



**Ohio Association of Community Colleges
House Education Committee
Testimony on House Bill 62 – College Credit Plus
April 8, 2025**

Chair Fowler-Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and House Education Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony today in opposition to House Bill 62. My name is Avi Zaffini, and I am the president and CEO of the Ohio Association of Community Colleges.

OACC proudly advocates for Ohio's 22 public community colleges, representing the presidents and trustees. Altogether, our members serve approximately 250,000 Ohioans annually on their journeys to earn high-value career credentials, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, and workforce training. They also support more than 40,000 non-credit learners who are embracing the education and training qualifications that today's job creators demand. Ohio's community colleges are the top workforce partner for Ohio employers and are the best value in higher education for Ohio students.

While we are unable to support the current version of HB 62, we strongly support the amendment provision that establishes a statewide study committee to conduct a comprehensive, data-driven review of the College Credit Plus program. A holistic evaluation is an important first step, and it should include an analysis of cost structures—particularly textbook costs, default rates, and other fee structures—and examine the potential impact of proposed state-level changes. Given the complexity and variation in how CCP is administered across institutions, a study committee is prudent and essential before making significant policy changes.

We thank the sponsors for their willingness to incorporate the study committee approach and are happy to work with all parties to ensure strong community college involvement in the study and the successful implementation of any policies or recommendations to come from the committee.

However, we cannot support the current version of HB 62 for the following reasons:

- **Elimination of flexibility around textbook costs will disrupt effective local partnerships.** HB62 prohibits textbook costs from being negotiated in alternative payment structure agreements. Under current law, participating colleges and their partner school districts may negotiate customized agreements that reflect local

needs and circumstances. Eliminating this ability would not only undercut this flexibility but also jeopardize the strong, collaborative partnerships that have been built between community colleges and school districts across Ohio.

- **Reductions in the default payment rates threaten the viability of CCP offerings.** The bill also proposes significant reductions to the payment rates set in current law for certain types of CCP course delivery. Many of our community colleges already offer discounts or rates well below their standard tuition rate. Even modest reductions in default rates could force community colleges to curtail CCP offerings, particularly since they would no longer be permitted to negotiate shared solutions—like jointly covering textbook costs—with school partners. The cumulative effect would be fewer affordable options for Ohio students and parents. These families currently rely on the flexibility and affordability of CCP to access early college opportunities, regardless of where they live in the state or their economic status.
- **Uniform changes to the CCP program risk overlooking important institutional differences.** While there is some standardization across CCP delivery thanks to prior reforms, community colleges still administer the program in ways that reflect their unique missions, student populations, and local needs. Differences in course offerings, delivery formats, student demand, and operational costs are influenced by various factors, including local workforce needs and enrollment levels. A policy change that might seem manageable for one institution could be unworkable for another. The flexibility embedded in current law allows colleges to tailor CCP programming in ways that respond effectively to local needs while upholding a consistent commitment to quality and student success. Without this flexibility, we risk losing the very elements that make the program effective and accessible to students across the state.

The success of the CCP program is clear—and community colleges are a driving force behind that success.

According to 2022-2023 data, Ohio students earned over 450,000 college credit hours through CCP with a 92.5% course completion rate. Regardless of delivery method—whether on a college campus, online, or in a high school—students averaged GPAs well above 3.0, demonstrating high academic performance across the board.

Community colleges play a critical role in this success. Nearly 60,000 high school students turn to Ohio's public two-year institutions each year to earn early college credit. In the most recent academic year:

- **155,208 courses** were successfully completed at community colleges, resulting in **479,928 credit hours earned**.
- These students achieved an **average GPA of 3.30**.
- **1,025 certificates and degrees** were awarded through CCP—most of them by community colleges.
- **75% of participating CCP high school graduates** went on to pursue postsecondary education after graduation, with **83% of those students** enrolling at a four-year institution to earn a bachelor's degree.
- In total, **80,163 students** participated in CCP statewide, generating **\$194 million in tuition savings** for Ohio families.

These results reflect a program that is working well for students, families, and Ohio's future workforce.

While we recognize there may be areas of the program that warrant improvement, any changes must be informed by a full understanding of the program's structure, outcomes, and local impacts. We are committed to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to strengthen CCP for the future.

In conclusion, OACC believes that a thoughtful, comprehensive review of the CCP program is the most responsible path forward. We respectfully request the committee further amend this bill to start only with a study committee to develop improvements and preserve Ohioans' access to this important program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am willing to answer any questions.