

**Proponent Testimony for HB219**  
**House Higher Education Committee**  
**5/1/2024**

**Superintendent Marc Kreisler, Bloom Vernon Local Schools**  
**Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools**

Chairman Young, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the House Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Marc Kreisler, I am the Superintendent of Bloom-Vernon Local Schools in Scioto County and President Elect of the Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools.

Our Coalition and its member superintendents are in favor of many provisions included in the HB219, and have spent many hours advocating for their inclusion in SB104.

We support a mandatory college orientation process for CCP students. We support the alternate licensure pathways for our teachers. We also strongly support the transition to open source materials, as the annual cost and procurement of textbooks puts a large strain on our districts. Updating the new addition of a textbook for the same course each year is costly, CORAS member district Wheelersburg Local in Scioto County spent \$28,436.72 last academic year on CCP textbooks. For the current school year, Wheelersburg has spent \$26,107 on textbooks and expects the number to exceed the FY2023 numbers due to the summer semester. Fellow CORAS member Kyle Newton, superintendent at Warren Local Schools in Washington County asked his school counselor to log her hours spent purchasing textbooks for CCP students – she reported spending upwards of 20 hours per each of the four Washington College primary sessions doing so, 80 total hours last academic year. Warren Local shared on top of the labor associated with procuring these textbooks, the cost of the books themselves was over \$10,000. We know high quality open source materials exist for the level of coursework CCP students are taking, and believe this is a necessary shift.

A major concern regarding the tuition costs per CCP delivery method is not addressed in this bill, and we urge this committee to consider an amendment confronting this issue. Since the pandemic, we have seen an increase in students opting for online course options over courses offered in our school districts or on the college's campus. This typically asynchronous learning experience can be challenging for our students (who are accustomed to an in-person, hands-on delivery model) and has resulted in lower or failing grades on their permanent transcripts. **More so, the base cost of a CCP course to be taught on the college campus and online are the same, at a default floor of \$166.55 per credit hour – 4 times the cost of CCP delivery at a district's high school, which is \$41.64.** Students taking courses online are actually still using the school district's materials and facilities. Most of these students still require monitoring at the high school, even though they are taking online courses. The December 2023 Auditor of State Cost Study on CCP concluded that while there are differences in reporting from college to

college, ***overall online CCP delivery is financially advantageous to colleges and disproportionate to the services provided.***

Warren Local Schools, previously testified to the Senate that prior to the pandemic, 25% of their students opted for online CCP courses, and last academic year over 50% of students took CCP courses online – costing the district over \$100,000. River View Local Schools previously testified their online student population has also doubled since the pandemic, and their district has averaged about 5 students an academic year who fail 7 or more online CCP courses. My district's FY24 CCP Deduction Report showed we paid \$28,523 for 685 credit hours taught on our campus, compared to \$10,600 for 64 online credit hours; almost one third the cost for 500 less credit hours earned. Furthermore, my neighboring district of Wheelersburg Local paid \$21,111 for 507 credit hours taught in their school. Wheelersburg's FY24 online CCP enrollment was **double** their in school enrollment – 1,013 credit hours earned – **but it cost the district eight times as much, a grand total of \$168,715**. Coupled with lower student scores, paying those fees does not make good financial sense.

Our Coalition is advocating the online cost per credit hour be reduced to match the \$41.64 costs for high school classroom delivery. As it currently stands, online CCP tuition at \$166.55 is a large financial burden on our districts, and subsequently our families when students are not passing online courses, while producing profits for colleges regardless of outcomes. We believe HB219 is the appropriate vessel for such changes.

Lastly, we know the 2023 Auditor of State Cost Study on CCP was based on university self-reporting, which caused discrepancies in the data. The Department of Education and Workforce works with public school districts each year to create a CCP Deduction Report, we ask these costs be cross-referenced for accuracy and considered when auditing the CCP system in future years.

Thank you for your time, I would be glad to answer any questions the committee may have.