

**As Introduced**

**135th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2023-2024**

**H. B. No. 520**

**Representatives Young, T., Miller, M.**

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**A BILL**

To amend section 3313.603 of the Revised Code to 1  
permit students to use club sports or other 2  
athletic activity to fulfill the high school 3  
physical education requirement. 4

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 3313.603 of the Revised Code be 5  
amended to read as follows: 6

**Sec. 3313.603.** (A) As used in this section: 7

(1) "One unit" means a minimum of one hundred twenty hours 8  
of course instruction, except that for a laboratory course, "one 9  
unit" means a minimum of one hundred fifty hours of course 10  
instruction. 11

(2) "One-half unit" means a minimum of sixty hours of 12  
course instruction, except that for physical education courses, 13  
"one-half unit" means a minimum of one hundred twenty hours of 14  
course instruction. 15

(3) "Club sports" includes both of the following: 16

(a) A sport sanctioned by a school, but not regulated by 17  
an organization that regulates interscholastic conferences or 18

<u>events and is limited to participants under nineteen years of</u>	19
<u>age;</u>	20
<u>(b) A youth sports organization as defined in section</u>	21
<u>2707.51 of the Revised Code.</u>	22
<u>(4) "Other athletic activity" means a sport or physical</u>	23
<u>activity taught by an instructor outside of school.</u>	24
(B) Beginning September 15, 2001, except as required in	25
division (C) of this section and division (C) of section	26
3313.614 of the Revised Code, the requirements for graduation	27
from every high school shall include twenty units earned in	28
grades nine through twelve and shall be distributed as follows:	29
(1) English language arts, four units;	30
(2) Health, one-half unit;	31
(3) Mathematics, three units;	32
(4) Physical education, one-half unit;	33
(5) Science, two units until September 15, 2003, and three	34
units thereafter, which at all times shall include both of the	35
following:	36
(a) Biological sciences, one unit;	37
(b) Physical sciences, one unit.	38
(6) History and government, one unit, which shall comply	39
with division (M) of this section and shall include both of the	40
following:	41
(a) American history, one-half unit;	42
(b) American government, one-half unit.	43
(7) Social studies, two units.	44

Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2017, the two units of instruction prescribed by division (B) (7) of this section shall include at least one-half unit of instruction in the study of world history and civilizations.

(8) Elective units, seven units until September 15, 2003, and six units thereafter.

Each student's electives shall include at least one unit, or two half units, chosen from among the areas of business/technology, fine arts, and/or foreign language.

(C) Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2010, except as provided in divisions (D) to (F) of this section, the requirements for graduation from every public and chartered nonpublic high school shall include twenty units that are designed to prepare students for the workforce and college. The units shall be distributed as follows:

(1) English language arts, four units;

(2) Health, one-half unit, which shall include instruction in nutrition and the benefits of nutritious foods and physical activity for overall health;

(3) Mathematics, four units, which shall include one unit of algebra II or the equivalent of algebra II, or one unit of advanced computer science as described in the standards adopted pursuant to division (A) (4) of section 3301.079 of the Revised Code. However, students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2015, and who are pursuing a career-technical instructional track shall not be required to take algebra II or advanced computer science, and instead may

complete a career-based pathway mathematics course approved by 74  
the department of education and workforce as an alternative. 75

For students who choose to take advanced computer science 76  
in lieu of algebra II under division (C)(3) of this section, the 77  
school shall communicate to those students that some 78  
institutions of higher education may require algebra II for the 79  
purpose of college admission. Also, the parent, guardian, or 80  
legal custodian of each student who chooses to take advanced 81  
computer science in lieu of algebra II shall sign and submit to 82  
the school a document containing a statement acknowledging that 83  
not taking algebra II may have an adverse effect on college 84  
admission decisions. 85

A student may fulfill one unit of mathematics under 86  
division (C)(3) of this section by completing one-half unit of 87  
financial literacy instruction to satisfy the requirement 88  
prescribed under division (C)(9) of this section and one-half 89  
unit of a mathematics course. The one-half unit course in 90  
mathematics shall not be in algebra II, or its equivalent, or a 91  
course for which the department requires an end-of-course 92  
examination under section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code. 93

Students who choose to take one unit of advanced computer 94  
science in lieu of algebra II, as described in division (C)(3) 95  
of this section, shall not be permitted to complete one-half 96  
unit of financial literacy instruction to satisfy the 97  
mathematics unit requirements of that division. Instead, those 98  
students shall be required to complete the one-half unit of 99  
financial literacy instruction under division (C)(8) of this 100  
section. 101

(4) Physical education, one-half unit; 102

(5) Science, three units with inquiry-based laboratory	103
experience that engages students in asking valid scientific	104
questions and gathering and analyzing information, which shall	105
include the following, or their equivalent:	106
(a) Physical sciences, one unit;	107
(b) Life sciences, one unit;	108
(c) Advanced study in one or more of the following	109
sciences, one unit:	110
(i) Chemistry, physics, or other physical science;	111
(ii) Advanced biology or other life science;	112
(iii) Astronomy, physical geology, or other earth or space	113
science;	114
(iv) Computer science.	115
No student shall substitute a computer science course for	116
a life sciences or biology course under division (C) (5) of this	117
section.	118
(6) History and government, one unit, which shall comply	119
with division (M) of this section and shall include both of the	120
following:	121
(a) American history, one-half unit;	122
(b) American government, one-half unit.	123
(7) Social studies, two units.	124
Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the	125
first time on or after July 1, 2017, the two units of	126
instruction prescribed by division (C) (7) of this section shall	127
include at least one-half unit of instruction in the study of	128

world history and civilizations.	129
(8) Five units consisting of one or any combination of	130
foreign language, fine arts, business, career-technical	131
education, family and consumer sciences, technology which may	132
include computer science, agricultural education, a junior	133
reserve officer training corps (JROTC) program approved by the	134
Congress of the United States under title 10 of the United	135
States Code, or English language arts, mathematics, science, or	136
social studies courses not otherwise required under division (C)	137
of this section.	138
One-half unit of instruction under division (C) (8) of this	139
section may be instruction in financial literacy to satisfy the	140
requirement under division (C) (9) of this section.	141
(9) (a) Except as provided in division (C) (9) (b) of this	142
section, for students who enter ninth grade for the first time	143
on or after July 1, 2022, financial literacy, one-half unit.	144
Each student shall elect to complete the one-half unit of	145
instruction in financial literacy either in lieu of one-half	146
unit of instruction in mathematics under division (C) (3) of this	147
section or an elective under division (C) (8) of this section. A	148
student may fulfill the financial literacy instruction	149
requirement under division (C) (9) of this section through the	150
successful completion of an advanced placement course in	151
microeconomics or macroeconomics.	152
(b) A student attending a nonpublic school accredited	153
through the independent schools association of the central	154
states or any other chartered nonpublic school shall not be	155
required to complete the one-half unit of financial literacy	156
instruction prescribed in division (C) (9) (a) of this section,	157
unless that student is attending the school under a state	158

scholarship program as defined in section 3301.0711 of the Revised Code. 159  
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The study and instruction of financial literacy required under division (C) (9) of this section shall align with the academic content standards for financial literacy and entrepreneurship adopted under division (A) (2) of section 3301.079 of the Revised Code. The instruction provided under an advanced placement course in microeconomics or macroeconomics shall be considered to be aligned with those academic content standards. In developing the curriculum for the study and instruction of financial literacy, schools may use available public-private partnerships and resources and materials that exist in business, industry, and through the centers for economics education at institutions of higher education. 161  
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Ohioans must be prepared to apply increased knowledge and skills in the workplace and to adapt their knowledge and skills quickly to meet the rapidly changing conditions of the twenty-first century. National studies indicate that all high school graduates need the same academic foundation, regardless of the opportunities they pursue after graduation. The goal of Ohio's system of elementary and secondary education is to prepare all students for and seamlessly connect all students to success in life beyond high school graduation, regardless of whether the next step is entering the workforce, beginning an apprenticeship, engaging in post-secondary training, serving in the military, or pursuing a college degree. 173  
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The requirements for graduation prescribed in division (C) of this section are the standard expectation for all students entering ninth grade for the first time at a public or chartered nonpublic high school on or after July 1, 2010. A student may 185  
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satisfy this expectation through a variety of methods, 189  
including, but not limited to, integrated, applied, career- 190  
technical, and traditional coursework. 191

Stronger coordination between high schools and 192  
institutions of higher education is necessary to prepare 193  
students for more challenging academic endeavors and to lessen 194  
the need for academic remediation in college, thereby reducing 195  
the costs of higher education for Ohio's students, families, and 196  
the state. The department and the chancellor of higher education 197  
shall develop policies to ensure that only in rare instances 198  
will students who complete the requirements for graduation 199  
prescribed in division (C) of this section require academic 200  
remediation after high school. 201

School districts, community schools, and chartered 202  
nonpublic schools shall integrate technology into learning 203  
experiences across the curriculum in order to maximize 204  
efficiency, enhance learning, and prepare students for success 205  
in the technology-driven twenty-first century. Districts and 206  
schools shall use distance and web-based course delivery as a 207  
method of providing or augmenting all instruction required under 208  
this division, including laboratory experience in science. 209  
Districts and schools shall utilize technology access and 210  
electronic learning opportunities provided by the broadcast 211  
educational media commission, chancellor, the Ohio learning 212  
network, education technology centers, public television 213  
stations, and other public and private providers. 214

(D) Except as provided in division (E) of this section, a 215  
student who enters ninth grade on or after July 1, 2010, and 216  
before July 1, 2016, may qualify for graduation from a public or 217  
chartered nonpublic high school even though the student has not 218



completed the requirements for graduation prescribed in division 219  
(C) of this section if all of the following conditions are 220  
satisfied: 221

(1) During the student's third year of attending high 222  
school, as determined by the school, the student and the 223  
student's parent, guardian, or custodian sign and file with the 224  
school a written statement asserting the parent's, guardian's, 225  
or custodian's consent to the student's graduating without 226  
completing the requirements for graduation prescribed in 227  
division (C) of this section and acknowledging that one 228  
consequence of not completing those requirements is 229  
ineligibility to enroll in most state universities in Ohio 230  
without further coursework. 231

(2) The student and parent, guardian, or custodian fulfill 232  
any procedural requirements the school stipulates to ensure the 233  
student's and parent's, guardian's, or custodian's informed 234  
consent and to facilitate orderly filing of statements under 235  
division (D)(1) of this section. Annually, each district or 236  
school shall notify the department of the number of students who 237  
choose to qualify for graduation under division (D) of this 238  
section and the number of students who complete the student's 239  
success plan and graduate from high school. 240

(3) The student and the student's parent, guardian, or 241  
custodian and a representative of the student's high school 242  
jointly develop a student success plan for the student in the 243  
manner described in division (C)(1) of section 3313.6020 of the 244  
Revised Code that specifies the student matriculating to a two- 245  
year degree program, acquiring a business and industry- 246  
recognized credential, or entering an apprenticeship. 247

(4) The student's high school provides counseling and 248

support for the student related to the plan developed under 249  
division (D) (3) of this section during the remainder of the 250  
student's high school experience. 251

(5) (a) Except as provided in division (D) (5) (b) of this 252  
section, the student successfully completes, at a minimum, the 253  
curriculum prescribed in division (B) of this section. 254

(b) Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the 255  
first time on or after July 1, 2014, a student shall be required 256  
to complete successfully, at the minimum, the curriculum 257  
prescribed in division (B) of this section, except as follows: 258

(i) Mathematics, four units, one unit which shall be one 259  
of the following: 260

(I) Probability and statistics; 261

(II) Computer science; 262

(III) Applied mathematics or quantitative reasoning; 263

(IV) Any other course approved by the department using 264  
standards established by the superintendent not later than 265  
October 1, 2014. 266

(ii) Elective units, five units; 267

(iii) Science, three units as prescribed by division (B) 268  
of this section which shall include inquiry-based laboratory 269  
experience that engages students in asking valid scientific 270  
questions and gathering and analyzing information. 271

(E) Each school district and chartered nonpublic school 272  
retains the authority to require an even more challenging 273  
minimum curriculum for high school graduation than specified in 274  
division (B) or (C) of this section. A school district board of 275

education, through the adoption of a resolution, or the governing authority of a chartered nonpublic school may stipulate any of the following:

(1) A minimum high school curriculum that requires more than twenty units of academic credit to graduate;

(2) An exception to the district's or school's minimum high school curriculum that is comparable to the exception provided in division (D) of this section but with additional requirements, which may include a requirement that the student successfully complete more than the minimum curriculum prescribed in division (B) of this section;

(3) That no exception comparable to that provided in division (D) of this section is available.

If a school district or chartered nonpublic school requires a foreign language as an additional graduation requirement under division (E) of this section, a student may apply one unit of instruction in computer coding to satisfy one unit of foreign language. If a student applies more than one computer coding course to satisfy the foreign language requirement, the courses shall be sequential and progressively more difficult.

(F) A student enrolled in a dropout prevention and recovery program, which program has received a waiver from the department, may qualify for graduation from high school by successfully completing a competency-based instructional program administered by the dropout prevention and recovery program in lieu of completing the requirements for graduation prescribed in division (C) of this section. The department shall grant a waiver to a dropout prevention and recovery program, within

sixty days after the program applies for the waiver, if the 305  
program meets all of the following conditions: 306

(1) The program serves only students not younger than 307  
sixteen years of age and not older than twenty-one years of age. 308

(2) The program enrolls students who, at the time of their 309  
initial enrollment, either, or both, are at least one grade 310  
level behind their cohort age groups or experience crises that 311  
significantly interfere with their academic progress such that 312  
they are prevented from continuing their traditional programs. 313

(3) The program requires students to attain at least the 314  
applicable score designated for each of the assessments 315  
prescribed under division (B)(1) of section 3301.0710 of the 316  
Revised Code or, to the extent prescribed by rule of the 317  
department under division (D)(5) of section 3301.0712 of the 318  
Revised Code, division (B)(2) of that section. 319

(4) The program develops a student success plan for the 320  
student in the manner described in division (C)(1) of section 321  
3313.6020 of the Revised Code that specifies the student's 322  
matriculating to a two-year degree program, acquiring a business 323  
and industry-recognized credential, or entering an 324  
apprenticeship. 325

(5) The program provides counseling and support for the 326  
student related to the plan developed under division (F)(4) of 327  
this section during the remainder of the student's high school 328  
experience. 329

(6) The program requires the student and the student's 330  
parent, guardian, or custodian to sign and file, in accordance 331  
with procedural requirements stipulated by the program, a 332  
written statement asserting the parent's, guardian's, or 333

custodian's consent to the student's graduating without 334  
completing the requirements for graduation prescribed in 335  
division (C) of this section and acknowledging that one 336  
consequence of not completing those requirements is 337  
ineligibility to enroll in most state universities in Ohio 338  
without further coursework. 339

(7) Prior to receiving the waiver, the program has 340  
submitted to the department an instructional plan that 341  
demonstrates how the academic content standards adopted by the 342  
department under section 3301.079 of the Revised Code will be 343  
taught and assessed. 344

(8) Prior to receiving the waiver, the program has 345  
submitted to the department a policy on career advising that 346  
satisfies the requirements of section 3313.6020 of the Revised 347  
Code, with an emphasis on how every student will receive career 348  
advising. 349

(9) Prior to receiving the waiver, the program has 350  
submitted to the department a written agreement outlining the 351  
future cooperation between the program and any combination of 352  
local job training, postsecondary education, nonprofit, and 353  
health and social service organizations to provide services for 354  
students in the program and their families. 355

Divisions (F) (8) and (9) of this section apply only to 356  
waivers granted on or after July 1, 2015. 357

If the department does not act either to grant the waiver 358  
or to reject the program application for the waiver within sixty 359  
days as required under this section, the waiver shall be 360  
considered to be granted. 361

(G) Every high school may permit students below the ninth 362

grade to take advanced work. If a high school so permits, it 363  
shall award high school credit for successful completion of the 364  
advanced work and shall count such advanced work toward the 365  
graduation requirements of division (B) or (C) of this section 366  
if the advanced work was both: 367

(1) Taught by a person who possesses a license or 368  
certificate issued under section 3301.071, 3319.22, or 3319.222 369  
of the Revised Code that is valid for teaching high school; 370

(2) Designated by the board of education of the city, 371  
local, or exempted village school district, the board of the 372  
cooperative education school district, or the governing 373  
authority of the chartered nonpublic school as meeting the high 374  
school curriculum requirements. 375

Each high school shall record on the student's high school 376  
transcript all high school credit awarded under division (G) of 377  
this section. In addition, if the student completed a seventh- 378  
or eighth-grade fine arts course described in division (K) of 379  
this section and the course qualified for high school credit 380  
under that division, the high school shall record that course on 381  
the student's high school transcript. 382

(H) The department shall make its individual academic 383  
career plan available through its Ohio career information system 384  
web site for districts and schools to use as a tool for 385  
communicating with and providing guidance to students and 386  
families in selecting high school courses. 387

(I) A school district or chartered nonpublic school may 388  
integrate academic content in a subject area for which the 389  
department has adopted standards under section 3301.079 of the 390  
Revised Code into a course in a different subject area, 391

including a career-technical education course, in accordance 392  
with guidance for integrated coursework developed by the 393  
department. Upon successful completion of an integrated course, 394  
a student may receive credit for both subject areas that were 395  
integrated into the course. Units earned for subject area 396  
content delivered through integrated academic and career- 397  
technical instruction are eligible to meet the graduation 398  
requirements of division (B) or (C) of this section. 399

For purposes of meeting graduation requirements, if an 400  
end-of-course examination has been prescribed under section 401  
3301.0712 of the Revised Code for the subject area delivered 402  
through integrated instruction, the school district or school 403  
may administer the related subject area examinations upon the 404  
student's completion of the integrated course. 405

Nothing in division (I) of this section shall be construed 406  
to excuse any school district, chartered nonpublic school, or 407  
student from any requirement in the Revised Code related to 408  
curriculum, assessments, or the awarding of a high school 409  
diploma. 410

(J) (1) The department, in consultation with the 411  
chancellor, shall adopt a statewide plan implementing methods 412  
for students to earn units of high school credit based on a 413  
demonstration of subject area competency, instead of or in 414  
combination with completing hours of classroom instruction. The 415  
plan shall include a standard method for recording demonstrated 416  
proficiency on high school transcripts. Each school district and 417  
community school shall comply with the department's plan adopted 418  
under this division and award units of high school credit in 419  
accordance with the plan. The department may adopt existing 420  
methods for earning high school credit based on a demonstration 421

of subject area competency as necessary prior to the 2009-2010 422  
school year. 423

(2) The department shall update the statewide plan adopted 424  
pursuant to division (J)(1) of this section to also include 425  
methods for students enrolled in seventh and eighth grade to 426  
meet curriculum requirements based on a demonstration of subject 427  
area competency, instead of or in combination with completing 428  
hours of classroom instruction. Beginning with the 2017-2018 429  
school year, each school district and community school also 430  
shall comply with the updated plan adopted pursuant to this 431  
division and permit students enrolled in seventh and eighth 432  
grade to meet curriculum requirements based on subject area 433  
competency in accordance with the plan. 434

(3) The department shall develop a framework for school 435  
districts and community schools to use in granting units of high 436  
school credit to students who demonstrate subject area 437  
competency through work-based learning experiences, internships, 438  
or cooperative education. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school 439  
year, each district and community school shall comply with the 440  
framework. Each district and community school also shall review 441  
any policy it has adopted regarding the demonstration of subject 442  
area competency to identify ways to incorporate work-based 443  
learning experiences, internships, and cooperative education 444  
into the policy in order to increase student engagement and 445  
opportunities to earn units of high school credit. 446

(K) This division does not apply to students who qualify 447  
for graduation from high school under division (D) or (F) of 448  
this section, or to students pursuing a career-technical 449  
instructional track as determined by the school district board 450  
of education or the chartered nonpublic school's governing 451



authority. Nevertheless, the general assembly encourages such 452  
students to consider enrolling in a fine arts course as an 453  
elective. 454

Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the 455  
first time on or after July 1, 2010, each student enrolled in a 456  
public or chartered nonpublic high school shall complete two 457  
semesters or the equivalent of fine arts to graduate from high 458  
school. The coursework may be completed in any of grades seven 459  
to twelve. Each student who completes a fine arts course in 460  
grade seven or eight may elect to count that course toward the 461  
five units of electives required for graduation under division 462  
(C) (8) of this section, if the course satisfied the requirements 463  
of division (G) of this section. In that case, the high school 464  
shall award the student high school credit for the course and 465  
count the course toward the five units required under division 466  
(C) (8) of this section. If the course in grade seven or eight 467  
did not satisfy the requirements of division (G) of this 468  
section, the high school shall not award the student high school 469  
credit for the course but shall count the course toward the two 470  
semesters or the equivalent of fine arts required by this 471  
division. 472

(L) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this 473  
section, the board of education of each school district and the 474  
governing authority of each chartered nonpublic school may adopt 475  
a policy to excuse from the high school physical education 476  
requirement each student who, during high school, has 477  
participated in interscholastic athletics, club sports, marching 478  
band, show choir, or cheerleading for at least two full seasons, 479  
in other athletic activities for at least one hundred twenty 480  
hours, or in the junior reserve officer training corps for at 481  
least two full school years. If the board or authority adopts 482

such a policy, the board or authority shall not require the 483  
student to complete any physical education course as a condition 484  
to graduate. However, the student shall be required to complete 485  
one-half unit, consisting of at least sixty hours of 486  
instruction, in another course of study. In the case of a 487  
student who has participated in the junior reserve officer 488  
training corps for at least two full school years, credit 489  
received for that participation may be used to satisfy the 490  
requirement to complete one-half unit in another course of 491  
study. 492

(M) It is important that high school students learn and 493  
understand United States history and the governments of both the 494  
United States and the state of Ohio. Therefore, beginning with 495  
students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after 496  
July 1, 2012, the study of American history and American 497  
government required by divisions (B) (6) and (C) (6) of this 498  
section shall include the study of all of the following 499  
documents: 500

(1) The Declaration of Independence; 501

(2) The Northwest Ordinance; 502

(3) The Constitution of the United States with emphasis on 503  
the Bill of Rights; 504

(4) The Ohio Constitution. 505

The study of each of the documents prescribed in divisions 506  
(M) (1) to (4) of this section shall include study of that 507  
document in its original context. 508

The study of American history and government required by 509  
divisions (B) (6) and (C) (6) of this section shall include the 510  
historical evidence of the role of documents such as the 511

Federalist Papers and the Anti-Federalist Papers to firmly 512  
establish the historical background leading to the establishment 513  
of the provisions of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. 514

(N) A student may apply one unit of instruction in 515  
computer science to satisfy one unit of mathematics or one unit 516  
of science under division (C) of this section as the student 517  
chooses, regardless of the field of certification of the teacher 518  
who teaches the course, so long as that teacher meets the 519  
licensure requirements prescribed by section 3319.236 of the 520  
Revised Code and, prior to teaching the course, completes a 521  
professional development program determined to be appropriate by 522  
the district board. 523

If a student applies more than one computer science course 524  
to satisfy curriculum requirements under that division, the 525  
courses shall be sequential and progressively more difficult or 526  
cover different subject areas within computer science. 527

(O) Any student who participates in a club sport or other 528  
athletic activity under division (L) of this section shall 529  
submit a signed statement attesting that the student has met the 530  
requirements under that division to the school district board of 531  
education or the chartered nonpublic school governing authority 532  
of the school in which the student is enrolled. The statement 533  
shall include signatures from the coach of the club sport or 534  
instructor of the athletic activity and the student's parent or 535  
guardian. 536

**Section 2.** That existing section 3313.603 of the Revised 537  
Code is hereby repealed. 538