



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

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Sub. H.B. 508*

132nd General Assembly
(As Reported by H. Finance)

Reps. Ryan, Reineke

BILL SUMMARY

- Establishes the OhioCorps Pilot Program to provide at-risk students with guidance toward a pathway to higher education through mentorship programs established and administered by eligible state institutions of higher education in the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years.
 - Establishes the OhioCorps Scholarship for at-risk students who participate in mentorship programs, enroll in eligible state institutions of higher education, and meet other prescribed criteria.
 - Establishes the OhioCorps Fund.
 - Makes an appropriation.
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CONTENT AND OPERATION

OhioCorps Pilot Program

The bill establishes the OhioCorps Pilot Program to provide at-risk students living in Ohio with guidance toward a pathway to higher education through mentorship programs administered by eligible state institutions of higher education. Those institutions are state universities, technical colleges, state community colleges, and community colleges. An at-risk student, under the bill, is a primary or secondary

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the House Finance Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the list of co-sponsors and the legislative history may be incomplete.

school student who is at least 13 years old. The student also must meet one of the following conditions:

(1) The student is eligible for a free or reduced price lunch under federal law;

(2) The student would have an expected family contribution for higher education of zero dollars, as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, in grade 12; or

(3) The student is impacted by family opioid addiction or has entered into recovery for opioid addiction, as those terms are as defined by the Chancellor.¹

OhioCorps mentorship program

Not later than 90 days after the bill's effective date, the Chancellor must adopt rules to administer the OhioCorps mentorship program.²

Rules for program proposals

The bill specifies that the rules for each mentorship program proposal must include:

(1) A service-learning component for students enrolled in an eligible state institution of higher education that allows them to mentor at-risk students, and to help the at-risk students' parents on any of the following topics: (a) preparing for college and career planning, (b) tutoring in reading, writing, and math, and (c) opioid and drug education programs.

(2) A plan for training student mentors, including seminars on financial literacy, opioid addiction education best practices, career guidance, and tutor skills. The plan also may include other elements of community service within service-learning beyond mentoring opportunities.

(3) A stipend to be paid to the student mentors in an amount determined by each institution.

(4) A plan for how eligible state institutions will partner with local providers and existing programs, such as AmeriCorps and the Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism, to create training, programs, and service-learning opportunities.

¹ R.C. 3333.80(A) and (B).

² R.C. 3333.80(C).

(5) Criminal records checks and adherence to the recommended best practices adopted by the Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism regarding volunteers with unsupervised access to children. However, a program must not require an individual to comply with the criminal records check provision or any screening procedures, if the individual has already undergone a criminal records check as part of the individual's current participation in an AmeriCorps program or an existing program connected to the Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism.

An eligible state institution of higher education also may include in its mentorship program summer learning camps or programs at the institution that provide higher education experiences and College Credit Plus program opportunities offered in the summer specifically for at-risk students. Such summer learning camps or programs may be offered in any region of the state.³

Administration rules

The Chancellor's rules also must contain:

(1) Procedures for an eligible state institution of higher education to apply for a mentorship program, including application deadlines; and

(2) A method to determine the amount of funding awarded for each approved mentorship program.⁴

Report

The Chancellor must submit a report to the General Assembly at the end of the 2020-2021 school year regarding the implementation and outcomes of the OhioCorps Pilot Program.⁵

OhioCorps Scholarship

The bill establishes the OhioCorps Scholarship to provide a one-time reward of \$1,000 to eligible at-risk students. The Chancellor may, however, adjust the amount of each scholarship awarded based on the availability of funds appropriated by the General Assembly and other funds remaining in the OhioCorps Fund (see below). The scholarship will be paid to the eligible state institution of higher education at which the eligible at-risk student enrolls, and will be credited to the student.

³ R.C. 3333.80(C)(1)

⁴ R.C. 3333.80(C)(2) and (3).

⁵ R.C. 3333.80(D).

To be eligible for an OhioCorps Scholarship, an at-risk student must do all of the following:

(1) Fully participate in a mentorship program administered by an eligible state institution of higher education for as long as such a program is in existence, or until the student completes high school;

(2) Enroll in an eligible state institution of higher education;

(3) Either, (a) demonstrate that the student's expected family contribution for higher education would equal zero dollars in grade 12, as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), or (b) receive a letter which indicates that the student is in recovery for opioid addiction or impacted by family opioid addiction (see "**Opioid impact letter**" below).

(4) Achieve either, (a) a score that meets remediation-free standards on a nationally standardized assessment that measures college and career readiness and is used for college admission, or (b) a high school cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale;

(5) Complete a college preparatory curriculum, as determined by the Chancellor;

(6) Complete a community service training program offered by a local partner and complete at least 40 hours of community service for each school year that the student is enrolled in high school; and

(7) Participate in the College Credit Plus program, and under that program receive a passing grade in at least one course each of English language arts and math.⁶

Opioid impact letter

A student's letter indicating that the student is in recovery for opioid addiction or impacted by family opioid addiction must be written by a teacher, administrator, judge, case worker, police officer, healthcare professional, cleric, employee of a county department of Job and Family Services who is a professional and who works with children and families, or another individual from a public entity approved by the Chancellor. The at-risk student must submit the letter to the student's school district or school. A district or school in possession of such a letter must treat it as a student record

⁶ R.C. 3333.801.

in accordance with state student privacy laws and must make it available to the Chancellor upon request in accordance with those laws.⁷

OhioCorps Fund

The bill establishes the OhioCorps Fund, which consists of amounts appropriated by the General Assembly, the federal government, or other sources.

The fund must be used to award OhioCorps scholarships and to assist eligible state institutions of higher education in establishing and administering mentorship programs. The Fund also may be used by the Chancellor to implement and administer the OhioCorps Pilot Program.⁸

Appropriation

The bill appropriates \$2.5 million from the General Revenue Fund to the OhioCorps Fund specially to assist eligible state institutions of higher education in establishing and administering OhioCorps mentorship programs. No amount is appropriated for the OhioCorps Scholarship program. Up to \$50,000 of the total appropriation may be used by the Chancellor to implement and administer the OhioCorps Pilot Program.⁹

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	02-13-18
Reported, H. Finance	---

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⁷ R.C. 3333.801(A)(3)(b). See R.C. 3319.321, not in the bill.

⁸ R.C. 3333.802.

⁹ Sections (2), (3), and (4).

