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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**S.B. 104**  
**135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Sens. Cirino and Brenner

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### SUMMARY

- Revises the operations of the College Credit Plus Program.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### College Credit Plus

The bill revises the operations of the College Credit Plus (CCP) Program, including regarding requirements for students, public and chartered nonpublic schools, public and private colleges, and the Chancellor of Higher Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction.

CCP allows students in grades 7-12 who are enrolled in public or nonpublic high schools or who are home-instructed to enroll in nonsectarian college courses to receive high school and college credit. CCP courses may be taken at any state institution of higher education or participating private institution of higher education.<sup>1</sup>

#### Student application deadline

The bill requires a student or a student's parent to inform the student's school of the student's intent to participate in CCP in the next semester by a date established by the Chancellor, in consultation with the state Superintendent. Current law requires a student or parent to notify the school by April 1 of the intent to participate in the next school year.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See R.C. Chapter 3365.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3365.03(A)(1)(a).

## **School and college requirements**

### **Policy for weighted grades and class standing**

Continuing law requires a public or chartered nonpublic school to implement a policy for awarding grades and calculating class standing for CCP courses. Under that policy, CCP courses must be equivalent to Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and honors courses offered by the school.

Current law requires that, if a policy includes awarding a weighted grade or enhancing a student's class standing for AP, IB, or honor courses, the policy must provide for those procedures to CCP courses. The bill clarifies that the policy applies to *all* CCP courses.<sup>3</sup>

### **CCP forms**

The bill requires a public or chartered nonpublic school to use CCP forms developed by the Chancellor and the state Superintendent. Furthermore, it prohibits the schools from modifying those forms without prior approval from the Chancellor and state Superintendent.<sup>4</sup>

### **Orientation**

The bill requires each state and participating private institution of higher education to provide CCP students with an orientation that meets guidelines issued by the Chancellor and state Superintendent. The Chancellor and state Superintendent must make those guidelines as concise as is practicable.<sup>5</sup>

### **College textbooks**

The bill require each state and participating private institution to endeavor to use open source materials, instead of purchase-only textbooks, in courses with CCP students. For the purposes of the provision, "open source materials" means free and publicly available educational materials, including free textbooks. "Purchase-only textbooks" are textbooks that are not free and must be purchased.

If a state or participating private institution uses a purchase-only textbook in a course with CCP students when there are open source materials that may be used instead, the institution must pay the textbook costs of the CCP students.

If a state or participating private institution uses purchase-only textbooks in a course with CCP students because there are no open source materials that may be used, the institution must pay 50% of textbook costs of the CCP students and the student's secondary school must pay the remaining 50% of the cost.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> R.C. 3365.04(E).

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 3365.04(H).

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 3365.05(I).

<sup>6</sup> R.C. 3365.072; conforming changes in R.C. 3365.07.

Under continuing law, a student may choose to participate in CCP under “Option A” (the student is responsible for all costs related to participation) or “Option B” (the state, through the Department of Education, pays the college on the student’s behalf). For public school students participating under Option B, the Department deducts the costs associated with the student’s participation in CCP from the state funding received by the student’s school. Under current law, the cost of college textbooks are one of the costs deducted from a school’s funding.<sup>7</sup>

The bill’s provision regarding textbook costs only applies to students who participate in CCP under Option B.

## **State requirements**

### **Alternative instructor credentialing**

The bill requires the Chancellor to establish an alternative credentialing process to certify instructors with relevant teaching experience as CCP instructors without requiring any additional graduate-level coursework. Current law already requires the Chancellor to establish credential requirements to teach under CCP.<sup>8</sup> Generally, according to the Department of Higher Education’s website, accessible at: [www.highered.ohio.gov](http://www.highered.ohio.gov), in general a teacher must have a master’s degree or a master’s plus 18 graduate semester hours in a discipline to teach a CCP course.<sup>9</sup>

### **Monitoring and compliance**

The bill requires the Chancellor and state Superintendent to monitor and enforce compliance with CCP requirements for public and chartered nonpublic schools and state and participating private institutions of higher education.<sup>10</sup>

### **Auditor of State report**

The bill requires the Chancellor and state Superintendent to collect data relative to the actual cost of CCP programming and submit it to the Auditor of State. The Auditor of State must review and audit that data, and submit a report to the General Assembly about the findings of that review and audit.<sup>11</sup>

### **State report card**

The bill requires the Department of Education to include on the state report card report-only, nonrated data about whether a public school provides information about and promotes CCP as required under continuing law. That must be notated with a “yes” or “no.”<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> R.C. 3365.07.

<sup>8</sup> R.C. 3365.11(B).

<sup>9</sup> [Teacher Credentialing for College Credit Plus](http://www.highered.ohio.gov), accessible at: [www.highered.ohio.gov](http://www.highered.ohio.gov).

<sup>10</sup> R.C. 3365.14(A).

<sup>11</sup> R.C. 3365.14(B).

<sup>12</sup> 3302.03(D)(2)(k).

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## HISTORY

| Action     | Date     |
|------------|----------|
| Introduced | 04-05-23 |

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