

**Ohio's 94<sup>th</sup> District**

Athens County  
Meigs County  
Vinton County (part)  
Washington County (part)



**Committees**

Health  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Higher Education and Workforce  
Development  
Civil Justice

**Jay Edwards  
State Representative of Ohio**

Chairman Duffey, Ranking Member Ramos and members of the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to bring House Bill 750 before you.

House Bill 750 proposes to increase funding for Ohio College Opportunity Grants by \$5 million for the current fiscal year.

Under the bill, funding for this increase would come from the OCOG Reserve Fund. Currently, there is \$7.5 million in the reserve fund, so \$2.5 million would remain in the reserve fund for the remainder of this biennium, which ends June 30, 2019.

For the current fiscal year, the appropriation level for the program is \$100,875,000, approximately a \$1 million increase over FY 2018.

The Ohio College Opportunity Grants program, administered by the Ohio Department of Higher Education, provides grant money to Ohio residents who demonstrate the highest levels of financial need, as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA.

Grants awards are based on the cost of attendance, as determined by the Chancellor, after a student's Expected Family Contribution and federal Pell grant are applied to the student's instructional and general charges.

To give you an example of what this program means for students, for the current year it provides \$1,500 for a student attending the main campus of one of our public universities, and \$3,000 for in-state private non-profit university. Full-time students at a proprietary school can receive \$1,112.

In closing, let me say there are many steps we must take to improve college affordability, and one of those is increasing Ohio's investment in needs-based funding, specifically the Ohio College Opportunity Grant.

I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.