

**As Reported by the House Education Committee**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**Am. H. B. No. 304**

**Representatives Young, Miller, M.**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Fowler Arthur, Brennan, Bird, Miller, J.**

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To amend sections 3313.48 and 3313.603 and to enact  
section 3301.96 of the Revised Code to permit  
students to use club sports or other athletic  
activity to fulfill the high school physical  
education requirement and regarding recess time  
for K-8 students.

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

**Section 1.** That sections 3313.48 and 3313.603 be amended  
and section 3301.96 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as  
follows:

**Sec. 3301.96.** (A) It is the intent of the general assembly  
to recognize the importance of recess and physical activity for  
the mental, physical, behavioral, emotional, and academic well-  
being of students. The general assembly encourages school  
districts to create additional opportunities for recess or  
student movement when classroom instructional requirements can  
still be accomplished.

(B) The department of education and workforce may develop  
and distribute best practices about, and distribute examples  
from school districts statewide that successfully provide,

additional recess or movement opportunities while maintaining 20  
academic performance and instructional time. 21

(C) The department shall identify voluntary programs, 22  
statewide initiatives, and partnerships that support student 23  
physical education and other mental and physical health and 24  
well-being behaviors. The department shall disseminate this 25  
information to school districts statewide. 26

**Sec. 3313.48.** (A) The board of education of each city, 27  
exempted village, local, and joint vocational school district 28  
shall provide for the free education of the youth of school age 29  
within the district under its jurisdiction, at such places as 30  
will be most convenient for the attendance of the largest number 31  
thereof. Each school so provided and each chartered nonpublic 32  
school shall be open for instruction with pupils in attendance, 33  
including scheduled classes, supervised activities, and approved 34  
education options but excluding lunch and breakfast periods and 35  
extracurricular activities, for not less than four hundred 36  
fifty-five hours in the case of pupils in kindergarten unless 37  
such pupils are provided all-day kindergarten, as defined in 38  
section 3321.05 of the Revised Code, in which case the pupils 39  
shall be in attendance for nine hundred ten hours; nine hundred 40  
ten hours in the case of pupils in grades one through six; and 41  
one thousand one hours in the case of pupils in grades seven 42  
through twelve in each school year, which may include all of the 43  
following: 44

(1) Up to the equivalent of two school days per year 45  
during which pupils would otherwise be in attendance but are not 46  
required to attend for the purpose of individualized parent- 47  
teacher conferences and reporting periods; 48

(2) Up to the equivalent of two school days per year 49

during which pupils would otherwise be in attendance but are not 50  
required to attend for professional meetings of teachers; 51

(3) Morning and afternoon recess periods of ~~not more than~~ 52  
~~fifteen~~ thirty minutes duration per period for pupils in grades 53  
kindergarten through ~~six~~eight. 54

(B) Not later than thirty days prior to adopting a school 55  
calendar, the board of education of each city, exempted village, 56  
and local school district shall hold a public hearing on the 57  
school calendar, addressing topics that include, but are not 58  
limited to, the total number of hours in a school year, length 59  
of school day, and beginning and end dates of instruction. The 60  
public hearing required under this division need not be a 61  
separate, individual hearing and may be part of another public 62  
hearing or board meeting. 63

(C) No school operated by a city, exempted village, local, 64  
or joint vocational school district shall reduce the number of 65  
hours in each school year that the school is scheduled to be 66  
open for instruction from the number of hours per year the 67  
school was open for instruction during the previous school year 68  
unless the reduction is approved by a resolution adopted by the 69  
district board of education. Any reduction so approved shall not 70  
result in fewer hours of instruction per school year than the 71  
applicable number of hours required under division (A) of this 72  
section. 73

(D) Prior to making any change in the hours or days in 74  
which a high school under its jurisdiction is open for 75  
instruction, the board of education of each city, exempted 76  
village, and local school district shall consider the 77  
compatibility of the proposed change with the scheduling needs 78  
of any joint vocational school district in which any of the high 79

school's students are also enrolled. The board shall consider 80  
the impact of the proposed change on student access to the 81  
instructional programs offered by the joint vocational school 82  
district, incentives for students to participate in career- 83  
technical education, transportation, and the timing of 84  
graduation. The board shall provide the joint vocational school 85  
district board with advance notice of the proposed change and 86  
the two boards shall enter into a written agreement prescribing 87  
reasonable accommodations to meet the scheduling needs of the 88  
joint vocational school district prior to implementation of the 89  
change. 90

(E) Subject to section 3327.016 of the Revised Code, prior 91  
to making any change in the hours or days in which a school 92  
under its jurisdiction is open for instruction, the board of 93  
education of each city, exempted village, and local school 94  
district shall consider the compatibility of the proposed change 95  
with the scheduling needs of any community school established 96  
under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code to which the district is 97  
required to transport students under sections 3314.09 and 98  
3327.01 of the Revised Code. The board shall consider the impact 99  
of the proposed change on student access to the instructional 100  
programs offered by the community school, transportation, and 101  
the timing of graduation. The board shall provide the sponsor, 102  
governing authority, and operator of the community school with 103  
advance notice of the proposed change, and the board and the 104  
governing authority, or operator if such authority is delegated 105  
to the operator, shall enter into a written agreement 106  
prescribing reasonable accommodations to meet the scheduling 107  
needs of the community school prior to implementation of the 108  
change. 109

(F) Subject to section 3327.016 of the Revised Code, prior 110

to making any change in the hours or days in which the schools 111  
under its jurisdiction are open for instruction, the board of 112  
education of each city, exempted village, and local school 113  
district shall consult with the chartered nonpublic schools to 114  
which the district is required to transport students under 115  
section 3327.01 of the Revised Code and shall consider the 116  
effect of the proposed change on the schedule for transportation 117  
of those students to their nonpublic schools. The governing 118  
authority of a chartered nonpublic school shall consult with 119  
each school district board of education that transports students 120  
to the chartered nonpublic school under section 3327.01 of the 121  
Revised Code prior to making any change in the hours or days in 122  
which the nonpublic school is open for instruction. 123

(G) The department of education and workforce shall not 124  
adopt or enforce any rule or standard that imposes on chartered 125  
nonpublic schools the procedural requirements imposed on school 126  
districts by divisions (B), (C), (D), and (E) of this section. 127

**Sec. 3313.603.** (A) As used in this section: 128

(1) "One unit" means a minimum of one hundred twenty hours 129  
of course instruction, except that for a laboratory course, "one 130  
unit" means a minimum of one hundred fifty hours of course 131  
instruction. 132

(2) "One-half unit" means a minimum of sixty hours of 133  
course instruction, except that for physical education courses, 134  
"one-half unit" means a minimum of one hundred twenty hours of 135  
course instruction. 136

(3) "Club sports" includes both of the following: 137

(a) A sport sanctioned by a school, but not regulated by 138  
an organization that regulates interscholastic conferences or 139

<u>events and is limited to participants under nineteen years of</u>	140
<u>age;</u>	141
<u>(b) A youth sports organization as defined in section</u>	142
<u>3707.51 of the Revised Code.</u>	143
<u>(4) "Other athletic activity" means a sport or physical</u>	144
<u>activity taught by an instructor outside of school.</u>	145
(B) Beginning September 15, 2001, except as required in	146
division (C) of this section and division (C) of section	147
3313.614 of the Revised Code, the requirements for graduation	148
from every high school shall include twenty units earned in	149
grades nine through twelve and shall be distributed as follows:	150
(1) English language arts, four units;	151
(2) Health, one-half unit;	152
(3) Mathematics, three units;	153
(4) Physical education, one-half unit;	154
(5) Science, two units until September 15, 2003, and three	155
units thereafter, which at all times shall include both of the	156
following:	157
(a) Biological sciences, one unit;	158
(b) Physical sciences, one unit.	159
(6) History and government, one unit, which shall comply	160
with division (M) of this section and shall include both of the	161
following:	162
(a) American history, one-half unit;	163
(b) American government, one-half unit.	164
(7) Social studies, two units.	165

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 195  
the department of education and workforce as an alternative. 196

For students who choose to take advanced computer science 197  
in lieu of algebra II under division (C)(3) of this section, the 198  
school shall communicate to those students that some 199  
institutions of higher education may require algebra II for the 200  
purpose of college admission. Also, the parent, guardian, or 201  
legal custodian of each student who chooses to take advanced 202  
computer science in lieu of algebra II shall sign and submit to 203  
the school a document containing a statement acknowledging that 204  
not taking algebra II may have an adverse effect on college 205  
admission decisions. 206

A student may fulfill one unit of mathematics under 207  
division (C)(3) of this section by completing one-half unit of 208  
financial literacy instruction to satisfy the requirement 209  
prescribed under division (C)(9) of this section and one-half 210  
unit of a mathematics course. The one-half unit course in 211  
mathematics shall not be in algebra II, or its equivalent, or a 212  
course for which the department requires an end-of-course 213  
examination under section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code. 214

Students who choose to take one unit of advanced computer 215  
science in lieu of algebra II, as described in division (C)(3) 216  
of this section, shall not be permitted to complete one-half 217  
unit of financial literacy instruction to satisfy the 218  
mathematics unit requirements of that division. Instead, those 219  
students shall be required to complete the one-half unit of 220  
financial literacy instruction under division (C)(8) of this 221  
section. 222

(4) Physical education, one-half unit; 223

(5) Science, three units with inquiry-based laboratory	224
experience that engages students in asking valid scientific	225
questions and gathering and analyzing information, which shall	226
include the following, or their equivalent:	227
(a) Physical sciences, one unit;	228
(b) Life sciences, one unit;	229
(c) Advanced study in one or more of the following	230
sciences, one unit:	231
(i) Chemistry, physics, or other physical science;	232
(ii) Advanced biology or other life science;	233
(iii) Astronomy, physical geology, or other earth or space	234
science;	235
(iv) Computer science.	236
No student shall substitute a computer science course for	237
a life sciences or biology course under division (C) (5) of this	238
section.	239
(6) History and government, one unit, which shall comply	240
with division (M) of this section and shall include both of the	241
following:	242
(a) American history, one-half unit;	243
(b) American government, one-half unit.	244
(7) Social studies, two units.	245
Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the	246
first time on or after July 1, 2017, the two units of	247
instruction prescribed by division (C) (7) of this section shall	248
include at least one-half unit of instruction in the study of	249

world history and civilizations.	250
(8) Five units consisting of one or any combination of	251
foreign language, fine arts, business, career-technical	252
education, family and consumer sciences, technology which may	253
include computer science, agricultural education, a junior	254
reserve officer training corps (JROTC) program approved by the	255
Congress of the United States under title 10 of the United	256
States Code, or English language arts, mathematics, science, or	257
social studies courses not otherwise required under division (C)	258
of this section.	259
One-half unit of instruction under division (C) (8) of this	260
section may be instruction in financial literacy to satisfy the	261
requirement under division (C) (9) of this section.	262
(9) (a) Except as provided in division (C) (9) (b) of this	263
section, for students who enter ninth grade for the first time	264
on or after July 1, 2022, financial literacy, one-half unit.	265
Each student shall elect to complete the one-half unit of	266
instruction in financial literacy either in lieu of one-half	267
unit of instruction in mathematics under division (C) (3) of this	268
section or an elective under division (C) (8) of this section. A	269
student may fulfill the financial literacy instruction	270
requirement under division (C) (9) of this section through the	271
successful completion of an advanced placement course in	272
microeconomics or macroeconomics.	273
(b) A student attending a nonpublic school accredited	274
through the independent schools association of the central	275
states or any other chartered nonpublic school shall not be	276
required to complete the one-half unit of financial literacy	277
instruction prescribed in division (C) (9) (a) of this section,	278
unless that student is attending the school under a state	279

scholarship program as defined in section 3301.0711 of the Revised Code.

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.

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.

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

satisfy this expectation through a variety of methods, 310  
including, but not limited to, integrated, applied, career- 311  
technical, and traditional coursework. 312

Stronger coordination between high schools and 313  
institutions of higher education is necessary to prepare 314  
students for more challenging academic endeavors and to lessen 315  
the need for academic remediation in college, thereby reducing 316  
the costs of higher education for Ohio's students, families, and 317  
the state. The department and the chancellor of higher education 318  
shall develop policies to ensure that only in rare instances 319  
will students who complete the requirements for graduation 320  
prescribed in division (C) of this section require academic 321  
remediation after high school. 322

School districts, community schools, and chartered 323  
nonpublic schools shall integrate technology into learning 324  
experiences across the curriculum in order to maximize 325  
efficiency, enhance learning, and prepare students for success 326  
in the technology-driven twenty-first century. Districts and 327  
schools shall use distance and web-based course delivery as a 328  
method of providing or augmenting all instruction required under 329  
this division, including laboratory experience in science. 330  
Districts and schools shall utilize technology access and 331  
electronic learning opportunities provided by the broadcast 332  
educational media commission, chancellor, the Ohio learning 333  
network, education technology centers, public television 334  
stations, and other public and private providers. 335

(D) Except as provided in division (E) of this section, a 336  
student who enters ninth grade on or after July 1, 2010, and 337  
before July 1, 2016, may qualify for graduation from a public or 338  
chartered nonpublic high school even though the student has not 339

completed the requirements for graduation prescribed in division 340  
(C) of this section if all of the following conditions are 341  
satisfied: 342

(1) During the student's third year of attending high 343  
school, as determined by the school, the student and the 344  
student's parent, guardian, or custodian sign and file with the 345  
school a written statement asserting the parent's, guardian's, 346  
or custodian's consent to the student's graduating without 347  
completing the requirements for graduation prescribed in 348  
division (C) of this section and acknowledging that one 349  
consequence of not completing those requirements is 350  
ineligibility to enroll in most state universities in Ohio 351  
without further coursework. 352

(2) The student and parent, guardian, or custodian fulfill 353  
any procedural requirements the school stipulates to ensure the 354  
student's and parent's, guardian's, or custodian's informed 355  
consent and to facilitate orderly filing of statements under 356  
division (D)(1) of this section. Annually, each district or 357  
school shall notify the department of the number of students who 358  
choose to qualify for graduation under division (D) of this 359  
section and the number of students who complete the student's 360  
success plan and graduate from high school. 361

(3) The student and the student's parent, guardian, or 362  
custodian and a representative of the student's high school 363  
jointly develop a student success plan for the student in the 364  
manner described in division (C)(1) of section 3313.6020 of the 365  
Revised Code that specifies the student matriculating to a two- 366  
year degree program, acquiring a business and industry- 367  
recognized credential, or entering an apprenticeship. 368

(4) The student's high school provides counseling and 369

support for the student related to the plan developed under 370  
division (D) (3) of this section during the remainder of the 371  
student's high school experience. 372

(5) (a) Except as provided in division (D) (5) (b) of this 373  
section, the student successfully completes, at a minimum, the 374  
curriculum prescribed in division (B) of this section. 375

(b) Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the 376  
first time on or after July 1, 2014, a student shall be required 377  
to complete successfully, at the minimum, the curriculum 378  
prescribed in division (B) of this section, except as follows: 379

(i) Mathematics, four units, one unit which shall be one 380  
of the following: 381

(I) Probability and statistics; 382

(II) Computer science; 383

(III) Applied mathematics or quantitative reasoning; 384

(IV) Any other course approved by the department using 385  
standards established by the superintendent not later than 386  
October 1, 2014. 387

(ii) Elective units, five units; 388

(iii) Science, three units as prescribed by division (B) 389  
of this section which shall include inquiry-based laboratory 390  
experience that engages students in asking valid scientific 391  
questions and gathering and analyzing information. 392

(E) Each school district and chartered nonpublic school 393  
retains the authority to require an even more challenging 394  
minimum curriculum for high school graduation than specified in 395  
division (B) or (C) of this section. A school district board of 396

education, through the adoption of a resolution, or the 397  
governing authority of a chartered nonpublic school may 398  
stipulate any of the following: 399

(1) A minimum high school curriculum that requires more 400  
than twenty units of academic credit to graduate; 401

(2) An exception to the district's or school's minimum 402  
high school curriculum that is comparable to the exception 403  
provided in division (D) of this section but with additional 404  
requirements, which may include a requirement that the student 405  
successfully complete more than the minimum curriculum 406  
prescribed in division (B) of this section; 407

(3) That no exception comparable to that provided in 408  
division (D) of this section is available. 409

If a school district or chartered nonpublic school 410  
requires a foreign language as an additional graduation 411  
requirement under division (E) of this section, a student may 412  
apply one unit of instruction in computer coding to satisfy one 413  
unit of foreign language. If a student applies more than one 414  
computer coding course to satisfy the foreign language 415  
requirement, the courses shall be sequential and progressively 416  
more difficult. 417

(F) A student enrolled in a dropout prevention and 418  
recovery program, which program has received a waiver from the 419  
department, may qualify for graduation from high school by 420  
successfully completing a competency-based instructional program 421  
administered by the dropout prevention and recovery program in 422  
lieu of completing the requirements for graduation prescribed in 423  
division (C) of this section. The department shall grant a 424  
waiver to a dropout prevention and recovery program, within 425

sixty days after the program applies for the waiver, if the 426  
program meets all of the following conditions: 427

(1) The program serves only students not younger than 428  
sixteen years of age and not older than twenty-one years of age. 429

(2) The program enrolls students who, at the time of their 430  
initial enrollment, either, or both, are at least one grade 431  
level behind their cohort age groups or experience crises that 432  
significantly interfere with their academic progress such that 433  
they are prevented from continuing their traditional programs. 434

(3) The program requires students to attain at least the 435  
applicable score designated for each of the assessments 436  
prescribed under division (B)(1) of section 3301.0710 of the 437  
Revised Code or, to the extent prescribed by rule of the 438  
department under division (D)(5) of section 3301.0712 of the 439  
Revised Code, division (B)(2) of that section. 440

(4) The program develops a student success plan for the 441  
student in the manner described in division (C)(1) of section 442  
3313.6020 of the Revised Code that specifies the student's 443  
matriculating to a two-year degree program, acquiring a business 444  
and industry-recognized credential, or entering an 445  
apprenticeship. 446

(5) The program provides counseling and support for the 447  
student related to the plan developed under division (F)(4) of 448  
this section during the remainder of the student's high school 449  
experience. 450

(6) The program requires the student and the student's 451  
parent, guardian, or custodian to sign and file, in accordance 452  
with procedural requirements stipulated by the program, a 453  
written statement asserting the parent's, guardian's, or 454

custodian's consent to the student's graduating without 455  
completing the requirements for graduation prescribed in 456  
division (C) of this section and acknowledging that one 457  
consequence of not completing those requirements is 458  
ineligibility to enroll in most state universities in Ohio 459  
without further coursework. 460

(7) Prior to receiving the waiver, the program has 461  
submitted to the department an instructional plan that 462  
demonstrates how the academic content standards adopted by the 463  
department under section 3301.079 of the Revised Code will be 464  
taught and assessed. 465

(8) Prior to receiving the waiver, the program has 466  
submitted to the department a policy on career advising that 467  
satisfies the requirements of section 3313.6020 of the Revised 468  
Code, with an emphasis on how every student will receive career 469  
advising. 470

(9) Prior to receiving the waiver, the program has 471  
submitted to the department a written agreement outlining the 472  
future cooperation between the program and any combination of 473  
local job training, postsecondary education, nonprofit, and 474  
health and social service organizations to provide services for 475  
students in the program and their families. 476

Divisions (F) (8) and (9) of this section apply only to 477  
waivers granted on or after July 1, 2015. 478

If the department does not act either to grant the waiver 479  
or to reject the program application for the waiver within sixty 480  
days as required under this section, the waiver shall be 481  
considered to be granted. 482

(G) Every high school may permit students below the ninth 483

grade to take advanced work. If a high school so permits, it 484  
shall award high school credit for successful completion of the 485  
advanced work and shall count such advanced work toward the 486  
graduation requirements of division (B) or (C) of this section 487  
if the advanced work was both: 488

(1) Taught by a person who possesses a license or 489  
certificate issued under section 3301.071, 3319.22, or 3319.222 490  
of the Revised Code that is valid for teaching high school; 491

(2) Designated by the board of education of the city, 492  
local, or exempted village school district, the board of the 493  
cooperative education school district, or the governing 494  
authority of the chartered nonpublic school as meeting the high 495  
school curriculum requirements. 496

Each high school shall record on the student's high school 497  
transcript all high school credit awarded under division (G) of 498  
this section. In addition, if the student completed a seventh- 499  
or eighth-grade fine arts course described in division (K) of 500  
this section and the course qualified for high school credit 501  
under that division, the high school shall record that course on 502  
the student's high school transcript. 503

(H) The department shall make its individual academic 504  
career plan available through its Ohio career information system 505  
web site for districts and schools to use as a tool for 506  
communicating with and providing guidance to students and 507  
families in selecting high school courses. 508

(I) A school district or chartered nonpublic school may 509  
integrate academic content in a subject area for which the 510  
department has adopted standards under section 3301.079 of the 511  
Revised Code into a course in a different subject area, 512

including a career-technical education course, in accordance 513  
with guidance for integrated coursework developed by the 514  
department. Upon successful completion of an integrated course, 515  
a student may receive credit for both subject areas that were 516  
integrated into the course. Units earned for subject area 517  
content delivered through integrated academic and career- 518  
technical instruction are eligible to meet the graduation 519  
requirements of division (B) or (C) of this section. 520

For purposes of meeting graduation requirements, if an 521  
end-of-course examination has been prescribed under section 522  
3301.0712 of the Revised Code for the subject area delivered 523  
through integrated instruction, the school district or school 524  
may administer the related subject area examinations upon the 525  
student's completion of the integrated course. 526

Nothing in division (I) of this section shall be construed 527  
to excuse any school district, chartered nonpublic school, or 528  
student from any requirement in the Revised Code related to 529  
curriculum, assessments, or the awarding of a high school 530  
diploma. 531

(J) (1) The department, in consultation with the 532  
chancellor, shall adopt a statewide plan implementing methods 533  
for students to earn units of high school credit based on a 534  
demonstration of subject area competency, instead of or in 535  
combination with completing hours of classroom instruction. The 536  
plan shall include a standard method for recording demonstrated 537  
proficiency on high school transcripts. Each school district and 538  
community school shall comply with the department's plan adopted 539  
under this division and award units of high school credit in 540  
accordance with the plan. The department may adopt existing 541  
methods for earning high school credit based on a demonstration 542

of subject area competency as necessary prior to the 2009-2010 543  
school year. 544

(2) The department shall update the statewide plan adopted 545  
pursuant to division (J)(1) of this section to also include 546  
methods for students enrolled in seventh and eighth grade to 547  
meet curriculum requirements based on a demonstration of subject 548  
area competency, instead of or in combination with completing 549  
hours of classroom instruction. Beginning with the 2017-2018 550  
school year, each school district and community school also 551  
shall comply with the updated plan adopted pursuant to this 552  
division and permit students enrolled in seventh and eighth 553  
grade to meet curriculum requirements based on subject area 554  
competency in accordance with the plan. 555

(3) The department shall develop a framework for school 556  
districts and community schools to use in granting units of high 557  
school credit to students who demonstrate subject area 558  
competency through work-based learning experiences, internships, 559  
or cooperative education. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school 560  
year, each district and community school shall comply with the 561  
framework. Each district and community school also shall review 562  
any policy it has adopted regarding the demonstration of subject 563  
area competency to identify ways to incorporate work-based 564  
learning experiences, internships, and cooperative education 565  
into the policy in order to increase student engagement and 566  
opportunities to earn units of high school credit. 567

(K) This division does not apply to students who qualify 568  
for graduation from high school under division (D) or (F) of 569  
this section, or to students pursuing a career-technical 570  
instructional track as determined by the school district board 571  
of education or the chartered nonpublic school's governing 572

authority. Nevertheless, the general assembly encourages such 573  
students to consider enrolling in a fine arts course as an 574  
elective. 575

Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the 576  
first time on or after July 1, 2010, each student enrolled in a 577  
public or chartered nonpublic high school shall complete two 578  
semesters or the equivalent of fine arts to graduate from high 579  
school. The coursework may be completed in any of grades seven 580  
to twelve. Each student who completes a fine arts course in 581  
grade seven or eight may elect to count that course toward the 582  
five units of electives required for graduation under division 583  
(C) (8) of this section, if the course satisfied the requirements 584  
of division (G) of this section. In that case, the high school 585  
shall award the student high school credit for the course and 586  
count the course toward the five units required under division 587  
(C) (8) of this section. If the course in grade seven or eight 588  
did not satisfy the requirements of division (G) of this 589  
section, the high school shall not award the student high school 590  
credit for the course but shall count the course toward the two 591  
semesters or the equivalent of fine arts required by this 592  
division. 593

(L) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this 594  
section, the board of education of each school district and the 595  
governing authority of each chartered nonpublic school may adopt 596  
a policy to excuse from the high school physical education 597  
requirement each student who, during high school, has 598  
participated in interscholastic athletics, club sports, marching 599  
band, show choir, or cheerleading for at least two full seasons, 600  
in other athletic activities for at least one hundred twenty 601  
hours, or in the junior reserve officer training corps for at 602  
least two full school years. If the board or authority adopts 603

such a policy, the board or authority shall not require the 604  
student to complete any physical education course as a condition 605  
to graduate. However, the student shall be required to complete 606  
one-half unit, consisting of at least sixty hours of 607  
instruction, in another course of study. In the case of a 608  
student who has participated in the junior reserve officer 609  
training corps for at least two full school years, credit 610  
received for that participation may be used to satisfy the 611  
requirement to complete one-half unit in another course of 612  
study. 613

(M) It is important that high school students learn and 614  
understand United States history and the governments of both the 615  
United States and the state of Ohio. Therefore, beginning with 616  
students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after 617  
July 1, 2012, the study of American history and American 618  
government required by divisions (B) (6) and (C) (6) of this 619  
section shall include the study of all of the following 620  
documents: 621

(1) The Declaration of Independence; 622

(2) The Northwest Ordinance; 623

(3) The Constitution of the United States with emphasis on 624  
the Bill of Rights; 625

(4) The Ohio Constitution. 626

The study of each of the documents prescribed in divisions 627  
(M) (1) to (4) of this section shall include study of that 628  
document in its original context. 629

The study of American history and government required by 630  
divisions (B) (6) and (C) (6) of this section shall include the 631  
historical evidence of the role of documents such as the 632

Federalist Papers and the Anti-Federalist Papers to firmly 633  
establish the historical background leading to the establishment 634  
of the provisions of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. 635

(N) A student may apply one unit of instruction in 636  
computer science to satisfy one unit of mathematics or one unit 637  
of science under division (C) of this section as the student 638  
chooses, regardless of the field of certification of the teacher 639  
who teaches the course, so long as that teacher meets the 640  
licensure requirements prescribed by section 3319.236 of the 641  
Revised Code and, prior to teaching the course, completes a 642  
professional development program determined to be appropriate by 643  
the district board. 644

If a student applies more than one computer science course 645  
to satisfy curriculum requirements under that division, the 646  
courses shall be sequential and progressively more difficult or 647  
cover different subject areas within computer science. 648

(O) Any high school student who participates in a club 649  
sport or other athletic activity under division (L) of this 650  
section shall submit a signed statement attesting that the 651  
student has met the requirements under that division to the 652  
school district board of education or the chartered nonpublic 653  
school governing authority of the school in which the student is 654  
enrolled. The statement shall include signatures from the coach 655  
of the club sport or instructor of the athletic activity and the 656  
student's parent or guardian. 657

**Section 2.** That existing sections 3313.48 and 3313.603 of 658  
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 659