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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 67
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 67's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Passed by the House

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Koehler and Bird

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill may increase the administrative workload of school districts and other public schools and the Ohio Department of Education.

Detailed Analysis

Graduation requirements

H.B. 164 of the 133rd General Assembly permitted students who were scheduled to take or retake an end-of-course examination in the 2019-2020 school year, but did not do so because the administration of that examination was canceled, to use a final course grade to satisfy graduation requirements prescribed under continuing law in lieu of an examination score. The bill permits, during school years 2020-2021 through 2023-2024, a student to use a final course grade in a course associated with an end-of-course examination in lieu of the score the student received on the examination to satisfy graduation requirements. As a result, the bill may increase a school district or other public school's administrative workload to inform and advise students of their options. The table below shows the bill's designated achievement levels for each corresponding course grade. The first column includes any corresponding letter grade for each letter (e.g., "A" includes both "A-" and "A+," and so on).

2019-2020 School Year Final Course Grade and End-of-Course Examination Equivalent Achievement Levels	
Final Course Grade	End-of-Course Examination Performance Level Equivalent
A	Advanced
B	Accelerated
C	Proficient
D	Basic
F	Limited

Any grades “C” or higher are deemed equivalent to a competency score for purposes of graduation requirements. For pass-fail courses, the bill specifies that failure is equivalent to an “F” grade and limited level of skill, while passing is equivalent to a level of skill that the student’s district or school determines, though a pass designation is equivalent to a competency score.

Modifications to the awarding of diplomas

For the 2020-2021 school year, the bill requires schools and districts to grant a diploma to any student in the twelfth grade or who was on track to graduate (regardless of grade) but had not completed the requirements, as long as the student’s principal, in consultation with teachers and counselors, determines that the student has successfully completed the high school curriculum or the student’s individualized education program. The bill specifies that diplomas awarded in this manner must be awarded before September 30, 2021. The bill also allows any board of education that has opted to require a curriculum more challenging than the state requirements to use the state minimum requirements in making the determination of whether the student has completed the high school curriculum. These provisions may result in more students graduating on time than otherwise would have.

Federal waiver request

The bill requires the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to, for the 2020-2021 school year, seek a waiver from the U.S. Secretary of Education from accountability and school identification requirements under federal law. The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) announced the option for states to seek such a waiver on February 22, 2021. In general, USDOE indicated that a state granted a waiver will not be required to implement and report the results of its accountability system or to differentiate accountability measures among its public schools using data from the 2020-2021 school year. Under this latter provision, a state would not be required to identify schools for certain levels of support and improvement based on data from the 2020-2021 school year. A state would also not be required to adjust its academic achievement indicator to account for a test participation rate below 95%.

The effect of this provision on ODE’s administrative workload, if any, appears minimal. ODE reported that it has already submitted a request for an addendum to its state accountability

plan, based on flexibilities for the 2020-2021 school year previously announced by USDOE. ODE is awaiting further information, including a waiver template, from USDOE on the new waivers recently announced. ODE has been informed that states that submitted an addendum request will be contacted directly by USDOE to discuss whether to move forward with the addendum request or to switch to a waiver request.

State tests

The bill also contains certain provisions involving state tests that appear to have no fiscal effect, largely due to timing issues. Notably, the bill exempts, for the 2020-2021 school year only, school districts and other public schools from administering the end-of-course examination in American history. It also extends, by up to two weeks, the spring testing windows for various state tests in the 2020-2021 school year and the deadline by which districts and schools must be sent the results of the third grade English language arts assessment. Despite the American history examination exemption, the bill has no effect on the state's GRF-funded testing costs. The bill will not be effective until June, at the earliest, while the spring end-of-course assessments in social studies will occur between March 29 and May 14, 2021.¹ The bill also delays the date by which ODE must report any district and school performance data it has for the 2020-2021 school year to October 14, 2021 (from September 15, 2021, under current law).

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¹ 2020-2021 Testing Dates, <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Testing/Test-Dates/2020-2021-Test-Dates>.