

House Bill 472: Mid-Biennium Review

K-12 Education

Career Education and Advising

- Requires districts to identify students who are at risk of dropping out of school “using a research-based, locally-based method” beginning in the 2014-2015 school year and to develop an individual plan for each of these students in grades six through 12 that include career advising and pathways to a high school diploma. Requires the parent/guardian to be invited to the planning meeting. If the parent/guardian does not attend the meeting, the bill requires that the parents receive a copy of the plan as well as a document describing the importance of a high school diploma.
- Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, requires each school district, community school and STEM school to adopt a policy on career advising. Requires the policy to be updated at least once every two years.
- Repeals a requirement that each district adopt a resolution addressing college and career readiness and financial literacy in curriculum.
- Requires the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to develop model policies on career advising and individual plans and to post this information on the ODE website by September 30, 2014.
- Extends to July 1, 2016 from July 1, 2014 the end date of the exemption from the Ohio Core Curriculum for students who have a “student success plan.” Allows ODE until July 1, 2016 to review its finding and make recommendations for an extension beyond the 2016 date.
- Requires career-technical education to be made available to students in grades 7-12 instead of grades 9-12. Permits a district to obtain a waiver from ODE for 7th and 8th grade students if the district passes a resolution.
- Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, increases the minimum enrollment for comprehensive career-technical course offerings in school districts from 1,500 in grades 9-12 to 2,500 in grades 7-12.
- Provides a total of \$10 million in FY 2015 for grants to school districts with high poverty and low graduation rates to work with community organizations for mentoring of students through the Community Connectors Initiative. Each community organization would be responsible for raising local support and would receive \$3 for every \$1 raised.
- Permits a lead district in a career-technical district offering pre-apprenticeship programs to enter into an agreement with a private entity to provide students the ability to begin an apprenticeship program prior to graduation from high school. The lead district may apply to ODE for additional funds to pay for the program if certain conditions are met.

Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)

- Beginning in FY 2016, renames the program College Credit Plus (CCP).
- Requires the CCP to be operational for the 2015-2016 school year.
- Requires all public colleges and universities to participate in CCP.
- Funding for the program would be prorated based on credits earned. The resident school district would retain 17% of the per-pupil funding amount.
- Allows for local agreements between a school district and institutions of higher between a per-credit floor (\$40) and ceiling (\$160).
- Prohibits the following students from being charged for any tuition, textbooks or other fees for participation in CCP: any high school student enrolled in a public college; a public high school student enrolled in a private college under CCP who is identified as economically disadvantaged; a nonpublic high school student who is enrolled under the EdChoice Voucher or Cleveland Voucher Program and qualifies as low-income under either of the voucher programs.
- Requires school districts to promote CCP on the website and to schedule at least one informational session with a partnering college/university for students and parents.
- Collaborate with a partnering college/university to create a 15-credit and 30-credit hour model.
- Requires that the coursework be non-remedial and apply to at least a degree or certification at the college.
- Requires that ODE pay the college for each completed credit hour for home-schooled students.
- Requires at least one classroom observation and at least one professional development session per school year for high school teachers who are teaching courses for the college at a secondary school under the program.
- Requires each instructor teaching a course under the program to meet the established credential requirements.

Assessments

- Allows for kindergarten assessment data to be included on annual report cards for school building and districts.
- Eliminates the existing parental option to opt-out to report to ODE the results of the language and reading diagnostic assessments.
- Exempts students with “significant cognitive disabilities” from taking diagnostic assessments.

- Removes the requirement that diagnostic assessments for students who enter into kindergarten prior to July 1, 2014, be administered no earlier than four weeks before the first day of school and not later than October 1.
- Permits school districts who received an “A” or “B” instead of an “excellent” or “effective” rating for the performance index score or overall value-added progress dimension on the annual report card to administer different diagnostic assessments than what is required under law.

Other Provisions

- Makes both the resident educator and alternative resident educator licenses renewable for reasons specified in rules to be adopted by the State Board of Education.
- Creates a 31-member School Based Health Care Advisory Group to study academic achievement through student health. Requires that the group make recommendations to the General Assembly by December 31, 2014.
- Adjusts the criteria for triggering the creation of an Academic Distress Commission for a school district in order to better target the lowest performing school districts. This adjustment is intended to address concerns that the current trigger, when combined with the new school report card system, would be too broad and not identify the right school districts.
- Defines a “early college high school program” as a program operated by a school district or school and an associated college that provides a personalized learning plan, which is based on accelerated curriculum and includes both high school and college-level coursework and enables students who are economically disadvantaged or whose parents did not earn a college degree, to earn a high school diploma and an associate degree upon completion of the program
- . Renames dual-enrollment programs as advanced standing programs.

Higher Education

Community College Funding Plan

- Authorizes, but does not require, a community college or technical school to establish a tuition guarantee program. Such programs are subject to approval of the Chancellor.
- Earmarks up to \$3.1 million in FY 2015 to provide supplemental subsidy payments to each state-supported community college and technical college receiving state subsidy funding in FY 2015 that is less than 96% of its FY 2014 subsidy.
- Implements the recommendations of community college presidents from December 2013 that require 25% of the FY 2015 appropriation be allocated in proportion to student success factors; 50% for course completion; and 25% for “completion

milestones” such as associates degrees and students transferring to a four-year institution with a least 12 hours earned at that community college.

Faculty Workloads Report

- Requires each of the 13 state universities to submit a report on the institution’s faculty workload and practices, by December 31, 2014 to the Chancellor that must include an evaluation of the current faculty workload policy and procedures and the institution’s recommendations to modify its faculty workload policy by July 1, 2017 to increase the aggregate workload by 10% in the combined areas of instruction, advising and research.

Veterans and Higher Education

- Requires the Board of Regents to establish a process for awarding credit for military training, experience and coursework by December 31, 2014. All state higher education institutions must ensure that the appropriate credit is given for military experiences following the guidelines established by the Board of Regents beginning July 1, 2015. Prohibits institutions from charging a fee to a student for application, transcription, or evaluation of college credit for military experience.
- Requires that all higher education institutions give priority course registration to students who are military veterans or service members no later than December 31, 2014.
- Requires each institution to establish an appeals process regarding awarding college credit for military experience by December 31, 2014.

Other

- Establishes an Adult Career Pilot Program to permit community colleges and technical colleges and schools that are recognized by the Board of Regents to provide post-secondary workforce education, to develop and offer a program that allows persons 22 years and older who have not received a high school diploma or certificate of equivalence to obtain a high school diploma upon completing requirements for an industry credential or certificate and to receive career advising. The bill appropriates \$2.5 million in FY 2015 for up to five eligible institutions to participate in the pilot.
- Requires educator preparation programs at higher education institutions to meet the standards of any applicable national educator preparation accrediting agency recognized by the US Department of Education, instead of the standards of either the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education or the Teacher Education Accreditation Council as under current law.

- Permits the Chancellor to enter into a reciprocity agreement with the Midwestern Higher Education Compact that allows an out-of-state higher education institutions to enroll Ohio residents in distance education programs without attaining prior approval from the Chancellor and vice versa without attaining approval from the appropriate agency in that state.
- Requires eligible institutions to attain approval from the Chancellor if they wish to participate in the reciprocity agreement and for any new distance education program prior to enrolling residents.
- Allows a treasurer of a state community college to be insured instead of being bonded.

Developmental Disabilities

- Modifies the definition of “adult services” to be defined as “employment services.” “Employment services” are defined in the bill as prevocational and supported employment services. According the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (ODODD), those terms mean sheltered workshop and enclave. *Please note: OEA GR is in communication with ODODD regarding this provision.*
- Provides that a child under the age of three may have a developmental disability if the child has a physical or mental condition that is likely to result in a developmental delay.
- Requires that the ODODD rules regarding programs and services offered by County Boards include standards for making eligibility determinations.
- Establishes a voluntary training and certification program for individuals who provide interventions to individuals with an autism spectrum disorder.
- Requires copies of surveys conducted by ODODD and plans of correction regarding residential facilities and supported living providers.
- Modifies the definition of “adult day habilitation services” to no longer expressly include training and education in self-determination for a certain activity.
- Requires that if there is a County Board Superintendent vacancy or management employee vacancy, the board must first consider entering into an agreement with another County Board for shared services. If the County Board determines that this is not possible or is inefficient the Board may employ a superintendent or employee to fill the vacancy.
- Provides that the ODODD director, rather than the superintendent of the county board, is responsible for the certification of early intervention supervisors and early intervention specialists.
- Eliminates a requirement that each county board establish an advisory council to provide communication among all individuals concerned with non-Medicaid funded supported living services as well as develop a provider selection system for these services.

GED Funding for DRC and DYS

- Allows the use of additional General Revenue Funds for reimbursing inmates for a portion of the cost of taking the GED exam. GED education services in the Department of Youth Services and the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction are provided by OEA-SCOPE members.

Taxation

- Proposes to lower state income taxes 8.5 percent over the next three years and reduce the highest income tax rate to 4.88%. This would reduce income taxes by approximately \$2.639 billion through Fiscal Year 2017.
- Funds the income tax cut in part by increasing the tax on cigarettes over a two-year period from \$1.25 to \$1.85 per pack as well as taxing e-cigarettes beginning July 1, 2014 at the same rate.
- Proposes an oil and gas severance tax rate of 2.75 percent on gross receipts while exempting producers from \$8 million in gross receipts for start-up costs during the first three years. Directs 20 percent of the severance tax revenue to local governments in regions that are impacted by hydraulic fracturing.
- Increases the rate of the commercial activity tax (CAT) from 0.26% to 0.30% (3 mills per dollar) of taxable gross receipts in excess of \$1 million per year beginning July 1, 2014. The CAT revenue would increase by \$442 million over a two-year fiscal period. Due to earmarks of portions of the CAT tax to the school district and local government tangible property tax replacement fund, the General Revenue Fund would increase by \$221 million of the two-year period. The \$221 million would go to offsetting a portion of the income tax reduction.
- Increases the state earned income tax credit (EITC) from 5% of the federal EITC to 15% of the federal tax credit beginning in 2014. However, the proposal falls short of making the state EITC refundable and will continue to only reduce tax liability.
- Increases the exemption amounts available to personal income taxpayers whose Ohio adjusted gross income (AGI) is \$80,000 or less. Increases the exemption amount in 2014 and 2015 to \$2,700 for taxpayers with an individual or joint Ohio AGI of \$40,000 or less and to \$2,200 for taxpayers with an AGI of more than \$40,000 and less than \$80,000.