



- Andrews Osborne Academy
- Birchwood School of Hawken
- Canton Country Day School
- Central Montessori Academy
- Cincinnati Country Day School
- Cincinnati Hills
Christian Academy
- Columbus Academy
- Columbus Jewish Day School
- Columbus School for Girls
- Columbus Torah Academy
- Gilmour Academy
- Grand River Academy
- Hathaway Brown
- Hawken School
- Hershey Montessori School
- Hudson Montessori School
- Jos. and Florence Mandel Jewish Day
School
- Lake Ridge Academy
- Laurel School
- The Lawrence School
- The Lillian and Betty Ratner School
- Linden Grove School
- The Lippman School
- Mansion Day School
- Marburn Academy
- Maumee Valley Country Day School
- McGuffey Montessori School
- The Miami Valley School
- The New School
- Old Trail School
- Olney Friends School
- Ridgewood School
- Ruffing Montessori School -
Cleveland Heights
- Ruffing Montessori - Rocky River
- The Schilling School for
Gifted Children
- The Seven Hills School
- Summit Country Day School
- University School
- Urban Community School
- Wellington School
- Welsh Hills School
- Western Reserve Academy

October 13, 2021

Ohio House Primary and Secondary Education Committee

Proponent Testimony – HB 368
Dan Dodd – Executive Director
Ohio Association of Independent Schools

Chairwoman Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony for House Bill 368 on behalf of the Ohio Association of Independent Schools (O AIS).

O AIS has long encouraged the State of Ohio to restore the concept of school-based decisions for College Credit Plus participation rather than one-size-fits-all mandates that force all schools, public and private alike, to treat College Credit Plus courses the same as AP or Honors courses offered at their schools. This mandate is especially unfair when the rigor of the CCP courses does not measure up to the rigor of the courses offered at the secondary school, and also when students purposely use the courses to avoid taking more difficult classes at their secondary school of enrollment instead of for its actual purpose, which is to obtain college credit used to advance toward a college degree.

The current College Credit Plus statute has two different options for a student's participation. One is for the student to elect to receive only college credit and not high school credit. To choose option A, the student is responsible for all tuition, costs of textbooks, materials, and fees. Choosing option B means the public or nonpublic K-12 school pays for the textbooks, and the student is not responsible for the payment of tuition. Between these two choices, it's difficult to figure out why anyone would choose option A, although there are probably a small number of people who do so for unique reasons.

Our solution to this issue for nonpublic schools has always been simple: If a nonpublic school does not want to participate in the CCP program, allow the school the ability to opt out, and for students attending the school, if they still want to take CCP classes outside of what their nonpublic school requires for graduation, the classes can be paid for through option A. If this option does not work for the student, then the student is certainly free to attend another school that does participate in the program. Having this option would lead to market-based solutions, not mandated outcomes.

Our previous attempts to make forced recognition of CCP classes optional for nonpublic schools have both been vetoed (in 2015 by Gov. Kasich and in 2021 by Gov. DeWine). The excuse given both times was that all students should have the option of participation and free college credit. With what is described above, those students would still have access to free classes, but nonpublic schools could also choose to not have their curricula and grades determined by college professors who have never set foot in the nonpublic school's building.

With every passing year, our schools receive more and more complaints about students manipulating their GPAs through taking College Credit Plus classes that they never intend to receive credit for once they attend college. Forced recognition of the program has weakened the integrity of our schools' curriculum and courses of study. Please restore discretion to this process by allowing education professionals to make determinations about how this program works best for their school.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in front of the committee today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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