo use policy effective September 1, 2023

Temporary educator licenses

- Requires the State Board of Education to issue nonrenewable, two-year temporary educator licenses to individuals with expired professional teacher’s certificates or professional educator licenses.
- Requires the State Board to issue professional educator licenses to those temporary license holders who complete specified continuing education coursework.

Educator Standards Board

- Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to appoint to the Educator Standards Board one representative each from the State University Education Deans and the Ohio Association of Private Colleges for Teacher Education, instead of an employee of a college of education and a college of arts and sciences as under prior law.
- Eliminates the Board’s subcommittees on higher education and the standards for teacher preparation.

Developmentally delayed children

- Extends the upper age limit for a developmentally delayed child to be identified as a “child with a disability” from six to ten years old.
- Includes all children identified as “developmentally delayed” into Category 2 of the special education funding formula for school districts and other public schools, instead of only preschool children with developmental delays as under prior law.
- Requires that developmentally delayed children attending preschool as of April 6, 2023, who turn six years old on or before June 30, 2023, be permitted to remain in preschool and continue to be identified as having a developmental delay through June 30, 2023.

State university logos

- Permits state universities to develop policies regulating the use of the university’s logos by registered student organizations for activities, materials, publications, or websites not otherwise sanctioned by the university.

Children of military families’ participation in CCP

- Requires any secondary school or college participating in the College Credit Plus Program (CCP) to permit a student from a military family, who must withdraw due to a change of station order out-of-state, to either complete CCP coursework or withdraw without academic or financial penalty.

Autism scholarship providers

- Removes registered behavior technicians and certified behavioral analysts who are under supervision or in training status from the list of individuals who may provide intervention services under the Autism Scholarship Program.

STEM school facilities

- Requires a STEM school and the Facilities Construction Commission, when the Commission approves a specified increase in the cost of a classroom facilities construction project, to share that cost in proportion to their contributions to the school’s project construction fund.

High school graduation requirements

- Qualifies for a high school diploma any student who attends a chartered nonpublic school that only administers the ACT or SAT if the student earns a remediation-free score in English, math, and reading on the ACT or SAT and completes the school’s curriculum.
- Requires the Department of Education to prescribe standards to allow transfer students to use their pretransfer scores for specified assessments to meet the high school graduation requirements at their new school.

Community schools

FTE reporting based on credits earned

- Authorizes certain community schools to report their student enrollment to the Department on a full-time equivalent basis based partially on credits earned for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Permits those community schools to report attendance to the Department consistent with the attendance policy approved by their governing authorities.

Multiple locations

- Permits multiple community school facilities to be located in counties adjacent to the county in which the school's primary facility is located.

H.B. 569

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Holmes and White

Effective date: April 6, 2023

- Authorizes institutions of higher education to establish Ohio Hidden Hero Scholarship Programs for students who are family caregivers under the federal Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers and provide care to veterans having a 100% service-connected disability.
- Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to establish guidelines and procedures for Ohio Hidden Hero programs.

H.B. 583

(For details about the act's fiscal provisions and its corrections to the school financing system, see the [LSC Final Fiscal Note \(PDF\)](#), which is available on the General Assembly's website, legislature.ohio.gov.)

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Bird and Jones

Effective date: September 23, 2022; appropriations effective June 24, 2022

Substitute teachers

- Extends to the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years, the authorization for public or chartered nonpublic schools to employ substitute teachers according to their own education requirements.
- Establishes the Substitute Teacher Shortages Study Committee to examine the substitute teacher shortage and consider ways to address its causes.

School financing system

- Makes technical and corrective changes to the school financing system.

State scholarship programs

Ed Choice correction payments

- Permits a chartered nonpublic school, through December 22, 2022, to request the Department of Education to review for errors any Ed Choice scholarship payments made for students attending that school during the 2020-2021 school year.
- Requires the Department, if it finds that scholarship payments for a student were less than they should have been based on the student's attendance, to pay the school the balance.

Ed Choice Expansion scholarships

- Eliminates the progressive reduction of an Ed Choice Expansion scholarship amount, and the disqualification of a scholarship recipient to renew that scholarship, as family income rises.
- Qualifies for an Ed Choice Expansion scholarship any student whose sibling received such a scholarship for either the school year for which the student is seeking a scholarship or the prior school year.

Private school participation in Cleveland program

- Qualifies a private elementary school located outside Cleveland to enroll students receiving scholarships under the Cleveland Scholarship Program if the school meets certain conditions.

ACE Education Savings Accounts

- Requires that, if a parent or guardian had an Afterschool Child Enrichment (ACE) educational savings account (ESA) established for FY 2022, any funds disbursed for FY 2023 must be credited and disbursed to that account.
- Requires any funds in an ACE ESA at the end of a fiscal year to remain in that account for the next fiscal year, until the full amount in the account is spent or the student graduates from high school.
- Extends the Department's authority to pay the program's vendor up to 3% of the amount appropriated for a fiscal year from only FY 2022 and FY 2023 to each fiscal year in which the program operates.

Community schools

Quality Community Schools Support Program

- Specifies that a community school first designated as a Community School of Quality for the 2019-2020 school year for the Quality Community Schools Support Program maintains that designation through the 2022-2023 school year.

Funding for new remote learning community schools

- Qualifies for state funding for the 2021-2022 school year a newly opened remote learning community school that meets prescribed requirements.

Rating for sponsor that succeeded University of Toledo

- Requires the Department to consider the Ohio Council of Community Schools to have received the same sponsor rating as the University of Toledo for the 2016-2017 school year.

Sponsor ratings for 2021-2022 school year

- Establishes a safe harbor from penalties and sanctions for community school sponsors based on sponsor ratings issued for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Requires that a sponsor's overall rating for the 2021-2022 school year be either the rating the sponsor received for the 2018-2019 school year or the rating calculated using data from the 2021-2022 school year, whichever is higher.

Low-performing community school sponsorship

- Permits a low-performing community school, for the 2022-2023 school year only, to contract with a new sponsor without regard to the sponsor's ratings or the Department's approval.

Sponsor evaluations

- Prohibits the Department from assigning an overall rating of "ineffective" or lower to a sponsor solely because the sponsor received no points on one of the components of that evaluation.

Tutoring and remedial education program

- Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to administer a program to provide tutoring and remedial education services to students in participating public and chartered nonpublic schools.
- Specifies that a participating tutor may be either a retired teacher or substitute teacher or an individual who meets eligibility standards established by the state Superintendent.
- Requires the Educational Service Center (ESC) of Central Ohio, as the "coordinating service center," to employ, or engage as volunteers, tutors, and to coordinate, with other participating ESCs, their placement in participating schools.
- Includes employed tutors registered with the program in the State Teachers Retirement System and excludes them from the School Employees Retirement System.
- Requires the Department to serve as a fiscal agent for the program, to provide for administrative, implementation, and training costs, to provide technical assistance to the coordinating service center, and to issue prescribed reports.

- Appropriates \$2.4 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds for the program in FY 2022, and reappropriates the unexpended, unencumbered balance for FY 2023.

List of high-quality tutoring programs

- Requires the Department, by October 1, 2022, to compile and post on its website a list of high-quality tutoring programs provided by public and private entities.

Career-technical tax credit

- Permits the Department to request a student’s data verification code for the purpose of awarding tax credits authorized under continuing law for employers that provide work-based learning experiences for career-technical students.

Dyslexia screening and intervention

- Delays from the 2022-2023 school year to 2023-2024 the requirement for annual tier one dyslexia screenings of students in grades K-6, but expressly permits a district or school to administer the screening prior to that school year.
- Makes other changes regarding dyslexia screening and intervention for K-6 students.

Alternative resident educator licenses

- Until July 1, 2028, prohibits the State Board of Education and the Department from limiting the subject areas in which an individual may receive an alternative resident educator license.

Ohio School Safety Month

- Designates October as “Ohio School Safety Month.”

Prelicensure programs for licensed practical nurses

- Until February 1, 2028, authorizes a prelicensure education program for licensed practical nurses to use as a member of its faculty any individual who holds a baccalaureate degree in nursing or will receive one within 12 months of the date the program first uses the individual as a faculty member.

S.B. 135

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Cirino

Effective date: July 21, 2022; appropriation effective April 20, 2022

Higher education tuition and fees

- Prohibits a state institution of higher education from charging an additional fee to a student for academic activity associated with regular coursework, such as grading student assignments.
- Prohibits a state institution from charging more in tuition and fees for an online course than for a course taught in an in-person, classroom setting.

- Requires special fees for online courses at state institutions to be based on the actual demonstrated cost incurred by the institution.

Student financial aid

- Makes permanent the Second Chance Grant Program to provide a one-time grant of up to \$2,000 to students returning to college after previously disenrolling before earning a bachelor's degree.
- Reappropriates for the program in FY 2023 the unexpended, unencumbered balance of the \$3 million appropriated for the Second Chance Pilot Program in FY 2022 by H.B. 110 of the 134th General Assembly.
- Establishes a supplemental grant for Ohio College Opportunity Grant recipients who have completed at least two years of a bachelor's degree program and are making progress toward completing their programs.

Accommodations for students unable to enroll in a course

- Expands the law requiring state institutions to financially accommodate students who are unable to register for a course needed for their bachelor's degree by (1) applying the requirement during students' final two academic years, instead of just the final year, and (2) adding options by which an institution may accommodate the students.

Guaranteed pathways, joint programming, dual enrollment

- Establishes the Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways Initiative to permit community college students to transfer credits to state universities under the existing articulation and transfer system.
- Requires state universities to enter into agreements with multiple two-year colleges to establish joint academic programming and dual enrollment opportunities.

Free speech policies

- Requires each state institution of higher education to adopt a policy that affirms prescribed principles regarding the regulation of free speech on campuses.
- Requires each state institution to establish a process under which a student, student group, or faculty member may submit a complaint about an alleged violation by an employee of its policy.

Reporting requirements

- Requires each state institution of higher education to issue an annual report about its tuition and fees, average cost of attendance, and certain other post-graduation data, and requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to post each annual report online.
- Requires the Chancellor to issue a report about the mental health and wellness services and initiatives of state institutions.

Degree programs

- Requires the Chancellor, when considering approval of a new degree for a state institution, to take into account the extent to which it aligns with the state's workforce development priorities.
- Requires a state institution, upon request of the Chancellor, to conduct a viability analysis of any program it offers that the Chancellor determines meets prescribed criteria and submit its findings to the Chancellor.
- Changes from every five to every three years the frequency with which a state institution must evaluate its programs based on enrollment and duplication with other state institutions in the region.

Other provisions

- Prescribes due process procedures with which a state university must comply regarding a student who is subject to disciplinary action.
- Prohibits a state institution of higher education from entering into or renewing a contract with a company for goods or services, unless the contract declares that the company is not boycotting Israel or other jurisdictions with whom Ohio can enjoy open trade.
- Requires each state university to endeavor to avoid prioritizing admission of out-of-state applicants over in-state applicants if both applicants apply in the same general timeframe and have substantially similar qualifications.
- Requires each state institution of higher education to accept and provide credit for coursework in the same manner across all instructional methods, unless a course requires in-person observations and experiences.
- Authorizes the Director of Administrative Services, without need for legislation, to sell state-owned land that is held for the benefit of a state institution of higher education and is appraised for not more than \$10 million, provided both the institution's board and the Controlling Board approve the sale.
- Adds content that public elementary and high school career advising policies must address, including information regarding career fields that require an industry recognized credential, a certificate, or a degree, and information about ways to offset the costs of a post-secondary education.
- Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and other specified stakeholders, to develop a proposal for a statewide apprenticeship program for high school students and submit it to the Governor and General Assembly by June 1, 2023.
- Expands the entities with which a renewable energy facility may contract to train individuals for careers in wind or solar energy, in order to qualify for a property tax exemption, to include career-technical centers, joint vocational school districts, and for-profit or nonprofit training centers.

S.B. 181

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Gavarone

Effective date: May 30, 2022

- Generally prohibits a school or interscholastic athletics conference or organization from obstructing the wearing of religious apparel in interscholastic athletics or extracurricular activities.
- Provides civil immunity for schools, school districts, interscholastic conferences, and organizations and their employees related to decisions regarding wearing religious apparel during competition or participation in athletic or extracurricular events.
- Specifies that whoever violates the prohibition against creating obstructions to wearing religious apparel is subject to a civil action for damages, injunctive relief, or any other appropriate relief.