



Ohio School Counselor Association

Proponent Testimony on HB 368
October 13, 2021

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for allowing the Ohio School Counselor Association the opportunity to share our support for House Bill 368, legislation that would remove the statewide requirement for the weighting of College Credit Plus grades.

Since the inception of the College Credit Plus program, the requirement that CCP grades be weighted at the same level as the highest weighted high school course within the same subject area (ORC 3365.04(E)) has been a provision that has created significant pushback and confusion at the secondary school level.

At the root of this concern was the provision's infringement upon local control with regards to grading and the weighting of grades. Local districts have always been given the authority to implement grading and weighting policies that were reflective of their local needs and expectations. This includes setting grading scales, making determinations as to whether to award +/- grades, setting the weight limit for different grades and deciding whether to weight certain courses at a higher level.

Our members believe the CCP weighting requirement has led to some unintended impacts within many districts. Some districts have seen a decline in enrollment in their Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses because some students have found taking less rigorous college courses yielded the same GPA benefit as taking an AP/IB course at the high school. Other schools have seen CCP students use the courses pad their GPA and place themselves at an advantage over their non-CCP peers by taking multiple college courses in weighted subject areas beyond what the high school offers. Other districts have completely eliminated the weighting of grades and have done away with their valedictorian/salutatorian and other senior recognitions as a means to provide the fairest playing field for all of students.

While we respect that the original intent of the weighting requirement was likely to ensure that students would not be discouraged from participating in College Credit Plus, the provision has in practice had the opposite effect. It has negatively impacted other equally important, college-credit bearing programs such as Advanced Placement that allow students to earn college credit, earn graduation seals and support their district's report card ratings.

OSCA is in support of House Bill 368 because it restores local control to the weighting of grades. We also support this bill because it does not necessarily prohibit a district from still recognizing the rigor and value that college courses have by continuing to weight grades for those courses.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 368.