



Ohio Association of Independent Schools
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- Agnon School
- Andrews Osborne Academy
- Birchwood School
- Canton Country Day
- Cincinnati Country Day
- Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy
- Columbus Academy
- Columbus Jewish Day School
- Columbus School for Girls
- Columbus Torah Academy
- Gilmour Academy
- Grand River Academy
- Hathaway Brown School
- Hawken School
- Hershey Montessori School
- Hudson Montessori School
- Lake Ridge Academy
- Laurel School
- Lawrence School
- Linden Grove School
- Lippman Day School
- Mansion Day School
- Marburn Academy
- Maumee Valley Country Day
- McGuffey Foundation School
- Miami Valley School
- The New School
- Old Trail School
- Olney Friends School
- Ratner School
- Ridgewood School
- Ruffing Montessori School - Cleveland Heights
- Ruffing Montessori School - Rocky River
- Schilling School for Gifted Children
- Seven Hills School
- Spring Garden Waldorf School
- Springer School and Center
- Summit Country Day
- University School
- Village Academy Schools
- Wellington School
- Welsh Hills School
- Western Reserve Academy

March 23, 2017

House Finance Committee **Higher Education Subcommittee**

Ohio Association of Independent Schools

Dan Dodd, Executive Director

Chairman Perales, Ranking Member Ramos and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the Ohio Association of Independent Schools (OAIS) regarding the higher education provisions of House Bill 49.

College Credit Plus (CCP) Opt-out for Private Schools

The Department of Higher Education continues to choose to interpret the current statute as requiring absolute compliance with all applicable statutes once a student at a private school is accepted into a CCP class. In 2015, OAIS sought to clarify the current statute to specify that the option of private schools to participate in program that existed under the earlier PSEO program still exists. The language sought in 2015 by OAIS was eventually included in the budget but was vetoed by Governor Kasich.

OAIS has continued to advocate for a private school opt-out, including during MBR deliberations last year. OAIS attempted to assuage some concerns from the Governor's office regarding an opt-out by recommending that a nonparticipating private school notify the parents at the time of enrollment or re-enrollment that the school does not participate in CCP. Additional concerns were raised about students who attend a private school with an EdChoice voucher because those students may have limited options for finding a private school to attend and may have significant financial obstacles to fully exercise a choice in private schools. OAIS supports language that would require students or schools participating in the EdChoice program to participate in CCP. If the members of the committee would like to further limit the number of schools that could opt out, we would suggest having the opt-out option extend only to schools accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS).

Textbooks

OAIS is in support of the budget proposal to shift the costs of textbooks away from private schools by limiting the cost of textbooks to \$10 per credit hour. Some committee members may recall our opposition to the Department of Higher Education's failed attempt to shift more costs to schools by changing the definition of a textbook in the JCARR process. I can tell you that the outrageous cost of textbooks is perhaps the biggest impediment to more private school participation in College Credit Plus.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.