
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Restriction on instructional fee increases

- For the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 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 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 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.

Tuition guarantee program

- Requires each state university to establish a tuition guarantee program.
- Stipulates that a state university must use a three-year average rate of inflation in calculating an increase in the rate of instructional and general fees for cohorts subsequent to the first one.

Choose Ohio First scholarship

- Qualifies students enrolled in a certificate program in the fields of science, technology, engineering, math, medicine, and dentistry for the Choose Ohio First Scholarship.
- Permits students who receive multiple scholarships to exceed the maximum award amount.
- Prohibits the Chancellor of Higher Education from holding institutions of higher education responsible for repayment of an award under the program under certain circumstances.

Project-based learning program models

- Specifies the Chancellor must work with state institutions of higher education, Ohio Technical Centers, and industry partners in developing program models that include project-based learning.

High School STEM Innovation and Ohio College Scholarship and Retention Program

- Establishes for FY 2020 and FY 2021 the High School STEM Innovation and Ohio College Scholarship and Retention Program for continuing development and implementation of recommendations for an innovation pathway between K-12 education and higher education and career-technical education.

STEM Public-Private Partnership Pilot Program

- Establishes for FY 2020 and FY 2021 the STEM Public-Private Partnership Pilot Program to encourage public-private partnerships between high schools, colleges, and the community to provide students with education and training in a targeted industry.

Career-technical post-secondary credit plan

- Requires the Chancellor, in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction and specified stakeholders, to develop and, if determined appropriate, implement a statewide plan permitting high school students in a career-technical planning district to receive post-secondary credit on a college transcript.
- Requires the Chancellor to submit the completed plan to the Governor, the President and the Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Speaker and the Minority Leader of the House by June 30, 2020.

Community College Acceleration Program

- Requires the Chancellor, with the assistance of the Department of Job and Family Services, to establish the Community College Acceleration Program to enhance support services to students from local social service agencies.

War Orphans Scholarship

- Changes the name of the Ohio War Orphans Scholarship to the Ohio War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarship.

Leave donation program

- Changes the procedure under which rules for the administration of a state institution of higher education leave donation program must be adopted.

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.

Ohio technical centers are career-technical centers and schools that provide adult education and are recognized as such by the Chancellor of Higher Education.

Restriction on instructional fee increases

(Section 381.160)

For FY 2020 and FY 2021 (the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years), the act 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 act'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 act'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 that participate in an undergraduate tuition guarantee program may increase fees in accordance with that separate provision (see below).

Undergraduate tuition guarantee

(R.C. 3345.48)

The act requires each state university to establish an undergraduate tuition guarantee program whereby each entering cohort of undergraduate students pays an immediate increased rate for instructional and general fees, but that rate is guaranteed not to increase

again for that particular cohort for the next four years. Under continuing law, a university may increase the rates by up to 6% for the first cohort under a university's program. For all subsequent cohorts, the act permits a university to increase the rates one time by the sum of the three-year average rate of inflation and the amount the General Assembly permits increases on in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees for the fiscal year. As noted above, that permitted increase under the act is 2%.

Prior law permitted, but did not require, a state university to establish an undergraduate tuition guarantee program. The university also was required to calculate the one time rate increase for each subsequent cohort using the five-year average rate of inflation, rather than a three-year average rate of inflation.

Choose Ohio First Scholarship

Eligibility and cumulative amount

(R.C. 3333.61, 3333.62, and 3333.66)

The act qualifies for the Choose Ohio First Scholarship students enrolled in a certificate program in the fields of science, technology, engineering, math, medicine, and dentistry at a state university or the Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMU).

Additionally, it permits students who receive multiple Choose Ohio First Scholarships to exceed the maximum award, so long as each scholarship is within its permitted amount. The maximum award amount is one-half of the highest in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees charged by all state universities.

Award repayment

(R.C. 3333.65)

The act prohibits the Chancellor from holding a state university, NEOMU, or a nonpublic university or college responsible for repayment of a student's award, plus interest, under the Primary Medical Student component of the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program, until the institution is able to attain repayment from the student. Further, the Chancellor may not require repayment from a university or college if it has certified collection of the repayment to the Attorney General and sent a copy of the certification to the Chancellor.

Under continuing law, the Chancellor may require a state university and NEOMU to repay an award, plus interest, if the university violates the terms of its agreement.

Project-based learning program models

(Section 381.590)

The act requires the Chancellor to work with state institutions of higher education, Ohio technical centers, and industry partners to develop program models that include project-based learning. The models are intended to increase continuing education and noncredit program offerings that lead to a credential in order to help meet the Ohio's in-demand job needs.

High School STEM Innovation and Ohio College Scholarship and Retention Program

(Sections 381.10 and 381.375)

The act establishes for FY 2020 and FY 2021 the High School STEM Innovation and Ohio College Scholarship and Retention Program. The program must continue development and implementation of recommendations, previously made by the Board of Regents, for an innovation pathway between K-12 education and higher education and career-technical education.⁶⁷ It appropriates \$1 million in each fiscal year to the Chancellor to be distributed to Ohio Academy of Science, in collaboration with Entrepreneurial Engagement Ohio for this purpose.

The program must (1) conduct STEM innovation and entrepreneurship forums at universities and colleges for high school students and educators, (2) develop an in-school STEM innovation and entrepreneurship program and commercialization plan and STEM business plan competitions, (3) conduct a statewide competition, open to the winners of related local high school competitions, that includes scholarships to attend any Ohio college, university, or post-secondary career center, and (4) conduct a statewide scholarship program that awards at least one scholarship to attend any Ohio college in each Ohio Senate and House district.

STEM Public-Private Partnership Pilot Program

(Section 733.30)

The act establishes the STEM Public-Private Partnership Pilot Program for FY 2020 and FY 2021 to encourage partnerships between high schools, colleges, and the community to provide high school students the opportunity to receive education in a targeted industry, while simultaneously earning high school and college credit. A partnership selected for participation may use the grants awarded only for transportation, classroom supplies, and instructors for a course offered under the program.

The Chancellor must select five partnerships to participate in the program, one from each quadrant and one from the central part of the state. Each partnership will receive a one-time grant of \$100,000. However, a partnership is ineligible for a grant if it received a grant under a similar pilot program that operated in FY 2017.

The Chancellor must adopt rules for the program, which must include at least the following operational requirements:

- A partnership must consist of one community college or state community college, one or more private companies, and one or more public or private high schools;

⁶⁷ The act's provision uses the term "vocational schools."

- The partnering community college or state community college must pursue one targeted industry, but may partner with multiple private companies within that industry;
- Students will earn college credit from the community college or state community college for courses taken under the program;
- Students, high schools, and colleges that participate in the program must do so under the College Credit Plus program;
- The curriculum offered by the program must be developed and agreed upon by all members of the partnership;
- The private company or companies that are part of the partnership must provide full- or part-time facilities to be used as classroom space.

Selection of partnerships

The Chancellor must select the five partnerships for the program based on the following considerations:

- Whether the partnership existed before the application was submitted;
- Whether it is oriented toward a targeted industry;
- The likelihood of a student gaining employment upon graduating from high school or upon completing a two-year degree in the industry to which the partnership is oriented in relation to its geographic region;
- The number of students projected to be served;
- The cost per student;
- The sustainability of the partnership beyond the duration of the program; and
- The level of investment made by the private company partners.

Career-technical post-secondary credit plan

(R.C. 3333.167)

The act requires the Chancellor, in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to develop and, if determined appropriate, implement a statewide plan permitting high school students in a career-technical planning district to receive post-secondary credit on a college transcript in a manner comparable to the College Credit Plus Program.

The Chancellor and Superintendent must consult the following stakeholders to assist with developing the plan:

- The Ohio Association of Career-Technical Education;
- The Ohio Association of Career-Technical Superintendents;
- The Ohio Association of Compact and Comprehensive Career-Technical Schools;

- The Ohio Association of Community Colleges;
- The Inter-University Council of Ohio;
- The Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio; and
- Any other stakeholders the Chancellor determines appropriate.

The plan must:

1. Identify and define the criteria, policies, procedures, and timelines necessary for a high school student to receive post-secondary credit for completing an approved course;
2. Identify any technology solutions or statewide data information systems necessary to streamline and facilitate the electronic exchange of student data to improve the credit verification process for students, districts, and state institutions of higher education;
3. Identify any regional or national accreditation requirements or existing state policy barriers that must be considered when developing the plan; and
4. Recommend a date and the method by which the plan will be implemented, if the Chancellor and Superintendent decide the plan is appropriate.

The Chancellor must submit the plan to the Governor, the President and the Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Speaker and the Minority Leader of the House by June 30, 2020.

Community College Acceleration Program

(R.C. 3333.052)

Under the act, the Chancellor, with the assistance of the Department of Job and Family Services, must establish the Community College Acceleration Program to enhance financial, academic, and personal support services to students in need of support from local social service agencies. The Chancellor must adopt rules to administer the program, including specifying the types of services provided, which may include:

- Comprehensive and personalized advisement;
- Career counseling;
- Tutoring;
- Tuition waivers; and
- Financial assistance to defray transportation and textbook costs.

War Orphans Scholarship

(R.C. 3333.26, 5910.01, 5910.02, 5910.031, 5910.032, 5910.04, 5910.05, 5910.06, 5910.07, and 5910.08; Sections 381.10 and 381.180)

The act changes the name of the Ohio War Orphans Scholarship to the Ohio War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarship. Under continuing law, the program awards tuition assistance to the children of deceased and severely disabled veterans who served in the armed forces during a period of declared war or conflict. The act does not

affect the administration of the program, the distribution of scholarships, or the eligibility of any children.

Leave donation program

(R.C. 3345.57)

The act changes the procedure under which rules for administering a state institution of higher education's leave donation program must be adopted. Under continuing law, a state institution of higher education may establish a program for an employee to donate accrued but unused paid leave to another employee who does not have any leave and has a critical need for it. Former law required rules for those programs to be adopted under Ohio's Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The act requires, instead, that they be adopted under a different statutory rule-making procedure, sometimes referred to as the "abbreviated rule-making procedure." The two rule-making procedures differ chiefly in that the APA requires an agency to give notice of, and to conduct a public hearing on, its proposed rules. By contrast, the abbreviated rule-making procedure does not require notice or hearing.