



# BATAVIA LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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House Bill 368

Proponent Testimony

House Primary and Secondary Education Committee

October 12, 2021

Chairperson Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on the proposed change in weight requirements for the College Credit Plus program. My name is Keith Millard, and I serve as the superintendent of Batavia Local Schools in southwest Ohio.

The College Credit Plus program provides excellent opportunities for students to challenge themselves academically with advanced coursework, and is part of the larger array of educational options that provides a rich academic landscape for all Ohio students.

Unfortunately, the current rules regarding course weights create an uneven playing field for students who choose to remain on their high school campus and participate in Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate programs.

Under the current system, students who take a three semester hour course through CCP are given a weight for that course at the end of the semester, and any CCP course that is at least three semester hours is given the equivalency of a full year course in high school. Following this example out to its conclusion, a CCP student can take a semester course, in, say, U.S. History, and get the same weight as a student who takes a full year AP U.S. History course at the high school. Over time, a student that participates extensively in CCP ends up with more weighted courses, making it very difficult for students who take a full honors and/or AP course load at a high school to compete for top honors in their class.

Students in Ohio are very fortunate to have the variety of educational opportunities from which to shape their learning journeys. Both CCP and high school advanced standing programs are rigorous tests of students' academic fortitude. Changing the law to allow for local control of weighting decisions in order to equalize the playing field for students regardless of the coursework path they choose is the right thing to do. Hardworking students should not have to choose between academic pathways due to a concern about being disadvantaged should they choose the advanced standing pathway in their high school.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for the work you do on behalf of Ohio's school children.

Respectfully,

Keith Millard  
Superintendent