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S.B. 104
(1_135_0536-5)
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 104's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: In Senate Workforce and Higher Education

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Cirino and Brenner

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- College Credit Plus (CCP) funding transfers from school districts and other public schools to participating colleges may increase or decrease under the bill's provisions.
- The bill may increase the administrative workload or costs of the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), Department of Education and Workforce (DEW), and Auditor of State to fulfill several new duties under the bill.
- Minimal cost to participating colleges is expected from the provision in the bill requiring colleges to provide an orientation for CCP Program participants.

Detailed Analysis

The bill makes various changes to the law regarding the College Credit Plus (CCP) Program, which allows students to attend classes at postsecondary education institutions and earn both high school and college credits at state expense. Public school students participating in the CCP Program are counted in the district or school in which they are educated for state funding purposes. The tuition amounts for the college classes the student attends are deducted from the educating district's state funding and paid to the college attended by the student. For nonpublic and home-educated students, the costs of taking college classes under the CCP Program are paid by the state directly through earmarks of GRF line items 200511, Auxiliary Services, and 200550, Foundation Funding – All Students, respectively. Provisions of the bill with notable fiscal effects are discussed below. According to the CCP Program's most recent annual report, over 80,000 students participated in the program for the 2022-2023 school year. Payments to colleges for that school year totaled \$65.4 million according to a separate report from the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW).

Teacher credentialing

The bill expands credentialing options for instructors by requiring the Chancellor of Higher Education to establish, no later than six months after the bill's effective date, an alternative credentialing process to certify instructors with relevant teaching experience for the CCP Program. Current guidelines require all secondary school teachers to be approved as an adjunct professor by the college at which they desire to teach a CCP Program course; generally, this also requires teachers to obtain a master's degree in the discipline of instruction taught in the CCP Program course or any master's degree with an additional 18 semester hours completed in the instructed discipline.¹ The Chancellor is also obligated to make applicable any graduate-level coursework required for CCP Program credentialing to the continuing education and professional development requirements of each teacher, which are used for the renewal of an educator's teacher license. H.B. 33, the main operating appropriations act of the 135th General Assembly, earmarks \$3.0 million in each of FY 2024 and FY 2025 from GRF line item 200448, Educator Preparation, for DEW, in consultation with the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), to provide awards to support graduate coursework for high school teachers to receive credentialing to teach CCP courses in a high school setting. H.B. 33 gives priority for this funding to education consortia of a public or private institution of higher education in Ohio and high schools identified as economically disadvantaged that have no or limited numbers of teachers credentialed to teach CCP courses.

DEW pays colleges for participants in the CCP Program at varying rates, depending on the method of delivery and instruction; courses completed on college campuses or taught by college faculty are reimbursed at a higher rate than those completed at a student's secondary school or taught by a high school teacher who has met the credentialing requirements established to teach CCP Program courses.² More high school teachers becoming credentialed to teach in the CCP Program may increase or decrease district and school deductions of state aid and direct state payments to reimburse colleges for CCP Program participation. On one hand, the provision potentially shifts payments away from more expensive reimbursement rates required for college faculty, which will tend to decrease deductions and direct state payments. On the other hand, a greater pool of high school teachers credentialed to teach CCP courses may expand the number of CCP courses available to students and, thus, increase student participation. If so, this will tend to increase deductions and direct state payments to colleges. The end result, however, is unknown since most Ohio teachers, an estimated 71%, already hold at least a master's degree in one or more disciplines.³

Student application deadline

Under current law, a student or student's parent must inform the school by April 1 of the student's intent to participate in the CCP Program in the next school year. The bill adds a second deadline, November 1, for which a student or student's parent must inform the school and

¹ See *Resources for Secondary Schools: Teacher Credentialing for College Credit Plus* on the Ohio Department of Higher Education's website: higher.ed.ohio.gov.

² R.C. 3365.07(A).

³ U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences (IES) houses the National Center for Education Statistics. See the 2020-2021 table of [Teachers' highest degree earned](#).

shortens the intent period for CCP Program participation from the next school year to the next semester or term. It further permits any student who provides notification by April 1 to be approved to participate in the CCP Program for the next full year, but limits a student who provides notification by November 1 to participating for only the next semester or term. The addition of a second deadline may allow more students to participate in the CCP Program in an academic year. For example, a student may decide to participate at the beginning of a school year and inform the school by the new November 1 deadline to participate in the CCP Program in the following semester. Under these circumstances, any additional participants in the CCP Program after the April 1 deadline will increase the deductions of state aid from school districts and direct state payments provided to colleges. Additionally, administrative costs for schools and colleges may increase to accommodate newly participating CCP students during the academic year.

State agency requirements under CCP

The bill may increase the administrative workload or costs of ODHE, DEW, and the Auditor of State to carry out certain requirements with respect to the CCP Program. The bill's requirements are listed below.

- ODHE and DEW must collect data relative to the actual cost of CCP programming and submit the data to the Auditor to State, which is required to review and audit the data and submit a one-time report of its findings to the General Assembly.
- ODHE, in consultation with DEW, must undertake any necessary action, which may include publicly displaying CCP participation data by college and high school, to ensure that public colleges and public high schools are fully engaging and participating in CCP as required under current law.
- ODHE and DEW must continue to submit an annual report on CCP Program outcomes. The report must be submitted by December 31 of each year. Under current law, ODHE and DEW had to submit an annual report each year until December 2023. The most recent [CCP annual report](#) for the 2022-2023 academic year can be viewed on the ODHE website: higher.ed.ohio.gov.
- DEW must include on the state report card report-only, nonrated data about whether a school district or public school building provides information about and promotes the CCP Program as required under continuing law. That must be notated with a “yes” or “no.”

Orientation

The bill also requires each college in the CCP Program to require each participant to complete an orientation. The cost of the orientations to participating colleges is likely to be minimal; however, the specifics of such orientation requirements are delegated to the Chancellor and DEW, who will establish the requisite guidelines, affecting any potential cost.