

**Committees:**

Vice-Chair, Primary & Secondary Education  
Agriculture & Conservation  
Health  
Higher Education & Career Readiness



**Contact Information:**

Office: (614) 644-6034  
Email: Rep66@ohiohouse.gov

77 S. High St., Columbus, OH 43215

**Representative Adam C. Bird**  
**Ohio House District 66**

**Sponsor Testimony**  
**House Bill 368**  
**Before the House Committee on Primary & Secondary Education**

**September 28, 2021**

Chair Manning, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary & Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 368, which will allow local school districts to make their own decisions about how to best weight College Credit Plus courses for their high school students.

College Credit Plus courses in Ohio have become very popular among students and their parents. This program allows students to take college courses in the college setting and earn college and high school credit at the same time while the local school district pays for these college credits. The CCP program also permits schools to offer "Dual Enrollment" courses. Dual Enrollment allows certain degreed high school teachers to teach a course in the high school setting where students can earn college and high school credit at the same time. In both of these examples, the local school also picks up the cost of the textbooks. Through this popular program, many Ohio high school students have been able to graduate from high school with an Associate's Degree or with their freshman year of college already completed.

While taking courses under this CCP program, current law requires that schools must adopt a policy for the awarding of grades and the calculation of class standing that assign at least equal weighting to the CCP courses in relation to the weighting of advanced standing courses within the high school, like Advanced Placement (AP) courses and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses.

This bill removes the requirement that CCP course grade weighting be equal to AP and IB course grade weighting. Under the provisions of this bill, the local board of education would be permitted to keep them the same, or the local board of education could weigh the AP and IB courses more heavily.

**Committees:**

Vice-Chair, Primary & Secondary Education  
Agriculture & Conservation  
Health  
Higher Education & Career Readiness



**Contact Information:**

Office: (614) 644-6034  
Email: Rep66@ohiohouse.gov

77 S. High St., Columbus, OH 43215

**Representative Adam C. Bird**  
**Ohio House District 66**

The reasons for this change:

1. In most school districts, AP and IB courses are much more rigorous than CCP courses.
2. Students have to work harder in AP and IB courses because the awarding of college credit is not certain. The AP test at the end of the course is difficult and universities differ in the score required to be granted college credit. Some colleges require a 3. Some require a 4. Some require a 5.
3. Teachers and school are measured by the percentage of students who earn at least a 3 on the AP End of Course test.
4. AP and IB courses in the local high school are a full year course while the same course at the local community college is only a semester.
5. College course credit offered through CCP only applies to colleges within Ohio.
6. Students who are planning to attend a university outside of Ohio take AP and IB courses and are unfairly disadvantaged in the calculation of final class rank.
7. Final course rank is important in many cases for the awarding of college scholarships.

This bill will not change the opportunity for students to avail themselves of the CCP program in either the college campus setting or the high school dual enrollment setting. Students will still have every opportunity to earn college credit financed by the local school district.

However, this permissive bill will return local control to the local school district, and allow them to make policy decisions and course weighting decisions that are most reflective of the situation and circumstances in their community. It allows school boards to make decisions that are in the best interest of the students in their school district.

Chair Manning and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present my sponsor testimony on this important piece of legislation. I would like to turn it over to my joint sponsor, Representative Pavliga, and then we will be happy to answer your questions.