
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Restriction on instructional fee increases

- For the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic years, permits state universities, the Northeast Ohio Medical University, and university branch campuses to increase instructional and general fees by not more than 2% over the previous academic year.
- For the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic years, permits community colleges, state community colleges, and technical colleges to increase instructional and general fees by not more than \$5 per credit hour over the previous academic year.
- Excludes from the fee restrictions: room and board, student health insurance, auxiliary goods or services fees provided to students at cost, pass-through fees for licensure and certification exams, study abroad fees, elective service charges, fines, voluntary sales transactions, and fees to offset the cost of providing textbooks to students.

In-state tuition for certain graduate students

- Qualifies for in-state tuition a nonresident who, after completing a bachelor's degree at a state institution of higher education, enrolls in an eligible graduate program at that, or another, state institution in the next semester in which that program accepts students.

Electronic attendance of board of trustees' meetings

- Permits a state institution of higher education to establish a policy allowing its trustees to attend board meetings using a means of electronic communication.
- Permits a trustee attending a meeting using a means of electronic communication to be considered present at the meeting, to be counted for the purposes of establishing a quorum, and to vote at the meeting.

Textbook auto-adoption at state institutions

- Requires each state institution of higher education to consider a textbook auto-adoption policy prior to academic year 2022-2023.

Ohio Innovative Partnership – Choose Ohio First Scholarship

- Eliminates the Ohio Research Scholars Program part of the Ohio Innovative Partnership, but retains the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program.
- Removes medicine, dentistry, and medical and dental education from the list of academic fields in which students may receive Choose Ohio First scholarships.
- Repeals the primary care medical student, primary care nursing student, and primary care dental student components of the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program.
- Specifically includes “health professions” in the scholarship program’s purpose statement.

- Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to determine which proposals will receive Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program awards based on the extent to which a proposal recruits underrepresented populations in certain academic fields.
- Requires the Chancellor to “endeavor to provide,” rather than guarantee, that students from all regions of the state are able to participate in the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program.
- Requires all students receiving a Choose Ohio First scholarship (rather than half) to be involved in work-based learning through a co-op, internship, experience in a university, college, or private laboratory, or other work-based learning experience.
- Repeals a provision that permits the Chancellor to authorize an institution of higher education to award a scholarship amount exceeding the amount permitted under current law in certain circumstances.
- Specifies that the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program Reserve Fund must consist of amounts designated for the purposes of the fund by the General Assembly, the federal government, or other sources.
- Makes other changes regarding the administration of the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program.

Ohio National Guard Scholarship eligibility

- Extends eligibility for the Ohio National Guard Scholarship to full-time and part-time students who are enrolled for at least three credit hours of coursework in prescribed programs for an in-demand trade.

Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Program

- Establishes the Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Program to provide a combination of a grant and a loan to eligible students enrolled in certified commercial truck driver’s license schools.
- Requires each participating student to commit to residing and being employed in Ohio for a minimum of one year upon completion of a certified commercial driver’s license program.

FAFSA data system

- Requires the Chancellor and the Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network to establish a data system to track the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) complete rate of Ohio’s public and chartered nonpublic school students.
- Permits the Chancellor to publish and share aggregate FAFSA data, including completion counts and rates for Ohio and each district or school.

OhioCorps Program

- Renames the “OhioCorps Pilot Program” as the “OhioCorps Program.”

- Eliminates the limit on the program's operation to the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years.
- Revises the eligibility criteria for the OhioCorps scholarship.

Computer science

- Requires that, beginning in the 2022-2023 academic year, each state university must recognize a student's successful completion of certain advanced computer science courses as meeting general admissions requirements to the university.
- Requires each educator preparation program to require each candidate for an educator license who enters the program in the 2022-2023 academic year, or any academic year thereafter, to receive instruction in computer science and computational thinking.

As used in this chapter of the analysis:

A **state institution of higher education** means any of the 13 state universities, the Northeast Ohio Medical University, 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, Ohio University, Ohio State University, Shawnee State University, University of Toledo, Wright State University, and Youngstown State University.

Restriction on instructional fee increases

(Section 381.160)

For FY 2022 and FY 2023 (the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic years), the bill limits each state university, the Northeast Ohio Medical University, and each university branch campus to not more than a 2% increase in its in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees over what the institution charged in the prior academic year.

For those same years, each community college, state community college, and technical college may not increase its instructional and general fees more than \$5 per credit hour over what it charged in the previous academic year.

Increases for all other special fees, including newly created ones, are subject to the approval of the Chancellor of Higher Education.

However, the bill's limits on fee increases explicitly *exclude*:

- Room and board;
- Student health insurance;
- Fees for auxiliary goods or services provided to students at the cost incurred to the institution;
- Fees assessed to students as a pass-through for licensure and certification exams;

- Fees in elective courses associated with travel experiences;
- Elective service charges;
- Fines;
- Voluntary sales transactions; and
- Fees to offset the cost of providing textbooks to students, which may appear directly on a student's tuition bill as assessed by the institution's bursar.

As in previous biennia when the General Assembly capped tuition increases, the bill's provisions do not apply to increases required to comply with institutional covenants related to the institution's obligations or to meet unfunded legal mandates or legally binding prior obligations or commitments. Further, the Chancellor, with Controlling Board approval, may approve an increase to respond to exceptional circumstances identified by the Chancellor.

Additionally, institutions with an undergraduate tuition guarantee program may increase fees in accordance with that separate provision. Under that program, each entering cohort of undergraduate students of a state university 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.⁶⁴

In-state tuition for certain graduate students

(R.C. 3333.31)

The bill requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to grant resident tuition status to a qualifying nonresident individual entering an eligible graduate program offered at a state institution of higher education. To qualify, that individual must complete a bachelor's degree program at that, or another, state institution and then enroll in the graduate program in the next semester in which it accepts students for admission. For the provision's purposes, an "eligible graduate program" is a graduate degree program that does not grant a professional degree.

Continuing law requires the Chancellor to define resident tuition status for individuals enrolled at state institutions. Generally, the Chancellor must deny residency status to any individual living in Ohio primarily to attend a state institution.

Electronic attendance of board of trustees' meetings

(R.C. 3345.82)

As a permanent exception to the Open Meetings Act, the bill permits the board of trustees of a state institution of higher education to establish a policy that allows trustees to use a means of electronic communication to attend and vote at a board meeting. For this purpose, "electronic communication" is live, audio-enabled communication that permits trustees attending the

⁶⁴ R.C. 3345.48, not in the bill.

meeting and trustees and members of the public present in person at the place where the meeting is being conducted to communicate with each other simultaneously.

A board's policy must specify the number of regular meetings at which each trustee must be present in person, which may not be less than half of the regular board meetings held annually. Additionally, the policy must specify the following minimum standards regarding a meeting conducted using electronic communication:

1. At least one-third of the trustees attending a meeting must be present in person at the place where the meeting is conducted;
2. All votes taken at the meeting must be taken by roll call vote; and
3. A trustee who intends to attend a meeting using electronic communication must notify the chairperson of that intent not less than 48 hours prior to the meeting, except in the case of a declared emergency.

Except as provided in the bill, no one may limit the number of trustees who may attend a meeting using electronic communication, limit the total number of meetings that the board may conduct using electronic communication, limit the number of meetings a trustee may attend using electronic communication, or impose other limits or obligations on a trustee attending a meeting using electronic communication.

A trustee who attends a meeting using an electronic means of communication must be considered present at the meeting and counted for the purposes of establishing a quorum.

Under continuing law, the Open Meetings Act generally requires that each public body hold meetings that are open to the public, that minutes of the meeting be taken, and that, in most circumstances, members of the public body be present in person to be considered present or vote at the meeting and for the purposes of establishing a quorum.⁶⁵

Textbook auto-adoption at state institutions

(Section 733.20)

The bill requires state institutions of higher education, prior to the 2022-2023 academic year, to evaluate their respective implementation of textbook affordability initiatives, by working collaboratively with the institution's faculty senate, to consider adopting a textbook auto-adoption policy. Citing the textbook auto-adoption policy at Wright State University as an example, the bill specifies that faculty members may retain full authority in selecting textbooks and materials appropriate for their classes.

By August 15, 2022, the board of trustees of each state institution must adopt a resolution or otherwise vote to affirm or decline adoption of the policy crafted by the administration and faculty senate. If the board adopts that policy, the bill requires transmission of a copy of the resolution to the Chancellor of Higher Education.

⁶⁵ R.C. 121.22, not in the bill.

Ohio Innovative Partnership – Choose Ohio First Scholarship

(R.C. 3333.61, 3333.613, 3333.615, 3333.62, 3333.63, 3333.64, 3333.65, 3333.66, 3333.68, and 3333.69; repealed R.C. 3333.611, 3333.612, 3333.614, and 3333.67)

Ohio Research Scholars Program

The bill eliminates the Ohio Research Scholars Program, which is part of the Ohio Innovative Partnership, but retains the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program. In doing so, it also replaces all references to the Ohio Innovative Partnership with references to the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program.

Under existing law, the Ohio Research Scholars Program awards grants to state colleges and universities to use in recruiting scientists as faculty members, and the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program assigns scholarships to state colleges and universities to recruit Ohio residents in certain academic fields.

The Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program assigns a number of scholarships to state universities and the Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) to recruit Ohio residents as undergraduate students. They may do so in collaboration with other state institutions of higher education and private colleges and universities in Ohio.

Academic fields for Choose Ohio First scholarships

The bill removes medicine, dentistry, and medical and dental education from the list of academic fields in which students may receive Choose Ohio First scholarships. It retains, however, existing law that permits students in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education to receive scholarships.

The bill also repeals the primary care medical student, primary care nursing student, and primary care dental student components of the scholarship program.

Finally, the bill specifically includes “health professions” in the scholarship program’s purpose statement.

Criteria for scholarship proposals

The bill requires the Chancellor to determine which proposals will receive Choose Ohio First Scholarship awards based on the extent to which a proposal recruits underrepresented populations in certain academic fields.

It also changes the existing list of criteria, at least one of which must be satisfied, that the Chancellor must use to determine which proposals will receive awards. Specifically, it adds:

1. The extent to which the state university or NEOMED has committed to, or demonstrated, an increase in total graduates in the academic fields specified above; and
2. An associate’s degree to the criteria concerning the extent to which the proposal facilitates the completion of a degree in a cost-effective manner.

It also removes the following criteria:

1. The amount of other monetary or nonmonetary resources that the proposal will use;
 2. The demonstrated productivity or future capacity of the students or scientists to be recruited;
 3. The extent to which other resources will be used to supplement students' scholarships;
- and
4. The extent to which the proposal:
 - a. Is integrated with the Centers of Research Excellence;
 - b. Is collaborative with other institutions of higher education;
 - c. Facilitates a more efficient use of existing facilities and programs;
 - d. Will create additional capacity in educational or economic areas of need;
 - e. Will encourage graduates of two-year institutions in certain academic fields to transfer to state colleges or universities;
 - f. Encourages students to transfer into certain academic programs;
 - g. Permits students to attend a state university or NEOMED who otherwise could not afford it;
 - h. Increases the likelihood that students will successfully complete their degree programs;
 - i. Ensures that a student awarded a scholarship is prepared to complete a degree program; and
 - j. Increases the number of women participating in the program.

Statewide participation

The bill requires the Chancellor to “endeavor to provide,” rather than guarantee, that students from all regions of the state are able to participate in the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program. It also repeals a provision that requires the Chancellor to endeavor to distribute scholarships so that all regions of the state benefit from the economic impact development of the program.

Participation in work-based learning

The bill expands to all students receiving a Choose Ohio First scholarship (rather than half of those students) the requirement to be involved in work-based learning through a co-op, internship, experience in a university, college, or private laboratory, or other work-based learning.

But it also permits state and private institutions to appeal to the Chancellor for a waiver in cases where exceptional circumstances make placement of all students impractical or significantly unachievable. (Existing law permits private four-year Ohio institutions to submit a proposal for Choose Ohio First scholarships and requires them to comply with all program requirements that apply to state institutions.)

Agreement governing use of scholarships

The bill repeals the law that requires the agreement that each state and private institution must enter, regarding the use of Choose Ohio First scholarships, to include performance measures, reporting requirements, and an obligation to fulfill pledges of other resources for the proposal.

It also repeals a provision that permits the Chancellor, if making awards to a program or initiative that will be in collaboration with other state or private institutions, to enter into an agreement to grant the award directly to the collaborating institution.

Recruitment initiatives

The bill repeals the requirement that the Chancellor encourage state institutions to submit Choose Ohio First proposals for initiatives that recruit either:

1. Residents who enrolled in colleges and universities in other states or countries to enroll in state universities or colleges as graduate students in certain academic fields; or
2. Graduate students from an Ohio college or university who received, or will receive, a degree in certain academic fields to participate in a graduate-level teacher education master's program in a field that satisfies certain criteria.

Scholarship amounts

The bill repeals a provision permitting the Chancellor to authorize an institution to award a scholarship in an amount exceeding the amount permitted under current law to (1) undergraduate students enrolled in a program leading to a teaching profession in certain academic fields and (2) graduate students who qualify for scholarships under the recruitment initiatives described above.

Extension of awards

The bill permits the Chancellor, with Controlling Board approval, to grant a one-time extension of a Choose Ohio First Scholarship award for up to four years. Currently, state universities or NEOMED must reapply each time an award expires in order to renew.

Reserve Fund

The bill specifies that the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program Reserve Fund must consist of amounts designated for the purposes of the fund by the General Assembly, the federal government, or other sources.

Ohio National Guard Scholarship eligibility

(R.C. 5919.34)

The bill expands eligibility for the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program. Specifically, it qualifies for a scholarship any individual who, in addition to meeting other criteria prescribed under continuing law, is actively enrolled as a full-time or part-time student for at least three credit hours a week in coursework in a credential-certifying program, licensing program, trade certification program, or apprenticeship program for an in-demand trade, as identified by the

Adjutant General, the Chancellor of Higher Education, or the Office of Workforce Development within the Department of Job and Family Services.

Under current law, the program provides eligible Ohio National Guard members with undergraduate or nursing diploma tuition scholarships for attendance at public and private nonprofit colleges and universities and private for-profit career colleges and schools.

Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Program

(R.C. 3333.125, 3333.38, and 3345.32)

The bill establishes the Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Program under which the Chancellor of Higher Education awards a qualified student a combination of a grant and a loan to pay for the costs of a certified commercial driver's license program. In addition to meeting certain eligibility criteria, to receive an award a student must commit to residing and being employed in Ohio for a minimum of one year upon completion of a certified commercial driver's license program. Specifically, the bill requires the student to commit to being either self-employed as a truck driver using a valid Ohio mailing address or employed as a truck driver by an entity that has a valid Ohio mailing address.

Eligibility

To be eligible for an award under the program, an individual must satisfy all of the following requirements:

1. Be an Ohio resident;
2. Be enrolled in a certified commercial driver's license school;
3. Pass a drug test;
4. Have three or fewer moving violations in two consecutive years;
5. Not have not pled guilty to or been convicted of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or a drug of abuse; and
6. Meet any additional eligibility criteria established by the Chancellor.

If an individual is eligible for the program but then either has more than three moving violations in two consecutive years or pleads guilty to or is convicted of operating a motor vehicle under the influence, the individual loses eligibility.

The Chancellor must adopt rules establishing requirements for certification for a commercial driver's license school in which an eligible student must be enrolled to participate in the program. The Chancellor may not certify a commercial driver's license school that charges employers recruiting fees. The bill also specifies that a certified driver's license program offered by a for-profit career college or school ("proprietary school") already certified by the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools is considered a certified commercial driver's license school.

Award amounts

An award under the program consists of two parts. The first part is a grant that is equal to one-half of the remaining state cost of attendance after the student's federal Pell grant and

expected family contribution are applied to instructional and general charges for enrollment in a certified commercial driver's license school. The second part is a loan in an amount equal to the grant. The Chancellor must adopt rules establishing the terms and conditions for the loans.

The amount of a grant and a loan awarded under the program is in addition to what the student may receive under the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG). However, the bill directs the Chancellor to decrease the loan amount by the amount the student receives under OCOG.

If the amount appropriated to support the program is inadequate to provide grants and loans to all eligible students who apply, the Chancellor must proportionately reduce the amount of each award (grant and loan) for that academic year.

Promissory note

Each student who accepts a grant under the program must sign a promissory note payable to the state in the event that the student either fails to complete the certified commercial driver's license program or fails to meet the one-year requirement to reside and be employed in Ohio upon completing that program.

The amount payable under the note must be the amount of the student's grant plus interest accrued annually beginning one calendar year after the student completes, does not complete, or disenrolls from, the certified commercial driver's license program. The Chancellor must determine the interest rate and period of repayment under the note.

A note must stipulate, however, that the obligation to make payments under the note is cancelled if the student meets the one-year requirement to reside and be employed in Ohio upon completing a certified commercial driver's license program. Additionally, the note must stipulate that the obligation to make payments is also cancelled if the student dies or becomes totally and permanently disabled.

Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Fund

The bill establishes the Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Fund in the state treasury to be used by the Chancellor to make grants and loans under the bill and for administrative expenses.

FAFSA data system

(R.C. 3333.301)

The bill requires the Chancellor and the Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network to establish a data system to track the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion rate of Ohio's public and chartered nonpublic school students. The Chancellor and the Council must develop guidelines and procedures to operate the system.

The bill also authorizes the Chancellor to publish and share aggregate FAFSA data, including completion counts and rates for Ohio and each school district, community school, STEM school, college-preparatory boarding school, and chartered nonpublic school. The bill states that the data may be used for the benefit of schools, to increase public understanding regarding FAFSA, and to assist in encouraging student completion of the FAFSA form.

Finally, the bill requires each school district and each other public and chartered nonpublic high school to enter into a data sharing agreement with the Chancellor to operate the data system. (See “**FAFSA data system**” under “**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,**” above.)

The Chancellor and the Council appear already to operate a FAFSA data system, the FAFSA Data Service. However, it appears that currently only school districts, community schools, and STEM Schools are eligible to participate and that participation is voluntary.⁶⁶

OhioCorps Program

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

The bill renames the “OhioCorps Pilot Program” as the “OhioCorps Program” and makes several other changes to that program’s operations. Specifically, it eliminates law that limits the program’s operation to the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. It also delays the deadline for the Chancellor’s report to the General Assembly, regarding the program’s implementation, to the end of the 2021-2022 school year, rather than the end of the 2020-2021 school year as under current law.

Finally, the bill changes two of the eligibility criteria for an OhioCorps scholarship. It requires a student to achieve a remediation-free score in math, reading, or English on a nationally standardized assessment (ACT or SAT), rather than requiring the student to achieve a remediation-free score on the entire assessment as under current law. In addition, it requires a student to complete and attain a passing grade in at least one College Credit Plus (CCP) course. Under current law, a student must do so in at least one math and one English language arts CCP course.

OhioCorps is established to guide at-risk high school and qualifying middle students toward a pathway to higher education through mentorship programs operated by state institutions of higher education. Students who participate in the mentorship programs, enroll in a state institution, and meet other eligibility criteria may qualify for OhioCorps scholarships.

State university admissions and computer science education

(R.C. 3345.063)

Beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year, the bill requires each state university to recognize a student’s successful completion of an advanced computer science course in high school as a unit for admission to the university under certain circumstances. Specifically, a state university must do so if the course is aligned with the State Board of Education’s computer science standards and if the student completed the course to meet one of several requirements contained in the minimum high school curriculum requirements. The state university must apply the completed course to a general university admissions requirement similar to the high school curriculum requirement the student met with the course.

⁶⁶ For more information, see the FAFSA Data Service’s [website](#) and the Management Council’s [website](#).

The following table indicates how, under the bill, a student could use a computer science course to meet a high school curriculum requirement, and how a state university must recognize the course as meeting a general admissions requirement.

Completed Course	Minimum high school curriculum requirement	State university general admissions requirement
An advanced computer science course equal to one unit of instruction	One unit of math instruction	One unit toward a general math requirement
An advanced computer science course equal to one unit of instruction	One unit of science instruction	One unit toward a general science requirement
An advanced computer science course equal to one unit of instruction	One general elective unit	One unit toward a general elective requirement
A computer coding course equal to one unit of instruction	One unit of foreign language instruction	One unit toward a general foreign language requirement

In addition, the bill requires each state university to post a description of its recognition of advanced computer science as a core unit for admission to the university in a prominent location on the university's website.

Educator preparation programs and computer science

(R.C. 3333.049)

The bill specifies that each educator preparation program must require each candidate for an educator license who enters the program in the 2022-2023 academic year and after to receive instruction in computer science and computational thinking, as applied to student learning and classroom instruction and as appropriate for the grade level and subject area of the candidate's prospective educator license.