

(b) "Exceeds state standards" for a performance rating of four stars or four and one-half stars;

(c) "Meets state standards" for a performance rating of three stars or three and one-half stars;

(d) "Needs support to meet state standards" for a performance rating of two stars or two and one-half stars;

(e) "Needs significant support to meet state standards" for a performance rating of one star or one and one-half stars.

(3) For performance ratings for each component under divisions (D)(3)(a) to (f) of this section, the department shall include a description of each component and performance rating. The description shall include component-specific context to each performance rating earned, estimated comparisons to other school districts and buildings if appropriate, and any other information determined by the department. The descriptions shall be not longer than twenty-five words in length when possible. In addition to such descriptions, the department shall include the descriptors in division (F)(2) of this section for component performance ratings.

(4) Each report card issued under this section shall include all of the following:

(a) A graphic that depicts the performance ratings of a district or school on a color scale. The color associated with a performance rating of three stars shall be green and the color associated with a performance rating of one star shall be red.

(b) An arrow graphic that shows data trends for performance ratings for school districts or buildings. The department shall determine the data to be used for this graphic, which shall include at least the three most recent years of data.

(c) A description regarding the weights that are assigned to each component and used to determine an overall performance rating, as prescribed under division (D)(3)(g) of this section, which shall be included in the presentation of the overall performance rating on each report card.

(G) When reporting data on student achievement and progress, the department shall disaggregate that data according to the following categories:

(1) Performance of students by grade-level;

(2) Performance of students by race and ethnic group;

(3) Performance of students by gender;

(4) Performance of students grouped by those who have been enrolled in a district or school for three or more years;

(5) Performance of students grouped by those who have been enrolled in a district or school for more than one year and less than three years;

(6) Performance of students grouped by those who have been enrolled in a district or school for one year or less;

(7) Performance of students grouped by those who are economically disadvantaged;

(8) Performance of students grouped by those who are enrolled in a conversion community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code;

(9) Performance of students grouped by those who are classified as English learners;

(10) Performance of students grouped by those who have disabilities;

(11) Performance of students grouped by those who are classified as migrants;

(12) Performance of students grouped by those who are identified as gifted in superior cognitive ability and the specific academic ability fields of reading and math pursuant to Chapter 3324. of the Revised Code. In disaggregating specific academic ability fields for gifted students, the department shall use data for those students with specific academic ability in math and reading. If any other academic field is assessed, the department shall also include data for students with specific academic ability in that field as well.

(13) Performance of students grouped by those who perform in the lowest quintile for achievement on a statewide basis, as determined by a method prescribed by the department.

The department may disaggregate data on student performance according to other categories that the department determines are appropriate. To the extent possible, the department shall disaggregate data on student performance according to any combinations of two or more of the categories listed in divisions (G)(1) to (13) of this section that it deems relevant.

In reporting data pursuant to division (G) of this section, the department shall not include in the report cards any data statistical in nature that is statistically unreliable or that could result in the identification of individual students. For this purpose, the department shall not report student performance data for any group identified in division (G) of this section that contains less than ten students. If the department does not report student performance data for a group because it contains less than ten students, the department shall indicate on the report card that is why data was not reported.

(H) The department may include with the report cards any additional education and fiscal performance data it deems valuable.

(I) The department shall include on each report card a list of additional information collected by the department that is available regarding the district or building for which the report card is issued. When available, such additional information shall include student mobility data disaggregated by race and socioeconomic status, college enrollment data, and the reports prepared under section 3302.031 of the Revised Code.

The department shall maintain a site on the world wide web. The report card shall include the address of the site and shall specify that such additional information is available to the public at that site. The department shall also provide a copy of each item on the list to the superintendent of each school district. The district superintendent shall provide a copy of any item on the list to anyone who requests it.

(J)(1)(a) Except as provided in division (J)(1)(b) of this section, for any district that sponsors a conversion community school under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code, the department shall combine data regarding the academic performance of students enrolled in the community school with comparable data from the schools of the district for the purpose of determining the performance

of the district as a whole on the report card issued for the district under this section or section 3302.033 of the Revised Code.

(b) The department shall not combine data from any conversion community school that a district sponsors if ~~a majority of the students enrolled in the conversion community school are enrolled in~~ is a dropout prevention and recovery ~~program that is operated by the community school,~~ as ~~described in division (B)(1) of~~ defined in section 3314.35-3314.02 of the Revised Code. The department shall include as an addendum to the district's report card the ratings and performance measures that are required under section 3314.017 of the Revised Code for any community school to which division (J)(1)(b) of this section applies. This addendum shall include, at a minimum, the data specified in divisions (C)(1)(a), (C)(2), and (C)(3) of section 3314.017 of the Revised Code.

(2) Any district that leases a building to a community school located in the district or that enters into an agreement with a community school located in the district whereby the district and the school endorse each other's programs may elect to have data regarding the academic performance of students enrolled in the community school combined with comparable data from the schools of the district for the purpose of determining the performance of the district as a whole on the district report card. Any district that so elects shall annually file a copy of the lease or agreement with the department.

(3) Any municipal school district, as defined in section 3311.71 of the Revised Code, that sponsors a community school located within the district's territory, or that enters into an agreement with a community school located within the district's territory whereby the district and the community school endorse each other's programs, may exercise either or both of the following elections:

(a) To have data regarding the academic performance of students enrolled in that community school combined with comparable data from the schools of the district for the purpose of determining the performance of the district as a whole on the district's report card;

(b) To have the number of students attending that community school noted separately on the district's report card.

The election authorized under division (J)(3)(a) of this section is subject to approval by the governing authority of the community school.

Any municipal school district that exercises an election to combine or include data under division (J)(3) of this section, by the first day of October of each year, shall file with the department documentation indicating eligibility for that election, as required by the department.

(K) The department shall include on each report card the percentage of teachers in the district or building who are properly certified or licensed teachers, as defined in section 3319.074 of the Revised Code, and a comparison of that percentage with the percentages of such teachers in similar districts and buildings.

(L)(1) In calculating English language arts, mathematics, science, American history, or American government assessment passage rates used to determine school district or building

performance under this section, the department shall include all students taking an assessment with accommodation or to whom an alternate assessment is administered pursuant to division (C)(1) or (3) of section 3301.0711 of the Revised Code and all students who take substitute examinations approved under division (B)(4) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code in the subject areas of science, American history and American government.

(2) In calculating performance index scores, rates of achievement on the performance indicators established by the department under section 3302.02 of the Revised Code, and annual measurable objectives for determining adequate yearly progress for school districts and buildings under this section, the department shall do all of the following:

(a) Include for each district or building only those students who are included in the ADM certified for the first full school week of October and are continuously enrolled in the district or building through the time of the spring administration of any assessment prescribed by division (A)(1) or (B)(1) of section 3301.0710 or division (B) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code that is administered to the student's grade level;

(b) Include cumulative totals from both the fall and spring administrations of the third grade English language arts achievement assessment and, to the extent possible, the summer administration of that assessment;

(c) Include for each district or building any English learner in accordance with the department's plan, as approved by the United States secretary of education, to comply with the "Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965," 20 U.S.C. 6311 to 6339.

As used in this section, "English learner" has the same meaning as in section 3301.0731 of the Revised Code.

(M) Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year and at least once every three years thereafter, the department shall review and may adjust the benchmarks for assigning letter grades or performance ratings to the performance measures and components prescribed under divisions (C)(3), (D), and (E) of this section.

Sec. 3302.034. (A) The department of education and workforce shall adopt and specify measures in addition to those included on the report card issued under section 3302.03 of the Revised Code. The measures adopted under this section shall be reported separately, as specified under division (B) of this section, for each school district, each building in a district, each community school established under Chapter 3314., each STEM school established under Chapter 3326., and each college-preparatory boarding school established under Chapter 3328. of the Revised Code. The measures shall include at least the following:

(1) Data for students who have passed over a grade or subject area under an acceleration policy prescribed under section 3324.10 of the Revised Code;

(2) The number of students who are economically disadvantaged as determined by the department;

(3) The number of lead teachers employed by each district and each building once the data is

available through the education management information system established under section 3301.0714 of the Revised Code;

(4) The amount of students screened and identified as gifted under Chapter 3324. of the Revised Code;

(5) Postgraduate student outcome data ~~as described under division (E)(2)(d)(ii) of section 3314.017 of the Revised Code~~, including postsecondary credit earned, nationally recognized career or technical certification, military enlistment, job placement, and attendance rate;

(6) Availability of courses in fine arts;

(7) Participation with other school districts to provide career-technical education services to students.

(B) The department shall report this information annually beginning with the 2013-2014 school year and make this information available on its web site for comparison purposes.

Sec. 3302.20. (A) The department of education and workforce shall develop standards for determining, from the existing data reported in accordance with sections 3301.0714 and 3314.17 of the Revised Code, the amount of annual operating expenditures for classroom instructional purposes and for nonclassroom purposes for each city, exempted village, local, and joint vocational school district, each community school established under Chapter 3314. that is not an internet- or computer-based community school, each internet- or computer-based community school, and each STEM school established under Chapter 3326. of the Revised Code. In developing the standards, the department shall adapt existing standards used by professional organizations, research organizations, and other state governments. The department also shall align the expenditure categories required for reporting under the standards with the categories that are required for reporting to the United States department of education under federal law.

(B)(1) The department shall categorize all city, exempted village, and local school districts into not less than three nor more than five groups based primarily on average daily student enrollment as reported on the most recent report card issued for each district under section 3302.03 of the Revised Code.

(2) The department shall categorize all joint vocational school districts into not less than three nor more than five groups based primarily on enrolled ADM as that term is defined in section 3317.02 of the Revised Code rounded to the nearest whole number.

(3) The department shall categorize all community schools that are not internet- or computer-based community schools into not less than three nor more than five groups based primarily on average daily student enrollment as reported on the most recent report card issued for each community school under sections 3302.03 and 3314.012 of the Revised Code or, in the case of a school to which section 3314.017 of the Revised Code applies, on the total number of students reported under divisions (B)(1) and (2) of section 3314.08 of the Revised Code.

(4) The department shall categorize all internet- or computer-based community schools into a single category.

(5) The department shall categorize all STEM schools into a single category.

(C) Using the standards adopted under division (A) of this section and the data reported under sections 3301.0714 and 3314.17 of the Revised Code, the department shall compute annually for each fiscal year, the following:

(1) The percentage of each district's, community school's, or STEM school's total operating budget spent for classroom instructional purposes;

(2) The statewide average percentage for all districts, community schools, and STEM schools combined spent for classroom instructional purposes;

(3) The average percentage for each of the categories of districts and schools established under division (B) of this section spent for classroom instructional purposes;

(4) The ranking of each district, community school, or STEM school within its respective category established under division (B) of this section according to the following:

(a) From highest to lowest percentage spent for classroom instructional purposes;

(b) From lowest to highest percentage spent for noninstructional purposes.

(5) The total operating expenditures per pupil for each district, community school, and STEM school;

(6) The total operating expenditure per equivalent pupils for each district, community school, and STEM school.

(D) In its display of rankings within each category under division (C)(4) of this section, the department shall make the following notations:

(1) Within each category of city, exempted village, and local school districts, the department shall denote each district that is:

(a) Among the twenty per cent of all city, exempted village, and local school districts statewide with the lowest total operating expenditure per equivalent pupils;

(b) Among the twenty per cent of all city, exempted village, and local school districts statewide with the highest performance index scores.

(2) Within each category of joint vocational school districts, the department shall denote each district that is:

(a) Among the twenty per cent of all joint vocational school districts statewide with the lowest total operating expenditure per equivalent pupils;

(b) Among the twenty per cent of all joint vocational school districts statewide with the highest report card scores under section 3302.033 of the Revised Code.

(3) Within each category of community schools that are not internet- or computer-based community schools, the department shall denote each school that is:

(a) Among the twenty per cent of all such community schools statewide with the lowest total operating expenditure per equivalent pupils;

(b) Among the twenty per cent of all such community schools statewide with the highest performance index scores, excluding such community schools to which section 3314.017 of the

Revised Code applies.

(4) Within the category of internet- or computer-based community schools, the department shall denote each school that is:

(a) Among the twenty per cent of all such community schools statewide with the lowest total operating expenditure per equivalent pupils;

(b) Among the twenty per cent of all such community schools statewide with the highest performance index scores, excluding such community schools to which section 3314.017 of the Revised Code applies.

(5) Within the category of STEM schools, the department shall denote each school that is:

(a) Among the twenty per cent of all STEM schools statewide with the lowest total operating expenditure per equivalent pupils;

(b) Among the twenty per cent of all STEM schools statewide with the highest performance index scores.

For purposes of divisions (D)(3)(b) and (4)(b) of this section, the display shall note that, in accordance with section 3314.017 of the Revised Code, a performance index score is not reported for some ~~community schools that serve primarily students enrolled in dropout prevention and recovery programs~~ community schools.

(E) The department shall post in a prominent location on its web site the information prescribed by divisions (C) and (D) of this section. The department also shall include on each district's, community school's, and STEM school's annual report card issued under section 3302.03 or 3314.017 of the Revised Code the respective information computed for the district or school under divisions (C)(1) and (4) of this section, the statewide information computed under division (C)(2) of this section, and the information computed for the district's or school's category under division (C)(3) of this section.

(F) As used in this section:

(1) "Internet- or computer-based community school" has the same meaning as in section 3314.02 of the Revised Code.

(2) A school district's, community school's, or STEM school's performance index score rank is its performance index score rank as computed under section 3302.21 of the Revised Code.

(3) "Expenditure per equivalent pupils" has the same meaning as in section 3302.26 of the Revised Code.

(4) "Dropout prevention and recovery community school" has the same meaning as in section 3314.02 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3302.42. As used in this section, "online learning" has the same meaning as in section 3301.079 of the Revised Code.

(A) Any local, city, exempted village, or joint vocational school district, with approval of the department of education and workforce, may operate a school using an online learning model. If a school is operated using an online learning model or is to cease operating using an online learning

model, the superintendent of the district shall notify the department of that fact not later than the first day of July of the school year for which the change is effective. If any school district school is currently operated using an online learning model on September 30, 2021, the superintendent of the district shall notify the department within sixty days after September 30, 2021, of that fact and request that the school be classified as an online learning school.

(1) Districts shall assign all students engaged in online learning to a single school which the department shall designate as a district online school.

(2) Districts shall provide all students engaged in online learning a computer, at no cost, for instructional use. Districts shall provide a filtering device or install filtering software that protects against internet access to materials that are obscene or harmful to juveniles on each computer provided to students for instructional use.

(3) Districts shall provide all students engaged in online learning access to the internet, at no cost, for instructional use.

(4) Districts that operate an online learning school shall provide a comprehensive orientation for students and their parents or guardians prior to enrollment or within thirty days for students enrolled as of September 30, 2021.

(5) Online learning schools operated by a district shall implement a learning management system that tracks the time students participate in online learning activities. All student learning activities completed while off-line shall be documented with all participation records checked and approved by the teacher of record.

(6) Districts may employ teachers and nonteaching employees necessary to carry out its duties and fulfill its responsibilities under this section or may contract with a nonprofit or for-profit entity to operate the online learning school, including the provision of personnel, related services, curriculum, supplies, equipment, or facilities.

(B) The department shall revise any operating standards for school districts adopted under section 3301.07 of the Revised Code to include standards for the operation of online learning under this section. The online learning operation standards shall provide for all of the following:

(1) Student-to-teacher ratios whereby no school or classroom is required to have more than one teacher for every one hundred twenty-five students in online learning classrooms;

(2) The ability of all students, at any grade level, to earn credits or advance grade levels upon demonstrating mastery of knowledge or skills through competency-based learning models. Credits or grade level advancement shall not be based on a minimum number of days or hours in a classroom.

(3) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in section 3313.48 of the Revised Code, a requirement that schools operating using an online learning model have an annual instructional calendar of not less than nine hundred ten hours.

(a) For funding purposes, the department shall reduce the full-time equivalence proportionally for any student in an online learning school who participates in less than nine hundred

ten hours per school year. The department shall reduce state funding for students assigned to an online learning school operated by a district commensurate with such adjustments to enrollment.

(b) The department shall develop a review process and make all adjustments of state funding to districts to reflect any participation of students in online learning schools for less than the equivalent of a full school year.

(4) Adequate provisions for: the licensing of teachers, administrators, and other professional personnel and their assignment according to training and qualifications; efficient and effective instructional materials and equipment, including library facilities; the proper organization, administration, and supervision of each school, including regulations for preparing all necessary records and reports and the preparation of a statement of policies and objectives for each school; buildings, grounds, and health and sanitary facilities and services; admission of pupils, and such requirements for their promotion from grade to grade as will ensure that they are capable and prepared for the level of study to which they are certified; requirements for graduation; and such other factors as the board finds necessary.

(C) This section does not affect any provisions for the operation of and payments to an internet- or computer-based community school prescribed in Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3305.05. (A) As used in this section and section 3305.051 of the Revised Code, "academic or administrative employee" means any full-time employee not receiving any benefit, allowance, or other payment granted on the employee's account from a state retirement system who, before August 1, 2005, met one of the following requirements:

(1) The employee was a member of the faculty of a public institution of higher education.

(2) The employee was a member of the administrative staff of a public institution of higher education serving in a position in the unclassified civil service pursuant to section 124.11 of the Revised Code.

(3) If section 124.11 of the Revised Code did not apply to the public institution of higher education, the employee was a member of the administrative staff of a public institution of higher education serving in a position comparable to a position in the unclassified civil service.

In all cases of doubt, the board of trustees of the public institution of higher education shall determine whether any person is an academic or administrative employee for purposes of this chapter, and the board's decision shall be final.

(B)(1) Each person who, on August 1, 2005, is an eligible employee of a public institution of higher education and has accrued less than five years of service credit in a state retirement system may, not later than one hundred twenty days after August 1, 2005, make an election to participate in an alternative retirement plan available at the employing public institution, unless, prior to August 1, 2005, the person had an opportunity pursuant to former section 3305.05 of the Revised Code to make such an election as an academic or administrative employee of that public institution of higher education.

(2) An eligible employee whose employment with a public institution of higher education

commences on or after August 1, 2005, may, not later than one hundred twenty days after the starting date of the employment, make an election to participate in an alternative retirement plan available at the employing public institution.

(3) An eligible employee who, on or after August 1, 2005, terminates employment at one public institution of higher education and subsequently is employed by another public institution of higher education in a position for which an alternative retirement plan is available may, not later than one hundred twenty days after the starting date of the employment, elect to participate in an alternative retirement plan available at that public institution.

(C)(1) An eligible employee who makes an election to participate in an alternative retirement plan under division (B) of this section shall ~~submit~~make the election in writing and sign the election. The public institution of higher education employing the eligible employee may permit the employee to sign the election by electronic signature. The employee shall submit the election to the designated officer of the employee's employing public institution of higher education. Once submitted, the election is irrevocable while the eligible employee continues to be employed by the public institution of higher education. Not later than ten days after the election becomes irrevocable, the officer shall file a certified copy of the election with the state retirement system to which, apart from the election, the employee's employment would be subject.

Each public institution of higher education that employs a person eligible to make an election under division (B) of this section shall notify, in writing, the state retirement system that applies to that employment in the manner specified by that state retirement system. The notice shall include the person's name and address. The notice shall be given not later than ten days after the first date the person is on the institution's payroll.

(2) Elections made under division (B) of this section take effect as follows:

(a) An election under division (B)(1) of this section is effective as of the date on which the employee's election to participate in the alternative retirement plan becomes irrevocable.

(b) An election under division (B)(2) or (3) of this section is effective as of the electing employee's starting date of employment.

(3) An eligible employee's election under division (B) of this section applies to the employee's employment in all positions at that public institution, unless the employee terminates employment at the public institution and does not return to employment in any position at that public institution for at least three hundred sixty-five days after the date of termination.

(4) An eligible employee who makes an election under division (B) of this section is forever barred from claiming or purchasing service credit under any state retirement system for the period of employment while the election is in effect.

(D)(1) An eligible employee who fails to make an election under division (B) of this section within the one-hundred-twenty day election period shall be deemed to have elected to participate in the state retirement system that applies to the employee's employment.

(2) An eligible employee who fails to make an election under division (B) of this section

shall not be permitted to make an election for employment in any other position at the public institution of higher education while employed at that public institution, unless the employee terminates employment at the public institution and does not return to employment in any position at the public institution for at least three hundred sixty-five days after the date of termination.

Sec. 3305.053. (A) The board of trustees of a public institution of higher education shall permit an employee who makes an election under section 3305.05 or 3305.051 of the Revised Code to do ~~all both~~ of the following:

~~(A)(1)~~ Select, from among the providers that have entered into an agreement with the public institution of higher education under section 3305.04 of the Revised Code, the provider of an investment option for that employee;

~~(B)(2)~~ Subject to any terms and conditions established by the public institution of higher education, change the provider selected under division ~~(A)(A)(1)~~ of this section any time during the plan year.

(B) A public institution of higher education may allow an employee who seeks to change the employee's provider under division (A)(2) of this section to sign a form to change providers by electronic signature.

(C) If under division ~~(B)(A)(2)~~ of this section an employee changes providers, the employee may direct the provider to transfer to the new provider the employee's account balance either in whole or in part, as directed by the employee, except that the provider is not required to immediately transfer any part of the account invested at the employee's election in a fixed annuity account if the contract with the employee under which the investment was made permits the provider to make such a transfer over a period of time not exceeding ten years and the contract was filed with and approved by the department of insurance pursuant to section 3911.011 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3307.044. The state teachers retirement board shall appoint a committee to oversee the selection of an internal auditor. The committee shall select one or more persons for employment as an internal auditor. The board shall employ the person or persons selected by the committee.

The committee shall consist of the following board members: ~~one retiree~~ the retired teacher member, one contributing member, one ex officio member, and any additional board members appointed to the committee by the board. The committee shall annually prepare and submit to the Ohio retirement study council a report of its actions during the preceding year.

Sec. 3307.05. (A) The state teachers retirement board shall consist of the following members:

~~(A)(1)~~ The director of education and workforce or a designee of the director who has the following qualifications:

~~(1)(a)~~ The designee is a resident of this state.

~~(2)(b)~~ Within the three years immediately preceding the appointment, the designee has not been employed by the public employees retirement system, police and fire pension fund, state teachers retirement system, school employees retirement system, or state highway patrol retirement

system or by any person, partnership, or corporation that has provided to one of those retirement systems services of a financial or investment nature, including the management, analysis, supervision, or investment of assets.

~~(3)(c)~~ The designee has direct experience in the management, analysis, supervision, or investment of assets.

~~(B) One member~~(2) The chancellor of higher education or a designee of the chancellor who has the following qualifications:

(a) The designee is a resident of this state.

(b) Within the three years immediately preceding the appointment, the designee has not been employed by the public employees retirement system, police and fire pension fund, state teachers retirement system, school employees retirement system, or state highway patrol retirement system or by any person, partnership, or corporation that has provided to one of those retirement systems services of a financial or investment nature, including the management, analysis, supervision, or investment of assets.

(c) The designee has direct experience in the management, analysis, supervision, or investment of assets.

(3) Two members, known as the treasurer of state's investment designees, who shall be appointed by the treasurer of state for a term of four years unless removed or replaced by the treasurer of state pursuant to division (B) of this section, and who have the following qualifications:

~~(1)(a)~~ The member is a resident members are residents of this state.

~~(2)(b)~~ Within the three years immediately preceding the appointment, the member has members have not been employed by the public employees retirement system, police and fire pension fund, state teachers retirement system, school employees retirement system, or state highway patrol retirement system or by any person, partnership, or corporation that has provided to one of those retirement systems services of a financial or investment nature, including management, analysis, supervision, or investment of assets.

~~(3)(c)~~ The member has members have direct experience in the management, analysis, supervision, or investment of assets.

~~(4)(d)~~ The member is members are not currently employed by the state or a political subdivision of the state.

(e) The members do not have contributions on deposit with the state teachers retirement system.

~~(C) Two~~(4) Four members, known as the investment expert members, who shall be appointed for four-year terms unless removed or replaced by the appointing authority pursuant to division (B) of this section. One investment expert member shall be appointed by the governor, and one investment expert member shall be jointly appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate, one investment expert member shall be appointed by

the speaker of the house of representatives, and one investment expert member shall be appointed by the president of the senate. Each investment expert member shall have the following qualifications:

(1)(a) Each member shall be a resident of this state.

(2)(b) Within the three years immediately preceding the appointment, each member shall not have been employed by the public employees retirement system, police and fire pension fund, state teachers retirement system, school employees retirement system, or state highway patrol retirement system or by any person, partnership, or corporation that has provided to one of those retirement systems services of a financial or investment nature, including the management, analysis, supervision, or investment of assets.

(3)(c) Each member shall have direct experience in the management, analysis, supervision, or investment of assets.

(d) No member shall have contributions on deposit with the state teachers retirement system.

Any investment expert member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall hold office until the end of such term. The member shall continue in office subsequent to the expiration date of the member's term until the member's successor takes office, or until a period of sixty days has elapsed, whichever occurs first.

~~(D) Five~~ (5) Two members, known as contributing members, who shall be members of the state teachers retirement system;

~~(E) Two~~ (6) One former ~~members-member~~ of the system, known as ~~the~~ retired teacher ~~members-member~~, who shall be ~~superannuates~~ a superannuate.

(B) Notwithstanding section 3307.061 of the Revised Code, each appointed member of the board serves at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

Sec. 3307.06. (A) ~~Annually on~~ On the first Monday of May ~~of each even-numbered year,~~ one contributing member, as defined in division ~~(D)(A)(5)~~ of section 3307.05 of the Revised Code, shall be elected by ballot to the state teachers retirement board, ~~except that, beginning with the annual election for contributing members in May, 1978, and in the annual election of each fourth year thereafter, two contributing members shall be elected to the board.~~ Elected contributing members shall begin their respective terms of office on the first day of September following their election and shall serve for a term of four years.

(B) The retired teacher ~~members-member~~ of the board, as defined in division ~~(E)(A)(6)~~ of section 3307.05 of the Revised Code, shall be elected for a term of four years. The retired teacher ~~members-member~~ shall be elected to the board at the ~~annual~~ election for contributing members of the board, as provided in division (A) of this section, in the year in which the term of the current retired teacher ~~members-member~~ would expire. The retired teacher ~~members-member~~ shall begin ~~their~~ their respective terms-the member's term of office on the first day of September following ~~their-the~~ the member's election.

No contributing member of the board who retires while a member of the board shall be

eligible to become a retired teacher member of the board for three years after the date of the member's retirement.

(C) Except as provided in division (E) of this section, if a vacancy occurs during the term of office of any elected member of the board, the remaining members of the board shall elect a successor member. On certification of the election results in accordance with rules adopted under section 3307.075 of the Revised Code the successor member shall hold office until the first day of the new term that follows the next board election that occurs not less than ninety days after the successor member's election, or until the end of the term for which the successor member was elected, whichever is sooner. The successor member shall qualify for board membership under the same division of section 3307.05 of the Revised Code as the member's predecessor in office. Elections under this division shall be conducted in accordance with rules adopted under section 3307.075 of the Revised Code.

(D) If as a result of changed circumstances an elected member of the board would no longer qualify for board membership under that division of section 3307.05 of the Revised Code on the basis of which the member was elected, or if such a member fails to attend the meetings of the board for four months or longer without being excused, the member's position on the board shall be considered vacant, and a successor member shall be elected under this division for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(E) A successor member need not be elected under division (C) of this section to fill a vacancy if on the day the vacancy occurs less than ninety days remain in the vacated term.

Sec. 3307.07. All elections of members of the state teachers retirement board shall be held under the direction of the board in accordance with rules adopted under section 3307.075 of the Revised Code. Any member of the state teachers retirement system, who has been nominated by a petition that is signed by five hundred or more members of the system and certified in accordance with rules adopted under section 3307.075 of the Revised Code, shall be eligible for election as a contributing member of the board. The petition shall contain the signatures of twenty or more members of the system from each of at least ten counties wherein members of the system are employed.

Any retired teacher who is a superannuate and a resident of Ohio is eligible for election as a retired teacher member of the board, if such retired teacher has been nominated by a petition that is signed by five hundred or more retired teachers, who are also superannuates, and certified in accordance with rules adopted under section 3307.075 of the Revised Code. The petition shall contain the signatures of twenty or more retired teachers from each of at least ten counties wherein superannuates under the system reside.

The board shall place the name of any eligible candidate upon the appropriate ballot as a regular candidate. At any election, qualified voters, as defined in this section, may vote for the regular candidates or for other eligible candidates, in which case the names of such persons shall be written upon the appropriate ballots, except that members of the system and former members of the

system who are superannuates shall vote respectively for contributing members and the retired teacher ~~members~~ member of the board. The candidate who receives the highest number of votes for any term of office shall be elected to the board on certification of the election results in accordance with rules adopted under section 3307.075 of the Revised Code. ~~If, at any election, contributing members or retired teacher members are to be elected for concurrent terms, eligible candidates shall be placed on the ballot, and the candidates who receive the highest numbers of votes shall be elected to the board on certification of the election results in accordance with rules adopted under section 3307.075 of the Revised Code.~~

Elected members of the board shall be elected on the basis of the total number of ballots cast by qualified voters, who shall consist of members of the system and former members of the system who are superannuates.

Sec. 3307.073. (A) No person shall knowingly fail to file a complete and accurate campaign finance statement or independent expenditure statement in accordance with section 3307.072 of the Revised Code.

(B) No person, during the course of a person seeking nomination for, and during any campaign for, election to the state teachers retirement board, shall knowingly and with intent to affect the nomination or the outcome of the campaign do any of the following by means of campaign materials, an advertisement on radio or television or in a newspaper or periodical, a public speech, press release, or otherwise:

(1) With regard to a candidate, identify the candidate in a manner that implies that the candidate is a member of the board or use the term "re-elect" when the candidate is not currently a member of the board;

(2) Make a false statement concerning the formal schooling or training completed or attempted by a candidate; a degree, diploma, certificate, scholarship, grant, award, prize, or honor received, earned, or held by a candidate; or the period of time during which a candidate attended any school, college, community technical school, or institution;

(3) Make a false statement concerning the professional, occupational, or vocational licenses held by a candidate, or concerning any position the candidate held for which the candidate received a salary or wages;

(4) Make a false statement that a candidate or board member has been indicted or convicted of a theft offense, extortion, or other crime involving financial corruption or moral turpitude;

(5) Make a statement that a candidate has been indicted for any crime or has been the subject of a finding by the Ohio elections commission, the secretary of state, or the Ohio election integrity commission without disclosing the outcome of any legal proceedings resulting from the indictment or finding;

(6) Make a false statement that a candidate or board member has a record of treatment or confinement for mental disorder;

(7) Make a false statement that a candidate or board member has been subjected to military

discipline for criminal misconduct or dishonorably discharged from the armed services;

(8) Falsely identify the source of a statement, issue statements under the name of another person without authorization, or falsely state the endorsement of or opposition to a candidate by a person or publication;

(9) Make a false statement concerning the voting record of a candidate or board member;

(10) Post, publish, circulate, distribute, or otherwise disseminate a false statement concerning a candidate, either knowing the same to be false or with reckless disregard of whether it was false or not, if the statement is designed to promote the election, nomination, or defeat of the candidate.

~~Sec. 3307.074. The secretary of state, or any person acting on personal knowledge and subject to the penalties of perjury, may file a A complaint with the Ohio elections commission alleging a violation of section 3307.073 of the Revised Code may be filed in accordance with section 3517.16 of the Revised Code. The complaint shall be made on a form prescribed and provided by the commission.~~

~~On receipt of a complaint under this section, the commission shall hold a hearing open to the public to determine whether the violation alleged in the complaint has occurred. The commission may administer oaths and issue subpoenas to any person in the state compelling the attendance of witnesses and the production of relevant papers, books, accounts, and reports. On the refusal of any person to obey a subpoena or to be sworn or to answer as a witness, the commission may apply to the court of common pleas of Franklin county under section 2705.03 of the Revised Code. The court shall hold contempt proceedings in accordance with Chapter 2705. of the Revised Code.~~

~~The commission shall provide the person accused of the violation at least seven days prior notice of the time, date, and place of the hearing. The accused may be represented by an attorney and shall have an opportunity to present evidence, call witnesses, and cross-examine witnesses.~~

~~At the hearing, the commission shall determine whether the violation alleged in the complaint has occurred. If the commission determines that a violation of division (A) of section 3307.073 of the Revised Code has occurred, the commission shall either impose a fine under section 3307.99 of the Revised Code or enter a finding that good cause has been shown not to impose the fine. If the commission determines that a violation of division (B) of section 3307.073 of the Revised Code has occurred, the commission shall impose the fine described in section 3307.99 of the Revised Code, refer the matter to the appropriate prosecutor, or enter a finding that good cause has been shown not to impose a fine or refer the matter to a prosecutor.~~

Sec. 3307.10. (A)(A)(1) The members of the state teachers retirement board holding office under divisions (A)(3) to (6) of section 3307.05 of the Revised Code, for their service on the board, are entitled to both of the following:

(a) Two hundred dollars for each regular board meeting attended, provided that no member shall be entitled to more than four hundred dollars per month, regardless of the number of regular board meetings held in a month;

(b) Health care benefits comparable to those generally available to employees of the state teachers retirement system.

(2) Except as provided in division (A)(3) of this section, the members of the board other than the appointed members described under division (A)(1) of this section shall serve without compensation, except that.

(3) All of the members of the board shall be reimbursed from the expense fund for all actual necessary expenses incurred while serving on the board.

(4) The payment to which a board member is entitled for attending a regular board meeting under division (A)(1)(a) of this section does not entitle the member to payment for attending a special meeting or a committee meeting of the board.

(5) Health care benefits provided to a board member under division (A)(1)(b) of this section shall be provided on the same terms and at the same cost as to employees of the system.

(B) The board may secure insurance coverage designed to indemnify board members and employees for their actions or conduct in the performance of official duties, and may pay required premiums for such coverage from the expense fund.

(C) If the officers of the board determine that a meeting of the entire membership, or any part thereof, is necessary, such determination shall be final, and contributing members shall be given time off from their employment to attend any such meeting. The employer of a contributing member shall not reduce the member's earned compensation as a teacher or any contribution required under section 3307.26 of the Revised Code, because of the contributing member's absence from employment to attend any such meeting.

The portion of the employer contribution required under section 3307.28 of the Revised Code that represents earned compensation of a contributing member paid for the period of an absence from employment to attend a board meeting, shall be annually transferred from the expense fund and forwarded to the employer of the contributing member.

(D) The board shall adopt rules in accordance with section 111.15 of the Revised Code establishing a policy for reimbursement of travel expenses incurred by board members in the performance of their official duties. As part of any audit performed under Chapter 117. of the Revised Code, an inquiry shall be made into whether board members have complied with these rules.

(E) No board member shall accept payment or reimbursement for travel expenses, other than for meals and other food and beverages provided to the member, from any source other than the expense fund. Except in the case of an emergency, no out-of-state travel expenses shall be reimbursed unless approved in advance by a majority of the board at a regular board meeting.

(F) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in sections 145.38, 742.26, 3307.35, or 3309.341 of the Revised Code, a board member's service on the board shall not forfeit the member's allowance or benefit under any of those sections.

Sec. 3307.11. The state teachers retirement board shall elect from its membership, a

chairperson and a vice-chairperson. A member of the board who has contributions on deposit with the state teachers retirement system is not eligible to serve as chairperson or vice-chairperson. The board shall employ an executive director who shall serve as secretary, and shall employ other persons necessary to operate the system and to fulfill the board's duties and responsibilities under Chapter 3307. of the Revised Code.

Effective ninety days after ~~the effective date of this amendment~~ September 15, 2004, the board may not employ a state retirement system investment officer, as defined in section 1707.01 of the Revised Code, who does not hold a valid state retirement system investment officer license issued by the division of securities in the department of commerce.

The compensation of all employees and all other expenses of the board necessary for the proper operation of the system shall be paid in such amounts as the board approves.

Every expense voucher of an employee, officer, or board member of the state teachers retirement system shall itemize all purchases and expenditures.

The board shall receive all applications for retirement under the plans described in section 3307.031 of the Revised Code, shall provide for the payment of all retirement allowances and other benefits payable under this chapter, and shall make other expenditures authorized by this chapter.

Sec. 3307.27. ~~The (A) Except as provided in division (B) of this section, the contributions required under section 3307.26 of the Revised Code may be paid by the employer in accordance with division (h) of section 414 of the "Internal Revenue Code of 1986," 100 Stat. 2085, 26 U.S.C.A. 414(h), as amended.~~

(B) The contributions required under section 3307.26 of the Revised Code shall not be paid by a school district board of education on behalf of a contributor employed by the school district as a superintendent or principal, but may be treated as paid by the school district board of education in accordance with division (h) of section 414 of the "Internal Revenue Code of 1986," 26 U.S.C. 414(h).

Sec. 3307.99. (A) Whoever violates division (A) of section 3307.073 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars for each day of the violation.

(B) Whoever violates division (B) of section 3307.073 of the Revised Code shall be imprisoned for not more than six months or fined not more than five thousand dollars, or both.

~~(C) Fines imposed by the Ohio elections commission under this section shall be paid into the Ohio elections commission fund created under section 3513.10 of the Revised Code.~~

Sec. 3309.073. (A) No person shall knowingly fail to file a complete and accurate campaign finance statement or independent expenditure statement in accordance with section 3309.072 of the Revised Code.

(B) No person, during the course of a person seeking nomination for, and during any campaign for, election to the school employees retirement board, shall knowingly and with intent to affect the nomination or the outcome of the campaign do any of the following by means of campaign materials, an advertisement on radio or television or in a newspaper or periodical, a public speech,

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press release, or otherwise:

(1) With regard to a candidate, identify the candidate in a manner that implies that the candidate is a member of the board or use the term "re-elect" when the candidate is not currently a member of the board;

(2) Make a false statement concerning the formal schooling or training completed or attempted by a candidate; a degree, diploma, certificate, scholarship, grant, award, prize, or honor received, earned, or held by a candidate; or the period of time during which a candidate attended any school, college, community technical school, or institution;

(3) Make a false statement concerning the professional, occupational, or vocational licenses held by a candidate, or concerning any position the candidate held for which the candidate received a salary or wages;

(4) Make a false statement that a candidate or board member has been indicted or convicted of a theft offense, extortion, or other crime involving financial corruption or moral turpitude;

(5) Make a statement that a candidate has been indicted for any crime or has been the subject of a finding by the Ohio elections commission, the secretary of state, or the Ohio election integrity commission without disclosing the outcome of any legal proceedings resulting from the indictment or finding;

(6) Make a false statement that a candidate or board member has a record of treatment or confinement for mental disorder;

(7) Make a false statement that a candidate or board member has been subjected to military discipline for criminal misconduct or dishonorably discharged from the armed services;

(8) Falsely identify the source of a statement, issue statements under the name of another person without authorization, or falsely state the endorsement of or opposition to a candidate by a person or publication;

(9) Make a false statement concerning the voting record of a candidate or board member;

(10) Post, publish, circulate, distribute, or otherwise disseminate a false statement concerning a candidate, either knowing the same to be false or with reckless disregard of whether it was false or not, if the statement is designed to promote the election, nomination, or defeat of the candidate.

~~Sec. 3309.074. The secretary of state, or any person acting on personal knowledge and subject to the penalties of perjury, may file a~~ A ~~complaint with the Ohio elections commission alleging a violation of section 3309.073 of the Revised Code~~ may be filed in accordance with section 3517.16 of the Revised Code. ~~The complaint shall be made on a form prescribed and provided by the commission.~~

~~A complaint shall be filed not later than two years after the occurrence of the act or failure to act that is the subject of the complaint, except that if the act or failure to act involves fraud, concealment, or misrepresentation and was not discovered during that two-year period, a complaint may be filed not later than one year after discovery of the act or failure to act.~~

~~On receipt of a complaint under this section, the commission shall hold a hearing open to the public to determine whether the violation alleged in the complaint has occurred. The commission may administer oaths and issue subpoenas to any person in the state compelling the attendance of witnesses and the production of relevant papers, books, accounts, and reports. On the refusal of any person to obey a subpoena or to be sworn or to answer as a witness, the commission may apply to the court of common pleas of Franklin county under section 2705.03 of the Revised Code. The court shall hold contempt proceedings in accordance with Chapter 2705. of the Revised Code.~~

~~The commission shall provide the person accused of the violation at least seven days prior notice of the time, date, and place of the hearing. The accused may be represented by an attorney and shall have an opportunity to present evidence, call witnesses, and cross examine witnesses.~~

~~At the hearing, the commission shall determine whether the violation alleged in the complaint has occurred. If the commission determines that a violation of division (A) of section 3309.073 of the Revised Code has occurred, the commission shall either impose a fine under section 3309.99 of the Revised Code or enter a finding that good cause has been shown not to impose the fine. If the commission determines that a violation of division (B) of section 3309.073 of the Revised Code has occurred, the commission shall impose the fine described in section 3309.99 of the Revised Code, refer the matter to the appropriate prosecutor, or enter a finding that good cause has been shown to not impose a fine or refer the matter to the appropriate prosecutor.~~

Sec. 3309.47. Each school employees retirement system contributor shall contribute eight per cent of the contributor's compensation to the employees' savings fund, except that the school employees retirement board may raise the contribution rate to a rate not greater than ten per cent of compensation.

The contributions required under this section shall not be paid by a school district board of education on behalf of a contributor employed by the school district as a treasurer, but may be treated as employer contributions for purposes of state and federal income tax deferred income provisions.

The contributions by the direction of the school employees retirement board shall be deducted by the employer from the compensation of each contributor on each payroll of such contributor for each payroll period and shall be an amount equal to the required per cent of such contributor's compensation. On a finding by the board that an employer has failed or refused to deduct contributions for any employee during any year and to transmit such amounts to the retirement system, the retirement board may make a determination of the amount of the delinquent contributions, including interest at a rate set by the retirement board, from the end of each year, and certify to the employer the amounts for collection. If the amount is not paid by the employer, it may be certified for collection in the same manner as payments due the employers' trust fund. Any amounts so collected shall be held in trust pending receipt of a report of contributions for the employee for the period involved as provided by law and, thereafter, the amount in trust shall be transferred to the employee's savings fund to the credit of the employee. Any amount remaining

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after the transfer to the employees' savings fund shall be transferred to the employers' trust fund as a credit of the employer. nmb

Additional deposits may be made to a member's account. At retirement, the amount deposited with interest may be used to provide additional annuity income. The additional deposits may be refunded to the member before retirement, and shall be refunded if the member withdraws the member's refundable amount. The deposits may be refunded to the beneficiary or estate if the member dies before retirement, and the board shall determine whether regular interest shall be credited to deposits thus refunded.

Sec. 3309.99. (A) Whoever violates division (A) of section 3309.073 of the Revised Code shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars for each day of the violation.

(B) Whoever violates division (B) of section 3309.073 of the Revised Code shall be imprisoned for not more than six months or fined not more than five thousand dollars, or both.

~~(C) Fines imposed by the Ohio elections commission under this section shall be paid into the Ohio elections commission fund created under section 3513.10 of the Revised Code.~~

Sec. 3310.033. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Foster child" means a child placed with a foster caregiver, as defined in section 5103.02 of the Revised Code.

(2) "Qualifying student" means a student who is not entitled to attend school under section 3313.64 or 3313.65 of the Revised Code in a school district in which the pilot project scholarship program is operating under sections 3313.974 to 3313.979 of the Revised Code.

(3) "Kinship caregiver" has the same meaning as in section ~~5101.85~~ 5180.50 of the Revised Code.

(4) "Sibling" means any of the following:

- (a) A brother, half-brother, sister, or half-sister by birth, marriage, or adoption;
- (b) A cousin by birth, marriage, or adoption who is residing in the same household;
- (c) A foster child who is residing in the same household, including a child who is subsequently adopted by the child's foster family;
- (d) A child residing in the same household who is placed with a guardian or legal custodian;
- (e) A child who is residing in the same household and is being cared for by a kinship caregiver;

(f) Any other child under eighteen years of age who has resided in the same household for at least forty-five consecutive days within the last calendar year.

(5) "Caretaker" means the parent of a minor child or a relative acting in the parent's place. "Caretaker" also means another responsible adult who has care of the child and in whose household the child resides and, if not for residing in that household, the child would be homeless or likely to be homeless.

(B) Notwithstanding anything in the Revised Code to the contrary, a qualifying student shall be eligible for an educational choice scholarship under section 3310.03 of the Revised Code,

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regardless of whether the student is enrolled in a school building described in division (A)(1) or (C) of that section, if any of the following apply:

(1) The student's sibling received an educational choice scholarship under section 3310.03 of the Revised Code for the school year immediately prior to the school year for which the student is seeking a scholarship;

(2) The student is a foster child;

(3) The student is a child placed with a guardian, legal custodian, or kinship caregiver;

(4) The student is not a child placed with a guardian, legal custodian, or kinship caregiver, but has resided in the same household as such a child for at least forty-five consecutive days within the last calendar year;

(5) The student is not a foster child, but resides in a home that has received certification under section 5103.03 of the Revised Code;

(6) The student satisfies all of the following conditions:

(a) The student is not a foster child or a student described in division (B)(4) of this section.

(b) The student has resided in the household of an individual who is not the student's parent or guardian for at least forty-five consecutive days within the last calendar year and, if not for residing in that household, the student would have been homeless.

(c) The student's parent or guardian resides in this state.

(7) The student is not a child described in division (B)(6) of this section, but has resided in the same household as a child described in that division for at least forty-five consecutive days within the last calendar year.

(C) A student who receives an educational choice scholarship under this section remains eligible for that scholarship and may continue to receive a scholarship in subsequent school years until the student completes grade twelve, so long as the student satisfies the conditions specified in divisions (D)(2) and (3) of section 3310.03 of the Revised Code.

(D) The department of education and workforce may request any individual applying for a scholarship under this section on behalf of a qualifying student to provide appropriate documentation, as defined by the department, that the student meets the eligibility qualifications prescribed under this section. In the case of a student who qualifies under division (B)(6) of this section, such documentation shall be provided by the student's parent, guardian, or caretaker.

Sec. 3310.037. A student is not eligible to receive an educational choice scholarship awarded under sections 3310.01 to 3310.17 of the Revised Code if the treasurer of state has established an educational savings account for the student under section 3310.23 of the Revised Code for the school year for which the scholarship is sought.

Sec. 3310.21. As used in this section and sections 3310.22 to 3310.26 of the Revised Code:

(A) "Chartered nonpublic school" has the same meaning as in section 3310.01 of the Revised Code.

(B) "Community school" means a community school established under Chapter 3314. of the

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(C) "Parent" has the same meaning as in section 3313.98 of the Revised Code.

(D) "Participating school" means a nonchartered nonpublic school that participates in the nonchartered educational savings account program in accordance with section 3310.25 of the Revised Code.

(E) "Resident district" means the school district in which a student is entitled to attend school under section 3313.64 or 3313.65 of the Revised Code.

(F) "Scholarship account" means an educational savings account established under section 3310.23 of the Revised Code.

(G) "School district" means a city, local, or exempted village school district.

(H) "State scholarship" means a scholarship awarded under the educational choice scholarship pilot program established under sections 3310.01 to 3310.17 of the Revised Code, the autism scholarship program established under section 3310.41 of the Revised Code, the Jon Peterson special needs scholarship program established under sections 3310.51 to 3310.64 of the Revised Code, or the pilot project scholarship program established under sections 3313.974 to 3313.979 of the Revised Code.

(I) "STEM school" means a STEM school established under Chapter 3326. of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3310.22. (A) The nonchartered educational savings account program is established to begin operating for the 2026-2027 school year. The treasurer of state shall administer the program with the assistance of the department of education and workforce. Under the program, the treasurer of state shall establish an educational savings account for each participating student to purchase educational goods and services, including tuition at participating schools. Funding for each educational savings account shall be transferred by the department of education and workforce from the nonchartered educational savings account unit, as defined in section 3317.02 of the Revised Code, in accordance with section 3317.022 of the Revised Code.

(B) The department shall establish a system under which a student, parent, participating school, or any other individual may submit a complaint about an alleged violation of the program's requirements. The department shall investigate each complaint that it receives. During the investigation, the department shall provide updates to and respond to questions from both the subject of the complaint and the party who submitted the complaint. The department shall complete each investigation promptly.

Upon completion of an investigation, the department shall submit to the party who submitted a complaint, the subject of the complaint, and the treasurer of state a report regarding the investigation's findings, including whether the program's requirements were violated. If the department's report indicates the program's requirements were violated, the treasurer of state shall determine a resolution to the complaint and require corrective actions to be taken, including remediation plans and other potential consequences for the subject of the complaint.

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(C) The treasurer of state shall establish due process procedures for individuals and participating schools who are determined noncompliant with the requirements of the program under this section and sections 3310.24 and 3310.25 of the Revised Code. The procedures shall provide an individual or school with at least a notice of the noncompliance determination, an opportunity for a hearing regarding it, and an opportunity to appeal it prior to the treasurer of state determining a resolution or undertaking any action regarding it.

Sec. 3310.23. (A) Not later than February 1, 2026, the treasurer of state shall develop an application procedure for the nonchartered educational savings account program. Under the procedure, the treasurer of state shall open an application period for a school year on the first day of February immediately prior to the first day of July of that school year. The parent of a student enrolled in a participating school may submit an application to participate in the program during that application period. The treasurer of state shall accept and process each application that is submitted. The application shall require the parent to do all of the following:

(1) Provide the student's and parent's names and address;
(2) Provide documentation verifying the student's enrollment and attendance at a participating school;

(3) Provide the student's participating school's tuition and fee schedule;
(4) Affirm that the student will take a nationally recognized standardized achievement assessment;

(5) If the parent is reapplying for a scholarship account in accordance with division (C) of this section, provide the student's nationally recognized standardized achievement assessment scores for the prior school year. As a matter of convenience, the student's participating school may submit the nationally recognized standardized achievement assessment scores on behalf of the student's parent.

(6) Affirm the parent will maintain records and related documentation regarding educational expenses on which the parent spends funds from the scholarship account, including any receipts for tuition, fees, textbooks, and curriculum materials;

(7) Affirm the parent will not enroll the student in a school district, community school, STEM school, or chartered nonpublic school while the student is participating in the program;

(8) Affirm the parent will not use funds in a scholarship account for any purpose other than those described in division (A) of section 3310.24 of the Revised Code;

(9) Provide other information determined necessary by the treasurer of state.

(B) For an educational savings account sought for the 2026-2027 school year, and for each school year thereafter, the treasurer of state shall approve a completed application submitted on behalf of a student, and establish an educational savings account for that student, if both of the following apply:

(1) The student is enrolling in any of grades kindergarten through twelve in a participating school for the school year for which an account is sought.

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(2) The student has not received a state scholarship for the school year for which an account is sought.

(C) A student for whom an educational savings account is established under this section for a school year shall be required to reapply under this section to have an account established for a subsequent school year.

The treasurer of state shall notify parents of students for whom a scholarship account is established of the renewal process, the deadline for renewal, and that failure to renew in a timely manner may result in a temporary suspension of access to funds until an account is renewed. The treasurer of state shall provide support to ensure a smooth transition from school year to school year for renewing parents and students.

(D) To the extent practicable, the treasurer of state shall establish a scholarship account prior to the start of the school year for which it is sought if the parent submits an application prior to the school year's start.

Sec. 3310.24. (A) Funds transferred by the department of education and workforce under section 3317.022 of the Revised Code to a scholarship account established for a student shall be used by the student's parent to pay for tuition and fees at a participating school. Any funds remaining in the scholarship account after paying for tuition and fees shall be used for curriculum, textbooks, instructional materials, and supplies.

(B) Upon request of the parent of a student for whom a scholarship account is established, the treasurer of state shall disburse funds from that account by either of the following methods as selected by the parent:

(1) The treasurer of state shall disburse funds directly to an approved vendor who provides educational goods or services described in division (A) of this section to the student. The treasurer of state shall establish a process to solicit and approve vendors for the purposes of this section. Under that process, a participating school that complies with the requirements prescribed under section 3310.25 of the Revised Code shall be considered an approved vendor.

(2) The treasurer of state shall disburse funds to reimburse the student's parent for any costs incurred by the parent for educational goods or services described in division (A) of this section for that student. Prior to disbursing funds to reimburse a parent, the treasurer of state shall require that the parent provide appropriate documentation, as determined by the treasurer of state, that the costs incurred by the parent are in accordance with division (A) of this section.

(C) Any refund or other repayment of funds by a participating school or other educational provider shall be returned to the student's scholarship account. Such a refund or repayment shall not be made directly to the student or the student's parent.

(D) If a student for whom a scholarship account has been established for a school year disenrolls from the student's participating school and does not enroll in a different participating school during that school year, the treasurer of state shall transfer the balance of any funds in the student's account, including any prorated refund from a participating school, to the general revenue

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fund. The treasurer shall transfer funds under this division on the first day of January and the first day of July of each year.

(E) If the parent of a student for whom a scholarship account is established for a school year reapplies to have an account established for the immediately subsequent school year, the treasurer of state shall, on the thirtieth day of June of the school year for which the account is established, transfer to the student's new account the balance of funds in the student's old account.

(F) If the parent of a student for whom a scholarship account is established for a school year does not reapply to have a new account established for the immediately subsequent school year, the treasurer of state shall, on the first day of July of the year following the school year for which the account is established, transfer the balance of any funds in the student's old account to the general revenue fund.

(G) Nothing in this section prohibits the parent of a student for whom a scholarship account is established from making payments for the costs of educational goods and services not covered by the funds in that account. However, the parent of a student shall not deposit funds in the student's scholarship account.

(H) The treasurer of state may conduct random audits to verify that parents are using funds from a student's scholarship account in accordance with this section. If the treasurer of state determines a misuse of funds, the treasurer of state shall take any action the treasurer of state determines appropriate, including suspension or termination of a student's participation in the program.

(I) The treasurer of state shall certify to the office of budget and management the amount of funds transferred to the general revenue fund under divisions (D) and (F) of this section.

Sec. 3310.25. (A) A nonchartered nonpublic school that elects to participate in the nonchartered educational savings account program for a school year shall notify the treasurer of state of that fact by a deadline established by the treasurer of state.

(B) Each nonchartered nonpublic school that participates in the program shall do all of the following:

(1) Maintain records and related documentation regarding the educational expenses on which the school spends the funds it receives under the program, including receipts for tuition, textbooks, and curricula;

(2) Maintain a physical location in the state at which each student has regular and direct contact with teachers. For the purposes of this section, "physical location" does not include a building that primarily serves as a residence.

(3) Notify the treasurer of state and the department of education and workforce of any change in the school's name, school director, mailing address, or physical location within fifteen days of the change;

(4) Require the parent of a student for whom a scholarship account is established to endorse the use of funds from a scholarship account by the school or approve the transfer of funds from the

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scholarship account to the school.

(C) Each nonchartered nonpublic school that participates in the program shall comply with the requirements prescribed under the program. However, such schools are autonomous and not an agent of the state or federal governments. Therefore, all of the following apply:

(1) The treasurer of state shall not regulate the curriculum, instructional methods, or other aspects of a school's educational program.

(2) The program does not expand the authority of the treasurer of state to impose on nonchartered nonpublic schools any additional requirements beyond those expressly prescribed under the program.

(3) Nonchartered nonpublic schools that participate in the program shall be given maximum freedom to provide for the educational needs of their students.

(D) The treasurer of state may remove a nonchartered nonpublic school from the list of schools participating in the program if the treasurer of state determines the school has failed to comply with the requirements prescribed under this section.

(E)(1) The treasurer of state shall provide the department with the list of nonchartered nonpublic schools that participate in the program.

(2) Annually, the department shall do all of the following regarding each nonchartered nonpublic school that participates in the program:

(a) Verify the school has filed with the department, in accordance with section 3301.0732 of the Revised Code, a copy of the report prescribed under section 3301.07 of the Revised Code;

(b) Request from the board of health of the city or general health district in which the school's physical location is located a copy of any report of any inspection conducted by the board of health of that physical location;

(c) Request from the state fire marshal a copy of any report of any fire inspection of the school's physical location;

(d) Prepare and submit to the treasurer of state a report regarding whether, based on the information collected under divisions (E)(2)(a) to (c) of this section, the school is compliant with the minimum education standards and health, fire, and safety laws.

(3) If the department's report under division (E)(2)(d) of this section demonstrates that a school is not compliant, the treasurer of state shall take any action the treasurer of state determines appropriate against the school.

(F)(1) The department shall compile the scores attained by students with a scholarship account and provided to the treasurer of state under section 3310.23 of the Revised Code. The department shall aggregate the scores as follows:

(a) By state, which shall include all students with a scholarship account;

(b) By school district, which shall include all students with a scholarship account and for whom the district is the student's resident district;

(c) By nonchartered nonpublic school, which shall include all students with a scholarship

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account and who were enrolled in that school.

(2) The department shall disaggregate the student performance data described in division (F)(1) of this section according to the following categories:

(a) Grade level;

(b) Race and ethnicity;

(c) Gender;

(d) Students with a scholarship account who have participated in the program for three or more years;

(e) Students with a scholarship account who have participated in the program for more than one year and less than three years;

(f) Students with a scholarship account who have participated in the program for one year or less;

(g) Economically disadvantaged students.

(3) Not later than the first day of February each year, the department shall post the student performance data required under divisions (F)(1) and (F)(2) of this section on its web site. In reporting student performance data under this division, the department shall not include any data that is statistically unreliable or that could result in the identification of individual students. For this purpose, the department shall not report performance data for any group that contains less than ten students.

(4) Not later than July 1, 2026, the department shall develop a measure of student growth for students with scholarship accounts that are enrolled in nonchartered nonpublic schools. The measure of student growth shall be used to report data annually on student growth for students in grades four through eight during the school year in which data is reported. No data shall be reported for schools with fewer than ten students with scholarship accounts. The department shall make the growth reports available on its publicly accessible web site.

(5) The treasurer of state shall collect and provide to the department any data necessary for the department to perform its duties under this division.

(G) The treasurer of state may conduct random audits to verify that nonchartered nonpublic schools that participate in the program are using funds received under the program in accordance with this section. If the treasurer of state determines a misuse of funds, the treasurer of state shall take any action the treasurer of state determines appropriate, including suspension or termination of a school's participation in the program.

Sec. 3310.26. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Adjusted gross income" has the same meaning as in section 5747.01 of the Revised Code.

(2) "Base amount" means an amount equal to the maximum educational choice scholarship amount for the student's grade level under division (A)(10)(a)(ii)(I) of section 3317.022 of the Revised Code for the fiscal year multiplied by 0.75.

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(3) "Constant multiplier" means 0.50.

(4) "Federal poverty level multiplier" means a percentage equal to the student's family income percentage of the federal poverty guidelines for the fiscal year.

(5) "Federal poverty guidelines" has the same meaning as in section 5101.46 of the Revised Code.

(6) "Minimum amount" means an amount equal to the base amount for the fiscal year multiplied by 0.10.

(7) "Power equation" means the following formula:

The federal poverty level multiplier X ln(constant multiplier)

(B) The department of education and workforce shall determine the scholarship amount for a student for whom a scholarship account is established for a fiscal year, as follows:

(1) For a student with a family adjusted gross income at or below four hundred fifty per cent of the federal poverty guidelines for the fiscal year, the base amount;

(2) For a student with a family adjusted gross income above four hundred fifty per cent of the federal poverty guidelines, an amount calculated according to the following formula:

The base amount X (1 / the constant multiplier)^{4.5} X e^{power equation}

If the amount calculated for a student under division (B)(2) of this division is less than the minimum amount, the student's scholarship amount shall be the minimum amount.

(C) For the purposes of calculating a scholarship amount for a student under this section, the department shall require a student's parent to submit documentation regarding the student's family income. The department shall use the documentation submitted for the first school year that the student has a scholarship amount calculated under this section to calculate the amount for that school year and each subsequent school year, unless, for a subsequent school year, the parent requests the department recalculate the student's scholarship amount based on updated documentation.

A parent shall submit documentation, or a request for a recalculation, to the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department.

Sec. 3310.41. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Alternative public provider" means either of the following providers that agrees to enroll a child in the provider's special education program to implement the child's individualized education program or an education plan developed by the school district under division ~~(K)~~(L) of this section and to which the child's parent owes fees for the services provided to the child:

(a) A school district that is not the school district in which the child is entitled to attend school;

(b) A public entity other than a school district.

(2) "Eligible applicant" means any of the following:

(a) Either of the natural or adoptive parents of a qualified special education child, except as otherwise specified in this division.

When the marriage of the natural or adoptive parents of the child has been terminated by a

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divorce, dissolution of marriage, or annulment, or when the natural or adoptive parents of the child are living separate and apart under a legal separation decree, and a court has issued an order allocating the parental rights and responsibilities with respect to the child, "eligible applicant" means the residential parent as designated by the court. If the court issues a shared parenting decree, "eligible applicant" means either parent. "Eligible applicant" does not mean a parent whose custodial rights have been terminated.

(b) The custodian of a qualified special education child, when a court has granted temporary, legal, or permanent custody of the child to an individual other than either of the natural or adoptive parents of the child or to a government agency;

(c) The guardian of a qualified special education child, when a court has appointed a guardian for the child;

(d) The grandparent of a qualified special education child, when the grandparent is the child's attorney in fact under a power of attorney executed under sections 3109.51 to 3109.62 of the Revised Code or when the grandparent has executed a caretaker authorization affidavit under sections 3109.65 to 3109.73 of the Revised Code;

(e) The surrogate parent appointed for a qualified special education child pursuant to division (B) of section 3323.05 and section 3323.051 of the Revised Code;

(f) A qualified special education child, if the child does not have a custodian or guardian and the child is at least eighteen years of age and less than twenty-two years of age.

(3) "Entitled to attend school" means entitled to attend school in a school district under section 3313.64 or 3313.65 of the Revised Code.

(3)(4) "Formula ADM" has the same meaning as in section 3317.02 of the Revised Code.

(4)(5) "Preschool child with a disability" and "individualized education program" have the same meanings as in section 3323.01 of the Revised Code.

(5) "Parent" has the same meaning as in section 3313.64 of the Revised Code, except that "parent" does not mean a parent whose custodial rights have been terminated. "Parent" also includes the custodian of a qualified special education child, when a court has granted temporary, legal, or permanent custody of the child to an individual other than either of the natural or adoptive parents of the child or to a government agency.

(6) "Qualified special education child" is a child who is at least three years of age and less than twenty-two years of age and who either was enrolled in the school district in which the child is entitled to attend school in any grade from preschool through twelve in the school year prior to the year in which a scholarship under this section is first sought for the child or is eligible to enter school in any grade preschool through twelve or is less than twenty-two years of age in the school district in which the child is entitled to attend school in the school year in which a scholarship under this section is first sought for the child and for whom any of the following conditions apply:

(a) The school district in which the child is entitled to attend school has identified the child as autistic. A child who has been identified as having a "pervasive developmental disorder - not

otherwise specified (PPD-NOS)" shall be considered to be an autistic child for purposes of this section.

(b) The school district in which the child is entitled to attend school has developed an individualized education program under Chapter 3323. of the Revised Code for the child that includes services related to autism.

(c) The child has been diagnosed as autistic by a physician or psychologist.

(d) All of the following apply:

(i) The child is enrolled in a chartered or nonchartered nonpublic school, is home educated in accordance with section 3321.042 of the Revised Code, or is a student older than compulsory school age and less than twenty-two years of age and received a home education in accordance with section 3321.042 of the Revised Code and has not received a diploma under section 3313.6110 of the Revised Code.

(ii) The child has an individualized education program developed under Chapter 3323. of the Revised Code that includes services related to autism.

(iii) The child is still eligible to receive transition services under the child's individualized education program.

(7) "Registered private provider" means a nonpublic school or other nonpublic entity that has been approved by the department of education and workforce to participate in the program established under this section.

(8) "Special education program" means a school or facility that provides special education and related services to children with disabilities.

(B) There is hereby established the autism scholarship program. Under the program, the department shall pay a scholarship under section 3317.022 of the Revised Code to ~~the parent of each~~ qualified special education child ~~an eligible applicant~~ upon application of that ~~parent-eligible applicant~~ pursuant to procedures and deadlines established by rule of the department. Each scholarship shall be used only to pay tuition for the child on whose behalf the scholarship is awarded to attend a special education program or programs that implements the child's individualized education program or education plan and that is operated by an alternative public provider or by a registered private provider, and to pay for other services agreed to by the provider and the ~~parent of a qualified special education child-eligible applicant~~ that are not included in the individualized education program or education plan but are associated with educating the child. Upon agreement with the ~~parent of a qualified special education child-eligible applicant~~, the alternative public provider or the registered private provider may modify the services provided to the child. The purpose of the scholarship is to permit the ~~parent of a qualified special education child-eligible applicant~~ the choice to send the child to a special education program or programs, instead of the one operated by or for the school district in which the child is entitled to attend school, to receive the services prescribed in the child's individualized education program or education plan once the individualized education program or education plan is finalized and any other services agreed to by

the provider and the ~~parent of a qualified special education child~~eligible applicant. The services provided under the scholarship shall include an educational component or services designed to assist the child to benefit from the child's education.

At the discretion of the eligible applicant, multiple alternative public providers or registered private providers may be contracted to provide services to implement an individualized education program or education plan as the eligible applicant and providers determine are necessary and associated with educating the qualified special education child. A qualified special education child shall not be limited to receiving services from a single provider for any services as identified in the individualized education program or education plan, including a single type of service.

(C) Services, including intervention services, educational services, academic services, tutoring services, aide services, and other related special education services, provided through the program established under this section may be provided virtually by any of the following:

(1) An educational aide or assistant who holds a valid permit issued under section 3319.088 of the Revised Code;

(2) An instructional assistant who holds a valid permit issued under section 3310.43 of the Revised Code;

(3) A qualified, credentialed provider in accordance with standards established by the department;

(4) A teacher or substitute teacher licensed by the state board of education.

(D) A scholarship under this section shall not be awarded to ~~the parent of a child~~an eligible applicant while the child's individualized education program is being developed by the school district in which the child is entitled to attend school, or while any administrative or judicial mediation or proceedings with respect to the content of the child's individualized education program are pending. A scholarship under this section shall not be used for a child to attend a public special education program that operates under a contract, compact, or other bilateral agreement between the school district in which the child is entitled to attend school and another school district or other public provider, or for a child to attend a community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code. However, nothing in this section or in any rule adopted by the department shall prohibit ~~a parent~~an eligible applicant whose child attends a public special education program under a contract, compact, or other bilateral agreement, or ~~a parent~~an eligible applicant whose child attends a community school, from applying for and accepting a scholarship under this section so that the ~~parent~~eligible applicant may withdraw the child from that program or community school and use the scholarship for the child to attend a special education program for which the ~~parent~~eligible applicant is required to pay for services for the child.

(E) Except for development of the child's individualized education program or education plan, the school district in which a qualified special education child is entitled to attend school and the child's school district of residence, as defined in section 3323.01 of the Revised Code, if different, are not obligated to provide the child with a free appropriate public education under

Chapter 3323. of the Revised Code for as long as the child continues to attend the special education program operated by either an alternative public provider or a registered private provider for which a scholarship is awarded under the autism scholarship program. If at any time, the eligible applicant for the child decides no longer to accept scholarship payments and enrolls the child in the special education program of the school district in which the child is entitled to attend school, that district shall provide the child with a free appropriate public education under Chapter 3323. of the Revised Code.

(F) A child attending a special education program with a scholarship under this section shall continue to be entitled to transportation to and from that program in the manner prescribed by law.

(G) As prescribed in division (A)(2)(h) of section 3317.03 of the Revised Code, a child who is not a preschool child with a disability for whom a scholarship is awarded under this section shall be counted in the formula ADM of the district in which the child is entitled to attend school and not in the formula ADM of any other school district.

(H) A scholarship shall not be paid under section 3317.022 of the Revised Code to ~~a parent~~ an eligible applicant for payment of tuition owed to a nonpublic entity unless that entity is a registered private provider. The department shall approve entities that meet the standards established by rule of the department for the program established under this section.

(I) The department shall adopt rules under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code prescribing procedures necessary to implement this section, including, but not limited to, procedures and deadlines for ~~parents-eligible applicants~~ to apply for scholarships, standards for registered private providers, and procedures for approval of entities as registered private providers.

The rules also shall specify that intervention services, including virtual services, under the autism scholarship program may be provided by a qualified, credentialed provider, including an educator or substitute teacher licensed by the state board of education, and shall additionally include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(1) A behavior analyst certified by a nationally recognized organization that certifies behavior analysts;

(2) A psychologist licensed to practice in this state under Chapter 4732. of the Revised Code;

(3) An independent school psychologist or school psychologist licensed to practice in this state under Chapter 4732. of the Revised Code;

(4) Any person employed by a licensed psychologist, licensed independent school psychologist, or licensed school psychologist, while carrying out specific tasks, under the licensee's supervision, as an extension of the licensee's legal and ethical authority as specified under Chapter 4732. of the Revised Code who is ascribed as "psychology trainee," "psychology assistant," "psychology intern," or other appropriate term that clearly implies their supervised or training status;

(5) Unlicensed persons holding a doctoral degree in psychology or special education from a program approved by the department;

(6) A "registered behavior technician" as described under rule 5123-9-41 of the Administrative Code working under the supervision and following the intervention plan of a certified Ohio behavior analyst or a behavior analyst certified by a nationally recognized organization that certifies behavior analysts;

(7) A "certified Ohio behavior analyst" under Chapter 4783. of the Revised Code;

(8) An occupational therapist or physical therapist licensed to practice in this state under Chapter 4755. of the Revised Code;

(9) A speech-language pathologist licensed to practice in this state under Chapter 4753. of the Revised Code;

(10) An intervention specialist who holds a valid license issued by the state board;

(11) A literacy intervention specialist certified through pathways recognized by the Ohio dyslexia committee established by section 3323.25 of the Revised Code. To the extent that certification for any of the following positions is approved by the Ohio dyslexia committee under section 3323.25 of the Revised Code, literary intervention specialists may include:

(a) A structured literacy dyslexia interventionist;

(b) A structured literacy dyslexia specialist;

(c) A certified academic language practitioner;

(d) A certified academic language therapist.

(12) An educational aide or assistant with a valid permit issued under section 3319.088 of the Revised Code;

(13) An instructional assistant with a valid permit issued in accordance with section 3310.43 of the Revised Code;

(14) Any other qualified individual as determined by the department.

Supervision of a qualified, credentialed provider may be conducted virtually.

(J) For billing purposes under the autism scholarship program, services provided by a teacher or substitute teacher licensed by the state board of education shall be classified as academic services and shall not be classified as aide services. The department shall use this differentiation to simplify monthly audit procedures.

(K) The department shall provide reasonable notice to all parents of children eligible applicants receiving a scholarship under the autism scholarship program, alternative public providers, and registered private providers of any amendment to a rule governing, or change in the administration of, the autism scholarship program.

(L) If a child qualifies for the autism scholarship program pursuant to a diagnosis under division (A)(6)(c) of this section and does not have an individualized education program that includes services related to autism, the school district in which the child is entitled to attend school shall develop an education plan for the child.

(M) Not later than the thirtieth day of June each year, each alternative public provider and registered private provider enrolling students receiving autism scholarships shall submit to the

department, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, the tuition rates charged by the provider for the following school year.

(M)(N) The department shall not require ~~the parent of a student~~ an eligible applicant who applies for or receives a scholarship under this section to complete any kind of income verification regarding the student's family income.

(O) The department shall maintain a list of each registered private provider and the location of that provider on its publicly accessible web site. *RMD*

Sec. 3310.412. A student is not eligible to receive an autism scholarship awarded under section 3310.41 of the Revised Code if the treasurer of state has established an educational savings account for the student under section 3310.23 of the Revised Code for the school year for which the scholarship is sought.

Sec. 3310.413. As used in this section, "junior reserve officer training corps program" means a junior reserve officer training corps (JROTC) program approved by the congress of the United States under title 10 of the United States Code.

A qualified special education child, as defined in section 3310.41 of the Revised Code, receiving home education under section 3321.042 of the Revised Code who participates in a junior reserve officer training corps program maintained by the child's resident school district in accordance with 10 U.S.C. 2031f(1) shall not be considered enrolled in that district for purposes of determining eligibility for an autism scholarship under section 3310.41 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3310.51. As used in sections 3310.51 to 3310.64 of the Revised Code:

(A) "Alternative public provider" means either of the following providers that agrees to enroll a child in the provider's special education program to implement the child's individualized education program and to which the eligible applicant owes fees for the services provided to the child:

(1) A school district that is not the school district in which the child is entitled to attend school or the child's school district of residence, if different;

(2) A public entity other than a school district.

(B) "Child with a disability" and "individualized education program" have the same meanings as in section 3323.01 of the Revised Code.

(C) "Eligible applicant" means any of the following:

(1) Either of the natural or adoptive parents of a qualified special education child, except as otherwise specified in this division. When the marriage of the natural or adoptive parents of the student has been terminated by a divorce, dissolution of marriage, or annulment, or when the natural or adoptive parents of the student are living separate and apart under a legal separation decree, and a court has issued an order allocating the parental rights and responsibilities with respect to the child, "eligible applicant" means the residential parent as designated by the court. If the court issues a shared parenting decree, "eligible applicant" means either parent. "Eligible applicant" does not mean a parent whose custodial rights have been terminated.

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(2) The custodian of a qualified special education child, when a court has granted temporary, legal, or permanent custody of the child to an individual other than either of the natural or adoptive parents of the child or to a government agency;

(3) The guardian of a qualified special education child, when a court has appointed a guardian for the child;

(4) The grandparent of a qualified special education child, when the grandparent is the child's attorney in fact under a power of attorney executed under sections 3109.51 to 3109.62 of the Revised Code or when the grandparent has executed a caretaker authorization affidavit under sections 3109.65 to 3109.73 of the Revised Code;

(5) The surrogate parent appointed for a qualified special education child pursuant to division (B) of section 3323.05 and section 3323.051 of the Revised Code;

(6) The treasurer of state has not established an educational savings account for the student under section 3310.23 of the Revised Code for the same school year in which a scholarship under the Jon Peterson special needs scholarship program is sought.

(7) A qualified special education child, if the child does not have a custodian or guardian and the child is at least eighteen years of age and less than twenty-two years of age.

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(D) "Entitled to attend school" means entitled to attend school in a school district under sections 3313.64 and 3313.65 of the Revised Code.

(E) "Formula ADM" has the same meaning as in section 3317.02 of the Revised Code.

(F) "Qualified special education child" is a child for whom all of the following conditions apply:

(1) The child is at least ~~five~~ three years of age and less than twenty-two years of age.

(2) The school district in which the child is entitled to attend school, or the child's school district of residence if different, has identified the child as a child with a disability.

(3) The school district in which the child is entitled to attend school, or the child's school district of residence if different, has developed an individualized education program under Chapter 3323. of the Revised Code for the child.

(4) The child ~~either~~ meets one of the following conditions:

(a) Was enrolled in the schools of the school district in which the child is entitled to attend school in any grade from ~~kindergarten~~ preschool through twelve in the school year prior to the school year in which a scholarship is ~~first~~ sought for the child;

(b) Is eligible to enter school in any grade ~~kindergarten~~ preschool through twelve in the school district in which the child is entitled to attend school in the school year in which a scholarship is ~~first~~ sought for the child;

(c) All of the following apply:

(i) The child is at least eighteen years of age and less than twenty-two years of age.

(ii) The child is enrolled in a chartered or nonchartered nonpublic school, is home educated in accordance with section 3321.042 of the Revised Code, or is a student older than compulsory

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school age and less than twenty-two years of age and received a home education in accordance with section 3321.042 of the Revised Code and has not received a diploma under section 3313.6110 of the Revised Code.

(iii) The child is still eligible to receive transition services under the child's individualized education program.

(5) The department of education and workforce has not approved a scholarship for the child under the educational choice scholarship pilot program, under sections 3310.01 to 3310.17 of the Revised Code, the autism scholarship program, under section 3310.41 of the Revised Code, or the pilot project scholarship program, under sections 3313.974 to 3313.979 of the Revised Code for the same school year in which a scholarship under the Jon Peterson special needs scholarship program is sought.

(6) The child and the child's parents are in compliance with the state compulsory attendance law under Chapter 3321. of the Revised Code.

(G) "Registered private provider" means a nonpublic school or other nonpublic entity that has been registered by the superintendent of public instruction under section 3310.58 of the Revised Code prior to ~~the effective date of this amendment~~ October 3, 2023, or the department of education and workforce on or after that date.

(H) "Scholarship" means a scholarship awarded under the Jon Peterson special needs scholarship program pursuant to sections 3310.51 to 3310.64 of the Revised Code.

(I) "School district of residence" has the same meaning as in section 3323.01 of the Revised Code. A community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code is not a "school district of residence" for purposes of sections 3310.51 to 3310.64 of the Revised Code.

(J) "School year" has the same meaning as in section 3313.62 of the Revised Code.

(K) "Special education program" means a school or facility that provides special education and related services to children with disabilities.

Sec. 3310.52. (A) The Jon Peterson special needs scholarship program is hereby established. Under the program, beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, subject to division (B) of this section, the department of education and workforce annually shall pay a scholarship under section 3317.022 of the Revised Code to an eligible applicant for services provided by an alternative public provider or a registered private provider for a qualified special education child. The scholarship shall be used only to pay all or part of the fees for the child to attend the special education program or programs operated by the alternative public provider or registered private provider to implement the child's individualized education program or programs, in lieu of the child's attending the special education program operated by the school district in which the child is entitled to attend school, and other services agreed to by the provider and eligible applicant that are not included in the individualized education program but are associated with educating the child.

At the discretion of an eligible applicant, multiple alternative public providers or registered private providers may be contracted to provide services to implement the individualized education

program as the eligible applicant and providers determine are necessary and associated with educating the qualified special education child. A qualified special education child is not limited to receiving services from a single provider for any services as identified in the individualized education program, including a single type of service.

Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, if the child is receiving special education services for a disability specified in division (A) of section 3317.013 of the Revised Code, the scholarship shall be used only to pay for related services that are included in the child's individualized education program. Upon agreement with the eligible applicant, the alternative public provider or registered private provider may modify the services provided to the child.

Services, including intervention services, educational services, academic services, tutoring services, aide services, and other related special education services, provided through the program established under this section may be provided virtually by any of the following:

(1) An educational aide or assistant who holds a valid permit issued under section 3319.088 of the Revised Code;

(2) An instructional assistant who holds a valid permit issued under section 3310.43 of the Revised Code;

(3) A qualified, credentialed provider in accordance with standards established by the department;

(4) A teacher or substitute teacher licensed by the state board of education.

(B) The number of scholarships awarded under the program in any fiscal year shall not exceed five per cent of the total number of students residing in the state identified as children with disabilities during the previous fiscal year.

(C) The department shall pay a scholarship under section 3317.022 of the Revised Code to the ~~parent of each qualified special education child~~eligible applicant, unless the ~~parent~~eligible applicant authorizes a direct payment to the child's provider, upon application ~~of that parent~~ in the manner prescribed by the department. However, the department shall not adopt specific dates for application deadlines for scholarships under the program.

(D) The department shall not require ~~the parent of a student~~an eligible applicant who applies for or receives a scholarship under this section to complete any kind of income verification regarding the student's family income.

Sec. 3310.523. As used in this section, "junior reserve officer training corps program" means a junior reserve officer training corps (JROTC) program approved by the congress of the United States under title 10 of the United States Code.

A qualified special education child receiving home education under section 3321.042 of the Revised Code who participates in a junior reserve officer training corps program maintained by the child's resident school district in accordance with 10 U.S.C. 2031f(1) shall not be considered enrolled in that district for purposes of determining eligibility for a Jon Peterson special needs scholarship under section 3310.52 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3310.58. No nonpublic school or entity shall receive payments from an eligible applicant for services for a qualified special education child under the Jon Peterson special needs scholarship program until the school or entity registers with the department of education and workforce. The department shall maintain a list of each registered private provider and the location of that provider on its publicly accessible web site. The department shall register and designate as a registered private provider any nonpublic school or entity that meets the following requirements:

(A) The school or entity complies with the antidiscrimination provisions of 42 U.S.C. 2000d, regardless of whether the school or entity receives federal financial assistance.

(B) If the school or entity is not chartered by the director of education and workforce under section 3301.16 of the Revised Code, the school or entity agrees to comply with sections 3319.39, 3319.391, and 3319.392 of the Revised Code as if it were a school district.

(C) The teaching and nonteaching professionals employed by the school or entity, or employed by any subcontractors of the school or entity, hold appropriate credentials for the qualified special education children enrolled in and the services provided through the special education program it operates. The list of professionals who hold appropriate credentials to provide services under a special education program include all of the following:

(1) A behavior analyst certified by a nationally recognized organization that certifies behavior analysts;

(2) A psychologist licensed to practice in this state under Chapter 4732. of the Revised Code;

(3) An independent school psychologist or school psychologist licensed to practice in this state under Chapter 4732. of the Revised Code;

(4) Any person employed by a licensed psychologist, licensed independent school psychologist, or licensed school psychologist, while carrying out specific tasks, under the licensee's supervision, as an extension of the licensee's legal and ethical authority as specified under Chapter 4732. of the Revised Code who is ascribed as "psychology trainee," "psychology assistant," "psychology intern," or other appropriate term that clearly implies their supervised or training status;

(5) An unlicensed person holding a doctoral degree in psychology or special education from a program approved by the department;

(6) A registered behavior technician as described in rule 5123-9-41 of the Administrative Code working under the supervision and following the intervention plan of a certified Ohio behavior analyst or behavior analyst certified by a nationally recognized organization that certifies behavior analysts;

(7) A certified Ohio behavior analyst under Chapter 4783. of the Revised Code;

(8) An occupational therapist or physical therapist licensed to practice in this state under Chapter 4755. of the Revised Code;

(9) A speech-language pathologist licensed to practice in this state under Chapter 4753. of the Revised Code;

- (10) An intervention specialist who holds a valid license issued by the state board;
- (11) A literacy intervention specialist certified through pathways recognized by the Ohio dyslexia committee established by section 3323.25 of the Revised Code. To the extent that certification for any of the following positions is approved by the Ohio dyslexia committee under section 3323.25 of the Revised Code, literacy intervention specialists may include:
 - (a) A structured literacy dyslexia interventionist;
 - (b) A structured literacy dyslexia specialist;
 - (c) A certified academic language practitioner;
 - (d) A certified academic language therapist.
- (12) An educational aide or assistant with a valid permit issued under section 3319.088 of the Revised Code;
- (13) An instructional assistant with a valid permit issued in accordance with section 3310.43 of the Revised Code;
- (14) Any other qualified individual as determined by the department.
- (D) For billing purposes under the Jon Peterson special needs scholarship program, services provided by a teacher or substitute teacher licensed by the state board of education shall be classified as academic services and shall not be classified as aide services. The department shall use this differentiation to simplify monthly audit procedures.
- (E) The school's or entity's educational program shall be approved by the department.
- ~~(E)~~(F) The school or entity meets applicable health and safety standards established by law.
- ~~(F)~~(G) The school or entity agrees to retain on file documentation as required by the department.
- ~~(G)~~(H) The school or entity agrees to provide a record of the implementation of the individualized education program for each qualified special education child enrolled in the school's or entity's special education program, including evaluation of the child's progress, to the school district in which the child is entitled to attend school, in the form and manner prescribed by the department.
- ~~(H)~~(I) The school or entity agrees that, if it declines to enroll a particular qualified special education child, it will notify in writing the eligible applicant of its reasons for declining to enroll the child.

Sec. 3310.64. The department of education and workforce shall adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code prescribing procedures necessary to implement sections 3310.51 to 3310.63 of the Revised Code including, but not limited to, procedures for parents to apply for scholarships, standards for registered private providers, and procedures for registration of private providers.

The rules also shall specify that intervention services, including virtual services, under the Jon Peterson special needs scholarship program may be provided by a qualified, credentialed provider, including an educator or substitute teacher licensed by the state board of education, and

shall additionally include, but not be limited to, the credentialed professionals listed in division (C) of section 3310.58 of the Revised Code.

The rules also shall specify that supervision of a qualified, credentialed provider may be conducted virtually.

Sec. 3311.053. (A) The boards of education of up to five adjoining educational service centers may, by identical resolutions adopted by a majority of the members of each governing board within any sixty-day period, combine such educational service centers into one educational service center. The resolutions shall state the name of the new center, which may be styled as a "joint educational service center." The resolutions shall also indicate whether the governing board of the new educational service center is to be formed in accordance with division (B) of this section, in accordance with division (A) of section 3311.054 of the Revised Code, or in accordance with section 3311.057 of the Revised Code.

A copy of each resolution shall be filed with the state board of education. The new educational service center shall be created and the governing boards of the participating educational service centers shall be dissolved and a new governing board established thirty days after the date on which the last resolution was filed with the state board.

(B) The initial members of a new governing board established in accordance with this division shall be appointed as follows:

(1) If two educational service centers combine, each center's governing board, prior to its dissolution, shall appoint two members to the new governing board and the four members so selected shall select a fifth member within ten days of the date on which the last of the four members is appointed.

(2) If three educational service centers combine, each center's governing board, prior to its dissolution, shall appoint one member to the new governing board and the three members so selected shall select the remaining two members of the governing board within ten days of the date on which the last of the three members is appointed.

(3) If four educational service centers combine, each center's governing board, prior to its dissolution, shall appoint one member to the new governing board and the four members so selected shall select the remaining member of the governing board within ten days of the date on which the last of the four members is appointed.

(4) If five educational service centers combine, each center's governing board, prior to its dissolution, shall appoint one member to the new governing board.

If the members appointed to a new governing board by the governing boards of the combining educational service centers are unable to agree on the selection of the remaining members of the new governing board within ten days, the probate judge of the county in which the greatest number of pupils under the supervision of the new educational service center reside shall appoint the remaining members.

Electors of the new educational service center shall elect a new governing board at the next

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general election occurring in an odd-numbered year and more than ninety days after the date of the appointment of the last member to the initial governing board. Members shall serve for the duration of the term to which they are elected or until their successors are elected and qualified. At such election, two members shall be elected to terms of two years and three members shall be elected to terms of four years. Thereafter, their successors shall be elected in the same manner and for the same terms as members of governing boards of all educational service centers. ~~Each candidate for election as a member of the educational service center governing board shall file a nominating petition in accordance with section 3513.255 of the Revised Code.~~

(C) The funds of each former educational service center shall be paid over in full to the governing board of the new educational service center, and the legal title to all property of the former governing boards shall become vested in the new governing board.

The governing board of an educational service center created under this section shall honor all contracts made by the former governing boards.

Sec. 3311.242. In the case of a proposed transfer of school district territory filed under section 3311.24 of the Revised Code, the state board of education shall approve a proposed transfer that satisfies all of the following conditions:

(A) The territory is being transferred to an adjacent school district.

(B) The district from which the territory is being transferred has received an overall performance rating of less than two stars under division (D)(3) of section 3302.03 of the Revised Code for two or more consecutive school years.

(C) No party opposing the proposed transfer has presented to the state board clear and convincing evidence that any information used to facilitate the transfer under section 3311.24 of the Revised Code is incorrect or inaccurate.

Sec. 3311.50. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "County school financing district" means a taxing district consisting of the following territory:

(a) The territory that constitutes the educational service center on the date that the governing board of that educational service center adopts a resolution under division (B) of this section declaring that the territory of the educational service center is a county school financing district, exclusive of any territory subsequently withdrawn from the district under division (D) of this section;

(b) Any territory that has been added to the county school financing district under this section.

A county school financing district may include the territory of a city, local, or exempted village school district whose territory also is included in the territory of one or more other county school financing districts.

(2) "The county auditor's ~~appraised-market~~ value" and "effective rate" have the same meanings as in section 5705.01 of the Revised Code.

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Mike DeWine, Governor

(B) The governing board of any educational service center may, by resolution, declare that the territory of the educational service center is a county school financing district. The resolution shall state the purpose for which the county school financing district is created, which may be for any one or more of the following purposes:

(1) To levy taxes for the provision of special education by the school districts that are a part of the district, including taxes for permanent improvements for special education;

(2) To levy taxes for the provision of specified educational programs and services by the school districts that are a part of the district, as identified in the resolution creating the district, including the levying of taxes for permanent improvements for those programs and services. Services financed by the levy may include school safety and security and mental health services, including training and employment of or contracting for the services of safety personnel, mental health personnel, social workers, and counselors.

(3) To levy taxes for permanent improvements of school districts that are a part of the district.

The governing board of the educational service center that creates a county school financing district shall serve as the taxing authority of the district and may use educational service center governing board employees to perform any of the functions necessary in the performance of its duties as a taxing authority. A county school financing district shall not employ any personnel.

With the approval of a majority of the members of the board of education of each school district within the territory of the county school financing district, the taxing authority of the financing district may amend the resolution creating the district to broaden or narrow the purposes for which it was created.

A governing board of an educational service center may create more than one county school financing district. If a governing board of an educational service center creates more than one such district, it shall clearly distinguish among the districts it creates by including a designation of each district's purpose in the district's name.

(C) A majority of the members of a board of education of a city, local, or exempted village school district may adopt a resolution requesting that its territory be joined with the territory of any county school financing district. Copies of the resolution shall be filed with the state board of education and the taxing authority of the county school financing district. Within sixty days of its receipt of such a resolution, the county school financing district's taxing authority shall vote on the question of whether to accept the school district's territory as part of the county school financing district. If a majority of the members of the taxing authority vote to accept the territory, the school district's territory shall thereupon become a part of the county school financing district unless the county school financing district has in effect a tax imposed under section 5705.215 of the Revised Code. If the county school financing district has such a tax in effect, the taxing authority shall certify a copy of its resolution accepting the school district's territory to the school district's board of education. The board of education and the county auditor shall proceed in the same manner as

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required for a tax levy under section 5705.03 of the Revised Code, except that the levy's annual collections shall be estimated assuming that the school district's territory has been added to the county school financing district. After receipt of the auditor's certification under that section, the board may adopt a resolution, with the affirmative vote of a majority of its members, proposing the submission to the electors of the question of whether the district's territory shall become a part of the county school financing district and subject to the taxes imposed by the financing district. The resolution shall set forth the date on which the question shall be submitted to the electors, which shall be at a special election held on a date specified in the resolution, which shall not be earlier than ninety days after the adoption and certification of the resolution. A copy of the resolution shall immediately be certified to the board of elections of the proper county, which shall make arrangements for the submission of the proposal to the electors of the school district. The board of the joining district shall publish notice of the election in a newspaper of general circulation in the county once a week for two consecutive weeks, or as provided in section 7.16 of the Revised Code, prior to the election. Additionally, if the board of elections operates and maintains a web site, the board of elections shall post notice of the election on its web site for thirty days prior to the election. The question appearing on the ballot shall read:

"Shall the territory within _____ (name of the school district proposing to join the county school financing district) _____ be added to _____ (name) _____ county school financing district, and a property tax for the purposes of _____ (here insert purposes), that the county auditor estimates will collect \$_____ annually, _____ at a rate not exceeding _____ mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$_____ (effective rate) for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's ~~appraised~~ market value, _____ be in effect for _____ (here insert the number of years the tax is to be in effect or "a continuing period of time," as applicable) _____?"

If the proposal is approved by a majority of the electors voting on it, the joinder shall take effect on the first day of July following the date of the election, and the county board of elections shall notify the county auditor of each county in which the school district joining its territory to the county school financing district is located.

(D) The board of any city, local, or exempted village school district whose territory is part of a county school financing district may withdraw its territory from the county school financing district thirty days after submitting to the governing board that is the taxing authority of the district and the state board a resolution proclaiming such withdrawal, adopted by a majority vote of its members, but any county school financing district tax levied in such territory on the effective date of the withdrawal shall remain in effect in such territory until such tax expires or is renewed. No board may adopt a resolution withdrawing from a county school financing district that would take effect during the forty-five days preceding the date of an election at which a levy proposed under section 5705.215 of the Revised Code is to be voted upon.

(E) A city, local, or exempted village school district does not lose its separate identity or

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legal existence by reason of joining its territory to a county school financing district under this section and an educational service center does not lose its separate identity or legal existence by reason of creating a county school financing district that accepts or loses territory under this section.

Sec. 3313.27. At the expiration of the term of any treasurer of any board of education or before any board approves the surety of any treasurer, such board shall require the treasurer to produce all money, bonds, or other securities in his the treasurer's hands, which shall then be counted by the board or a committee thereof, ~~or by a representative of the auditor of state~~. A certificate setting forth the exact amount of such money, bonds, or other securities, and signed by the representatives making such count, shall be entered upon the records of the board and shall be prima-facie evidence that the amount therein stated was actually in the treasury at that date.

Sec. 3313.413. (A) As used in this section, "high-performing community school" means either a community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code that meets any of the following conditions:

~~(1) A community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code that meets the following conditions:-~~

~~(a) Except as provided in division (A)(1)(b) or (c) of this section, the school both:~~

~~(i) Has received either a grade of "A," "B," or "C" for the performance index score under division (C)(1)(b) of section 3302.03 of the Revised Code or a performance rating of three stars or higher for achievement under division (D)(3)(b) of that section; or has increased its performance index score under division (C)(1)(b) or (D)(1)(d) of section 3302.03 of the Revised Code in each of the previous three years of operation; and~~

~~(ii) Has received either a grade of "A" or "B" for the value-added progress dimension under division (C)(1)(e) of section 3302.03 of the Revised Code or a performance rating of four stars or higher for progress under division (D)(3)(c) of that section on its most recent report card rating issued under that section~~ Except as provided for in division (A)(2) or (3) of this section, the community school does both of the following:

(a) The school has a higher performance index score than the school district in which the school is located on the two most recent report cards issued under section 3302.03 of the Revised Code.

(b) The school either has a performance rating of four stars or higher for progress on the most recent report card issued under section 3302.03 of the Revised Code or is a school described under division (B)(1) of section 3314.35 of the Revised Code and did not receive a rating for progress on the most recent report card.

~~(b) (2) If the community school serves only grades kindergarten through three, the school received either a grade of "A" or "B" for making progress in improving literacy in grades kindergarten through three under division (C)(1)(g) of section 3302.03 of the Revised Code or a performance rating of four stars or higher for early literacy under division (D)(3)(e) of that section on its most recent report card issued under that section~~ 3302.03 of the Revised Code.

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~~(e) If the school primarily serves students enrolled in a dropout prevention and recovery program as described in division (B)(1) of section 3314.35 of the Revised Code, the school received a rating of "exceeds standards" on its most recent report card issued under section 3314.017 of the Revised Code.~~

~~(2) A newly established community school that is implementing a community school model that has a track record of high quality academic performance, as determined by the department of education and workforce.~~ (3) If the community school has not commenced operations or has been in operation for less than one school year, the school meets the following conditions:

(a) The school is replicating an operational and instructional model used by a community school described in division (A)(1) or (2) of this section.

(b) The school either:

(i) Has an operator that received an overall rating of three stars or higher, or a "C" or higher, on its most recent performance report published under section 3314.031 of the Revised Code;

(ii) Does not have an operator and is sponsored by a sponsor that was rated "exemplary" or "effective" on its most recent evaluation conducted under section 3314.016 of the Revised Code.

(B) When a school district board of education decides to dispose of real property it owns in its corporate capacity under section 3313.41 of the Revised Code, the board shall first offer that property to the governing authorities of all start-up community schools, the boards of trustees of any college-preparatory boarding schools, and the governing bodies of any STEM schools that are located within the territory of the district. Not later than sixty days after the district board makes the offer, interested governing authorities, boards of trustees, and governing bodies shall notify the district treasurer in writing of the intention to purchase the property.

The district board shall give priority to the governing authorities of high-performing community schools that are located within the territory of the district.

(1) If more than one governing authority of a high-performing community school notifies the district treasurer of its intention to purchase the property pursuant to division (B) of this section, the board shall conduct a public auction in the manner required for auctions of district property under division (A) of section 3313.41 of the Revised Code. Only the governing authorities of high-performing community schools that notified the district treasurer pursuant to division (B) of this section are eligible to bid at the auction.

(2) If no governing authority of a high-performing community school notifies the district treasurer of its intention to purchase the property pursuant to division (B) of this section, the board shall then proceed with the offers from all other start-up community schools, college-preparatory boarding schools, and STEM schools made pursuant to that division. If more than one such entity notifies the district treasurer of its intention to purchase the property pursuant to division (B) of this section, the board shall conduct a public auction in the manner required for auctions of district property under division (A) of section 3313.41 of the Revised Code. Only the entities that notified the district treasurer pursuant to division (B) of this section are eligible to bid at the auction.

(3) If no governing authority, board of trustees, or governing body notifies the district treasurer of its intention to purchase the property pursuant to division (B) of this section, the district may then offer the property for sale in the manner prescribed under divisions (A) to (F) of section 3313.41 of the Revised Code.

(C) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in sections 3313.41 and 3313.411 of the Revised Code, the purchase price of any real property sold to any of the entities in accordance with division (B) of this section shall not be more than the appraised fair market value of that property as determined in an appraisal of the property that is not more than one year old.

(D) Not later than the first day of October of each year, the department of education and workforce shall post in a prominent location on its web site a list of schools that qualify as high-performing community schools for purposes of this section and section 3313.411 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3313.46. (A) In addition to any other law governing the bidding for contracts by the board of education of any school district, when any such board determines to build, repair, enlarge, improve, or demolish any school-building or other property, the cost of which will exceed the amount specified in section 9.17 of the Revised Code, except in cases of urgent necessity, or for the security and protection of school property, and except as otherwise provided in division (D) of section 713.23 and in section 125.04 of the Revised Code, all of the following shall apply:

(1) The board shall cause to be prepared the plans, specifications, and related information as required in divisions (A)(1), (2), and (3) of section 153.01 of the Revised Code unless the board determines that other information is sufficient to inform any bidders of the board's requirements. However, if the board determines that such other information is sufficient for bidding a project, the board shall not engage in the construction of any such project involving the practice of professional engineering, professional surveying, or architecture, for which plans, specifications, and estimates have not been made by, and the construction thereof inspected by, a licensed professional engineer, licensed professional surveyor, or registered architect.

(2) The board shall advertise for bids once each week for a period of not less than two consecutive weeks, or as provided in section 7.16 of the Revised Code, in a newspaper of general circulation in the district before the date specified by the board for receiving bids. The board may also cause notice to be inserted in trade papers or other publications designated by it or to be distributed by electronic means, including posting the notice on the board's internet web site. If the board posts the notice on its web site, it may eliminate the second notice otherwise required to be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the school district, provided that the first notice published in such newspaper meets all of the following requirements:

- (a) It is published at least two weeks before the opening of bids.
- (b) It includes a statement that the notice is posted on the board of education's internet web site.
- (c) It includes the internet address of the board's internet web site.

(d) It includes instructions describing how the notice may be accessed on the board's internet web site.

(3) Unless the board extends the time for the opening of bids they shall be opened at the time and place specified by the board in the advertisement for the bids.

(4) Each bid shall contain the name of every person interested therein. Each bid shall meet the requirements of section 153.54 of the Revised Code.

(5) When both labor and materials are embraced in the work bid for, the board may require that each be separately stated in the bid, with the price thereof, or may require that bids be submitted without such separation.

(6) None but the lowest responsible bid shall be accepted. The board may reject all the bids, or accept any bid for both labor and material for such improvement or repair, which is the lowest in the aggregate. In all other respects, the award of contracts for improvement or repair, but not for purchases made under section 3327.08 of the Revised Code, shall be pursuant to section 153.12 of the Revised Code.

(7) The contract shall be between the board and the bidders. The board shall pay the contract price for the work pursuant to sections 153.13 and 153.14 of the Revised Code. The board shall approve and retain the estimates referred to in section 153.13 of the Revised Code and make them available to the auditor of state upon request.

(8) When two or more bids are equal, in the whole, or in any part thereof, and are lower than any others, either may be accepted, but in no case shall the work be divided between such bidders.

(9) When there is reason to believe there is collusion or combination among the bidders, or any number of them, the bids of those concerned therein shall be rejected.

(B) Division (A) of this section does not apply to the board of education of any school district in any of the following situations:

(1) The acquisition of educational materials used in teaching.

(2) If the board determines and declares by resolution adopted by two-thirds of all its members that any item is available and can be acquired only from a single source.

(3) If the board declares by resolution adopted by two-thirds of all its members that division (A) of this section does not apply to any installation, modification, or remodeling involved in any energy conservation measure undertaken through an installment payment contract under section 3313.372 of the Revised Code or undertaken pursuant to division (G)(1) of section 133.06 of the Revised Code.

(4) The acquisition of computer software for instructional purposes and computer hardware for instructional purposes pursuant to division (B)(4) of section 3313.37 of the Revised Code.

(C) No resolution adopted pursuant to division (B)(2) or (3) of this section shall have any effect on whether sections 153.12 to 153.14 and 153.54 of the Revised Code apply to the board of education of any school district with regard to any item.

Sec. 3313.489. (A) The director of education and workforce shall examine each ~~five-year~~

school district's current budget information and three-year projection of revenues and expenditures submitted under section 5705.391 of the Revised Code and shall determine whether the information contained therein, together with any other relevant information, indicates that the district may be financially unable to operate its instructional program on all days set forth in its adopted school calendars and pay all obligated expenses during the current fiscal year. If a board of education has not adopted a school calendar for the school year beginning on the first day of July of the current fiscal year at the time an examination is required under this division, the director shall examine the five-year-current budget information and three-year projection and determine whether the district may be financially unable to pay all obligated expenses and operate its instructional program for the number of days on which instruction was held in the preceding fiscal year.

(B) If the director of education and workforce determines pursuant to division (A) of this section that a school district may be financially unable to operate its instructional program on all days required by such division and pay all obligated expenses during the current fiscal year, the director shall provide written notification of such determination to the president of the district's board of education and the auditor of state.

(C) This section does not apply to a school district declared to be under a fiscal emergency pursuant to division (B) of section 3316.03 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3313.536. (A) The superintendent of any school district may afford a student enrolled in another school district the opportunity to participate in ice hockey as an interscholastic athletic activity at a school of the superintendent's district if all of the following conditions apply:

(1) The school district in which the student is enrolled does not offer ice hockey as an interscholastic athletic activity.

(2) The school district in which the student is enrolled is located less than twenty miles away from the superintendent's school district.

(3) The superintendents of both school districts enter into an agreement approving the student's participation in ice hockey at the school district in which the student is not enrolled.

(B) A student shall not be required to enroll in the school district that offers ice hockey as an interscholastic athletic activity or be a resident of that district to participate in ice hockey at the district under this section.

(C) To participate in ice hockey under this section, a student shall be of the appropriate age and grade level for the school at which the student participates in ice hockey, as determined by the superintendent of that school district, and shall fulfill and be subject to the same academic, nonacademic, and financial requirements as any other participant, including trying out for a position on the team.

Sec. 3313.5313. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Harassment, intimidation, or bullying" has the same meaning as in section 3313.666 of the Revised Code.

(2) "Home-educated student" means a student who is receiving home education in

accordance with section 3321.042 of the Revised Code.

(3) "Qualifying offense" means any of the following:

(a) An offense of violence;

(b) A violation of section 2907.07 of the Revised Code;

(c) An attempt to commit an offense of violence or a violation of section 2907.07 of the Revised Code.

(4) "Qualifying school" means a community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code, a STEM school established under Chapter 3326. of the Revised Code, a chartered nonpublic school, or a nonchartered nonpublic school.

(5) "Resident district" means the school district in which a student is entitled to attend school under section 3313.64 or 3313.65 of the Revised Code.

(B) The superintendent of any school district may afford any home-educated student ~~or any student enrolled in a qualifying school or a different school district~~, regardless of whether the superintendent's district is the student's resident district, the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics at a school of the superintendent's district, if the student was subject to any of the following by a school official, employee, or volunteer or another student from ~~the district or school in which the student is enrolled or~~ the district in which the student is participating in interscholastic athletics under section ~~3313.537, 3313.5311, or~~ 3313.5312 of the Revised Code:

(1) Harassment, intimidation, or bullying;

(2) A qualifying offense, for which the school official, employee, or volunteer or another student has been either of the following:

(a) Charged with, indicted for, convicted of, or pled guilty to committing;

(b) Alleged to be or is adjudicated a delinquent child for committing.

(3) Conduct by a school official, employee, or volunteer that violates the licensure code of professional conduct for Ohio educators developed by the state board of education.

(C) The chief administrative officer of any qualifying school may afford any ~~student enrolled in a school district, any student enrolled in a different qualifying school, or any~~ home-educated student the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics at the chief administrative officer's school, if the student was subject to any of the following by a school official, employee, or volunteer or another student from ~~the district or school in which the student is enrolled or~~ the district in which the student is participating in interscholastic athletics under section ~~3313.537, 3313.5311, or~~ 3313.5312 of the Revised Code:

(1) Harassment, intimidation, or bullying;

(2) A qualifying offense, for which the school official, employee, or volunteer or another student has been either of the following:

(a) Charged with, indicted for, convicted of, or pled guilty to committing;

(b) Alleged to be or is adjudicated a delinquent child for committing.

(3) Conduct by a school official, employee, or volunteer that violates the licensure code of

professional conduct for Ohio educators developed by the state board of education.

~~(D) To participate in interscholastic athletics under this section, a student who is not a home-educated student shall be of the appropriate age and grade level, as determined by the superintendent of the district or the chief administrative officer of the qualifying school, for the school at which the student participates in interscholastic athletics and shall fulfill the same academic, nonacademic, and financial requirements as any other participant.~~

~~(E)~~ Divisions (C) to (E) of section 3313.5312 of the Revised Code apply to a home-educated student who participates in interscholastic athletics at school under this section.

~~(F)~~(E) No district or school shall impose additional rules on a student to participate under this section that do not apply to other students participating in the same interscholastic athletics activity. No district or school shall impose fees for a student to participate under this section that exceed any fees charged to other students participating in the same interscholastic athletics activity.

~~(G)~~(F) No school district board of education, STEM school governing body, or governing authority of a community school, chartered nonpublic school, or nonchartered nonpublic school shall take any action contrary to the provisions of this section.

~~(H)~~(G) No school district, interscholastic conference, or organization that regulates interscholastic conferences or events shall do either of the following:

(1) Require a student who is eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics under this section to meet eligibility requirements that conflict with this section;

(2) Penalize or restrict the eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics of a student who, during a school year, ceases to participate in interscholastic athletics at one district or school and then begins to participate in interscholastic athletics at a different district or school under this section.

Sec. 3313.603. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "One unit" means a minimum of one hundred twenty hours of course instruction, except that for a laboratory course, "one unit" means a minimum of one hundred fifty hours of course instruction.

(2) "One-half unit" means a minimum of sixty hours of course instruction, except that for physical education courses, "one-half unit" means a minimum of one hundred twenty hours of course instruction.

(B) Beginning September 15, 2001, except as required in division (C) of this section and division (C) of section 3313.614 of the Revised Code, the requirements for graduation from every high school shall include twenty units earned in grades nine through twelve and shall be distributed as follows:

- (1) English language arts, four units;
- (2) Health, one-half unit;
- (3) Mathematics, three units;
- (4) Physical education, one-half unit;

(5) Science, two units until September 15, 2003, and three units thereafter, which at all times shall include both of the following:

- (a) Biological sciences, one unit;
- (b) Physical sciences, one unit.

(6) History and government, one unit, which shall comply with division (M) of this section and shall include both of the following:

- (a) American history, one-half unit;
 - (b) American government, one-half unit.
- (7) Social studies, two units.

Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2017, the two units of instruction prescribed by division (B)(7) of this section shall include at least one-half unit of instruction in the study of world history and civilizations.

(8) Elective units, seven units until September 15, 2003, and six units thereafter.

Each student's electives shall include at least one unit, or two half units, chosen from among the areas of business/technology, fine arts, and/or foreign language.

(C) Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2010, except as provided in divisions (D) to (F) of this section, the requirements for graduation from every public and chartered nonpublic high school shall include twenty units that are designed to prepare students for the workforce and college. The units shall be distributed as follows:

- (1) English language arts, four units;
- (2) Health, one-half unit, which shall include instruction in nutrition and the benefits of nutritious foods and physical activity for overall health;
- (3) Mathematics, four units, which shall include one unit of algebra II or the equivalent of algebra II, or one unit of advanced computer science as described in the standards adopted pursuant to division (A)(4) of section 3301.079 of the Revised Code. However, students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2015, and who are pursuing a career-technical instructional track shall not be required to take algebra II or advanced computer science, and instead may complete a career-based pathway mathematics course approved by the department of education and workforce as an alternative.

For students who choose to take advanced computer science in lieu of algebra II under division (C)(3) of this section, the school shall communicate to those students that some institutions of higher education may require algebra II for the purpose of college admission. Also, the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of each student who chooses to take advanced computer science in lieu of algebra II shall sign and submit to the school a document containing a statement acknowledging that not taking algebra II may have an adverse effect on college admission decisions.

A student may fulfill one unit of mathematics under division (C)(3) of this section by completing one-half unit of financial literacy instruction to satisfy the requirement prescribed under division (C)(9) of this section and one-half unit of a mathematics course. The one-half unit course in

mathematics shall not be in algebra II, or its equivalent, or a course for which the department requires an end-of-course examination under section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code.

Students who choose to take one unit of advanced computer science in lieu of algebra II, as described in division (C)(3) of this section, shall not be permitted to complete one-half unit of financial literacy instruction to satisfy the mathematics unit requirements of that division. Instead, those students shall be required to complete the one-half unit of financial literacy instruction under division (C)(8) of this section.

(4) Physical education, one-half unit;

(5) Science, three units with inquiry-based laboratory experience that engages students in asking valid scientific questions and gathering and analyzing information, which shall include the following, or their equivalent:

(a) Physical sciences, one unit;

(b) Life sciences, one unit;

(c) Advanced study in one or more of the following sciences, one unit:

(i) Chemistry, physics, or other physical science;

(ii) Advanced biology or other life science;

(iii) Astronomy, physical geology, or other earth or space science;

(iv) Computer science.

No student shall substitute a computer science course for a life sciences or biology course under division (C)(5) of this section.

(6) History and government, one unit, which shall comply with division (M) of this section and shall include both of the following:

(a) American history, one-half unit;

(b) American government, one-half unit.

(7) Social studies, two units.

Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2017, the two units of instruction prescribed by division (C)(7) of this section shall include at least one-half unit of instruction in the study of world history and civilizations.

(8) Five units consisting of one or any combination of foreign language, fine arts, business, career-technical education, family and consumer sciences, technology which may include computer science, agricultural education, a junior reserve officer training corps (JROTC) program approved by the congress of the United States under title 10 of the United States Code, or English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies courses not otherwise required under division (C) of this section.

One-half unit of instruction under division (C)(8) of this section may be instruction in financial literacy to satisfy the requirement under division (C)(9) of this section.

(9)(a) Except as provided in division (C)(9)(b) of this section, for students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2022, financial literacy, one-half unit. Each student shall

elect to complete the one-half unit of instruction in financial literacy either in lieu of one-half unit of instruction in mathematics under division (C)(3) of this section or an elective under division (C)(8) of this section. A student may fulfill the financial literacy instruction requirement under division (C)(9) of this section through the successful completion of an advanced placement course in microeconomics or macroeconomics.

(b) A student attending a nonpublic school accredited through the independent schools association of the central states or any other chartered nonpublic school shall not be required to complete the one-half unit of financial literacy instruction prescribed in division (C)(9)(a) of this section, unless that student is attending the school under a state scholarship program as defined in section 3301.0711 of the Revised Code.

The study and instruction of financial literacy required under division (C)(9) of this section shall align with the academic content standards for financial literacy and entrepreneurship adopted under division (A)(2) of section 3301.079 of the Revised Code. The instruction provided under an advanced placement course in microeconomics or macroeconomics shall be considered to be aligned with those academic content standards. In developing the curriculum for the study and instruction of financial literacy, schools may use available public-private partnerships and resources and materials that exist in business, industry, and through the centers for economics education at institutions of higher education.

Ohioans must be prepared to apply increased knowledge and skills in the workplace and to adapt their knowledge and skills quickly to meet the rapidly changing conditions of the twenty-first century. National studies indicate that all high school graduates need the same academic foundation, regardless of the opportunities they pursue after graduation. The goal of Ohio's system of elementary and secondary education is to prepare all students for and seamlessly connect all students to success in life beyond high school graduation, regardless of whether the next step is entering the workforce, beginning an apprenticeship, engaging in post-secondary training, serving in the military, or pursuing a college degree.

The requirements for graduation prescribed in division (C) of this section are the standard expectation for all students entering ninth grade for the first time at a public or chartered nonpublic high school on or after July 1, 2010. A student may satisfy this expectation through a variety of methods, including, but not limited to, integrated, applied, career-technical, and traditional coursework.

Stronger coordination between high schools and institutions of higher education is necessary to prepare students for more challenging academic endeavors and to lessen the need for academic remediation in college, thereby reducing the costs of higher education for Ohio's students, families, and the state. The department and the chancellor of higher education shall develop policies to ensure that only in rare instances will students who complete the requirements for graduation prescribed in division (C) of this section require academic remediation after high school.

School districts, community schools, and chartered nonpublic schools shall integrate

technology into learning experiences across the curriculum in order to maximize efficiency, enhance learning, and prepare students for success in the technology-driven twenty-first century. Districts and schools shall use distance and web-based course delivery as a method of providing or augmenting all instruction required under this division, including laboratory experience in science. Districts and schools shall utilize technology access and electronic learning opportunities provided by the broadcast educational media commission, chancellor, the Ohio learning network, education technology centers, public television stations, and other public and private providers.

(D) Except as provided in division (E) of this section, a student who enters ninth grade on or after July 1, 2010, and before July 1, 2016, may qualify for graduation from a public or chartered nonpublic high school even though the student has not completed the requirements for graduation prescribed in division (C) of this section if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

(1) During the student's third year of attending high school, as determined by the school, the student and the student's parent, guardian, or custodian sign and file with the school a written statement asserting the parent's, guardian's, or custodian's consent to the student's graduating without completing the requirements for graduation prescribed in division (C) of this section and acknowledging that one consequence of not completing those requirements is ineligibility to enroll in most state universities in Ohio without further coursework.

(2) The student and parent, guardian, or custodian fulfill any procedural requirements the school stipulates to ensure the student's and parent's, guardian's, or custodian's informed consent and to facilitate orderly filing of statements under division (D)(1) of this section. Annually, each district or school shall notify the department of the number of students who choose to qualify for graduation under division (D) of this section and the number of students who complete the student's success plan and graduate from high school.

(3) The student and the student's parent, guardian, or custodian and a representative of the student's high school jointly develop a student success plan for the student in the manner described in division (C)(1) of section 3313.6020 of the Revised Code that specifies the student matriculating to a two-year degree program, acquiring a business and industry-recognized credential, or entering an apprenticeship.

(4) The student's high school provides counseling and support for the student related to the plan developed under division (D)(3) of this section during the remainder of the student's high school experience.

(5)(a) Except as provided in division (D)(5)(b) of this section, the student successfully completes, at a minimum, the curriculum prescribed in division (B) of this section.

(b) Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2014, a student shall be required to complete successfully, at the minimum, the curriculum prescribed in division (B) of this section, except as follows:

(i) Mathematics, four units, one unit which shall be one of the following:

(I) Probability and statistics;

(II) Computer science;
(III) Applied mathematics or quantitative reasoning;
(IV) Any other course approved by the department using standards established by the superintendent not later than October 1, 2014.

(ii) Elective units, five units;
(iii) Science, three units as prescribed by division (B) of this section which shall include inquiry-based laboratory experience that engages students in asking valid scientific questions and gathering and analyzing information.

(E) Each school district and chartered nonpublic school retains the authority to require an even more challenging minimum curriculum for high school graduation than specified in division (B) or (C) of this section. A school district board of education, through the adoption of a resolution, or the governing authority of a chartered nonpublic school may stipulate any of the following:

(1) A minimum high school curriculum that requires more than twenty units of academic credit to graduate;

(2) An exception to the district's or school's minimum high school curriculum that is comparable to the exception provided in division (D) of this section but with additional requirements, which may include a requirement that the student successfully complete more than the minimum curriculum prescribed in division (B) of this section;

(3) That no exception comparable to that provided in division (D) of this section is available.

If a school district or chartered nonpublic school requires a foreign language as an additional graduation requirement under division (E) of this section, a student may apply one unit of instruction in computer coding to satisfy one unit of foreign language. If a student applies more than one computer coding course to satisfy the foreign language requirement, the courses shall be sequential and progressively more difficult.

(F) A student enrolled in a dropout prevention and recovery program, which program has received a waiver from the department, may qualify for graduation from high school by successfully completing a competency-based instructional program administered by the dropout prevention and recovery program in lieu of completing the requirements for graduation prescribed in division (C) of this section. The department shall grant a waiver to a dropout prevention and recovery program, within sixty days after the program applies for the waiver, if the program meets all of the following conditions:

(1) The program serves only students not younger than sixteen years of age and not older than twenty-one years of age.

(2) The program enrolls students who, at the time of their initial enrollment, either, or both, are at least one grade level behind their cohort age groups or experience crises that significantly interfere with their academic progress such that they are prevented from continuing their traditional programs.

(3) The program requires students to attain at least the applicable score designated for each

of the assessments prescribed under division (B)(1) of section 3301.0710 of the Revised Code or, to the extent prescribed by rule of the department under division (D)(5) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code, division (B)(2) of that section.

(4) The program develops a student success plan for the student in the manner described in division (C)(1) of section 3313.6020 of the Revised Code that specifies the student's matriculating to a two-year degree program, acquiring a business and industry-recognized credential, or entering an apprenticeship.

(5) The program provides counseling and support for the student related to the plan developed under division (F)(4) of this section during the remainder of the student's high school experience.

(6) The program requires the student and the student's parent, guardian, or custodian to sign and file, in accordance with procedural requirements stipulated by the program, a written statement asserting the parent's, guardian's, or custodian's consent to the student's graduating without completing the requirements for graduation prescribed in division (C) of this section and acknowledging that one consequence of not completing those requirements is ineligibility to enroll in most state universities in Ohio without further coursework.

(7) Prior to receiving the waiver, the program has submitted to the department an instructional plan that demonstrates how the academic content standards adopted by the department under section 3301.079 of the Revised Code will be taught and assessed.

(8) Prior to receiving the waiver, the program has submitted to the department a policy on career advising that satisfies the requirements of section 3313.6020 of the Revised Code, with an emphasis on how every student will receive career advising.

(9) Prior to receiving the waiver, the program has submitted to the department a written agreement outlining the future cooperation between the program and any combination of local job training, postsecondary education, nonprofit, and health and social service organizations to provide services for students in the program and their families.

Divisions (F)(8) and (9) of this section apply only to waivers granted on or after July 1, 2015.

If the department does not act either to grant the waiver or to reject the program application for the waiver within sixty days as required under this section, the waiver shall be considered to be granted.

(G) Every high school may permit students below the ninth grade to take advanced work. If a high school so permits, it shall award high school credit for successful completion of the advanced work and shall count such advanced work toward the graduation requirements of division (B) or (C) of this section if the advanced work was both:

(1) Taught by a person who possesses a license or certificate issued under section 3301.071, 3319.22, or 3319.222 of the Revised Code that is valid for teaching high school;

(2) Designated by the board of education of the city, local, or exempted village school

district, the board of the cooperative education school district, or the governing authority of the chartered nonpublic school as meeting the high school curriculum requirements.

Each high school shall record on the student's high school transcript all high school credit awarded under division (G) of this section. In addition, if the student completed a seventh- or eighth-grade fine arts course described in division (K) of this section and the course qualified for high school credit under that division, the high school shall record that course on the student's high school transcript.

(H) The department shall make its individual academic career plan available through its Ohio career information system web site for districts and schools to use as a tool for communicating with and providing guidance to students and families in selecting high school courses.

(I) A school district or chartered nonpublic school may integrate academic content in a subject area for which the department has adopted standards under section 3301.079 of the Revised Code into a course in a different subject area, including a career-technical education course, in accordance with guidance for integrated coursework developed by the department. Upon successful completion of an integrated course, a student may receive credit for both subject areas that were integrated into the course. Units earned for subject area content delivered through integrated academic and career-technical instruction are eligible to meet the graduation requirements of division (B) or (C) of this section.

For purposes of meeting graduation requirements, if an end-of-course examination has been prescribed under section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code for the subject area delivered through integrated instruction, the school district or school may administer the related subject area examinations upon the student's completion of the integrated course.

Nothing in division (I) of this section shall be construed to excuse any school district, chartered nonpublic school, or student from any requirement in the Revised Code related to curriculum, assessments, or the awarding of a high school diploma.

(J)(1) The department, in consultation with the chancellor, shall adopt a statewide plan implementing methods for students to earn units of high school credit based on a demonstration of subject area competency, instead of or in combination with completing hours of classroom instruction. The plan shall include a standard method for recording demonstrated proficiency on high school transcripts. Each school district and community school shall comply with the department's plan adopted under this division and award units of high school credit in accordance with the plan. The department may adopt existing methods for earning high school credit based on a demonstration of subject area competency as necessary prior to the 2009-2010 school year.

(2) The department shall update the statewide plan adopted pursuant to division (J)(1) of this section to also include methods for students enrolled in seventh and eighth grade to meet curriculum requirements based on a demonstration of subject area competency, instead of or in combination with completing hours of classroom instruction. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, each school district and community school also shall comply with the updated plan adopted pursuant to

this division and permit students enrolled in seventh and eighth grade to meet curriculum requirements based on subject area competency in accordance with the plan.

(3) The department shall develop a framework for school districts and community schools to use in granting units of high school credit to students who demonstrate subject area competency through work-based learning experiences, internships, or cooperative education. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, each district and community school shall comply with the framework. Each district and community school also shall review any policy it has adopted regarding the demonstration of subject area competency to identify ways to incorporate work-based learning experiences, internships, and cooperative education into the policy in order to increase student engagement and opportunities to earn units of high school credit.

(K) This division does not apply to students who qualify for graduation from high school under division (D) or (F) of this section, or to students pursuing a career-technical instructional track as determined by the school district board of education or the chartered nonpublic school's governing authority. Nevertheless, the general assembly encourages such students to consider enrolling in a fine arts course as an elective.

Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2010, each student enrolled in a public or chartered nonpublic high school shall complete two semesters or the equivalent of fine arts to graduate from high school. The coursework may be completed in any of grades seven to twelve. Each student who completes a fine arts course in grade seven or eight may elect to count that course toward the five units of electives required for graduation under division (C)(8) of this section, if the course satisfied the requirements of division (G) of this section. In that case, the high school shall award the student high school credit for the course and count the course toward the five units required under division (C)(8) of this section. If the course in grade seven or eight did not satisfy the requirements of division (G) of this section, the high school shall not award the student high school credit for the course but shall count the course toward the two semesters or the equivalent of fine arts required by this division.

(L) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section, the board of education of each school district and the governing authority of each chartered nonpublic school may adopt a policy to excuse from the high school physical education requirement each student who, during high school, has participated in interscholastic athletics, marching band, show choir, or cheerleading for at least two full seasons or in the junior reserve officer training corps for at least two full school years. If the board or authority adopts such a policy, the board or authority shall not require the student to complete any physical education course as a condition to graduate. However, the student shall be required to complete one-half unit, consisting of at least sixty hours of instruction, in another course of study. In the case of a student who has participated in the junior reserve officer training corps for at least two full school years, credit received for that participation may be used to satisfy the requirement to complete one-half unit in another course of study.

(M) It is important that high school students learn and understand United States history and

the governments of both the United States and the state of Ohio. Therefore, beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2012, the study of American history and American government required by divisions (B)(6) and (C)(6) of this section shall include the study of all of the following documents:

- (1) The Declaration of Independence;
- (2) The Northwest Ordinance;
- (3) The Constitution of the United States with emphasis on the Bill of Rights;
- (4) The Ohio Constitution.

The study of each of the documents prescribed in divisions (M)(1) to (4) of this section shall include study of that document in its original context.

The study of American history and government required by divisions (B)(6) and (C)(6) of this section shall include the historical evidence of the role of documents such as the Federalist Papers and the Anti-Federalist Papers to firmly establish the historical background leading to the establishment of the provisions of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

(N) A student may apply one unit of instruction in computer science to satisfy one unit of mathematics or one unit of science under division (C) of this section as the student chooses, regardless of the field of certification of the teacher who teaches the course, so long as that teacher meets the licensure requirements prescribed by section 3319.236 of the Revised Code and, prior to teaching the course, completes a professional development program determined to be appropriate by the district board.

If a student applies more than one computer science course to satisfy curriculum requirements under that division, the courses shall be sequential and progressively more difficult or cover different subject areas within computer science.

(O) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section, the board of education of each school district and the governing authority of each chartered nonpublic school may adopt a policy to excuse from the financial literacy instruction requirement under division (C)(9) of this section each student who, during high school, participates in a financial literacy program offered through a student branch, as defined in section 1733.04 of the Revised Code, or by a bank, as defined in section 1101.01 of the Revised Code. The policy shall require the financial literacy program to meet or exceed the academic content standards and model curriculum for financial literacy and entrepreneurship instruction adopted under section 3301.079 of the Revised Code. The policy shall require a student to participate in the program for the equivalent of at least one-half unit of instruction to qualify for an exemption under this division.

Not later than July 1, 2026, the department shall develop and post on its web site a model policy and guidelines for districts and schools to use in developing a policy under this division.

Sec. 3313.608. (A)(1) Beginning with students who enter third grade in the school year that starts July 1, 2009, and until June 30, 2013, unless the student is excused under division (C) of section 3301.0711 of the Revised Code from taking the assessment described in this section, for any

student who does not attain at least the equivalent level of achievement designated under division (A)(3) of section 3301.0710 of the Revised Code on the assessment prescribed under that section to measure skill in English language arts expected at the end of third grade, each school district, in accordance with the policy adopted under section 3313.609 of the Revised Code, shall do one of the following:

(a) Promote the student to fourth grade if the student's principal and reading teacher agree that other evaluations of the student's skill in reading demonstrate that the student is academically prepared to be promoted to fourth grade;

(b) Promote the student to fourth grade but provide the student with intensive intervention services in fourth grade;

(c) Retain the student in third grade.

(2) Beginning with students who enter third grade in the 2013-2014 school year, unless the student is excused under division (C) of section 3301.0711 of the Revised Code from taking the assessment described in this section, no school district shall promote to fourth grade any student who does not attain at least the equivalent level of achievement designated under division (A)(3) of section 3301.0710 of the Revised Code on the assessment prescribed under that section to measure skill in English language arts expected at the end of third grade, unless one of the following applies:

(a) The student is an English learner who has been enrolled in United States schools for less than three full school years and has had less than three years of instruction in an English as a second language program.

(b) The student is a child with a disability entitled to special education and related services under Chapter 3323. of the Revised Code and the student's individualized education program exempts the student from retention under this division.

(c) The student demonstrates an acceptable level of performance on an alternative standardized reading assessment as determined by the department of education and workforce.

(d) All of the following apply:

(i) The student is a child with a disability entitled to special education and related services under Chapter 3323. of the Revised Code.

(ii) The student has taken the third grade English language arts achievement assessment prescribed under section 3301.0710 of the Revised Code.

(iii) The student's individualized education program or plan under section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 87 Stat. 355, 29 U.S.C. 794, as amended, shows that the student has received intensive remediation in reading for two school years but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading.

(iv) The student previously was retained in any of grades kindergarten to three.

(e)(i) The student received intensive remediation for reading for two school years but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading and was previously retained in any of grades kindergarten to three.

(ii) A student who is promoted under division (A)(2)(e)(i) of this section shall continue to receive intensive reading instruction in grade four. The instruction shall include an altered instructional day that includes specialized diagnostic information and specific research-based reading strategies for the student that have been successful in improving reading among low-performing readers.

(f) A student's parent or guardian, in consultation with the student's reading teacher and building principal, requests that the student, regardless of if the student is reading at grade level, be promoted to the fourth grade.

A student who is promoted under division (A)(2)(f) of this section shall continue to receive intensive reading instruction in the same manner as a student retained under this section until the student is able to read at grade level.

(B)(1) Beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, to assist students in meeting the third grade guarantee established by this section, each school district board of education shall adopt policies and procedures with which it annually shall assess the reading skills of each student, ~~except those students with significant cognitive disabilities or other disabilities as authorized by the department on a case-by-case basis,~~ enrolled in kindergarten to third grade and shall identify students who are reading below their grade level. The reading skills assessment shall be completed by the thirtieth day of September ~~for students in grades one to three, and by the twentieth day of instruction of the school year for students in kindergarten.~~ Each district shall use ~~the a~~ diagnostic assessment ~~to measure reading ability~~ for the appropriate grade level adopted or approved under section 3301.079 of the Revised Code, ~~or a comparable tool approved by the department of education and workforce,~~ to identify such students. The policies and procedures shall require the students' classroom teachers to be involved in the assessment and the identification of students reading below grade level. The assessment may be administered electronically using live, two-way video and audio connections whereby the teacher administering the assessment may be in a separate location from the student.

(2) For each student identified by the diagnostic assessment prescribed under this section as having reading skills below grade level, the district shall do both of the following:

(a) Provide to the student's parent or guardian, in writing, all of the following:

(i) Notification that the student has been identified as having a substantial deficiency in reading;

(ii) A description of the current services that are provided to the student;

(iii) A description of the proposed supplemental instructional services and supports that will be provided to the student that are designed to remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency;

(iv) Notification that if the student attains a score in the range designated under division (A)(3) of section 3301.0710 of the Revised Code on the assessment prescribed under that section to measure skill in English language arts expected at the end of third grade, the student shall be retained unless the student is exempt under division (A) of this section. The notification shall specify that the assessment under section 3301.0710 of the Revised Code is not the sole determinant of

promotion and that additional evaluations and assessments are available to the student to assist parents and the district in knowing when a student is reading at or above grade level and ready for promotion.

(v) A statement that connects the child's proficiency level in reading to long-term outcomes of success related to proficiency in reading.

(b) Provide intensive reading instruction services and regular diagnostic assessments to the student immediately following identification of a reading deficiency until the development of the reading improvement and monitoring plan required by division (C) of this section. These intervention services shall be aligned with the science of reading as defined under section 3313.6028 of the Revised Code and include research-based reading strategies that have been shown to be successful in improving reading among low-performing readers and instruction targeted at the student's identified reading deficiencies.

(3) For each student retained under division (A) of this section, the district shall do all of the following:

(a) Provide intense remediation services until the student is able to read at grade level. The remediation services shall include intensive interventions in reading that address the areas of deficiencies identified under this section including, but not limited to, not less than ninety minutes of reading instruction per day, and may include any of the following:

- (i) Small group instruction;
- (ii) Reduced teacher-student ratios;
- (iii) More frequent progress monitoring;
- (iv) Tutoring or mentoring;
- (v) Transition classes containing third and fourth grade students;
- (vi) Extended school day, week, or year;
- (vii) Summer reading camps.

(b) Establish a policy for the mid-year promotion of a student retained under division (A) of this section who demonstrates that the student is reading at or above grade level;

(c) Provide each student with a teacher who satisfies one or more of the criteria set forth in division (H) of this section.

The district shall offer the option for students to receive applicable services from one or more providers other than the district. Providers shall be screened and approved by the district or the department of education and workforce. If the student participates in the remediation services and demonstrates reading proficiency in accordance with standards adopted by the department prior to the start of fourth grade, the district shall promote the student to that grade.

(4) For each student retained under division (A) of this section who has demonstrated proficiency in a specific academic ability field, each district shall provide instruction commensurate with student achievement levels in that specific academic ability field.

As used in this division, "specific academic ability field" has the same meaning as in section

3324.01 of the Revised Code.

(C) For each student required to be provided intervention services under this section, the district shall develop a reading improvement and monitoring plan within sixty days after receiving the student's results on the diagnostic assessment ~~or comparable tool~~ administered under division (B)(1) of this section. The district shall involve the student's parent or guardian and classroom teacher in developing the plan. The plan shall include all of the following:

- (1) Identification of the student's specific reading deficiencies;
- (2) A description of the additional instructional services and support that will be provided to the student to remediate the identified reading deficiencies;
- (3) Opportunities for the student's parent or guardian to be involved in the instructional services and support described in division (C)(2) of this section;
- (4) A process for monitoring the extent to which the student receives the instructional services and support described in division (C)(2) of this section;
- (5) A reading curriculum during regular school hours that does all of the following:
 - (a) Assists students to read at grade level;
 - (b) Provides scientifically based and reliable assessment;
 - (c) Provides initial and ongoing analysis of each student's reading progress.
- (6) A statement that if the student does not attain at least the equivalent level of achievement designated under division (A)(3) of section 3301.0710 of the Revised Code on the assessment prescribed under that section to measure skill in English language arts expected by the end of third grade, the student may be retained in third grade.

(7) ~~High-dosage~~ The provision of high-dosage tutoring opportunities aligned with the student's classroom instruction through a state-approved vendor on the list of high-quality tutoring vendors under section 3301.136 of the Revised Code or a locally approved ~~opportunity program~~ that aligns with high-dosage tutoring best practices identified by the department. High-dosage tutoring ~~opportunities~~ shall include additional instruction time of at least three days per week, or at least fifty hours over thirty-six weeks. High-dosage tutoring may be incorporated into a student's regular classroom instruction.

The district shall continue to provide the plan developed under division (C) of this section until the student achieves the required level of skill in reading for the student's current grade level.

Each student with a reading improvement and monitoring plan under this division who enters third grade after July 1, 2013, shall be assigned to a teacher who satisfies one or more of the criteria set forth in division (H) of this section.

The district shall report any information requested by the department about the reading improvement monitoring plans developed under this division in the manner required by the department.

(D) Each school district shall report annually to the department on its implementation and compliance with this section using guidelines prescribed by the department. The director of

education and workforce annually shall report to the governor and general assembly the number and percentage of students in grades kindergarten through four reading below grade level based on the diagnostic assessments administered under division (B) of this section and the achievement assessments administered under divisions (A)(1)(a) and (b) of section 3301.0710 of the Revised Code in English language arts, aggregated by school district and building; the types of intervention services provided to students; and, if available, an evaluation of the efficacy of the intervention services provided.

(E) Any summer remediation services funded in whole or in part by the state and offered by school districts to students under this section shall meet the following conditions:

(1) The remediation methods are based on reliable educational research.

(2) The school districts conduct assessment before and after students participate in the program to facilitate monitoring results of the remediation services.

(3) The parents of participating students are involved in programming decisions.

(F) Any intervention or remediation services required by this section shall include intensive, explicit, and systematic instruction.

(G) This section does not create a new cause of action or a substantive legal right for any person.

(H)(1) Except as provided under divisions (H)(2), (3), and (4) of this section, each student described in division (B)(3) or (C) of this section who enters third grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2013, shall be assigned a teacher who has at least one year of teaching experience and who satisfies one or more of the following criteria:

(a) The teacher holds a reading endorsement on the teacher's license and has attained a passing score on the corresponding assessment for that endorsement, as applicable.

(b) The teacher has completed a master's degree program with a major in reading.

(c) The teacher was rated "most effective" for reading instruction consecutively for the most recent two years based on assessments of student growth measures developed by a vendor and that is on the list of student assessments approved by the department under division (B)(2) of section 3319.112 of the Revised Code.

(d) The teacher was rated "above expected value added," in reading instruction, as determined by criteria established by the department, for the most recent, consecutive two years.

(e) The teacher has earned a passing score on a rigorous test of principles of scientifically research-based reading instruction as approved by the department.

(f) The teacher holds an educator license for teaching grades pre-kindergarten through three or four through nine issued on or after July 1, 2017.

(2) Notwithstanding division (H)(1) of this section, a student described in division (B)(3) or (C) of this section who enters third grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2013, may be assigned to a teacher with less than one year of teaching experience provided that the teacher meets one or more of the criteria described in divisions (H)(1)(a) to (f) of this section and that teacher is assigned

a teacher mentor who meets the qualifications of division (H)(1) of this section.

(3) Notwithstanding division (H)(1) of this section, a student described in division (B)(3) or (C) of this section who enters third grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2013, but prior to July 1, 2016, may be assigned to a teacher who holds an alternative credential approved by the department or who has successfully completed training that is based on principles of scientifically research-based reading instruction that has been approved by the department. The alternative credentials and training described in division (H)(3) of this section shall be aligned with the reading competencies adopted by the department of education and workforce under section 3301.077 of the Revised Code.

(4) Notwithstanding division (H)(1) of this section, a student described in division (B)(3) or (C) of this section who enters third grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2013, may receive reading intervention or remediation services under this section from an individual employed as a speech-language pathologist who holds a license issued by the state speech and hearing professionals board under Chapter 4753. of the Revised Code and a registration under section 3319.221 of the Revised Code.

(5) A teacher, other than a student's teacher of record, may provide any services required under this section, so long as that other teacher meets the requirements of division (H) of this section and the teacher of record and the school principal agree to the assignment. Any such assignment shall be documented in the student's reading improvement and monitoring plan.

As used in this division, "teacher of record" means the classroom teacher to whom a student is assigned.

(I) Notwithstanding division (H) of this section, a teacher may teach reading to any student who is an English language learner, and has been in the United States for three years or less, or to a student who has an individualized education program developed under Chapter 3323. of the Revised Code if that teacher holds an alternative credential approved by the department or has successfully completed training that is based on principles of scientifically research-based reading instruction that has been approved by the department. The alternative credentials and training described in this division shall be aligned with the reading competencies adopted by the department of education and workforce under section 3301.077 of the Revised Code.

(J) If, on or after June 4, 2013, a school district or community school cannot furnish the number of teachers needed who satisfy one or more of the criteria set forth in division (H) of this section for the 2013-2014 school year, the school district or community school shall develop and submit a staffing plan by June 30, 2013. The staffing plan shall include criteria that will be used to assign a student described in division (B)(3) or (C) of this section to a teacher, credentials or training held by teachers currently teaching at the school, and how the school district or community school will meet the requirements of this section. The school district or community school shall post the staffing plan on its web site for the applicable school year.

Not later than March 1, 2014, and on the first day of March in each year thereafter, a school

district or community school that has submitted a plan under this division shall submit to the department a detailed report of the progress the district or school has made in meeting the requirements under this section.

A school district or community school may request an extension of a staffing plan beyond the 2013-2014 school year. Extension requests must be submitted to the department not later than the thirtieth day of April prior to the start of the applicable school year. The department may grant extensions valid through the 2015-2016 school year.

(K) The department of education and workforce shall designate one or more staff members to provide guidance and assistance to school districts and community schools in implementing the third grade guarantee established by this section, including any standards or requirements adopted to implement the guarantee and to provide information and support for reading instruction and achievement.

Sec. 3313.609. (A) As used in this section:-

(1) ~~"Truant" means absent without excuse.~~

(2) ~~"Academically prepared"~~, "academically prepared" means whatever educational standard the board of education of each city, exempted village, local, and joint vocational school district establishes as necessary for the promotion of a student to the next grade level pursuant to the policy adopted under division (B) of this section.

(B) The board of education of each city, exempted village, local, and joint vocational school district shall adopt a grade promotion and retention policy for students that complies with this section and section 3313.608 of the Revised Code. The policy shall prohibit the promotion of a student to the next grade level if the student ~~has been truant for more than ten per cent of the required attendance days of the current school year and~~ has failed two or more of the required curriculum subject areas in the current grade unless the student's principal and the teachers of any failed subject areas agree that the student is academically prepared to be promoted to the next grade level.

Sec. 3313.6013. (A) As used in this section, "advanced standing program" means a program that enables a student to earn credit toward a degree from an institution of higher education while enrolled in high school or that enables a student to complete coursework while enrolled in high school that may earn credit toward a degree from an institution of higher education upon the student's attainment of a specified score on an examination covering the coursework. Advanced standing programs may include any of the following:

(1) The college credit plus program established under Chapter 3365. of the Revised Code;

(2) Advanced placement courses;

(3) International baccalaureate diploma courses;

(4) Early college high school programs;

(5) Courses that comply with the career-technical education credit transfer criteria, policies, and procedures established under section 3333.162 of the Revised Code;

(6) The college-level examination program.

(B) Each city, local, exempted village, and joint vocational school district and each chartered nonpublic high school shall provide students enrolled in grades nine through twelve with the opportunity to participate in an advanced standing program. For this purpose, each school district and chartered nonpublic high school shall offer at least one advanced standing program in accordance with division (B)(1) or (2) of this section, as applicable.

(1) A city, local, or exempted village school district meets the requirements of this division through its mandatory participation in the college credit plus program established under Chapter 3365. of the Revised Code. However, a city, local, or exempted village school district may offer any other advanced standing program, in addition to the college credit plus program, and each joint vocational school district shall offer at least one other advanced standing program, to students in good standing, as defined by the partnership for continued learning under section 3301.42 of the Revised Code as it existed prior to October 16, 2009, or as subsequently defined by the department of education and workforce.

(2) A chartered nonpublic high school that elects to participate in the college credit plus program established under Chapter 3365. of the Revised Code meets the requirements of this division. Each chartered nonpublic high school that elects not to participate in the college credit plus program instead shall offer at least one other advanced standing program to students in good standing, as defined by the partnership for continued learning under section 3301.42 of the Revised Code as it existed prior to October 16, 2009, or as subsequently defined by the department of education and workforce.

(C) Each school district and each chartered nonpublic high school, at least annually, shall provide information about the advanced standing programs offered by the district or school to all students enrolled in grades six through eleven. The district or school shall include information about all of the following:

(1) The process colleges and universities use in awarding credit for advanced placement and international baccalaureate courses and examinations, including minimum scores required by state institutions of higher education, as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, for a student to receive college credit;

(2) The availability of tuition and fee waivers for advanced placement and international baccalaureate courses and examinations;

(3) The availability of online advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses, including those that may be available at no cost;

(4) The benefits of earning postsecondary credit through advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses;

(5) The availability of advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses offered throughout the district.

The district or school may include additional information as determined appropriate by the

district or school.

(D) Except as provided for in Chapter 3365. of the Revised Code, no city, local, exempted village, and joint vocational school district shall charge an enrolled student an additional fee or tuition for participation in any advanced standing program offered by the district. Students may be required to pay the costs associated with taking an advanced placement or international baccalaureate examination.

(E) Any agreement between a school district or school and an associated college governing the operation of an early college high school program shall be exempt from the requirements of the college credit plus program, provided the program meets the definition set forth in division (F)(2) of this section and is approved by the director of education and workforce and the chancellor of higher education.

The college credit plus program also shall not govern any advanced placement course or international baccalaureate diploma course as described under this section.

(F) As used in this section:

(1) "Associated college" means a public or private college, as defined in section 3365.01 of the Revised Code, which has entered into an agreement with a school district or school to establish an early college high school program, as described in division (F)(2) of this section, and awards transcripted credit, as defined in section 3365.01 of the Revised Code, to students through that program.

(2) "Early college high school program" means a partnership between at least one school district or school and at least one institution of higher education that allows participants to simultaneously complete requirements toward earning a regular high school diploma and have the opportunity to earn not less than twenty-four credits that are transferable to the institutions of higher education in the partnership as part of an organized course of study toward a post-secondary degree or credential at no cost to the participant or participant's family. The program also shall prioritize the following students:

(a) Students who are underrepresented in regard to completing post-secondary education;

(b) Students who are economically disadvantaged, as defined by the department of education and workforce;

(c) Students whose parents did not earn a college degree.

Sec. 3313.6022. (A) As used in this section, "released time" means a period of time during which a student is excused from school to attend a course in religious instruction conducted by a private entity off school district property.

(B) A school district board of education shall adopt a policy that authorizes a student to be excused from school to attend a released time course in religious instruction for at least one period per week, provided that each of the following applies:

(1) The student's parent or guardian gives written consent.

(2) The sponsoring entity maintains attendance records and makes them available to the

school district the student attends.

(3) Transportation to and from the place of instruction, including transportation for students with disabilities, is the complete responsibility of the sponsoring entity, parent, guardian, or student.

(4) The sponsoring entity makes provisions for and assumes liability for the student.

(5) No public funds are expended and no public school personnel are involved in providing the religious instruction.

(6) The student assumes responsibility for any missed schoolwork.

While in attendance in a released time course in religious instruction, a student shall not be considered absent from school. No student may be released from a core curriculum subject course to attend a religious instruction course.

(C) A school district board of education shall collaborate with a sponsoring entity of a released time course in religious instruction to identify a time to offer the course during the school day.

(D) A policy adopted under division (B) of this section shall not prohibit students from bringing external educational and program materials into school.

(E) A policy adopted under division (B) of this section shall not exceed either of the following:

(1) For students in an elementary or middle school, two periods in total per week;

(2) For students in high school, the amount of time that is equivalent to attending two units of high school credit per week.

(F) A policy adopted under division (B) of this section may authorize high school students to earn up to two units of high school credit for the completion of a released time course in religious instruction. In determining whether to award credit for completion of such a course, the board shall evaluate the course based on purely secular criteria that are substantially the same criteria used to evaluate similar nonpublic high school courses for purposes of determining whether to award credit for such courses to a student transferring from a nonpublic high school to a public high school. However, there shall be no criteria requiring that released time courses be completed only at a nonpublic school. The decision to award credit for a released time course of religious instruction shall be neutral to, and shall not involve any test for, religious content or denominational affiliation.

For purposes of this division, secular criteria may include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) The number of hours of classroom instruction time;

(2) A review of the course syllabus that reflects course requirements and materials used;

(3) The methods of assessment used in the course;

(4) The qualifications of the course instructor, which shall be similar to the qualifications of other teachers within the district.

Notwithstanding division (C)(8) of section 3313.603 of the Revised Code, high school credit awarded to a student for a released time course in religious instruction may substitute for the same

amount of credit in subjects listed in that division.

~~(E)~~(G) A school district, member of a school district board of education, or school district employee is not liable in damages in a civil action for injury allegedly arising during a student's transportation to or from a place of instruction when private transportation is used under a released time policy adopted under this section. This division does not eliminate, limit, or reduce any other immunity or defense that a school district, member of a school district board of education, or school district employee may be entitled to under Chapter 2744. or any other provision of the Revised Code or under the common law of this state.

Sec. 3313.6028. (A)(1) As used in Title XXXIII of the Revised Code, "science of reading" means an interdisciplinary body of scientific evidence that:

- (a) Informs how students learn to read and write proficiently;
- (b) Explains why some students have difficulty with reading and writing;
- (c) Indicates that all students benefit from explicit and systematic instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, and writing to become effective readers;
- (d) Does not rely on any model of teaching students to read based on meaning, structure and syntax, and visual cues, including a three-cueing approach.

(2) As used in this section, "three-cueing approach" means any model of teaching students to read based on meaning, structure and syntax, and visual cues.

(B) The department of education and workforce shall establish a list of high-quality core curriculum and instructional materials in English language arts, and a list of evidence-based reading intervention programs, that are aligned with the science of reading and strategies for effective literacy instruction.

(C) Beginning not later than the 2024-2025 school year, each school district, community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code, and STEM school established under Chapter 3326. of the Revised Code, shall use core curriculum and instructional materials in English language arts in each of grades pre-kindergarten to five and evidence-based reading intervention programs in each of grades pre-kindergarten to twelve only from the lists established under division (B) of this section. Except as provided in division (D) of this section, no district or school shall use any core curriculum, instructional materials, or intervention program in grades pre-kindergarten to five that use the three-cueing approach to teach students to read.

(D) A district or school may apply to the department for a waiver on an individual student basis to use curriculum, instructional materials, or an intervention program in grades pre-kindergarten through five that uses the three-cueing approach to teach students to read, except as follows:

(1) No student for whom a reading improvement and monitoring plan has been developed under division (C) of section 3313.608 of the Revised Code shall be eligible for a waiver.

(2) If a student has an individualized education program that explicitly indicates the three-cueing approach is appropriate for the student's learning needs, the student shall not be required to

have a waiver.

In determining whether to approve a waiver requested under this section, the department shall consider the performance of the student's district or school on the state report card issued under section 3302.03 of the Revised Code, including on the early literacy component prescribed under division (D)(3)(e) of that section.

(E)(1) The department shall identify vendors that provide professional development to educators, including pre-service teachers and faculty employed by educator preparation programs, on the use of high-quality core curriculum and instructional materials and reading intervention programs on the lists established under division (B) of this section.

(2) A professional development committee established under section 3319.22 of the Revised Code shall qualify any completed professional development coursework provided by a vendor described in division (E)(1) of this section to count towards professional development coursework requirements for teacher licensure renewal.

(3) A professional development committee shall permit a teacher to apply any hours earned over the minimum amount of hours required for professional development coursework for teacher licensure renewal under division (E)(2) of this section to the next renewal period for that license.

Sec. 3313.6031. (A) As used in this section, "other high school" means any of the following that offers any of grades nine through twelve:

(1) A community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code;

(2) A STEM school established under Chapter 3326. of the Revised Code;

(3) A chartered nonpublic school.

(B) Each city, local, exempted village, and joint vocational school district and other high school that has students enrolled in courses that comply with the career-technical education credit transfer criteria, policies, and procedures established under section 3333.162 of the Revised Code shall adopt and implement a policy for the awarding of grades and the calculation of class standing for those courses.

A district's or school's policy under this section shall be equivalent to the district's or school's policy for courses taken under the advanced standing programs described in divisions (A)(1) to (3) of section 3313.6013 of the Revised Code or for other courses designated as honors courses by the district or school, including procedures for awarding a weighted grade or enhancing a student's class standing for those courses.

Sec. 3313.6032. (A) As used in this section, "advanced learning opportunities in mathematics" or "advanced mathematics course" means learning opportunities or a course that provides academic content or rigor that exceeds the standard mathematics curriculum for the student's grade level, including a mathematics course that is two grade levels above the student's current grade level, as determined by the district.

(B) Except as otherwise provided in division (C) of this section, each city, local, exempted village, and joint-vocational school district shall provide each student that achieves an advanced

level of skill on a mathematics achievement assessment as prescribed under section 3301.0710 or end-of-course examination under section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code with advanced learning opportunities in mathematics including advanced mathematics courses in the following school year. Each student shall take any corresponding required achievement assessment or end-of-course examination for any mathematics course the student takes under those sections.

(C)(1) No school district is subject to division (B) of this section if it does not offer the advanced learning opportunities in mathematics or an advanced mathematics course for the grade level in which the student is enrolled for the next school year.

(2) Each school district shall notify the parent or guardian of a student who qualifies for advanced learning opportunities in mathematics under division (B) of this section of that determination. The parent or guardian of any such student may submit a written request for that student to not receive the advanced learning opportunities in mathematics or to not be enrolled in the advanced mathematics course. In which case, the district shall not be required to provide that student with advanced mathematics instruction under division (B) of this section.

Sec. 3313.618. (A) In addition to the curriculum requirements specified by the board of education of a school district or governing authority of a chartered nonpublic school, each student entering ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2014, but prior to July 1, 2019, shall satisfy at least one of the following conditions or the conditions prescribed under division (B) of this section in order to qualify for a high school diploma:

(1) Be remediation-free, in accordance with standards adopted under division (F) of section 3345.061 of the Revised Code, on each of the nationally standardized assessments in English, mathematics, and reading;

(2) Attain a score specified under division (B)(5)(c) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code on the end-of-course examinations prescribed under division (B) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code.

(3) Attain a score that demonstrates workforce readiness and employability on a nationally recognized job skills assessment selected by the department of education and workforce under division (F) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code and obtain either an industry-recognized credential or a license issued by a state agency or board for practice in a vocation that requires an examination for issuance of that license.

For the purposes of this division, the industry-recognized credentials and licenses shall be as approved under section 3313.6113 of the Revised Code.

A student may choose to qualify for a high school diploma by satisfying any of the separate requirements prescribed by divisions (A)(1) to (3) of this section. If the student's school district or school does not administer the examination prescribed by one of those divisions that the student chooses to take to satisfy the requirements of this section, the school district or school may require that student to arrange for the applicable scores to be sent directly to the district or school by the company or organization that administers the examination.

(B) In addition to the curriculum requirements specified by the district board or school governing authority, each student entering ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2019, shall satisfy the following conditions in order to qualify for a high school diploma:

(1) Attain a competency score as determined under division (B)(10) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code on each of the Algebra I and English language arts II end-of-course examinations prescribed under division (B)(2) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code.

School districts and chartered nonpublic schools shall offer remedial support to any student who fails to attain a competency score on one or both of the Algebra I and English language arts II end-of-course examinations.

Following the first administration of the exam, if a student fails to attain a competency score on one or both of the Algebra I and English language arts II end-of-course examinations that student must retake the respective examination at least once.

If a student fails to attain a competency score on a retake examination, the student may demonstrate competency in the failed subject area through one of the following options:

(a) Earn course credit taken through the college credit plus program established under Chapter 3365. of the Revised Code in the failed subject area;

(b) Complete two of the following options, one of which must be foundational:

(i) Foundational options to demonstrate competency, which include—earning a cumulative score of proficient or higher on three or more state technical assessments aligned with section 3313.903 of the Revised Code in a single career pathway, obtaining an industry-recognized credential, or group of credentials, approved under section 3313.6113 of the Revised Code that ~~is at least equal to the total number of points meet the criteria~~ established under that section to qualify for a high school diploma, obtaining a license approved under section 3313.6113 of the Revised Code that is issued by a state agency or board for practice in a vocation that requires an examination for issuance of that license, completing a pre-apprenticeship aligned with options established under section 3313.904 of the Revised Code in the student's chosen career field, completing an apprenticeship registered with the apprenticeship council established under section 4139.02 of the Revised Code in the student's chosen career field, or providing evidence of acceptance into an apprenticeship program after high school that is restricted to participants eighteen years of age or older;

(ii) Supporting options to demonstrate competency, which include completing two hundred fifty hours of a work-based learning experience with evidence of positive evaluations, obtaining an OhioMeansJobs-readiness seal under section 3313.6112 of the Revised Code, or attaining a workforce readiness score, as determined by the department, on the nationally recognized job skills assessment selected by the department under division (F) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code.

(c) Provide evidence that the student has enlisted in a branch of the armed services of the United States as defined in section 5910.01 of the Revised Code.

(d) Be remediation-free, in accordance with standards adopted under division (F) of section

3345.061 of the Revised Code, in the failed subject area on a nationally standardized assessment prescribed under division (B)(1) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code. For English language arts II, a student must be remediation-free in the subjects of English and reading on the nationally standardized assessment.

Subject to division (L)(2) of section 3313.61 of the Revised Code, for any students receiving special education and related services under Chapter 3323. of the Revised Code, the individualized education program developed for the student under that chapter shall specify the manner in which the student will participate in the assessments administered under this division or an alternate assessment in accordance with division (C)(1) of section 3301.0711 of the Revised Code.

(2) Earn at least two of the state diploma seals prescribed under division (A) of section 3313.6114 of the Revised Code, at least one of which shall be any of the following:

(a) The state seal of biliteracy established under section 3313.6111 of the Revised Code;
(b) The OhioMeansJobs-readiness seal established under section 3313.6112 of the Revised Code;

(c) One of the state diploma seals established under divisions (C)(1) to (7) of section 3313.6114 of the Revised Code.

(C)(1) A student who transfers into an Ohio public or chartered nonpublic high school from another state or enrolls in such a high school after receiving home education or attending a nonchartered, nontax-supported school in the previous school year shall meet the requirements of division (B) or (D) of this section, as applicable, in order to qualify for a high school diploma. However, any student subject to division (B) of this section who transfers or enrolls after the start of the student's twelfth grade year and fails to attain a competency score on the Algebra I or English language arts II end-of-course examination shall not be required to retake the applicable examination prior to demonstrating competency in the failed subject area under the options prescribed in divisions (B)(1)(a) to (d) of this section.

(2) The department shall prescribe standards that allow a transfer student who, prior to the student's transfer, took an assessment described in division (B)(1) or (2) of section 3301.0712 or section 3313.619 of the Revised Code to apply the score from that assessment towards graduation requirements at the student's new public or chartered nonpublic school.

(D) Notwithstanding division (B) of this section, in addition to the curriculum requirements specified by the school governing authority, a chartered nonpublic school student subject to division (L)(3)(a)(ii) of section 3301.0711 of the Revised Code entering ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2019, shall qualify for a high school diploma if the student earns a remediation-free score in the areas of English, mathematics, and reading, in accordance with standards adopted under division (F) of section 3345.061 of the Revised Code, on a nationally standardized assessment prescribed under division (B)(1) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code. No such student shall be required to take the Algebra I or English language arts II end-of-course examination or earn diploma seals under this section.

(E) The department shall not create or require any additional assessment for the granting of any type of high school diploma other than as prescribed by this section. Except as provided in sections 3313.6111, 3313.6112, and 3313.6114 of the Revised Code, the department or the director of education and workforce shall not create any endorsement or designation that may be affiliated with a high school diploma.

Sec. 3313.6113. (A) The director of education and workforce, in collaboration with the governor's office of workforce transformation and representatives of business organizations, shall establish a committee to develop a list of industry-recognized credentials and licenses that may be used to qualify for a high school diploma under section 3313.618 of the Revised Code and shall be used for state report card purposes under section 3302.03 of the Revised Code.

(B) The committee shall do the following:

(1) Establish criteria for acceptable industry-recognized credentials and licenses aligned with the in-demand jobs list published by the department of job and family services and other relevant demand data;

~~(2) Review the list of industry-recognized credentials and licenses that was in existence on January 1, 2018, and update the list as it considers necessary;~~

~~(3) Review and update the list of industry-recognized credentials and licenses at least biennially;~~

~~(4) Assign a point value for each industry-recognized credential and establish the total number of points for industry-recognized credentials that~~ (3) Establish the criteria under which a student must earn to may use industry-recognized credentials to help qualify for a high school diploma under sections 3313.618 and 3313.6114 of the Revised Code;

~~(5)~~(4) Update the list of industry-recognized credentials to include a driver's license obtained by a student through a driver education course offered by a school district in accordance with section 3301.17 of the Revised Code.

(C) For purposes of divisions (B)(2)(d), (C)(2)(e), and (D)(1)(j)(v) of section 3302.03 of the Revised Code, the department of education and workforce shall include only those students who earn an industry-recognized credential, or group of credentials, at least equal to the total number of points that meet the criteria established by the committee under this section to qualify for a high school diploma.

Sec. 3313.6114. (A) The department of education and workforce shall establish a system of state diploma seals for the purposes of allowing a student to qualify for graduation under section 3313.618 of the Revised Code. State diploma seals may be attached or affixed to the high school diploma of a student enrolled in a public or chartered nonpublic school. The system of state diploma seals shall consist of all of the following:

(1) The state seal of biliteracy established under section 3313.6111 of the Revised Code;

(2) The OhioMeansJobs-readiness seal established under section 3313.6112 of the Revised Code;

(3) The state diploma seals prescribed under division (C) of this section.

(B) A school district, community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code, STEM school established under Chapter 3326. of the Revised Code, college-preparatory boarding school established under Chapter 3328. of the Revised Code, or chartered nonpublic school shall attach or affix the state seals prescribed under division (C) of this section to the diploma and transcript of a student enrolled in the district or school who meets the requirements established under that division.

(C) The department shall establish all of the following state diploma seals:

(1) An industry-recognized credential seal. A student shall meet the requirement for this seal by doing either of the following:

(a) Earning an industry-recognized credential, or group of credentials, approved under section 3313.6113 of the Revised Code that ~~is both of the following:-~~

~~(i) At least equal to the total number of points meets the criteria~~ established under section 3313.6113 of the Revised Code to qualify for a high school diploma;

~~(ii) Aligned and aligns~~ to a job that is determined to be in demand in this state and its regions under section 6301.11 of the Revised Code.

(b) Obtaining a license approved under section 3313.6113 of the Revised Code that is issued by a state agency or board for practice in a vocation that requires an examination for issuance of that license.

(2) A college-ready seal. A student shall meet the requirement for this seal by attaining a score that is remediation-free, in accordance with standards adopted under division (F) of section 3345.061 of the Revised Code, on a nationally standardized assessment prescribed under division (B)(1) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code or by attaining a passing score, as determined by the department of education and workforce and aligned with current statewide college-level examination program scores identified by the chancellor of higher education, on a college-level examination program examination.

(3) A military seal. A student shall meet the requirement for this seal by doing one of the following:

(a) Providing evidence that the student has enlisted in a branch of the armed services of the United States as defined in section 5910.01 of the Revised Code;

(b) Participating in a junior reserve officer training program approved by the congress of the United States under title 10 of the United States Code;

(c) Providing evidence that the student has accepted a scholarship to enter the reserve officer training corps;

(d) Providing evidence that the student has been appointed to a United States military service academy.

(4) A citizenship seal. A student shall meet the requirement for this seal by doing any of the following:

(a) Demonstrating at least a proficient level of skill as prescribed under division (B)(5)(a) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code on both the American history and American government end-of-course examinations prescribed under division (B)(2) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code;

(b) Attaining a score level prescribed under division (B)(5)(d) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code that is at least the equivalent of a proficient level of skill in appropriate advanced placement or international baccalaureate examinations or by attaining a passing score, as determined by the department, on a college-level examination program examination in lieu of the American history and American government end-of-course examinations;

(c) In lieu of the American history and American government end-of-course examinations, attaining a final course grade that is the equivalent of a "B" or higher in either:

(i) An American history course and an American government course that are offered by the student's high school;

(ii) Appropriate courses taken through the college credit plus program established under Chapter 3365. of the Revised Code.

(d) In the case of a student who takes an alternate assessment in accordance with division (C)(1) of section 3301.0711 of the Revised Code, attaining a score established by the department on the alternate assessment in social studies;

(e) In the case of a student who transfers into an Ohio public or chartered nonpublic high school from another state or who enrolls in an Ohio public or chartered nonpublic high school after receiving home education or attending a nonchartered, nontax-supported school in the previous school year, attaining a final course grade that is the equivalent of a "B" or higher in courses that correspond with the American history and American government end-of-course examinations and that the student completed in the state from which the student transferred or completed while receiving home education or attending a nonchartered, nontax-supported school. Division (C)(4)(e) of this section does not apply to any such student with respect to an American history or American government course for which an end-of-course examination is associated that the student takes after enrolling in the high school.

(5) A science seal. A student shall meet the requirement for this seal by doing any of the following:

(a) Demonstrating at least a proficient level of skill as prescribed under division (B)(5)(a) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code on the science end-of-course examination prescribed under division (B)(2) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code;

(b) Attaining a score level prescribed under division (B)(5)(d) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code that is at least the equivalent of a proficient level of skill in an appropriate advanced placement or international baccalaureate examination or by attaining a passing score, as determined by the department, on a college-level examination program examination in lieu of the science end-of-course examination;

(c) In lieu of the science end-of-course examination, attaining a final course grade that is the equivalent of a "B" or higher in either:

(i) A science course listed in divisions (C)(5)(c)(i) to (iii) of section 3313.603 of the Revised Code that is offered by the student's high school;

(ii) An appropriate course taken through the college credit plus program established under Chapter 3365. of the Revised Code.

(d) In the case of a student who takes an alternate assessment in accordance with division (C)(1) of section 3301.0711 of the Revised Code, attaining a score established by the department on the alternate assessment in science;

(e) In the case of a student who transfers into an Ohio public or chartered nonpublic high school from another state or enrolls in an Ohio public or chartered nonpublic high school after receiving home education or attending a nonchartered, nontax-supported school in the previous school year, attaining a final course grade that is the equivalent of a "B" or higher in a course that corresponds with the science end-of-course examination and that the student completed in the state from which the student transferred or completed while receiving home instruction or attending a nonchartered, nontax-supported school. Division (C)(5)(e) of this section does not apply to any such student who takes a science course for which an end-of-course examination is associated after enrolling in the high school.

(6) An honors diploma seal. A student shall meet the requirement for this seal by meeting the additional criteria for an honors diploma under division (B) of section 3313.61 of the Revised Code.

(7) A technology seal. A student shall meet the requirement for this seal by doing any of the following:

(a) Subject to division (B)(5)(d) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code, attaining a score level that is at least the equivalent of a proficient level of skill in an appropriate advanced placement or international baccalaureate examination or by attaining a passing score, as determined by the department of education and workforce and aligned with the current statewide college-level examination program scores identified by the chancellor of higher education, on a college-level examination program examination;

(b) Attaining a final course grade that is the equivalent of a "B" or higher in an appropriate course taken through the college credit plus program established under Chapter 3365. of the Revised Code;

(c) Completing a course offered through the student's district or school that meets guidelines developed by the department. However, a district or school shall not be required to offer a course that meets those guidelines.

(d) In the case of a student who transfers into an Ohio public or chartered nonpublic high school from another state or enrolls in an Ohio public or chartered nonpublic high school after receiving home education or attending a nonchartered, nontax-supported school in the previous school year, attaining a final course grade that is the equivalent of a "B" or higher in an appropriate

course, as determined by the district or school, that the student completed in the state from which the student transferred or completed while receiving home education or attending a nonchartered, nontax-supported school.

(8) A community service seal. A student shall meet the requirement for this seal by completing a community service project that is aligned with guidelines adopted by the student's district board or school governing authority.

(9) A fine and performing arts seal. A student shall meet the requirement for this seal by demonstrating skill in the fine or performing arts according to an evaluation that is aligned with guidelines adopted by the student's district board or school governing authority.

(10) A student engagement seal. A student shall meet the requirement for this seal by participating in extracurricular activities such as athletics, clubs, or student government to a meaningful extent, as determined by guidelines adopted by the student's district board or school governing authority.

(D)(1) Each district or school shall develop guidelines for at least one of the state seals prescribed under divisions (C)(8) to (10) of this section.

(2) For the purposes of determining whether a student who transfers to a district or school has satisfied the state diploma seal requirement under division (B)(2) of section 3313.618 of the Revised Code, each district or school shall recognize a state diploma seal prescribed under divisions (C)(8) to (10) of this section and earned by a student at another district or a different public or chartered nonpublic school regardless of whether the district or school to which the student transfers has developed guidelines under this section for that state seal.

(3) In guidelines developed for a state diploma seal prescribed under divisions (C)(8) to (10) of this section, each district or school shall include a method to give, to the extent feasible, a student who transfers into the district or school a proportional amount of credit for any progress the student was making toward earning that state seal at the school district or different public or chartered nonpublic school from which the student transfers.

(E) Each district or school shall maintain appropriate records to identify students who have met the requirements prescribed under division (C) of this section for earning the state seals established under that division.

(F) The department shall prepare and deliver to each district or school an appropriate mechanism for assigning a state diploma seal established under division (C) of this section.

(G) A student shall not be charged a fee to be assigned a state seal prescribed under division (C) of this section on the student's diploma and transcript.

Sec. 3313.64. (A) As used in this section and in section 3313.65 of the Revised Code:

(1)(a) Except as provided in division (A)(1)(b) of this section, "parent" means either parent, unless the parents are separated or divorced or their marriage has been dissolved or annulled, in which case "parent" means the parent who is the residential parent and legal custodian of the child. When a child is in the legal custody of a government agency or a person other than the child's

natural or adoptive parent, "parent" means the parent with residual parental rights, privileges, and responsibilities. When a child is in the permanent custody of a government agency or a person other than the child's natural or adoptive parent, "parent" means the parent who was divested of parental rights and responsibilities for the care of the child and the right to have the child live with the parent and be the legal custodian of the child and all residual parental rights, privileges, and responsibilities.

(b) When a child is the subject of a power of attorney executed under sections 3109.51 to 3109.62 of the Revised Code, "parent" means the grandparent designated as attorney in fact under the power of attorney. When a child is the subject of a caretaker authorization affidavit executed under sections 3109.64 to 3109.73 of the Revised Code, "parent" means the grandparent that executed the affidavit.

(2) "Legal custody," "permanent custody," and "residual parental rights, privileges, and responsibilities" have the same meanings as in section 2151.011 of the Revised Code.

(3) "School district" or "district" means a city, local, or exempted village school district and excludes any school operated in an institution maintained by the department of youth services.

(4) Except as used in division (C)(2) of this section, "home" means a home, institution, foster home, group home, or other residential facility in this state that receives and cares for children, to which any of the following applies:

(a) The home is licensed, certified, or approved for such purpose by the state or is maintained by the department of youth services.

(b) The home is operated by a person who is licensed, certified, or approved by the state to operate the home for such purpose.

(c) The home accepted the child through a placement by a person licensed, certified, or approved to place a child in such a home by the state.

(d) The home is a children's home created under section 5153.21 or 5153.36 of the Revised Code.

(5) "Agency" means all of the following:

(a) A public children services agency;

(b) An organization that holds a certificate issued by the department of children and youth in accordance with the requirements of section 5103.03 of the Revised Code and assumes temporary or permanent custody of children through commitment, agreement, or surrender, and places children in family homes for the purpose of adoption;

(c) Comparable agencies of other states or countries that have complied with applicable requirements of section 2151.39 of the Revised Code or as applicable, sections 5103.20 to 5103.22 or 5103.23 to 5103.237 of the Revised Code.

(6) A child is placed for adoption if either of the following occurs:

(a) An agency to which the child has been permanently committed or surrendered enters into an agreement with a person pursuant to section 5103.16 of the Revised Code for the care and

adoption of the child.

(b) The child's natural parent places the child pursuant to section 5103.16 of the Revised Code with a person who will care for and adopt the child.

(7) "Preschool child with a disability" has the same meaning as in section 3323.01 of the Revised Code.

(8) "Child," unless otherwise indicated, includes preschool children with disabilities.

(9) "Active duty" means active duty pursuant to an executive order of the president of the United States, an act of the congress of the United States, or section 5919.29 or 5923.21 of the Revised Code.

(B) Except as otherwise provided in section 3321.01 of the Revised Code for admittance to kindergarten and first grade, a child who is at least five but under twenty-two years of age and any preschool child with a disability shall be admitted to school as provided in this division.

(1) A child shall be admitted to the schools of the school district in which the child's parent resides.

(2) Except as provided in division (B)(4) of this section or division (B) of section 2151.362 and section 3317.30 of the Revised Code, a child who does not reside in the district where the child's parent resides shall be admitted to the schools of the district in which the child resides if any of the following applies:

(a) The child is in the legal or permanent custody of a government agency or a person other than the child's natural or adoptive parent.

(b) The child resides in a home.

(c) The child requires special education.

(3) A child who is not entitled under division (B)(2) of this section to be admitted to the schools of the district where the child resides and who is residing with a resident of this state with whom the child has been placed for adoption shall be admitted to the schools of the district where the child resides unless either of the following applies:

(a) The placement for adoption has been terminated.

(b) Another school district is required to admit the child under division (B)(1) of this section.

(4)(a) A child who does not reside in the district where the child's parent resides is not required to be admitted to the schools of the district in which the child resides if both of the following apply:

(i) The child resides in a home, or in a facility similarly licensed in another state, and the child was placed in the home or facility by the child's parent in consultation with, and upon the recommendation of, the Ohio resilience through integrated systems and excellence program for children and youth involved in multiple state systems.

(ii) The home provides education services that meet the minimum education standards under division (D)(2) of section 3301.07 of the Revised Code or, in the case of a facility located in another state, meets substantially similar requirements of the jurisdiction where the facility is located, except

that the home or facility may provide the child with less than the minimum number of instructional hours required only as necessary to accommodate the child's treatment program.

(b) Upon a child's admission to a home pursuant to division (B)(4)(a) of this section, the home shall notify the district where the child's parent resides and the district where the home is located that the home is providing educational services to the child until the child is discharged. Upon a child's admission to a facility located in another state pursuant to division (B)(4)(a) of this section, the facility shall notify the district where the child's parent resides that the facility is providing educational services to the child until the child is discharged. In either case, the district where the child's parent resides shall continue to enroll the student as provided in division (C)(5) of this section and shall excuse the child from attendance until the child is discharged from the home or facility.

(c) Upon a child's discharge from a home or facility, the home or facility shall notify the district where the child's parent resides. The home or facility and the district shall collaborate on a supportive reentry plan into school for the child.

Division (B) of this section does not prohibit the board of education of a school district from placing a child with a disability who resides in the district in a special education program outside of the district or its schools in compliance with Chapter 3323. of the Revised Code.

(C) A district shall not charge tuition for children admitted under division (B)(1) or (3) of this section. If the district admits a child under division (B)(2) of this section, tuition shall be paid to the district that admits the child as provided in divisions (C)(1) to (3) of this section, unless division (C)(4) of this section applies to the child:

(1) If the child receives special education in accordance with Chapter 3323. of the Revised Code, the school district of residence, as defined in section 3323.01 of the Revised Code, shall pay tuition for the child in accordance with section 3323.091, 3323.13, 3323.14, or 3323.141 of the Revised Code regardless of who has custody of the child or whether the child resides in a home.

(2) For a child that does not receive special education in accordance with Chapter 3323. of the Revised Code, except as otherwise provided in division (C)(2)(d) of this section, if the child is in the permanent or legal custody of a government agency or person other than the child's parent, tuition shall be paid by:

(a) The district in which the child's parent resided at the time the court removed the child from home or at the time the court vested legal or permanent custody of the child in the person or government agency, whichever occurred first;

(b) If the parent's residence at the time the court removed the child from home or placed the child in the legal or permanent custody of the person or government agency is unknown, tuition shall be paid by the district in which the child resided at the time the child was removed from home or placed in legal or permanent custody, whichever occurred first;

(c) If a school district cannot be established under division (C)(2)(a) or (b) of this section, tuition shall be paid by the district determined as required by section 2151.362 of the Revised Code

by the court at the time it vests custody of the child in the person or government agency;

(d) If at the time the court removed the child from home or vested legal or permanent custody of the child in the person or government agency, whichever occurred first, one parent was in a residential or correctional facility or a juvenile residential placement and the other parent, if living and not in such a facility or placement, was not known to reside in this state, tuition shall be paid by the district determined under division (D) of section 3313.65 of the Revised Code as the district required to pay any tuition while the parent was in such facility or placement;

(e) If the department of education and workforce has determined, pursuant to division (A)(2) of section 2151.362 of the Revised Code, that a school district other than the one named in the court's initial order, or in a prior determination of the department, is responsible to bear the cost of educating the child, the district so determined shall be responsible for that cost.

(3) If the child is not in the permanent or legal custody of a government agency or person other than the child's parent and the child resides in a home, tuition shall be paid by one of the following:

(a) The school district in which the child's parent resides;

(b) If the child's parent is not a resident of this state, the home in which the child resides.

(4) Division (C)(4) of this section applies to any child who is admitted to a school district under division (B)(2) of this section, resides in a home that is not a foster home, a home maintained by the department of youth services, a detention facility established under section 2152.41 of the Revised Code, or a juvenile facility established under section 2151.65 of the Revised Code, and receives educational services at the home or facility in which the child resides pursuant to a contract between the home or facility and the school district providing those services.

If a child to whom division (C)(4) of this section applies is a special education student, a district may choose whether to receive a tuition payment for that child under division (C)(4) of this section or to receive a payment for that child under section 3323.14 of the Revised Code. If a district chooses to receive a payment for that child under section 3323.14 of the Revised Code, it shall not receive a tuition payment for that child under division (C)(4) of this section.

If a child to whom division (C)(4) of this section applies is not a special education student, a district shall receive a tuition payment for that child under division (C)(4) of this section.

In the case of a child to which division (C)(4) of this section applies, the total educational cost to be paid for the child shall be determined by a formula approved by the department of education and workforce, which formula shall be designed to calculate a per diem cost for the educational services provided to the child for each day the child is served and shall reflect the total actual cost incurred in providing those services. The department shall certify the total educational cost to be paid for the child to both the school district providing the educational services and, if different, the school district that is responsible to pay tuition for the child. The department shall deduct the certified amount from the state basic aid funds payable under Chapter 3317. of the Revised Code to the district responsible to pay tuition and shall pay that amount to the district

providing the educational services to the child.

(5) In the case of a child to whom division (B)(4) of this section applies, and except as otherwise provided in division (C)(5)(f) of this section, tuition shall be paid to the home or facility for educational services provided to the child by the school district in which the child's parent resides according to the following:

(a) The total educational cost to be paid for the child shall be determined by a formula approved by the department of education and workforce. The department shall design the formula to calculate a per diem cost for the educational services provided to the child for each day the child is served and shall reflect the total actual cost incurred in providing those services. The department shall certify the total educational cost to be paid for the child to both the home or facility providing the educational services and the district that is responsible to pay the tuition for the child. The department shall deduct the certified amount from the state basic aid funds payable under Chapter 3317, of the Revised Code to the district responsible to pay tuition and shall pay that amount to the home or facility providing the educational services to the child.

(b) The district responsible to pay tuition shall continue to report the child in its enrollment for purposes of section 3317.03 of the Revised Code.

(c) If the parent's residence changes to a different school district while the child resides in the home or facility, the department of education and workforce may re-determine the school district responsible for tuition based on evidence provided by the district currently responsible for tuition.

(d) Upon a child's discharge from the home or facility, the home or facility shall immediately notify the district where the child's parent resides and the department of education and workforce. The notification shall include a certified transcript of all coursework completed by the child while residing in the home or facility. The district where the child's parent resides shall accept all coursework completed by the child while in the home or facility and shall award credit for that coursework in accordance with district policy.

(e) Following discharge from the home or facility and return to the parent's residence, high school students shall meet requirements under section 3313.618 of the Revised Code in order to qualify for a high school diploma that are no more stringent than those that apply to students who enroll into an Ohio public or chartered nonpublic high school after receiving a home education under section 3321.042 of the Revised Code.

(f) If the child is provided educational services by a chartered nonpublic school while residing in a home and the child has been awarded a scholarship under a state scholarship program, as defined in section 3301.0711 of the Revised Code, no school district shall be responsible for paying tuition under division (C)(5) of this section.

(D) Tuition required to be paid under divisions (C)(2) and (3)(a) of this section shall be computed in accordance with section 3317.08 of the Revised Code. Tuition required to be paid under division (C)(3)(b) of this section shall be computed in accordance with section 3317.081 of the Revised Code. If a home fails to pay the tuition required by division (C)(3)(b) of this section, the

board of education providing the education may recover in a civil action the tuition and the expenses incurred in prosecuting the action, including court costs and reasonable attorney's fees. If the prosecuting attorney or city director of law represents the board in such action, costs and reasonable attorney's fees awarded by the court, based upon the prosecuting attorney's, director's, or one of their designee's time spent preparing and presenting the case, shall be deposited in the county or city general fund.

(E) A board of education may enroll a child free of any tuition obligation for a period not to exceed sixty days, on the sworn statement of an adult resident of the district that the resident has initiated legal proceedings for custody of the child.

(F) In the case of any individual entitled to attend school under this division, no tuition shall be charged by the school district of attendance and no other school district shall be required to pay tuition for the individual's attendance. Notwithstanding division (B), (C), or (E) of this section:

(1) All persons at least eighteen but under twenty-two years of age who live apart from their parents, support themselves by their own labor, and have not successfully completed the high school curriculum or the individualized education program developed for the person by the high school pursuant to section 3323.08 of the Revised Code, are entitled to attend school in the district in which they reside.

(2) Any child under eighteen years of age who is married is entitled to attend school in the child's district of residence.

(3) A child is entitled to attend school in the district in which either of the child's parents is employed if the child has a medical condition that may require emergency medical attention. The parent of a child entitled to attend school under division (F)(3) of this section shall submit to the board of education of the district in which the parent is employed a statement from the child's physician, certified nurse-midwife, clinical nurse specialist, or certified nurse practitioner certifying that the child's medical condition may require emergency medical attention. The statement shall be supported by such other evidence as the board may require.

(4) Any child residing with a person other than the child's parent is entitled, for a period not to exceed twelve months, to attend school in the district in which that person resides if the child's parent files an affidavit with the superintendent of the district in which the person with whom the child is living resides stating all of the following:

(a) That the parent is serving outside of the state in the armed services of the United States;

(b) That the parent intends to reside in the district upon returning to this state;

(c) The name and address of the person with whom the child is living while the parent is outside the state.

(5) Any child under the age of twenty-two years who, after the death of a parent, resides in a school district other than the district in which the child attended school at the time of the parent's death is entitled to continue to attend school in the district in which the child attended school at the time of the parent's death for the remainder of the school year, subject to approval of that district

board.

(6) A child under the age of twenty-two years who resides with a parent who is having a new house built in a school district outside the district where the parent is residing is entitled to attend school for a period of time in the district where the new house is being built. In order to be entitled to such attendance, the parent shall provide the district superintendent with the following:

(a) A sworn statement explaining the situation, revealing the location of the house being built, and stating the parent's intention to reside there upon its completion;

(b) A statement from the builder confirming that a new house is being built for the parent and that the house is at the location indicated in the parent's statement.

(7) A child under the age of twenty-two years residing with a parent who has a contract to purchase a house in a school district outside the district where the parent is residing and who is waiting upon the date of closing of the mortgage loan for the purchase of such house is entitled to attend school for a period of time in the district where the house is being purchased. In order to be entitled to such attendance, the parent shall provide the district superintendent with the following:

(a) A sworn statement explaining the situation, revealing the location of the house being purchased, and stating the parent's intent to reside there;

(b) A statement from a real estate broker or bank officer confirming that the parent has a contract to purchase the house, that the parent is waiting upon the date of closing of the mortgage loan, and that the house is at the location indicated in the parent's statement.

The district superintendent shall establish a period of time not to exceed ninety days during which the child entitled to attend school under division (F)(6) or (7) of this section may attend without tuition obligation. A student attending a school under division (F)(6) or (7) of this section shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics under the auspices of that school, provided the board of education of the school district where the student's parent resides, by a formal action, releases the student to participate in interscholastic athletics at the school where the student is attending, and provided the student receives any authorization required by a public agency or private organization of which the school district is a member exercising authority over interscholastic sports.

(8) A child whose parent is a full-time employee of a city, local, or exempted village school district, or of an educational service center, may be admitted to the schools of the district where the child's parent is employed, or in the case of a child whose parent is employed by an educational service center, in the district that serves the location where the parent's job is primarily located, provided the district board of education establishes such an admission policy by resolution adopted by a majority of its members. Any such policy shall take effect on the first day of the school year and the effective date of any amendment or repeal may not be prior to the first day of the subsequent school year. The policy shall be uniformly applied to all such children and shall provide for the admission of any such child upon request of the parent. No child may be admitted under this policy after the first day of classes of any school year.

(9) A child who is with the child's parent under the care of a shelter for victims of domestic

violence, as defined in section 3113.33 of the Revised Code, is entitled to attend school free in the district in which the child is with the child's parent, and no other school district shall be required to pay tuition for the child's attendance in that school district.

The enrollment of a child in a school district under this division shall not be denied due to a delay in the school district's receipt of any records required under section 3313.672 of the Revised Code or any other records required for enrollment. Any days of attendance and any credits earned by a child while enrolled in a school district under this division shall be transferred to and accepted by any school district in which the child subsequently enrolls. The department of education and workforce shall adopt rules to ensure compliance with this division.

(10) Any child under the age of twenty-two years whose parent has moved out of the school district after the commencement of classes in the child's senior year of high school is entitled, subject to the approval of that district board, to attend school in the district in which the child attended school at the time of the parental move for the remainder of the school year and for one additional semester or equivalent term. A district board may also adopt a policy specifying extenuating circumstances under which a student may continue to attend school under division (F)(10) of this section for an additional period of time in order to successfully complete the high school curriculum for the individualized education program developed for the student by the high school pursuant to section 3323.08 of the Revised Code.

(11) As used in this division, "grandparent" means a parent of a parent of a child. A child under the age of twenty-two years who is in the custody of the child's parent, resides with a grandparent, and does not require special education is entitled to attend the schools of the district in which the child's grandparent resides, provided that, prior to such attendance in any school year, the board of education of the school district in which the child's grandparent resides and the board of education of the school district in which the child's parent resides enter into a written agreement specifying that good cause exists for such attendance, describing the nature of this good cause, and consenting to such attendance.

In lieu of a consent form signed by a parent, a board of education may request the grandparent of a child attending school in the district in which the grandparent resides pursuant to division (F)(11) of this section to complete any consent form required by the district, including any authorization required by sections 3313.712, 3313.713, 3313.716, and 3313.718 of the Revised Code. Upon request, the grandparent shall complete any consent form required by the district. A school district shall not incur any liability solely because of its receipt of a consent form from a grandparent in lieu of a parent.

Division (F)(11) of this section does not create, and shall not be construed as creating, a new cause of action or substantive legal right against a school district, a member of a board of education, or an employee of a school district. This section does not affect, and shall not be construed as affecting, any immunities from defenses to tort liability created or recognized by Chapter 2744. of the Revised Code for a school district, member, or employee.

(12) A child under the age of twenty-two years is entitled to attend school in a school district other than the district in which the child is entitled to attend school under division (B), (C), or (E) of this section provided that, prior to such attendance in any school year, both of the following occur:

(a) The superintendent of the district in which the child is entitled to attend school under division (B), (C), or (E) of this section contacts the superintendent of another district for purposes of this division;

(b) The superintendents of both districts enter into a written agreement that consents to the attendance and specifies that the purpose of such attendance is to protect the student's physical or mental well-being or to deal with other extenuating circumstances deemed appropriate by the superintendents.

While an agreement is in effect under this division for a student who is not receiving special education under Chapter 3323. of the Revised Code and notwithstanding Chapter 3327. of the Revised Code, the board of education of neither school district involved in the agreement is required to provide transportation for the student to and from the school where the student attends.

A student attending a school of a district pursuant to this division shall be allowed to participate in all student activities, including interscholastic athletics, at the school where the student is attending on the same basis as any student who has always attended the schools of that district while of compulsory school age.

(13) All school districts shall comply with the "McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act," 42 U.S.C.A. 11431 et seq., for the education of homeless children. Each city, local, and exempted village school district shall comply with the requirements of that act governing the provision of a free, appropriate public education, including public preschool, to each homeless child.

When a child loses permanent housing and becomes a homeless person, as defined in 42 U.S.C.A. 11481(5), or when a child who is such a homeless person changes temporary living arrangements, the child's parent or guardian shall have the option of enrolling the child in either of the following:

(a) The child's school of origin, as defined in 42 U.S.C.A. 11432(g)(3)(C);

(b) The school that is operated by the school district in which the shelter where the child currently resides is located and that serves the geographic area in which the shelter is located.

(14) A child under the age of twenty-two years who resides with a person other than the child's parent is entitled to attend school in the school district in which that person resides if both of the following apply:

(a) That person has been appointed, through a military power of attorney executed under section 574(a) of the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994," 107 Stat. 1674 (1993), 10 U.S.C. 1044b, or through a comparable document necessary to complete a family care plan, as the parent's agent for the care, custody, and control of the child while the parent is on active duty as a member of the national guard or a reserve unit of the armed forces of the United States or because the parent is a member of the armed forces of the United States and is on a duty assignment

away from the parent's residence.

(b) The military power of attorney or comparable document includes at least the authority to enroll the child in school.

The entitlement to attend school in the district in which the parent's agent under the military power of attorney or comparable document resides applies until the end of the school year in which the military power of attorney or comparable document expires.

(G) A board of education, after approving admission, may waive tuition for students who will temporarily reside in the district and who are either of the following:

(1) Residents or domiciliaries of a foreign nation who request admission as foreign exchange students;

(2) Residents or domiciliaries of the United States but not of Ohio who request admission as participants in an exchange program operated by a student exchange organization.

(H) Pursuant to sections 3311.211, 3313.90, 3319.01, 3323.04, 3327.04, and 3327.06 of the Revised Code, a child may attend school or participate in a special education program in a school district other than in the district where the child is entitled to attend school under division (B) of this section.

(I)(1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section or section 3313.65 of the Revised Code, a child under twenty-two years of age may attend school in the school district in which the child, at the end of the first full week of October of the school year, was entitled to attend school as otherwise provided under this section or section 3313.65 of the Revised Code, if at that time the child was enrolled in the schools of the district but since that time the child or the child's parent has relocated to a new address located outside of that school district and within the same county as the child's or parent's address immediately prior to the relocation. The child may continue to attend school in the district, and at the school to which the child was assigned at the end of the first full week of October of the current school year, for the balance of the school year. Division (I)(1) of this section applies only if both of the following conditions are satisfied:

(a) The board of education of the school district in which the child was entitled to attend school at the end of the first full week in October and of the district to which the child or child's parent has relocated each has adopted a policy to enroll children described in division (I)(1) of this section.

(b) The child's parent provides written notification of the relocation outside of the school district to the superintendent of each of the two school districts.

(2) At the beginning of the school year following the school year in which the child or the child's parent relocated outside of the school district as described in division (I)(1) of this section, the child is not entitled to attend school in the school district under that division.

(3) Any person or entity owing tuition to the school district on behalf of the child at the end of the first full week in October, as provided in division (C) of this section, shall continue to owe such tuition to the district for the child's attendance under division (I)(1) of this section for the lesser

of the balance of the school year or the balance of the time that the child attends school in the district under division (I)(1) of this section.

(4) A pupil who may attend school in the district under division (I)(1) of this section shall be entitled to transportation services pursuant to an agreement between the district and the district in which the child or child's parent has relocated unless the districts have not entered into such agreement, in which case the child shall be entitled to transportation services in the same manner as a pupil attending school in the district under interdistrict open enrollment as described in division (E) of section 3313.981 of the Revised Code, regardless of whether the district has adopted an open enrollment policy as described in division (B)(1)(b) or (c) of section 3313.98 of the Revised Code.

(J) This division does not apply to a child receiving special education.

A school district required to pay tuition pursuant to division (C)(2) or (3) of this section or section 3313.65 of the Revised Code shall have an amount deducted under division (C) of section 3317.023 of the Revised Code equal to its own tuition rate for the same period of attendance. A school district entitled to receive tuition pursuant to division (C)(2) or (3) of this section or section 3313.65 of the Revised Code shall have an amount credited under division (C) of section 3317.023 of the Revised Code equal to its own tuition rate for the same period of attendance. If the tuition rate credited to the district of attendance exceeds the rate deducted from the district required to pay tuition, the department of education and workforce shall pay the district of attendance the difference from amounts deducted from all districts' payments under division (C) of section 3317.023 of the Revised Code but not credited to other school districts under such division and from appropriations made for such purpose. The treasurer of each school district shall, by the fifteenth day of January and July, furnish the director of education and workforce a report of the names of each child who attended the district's schools under divisions (C)(2) and (3) of this section or section 3313.65 of the Revised Code during the preceding six calendar months, the duration of the attendance of those children, the school district responsible for tuition on behalf of the child, and any other information that the director requires.

Upon receipt of the report the director, pursuant to division (C) of section 3317.023 of the Revised Code, shall deduct each district's tuition obligations under divisions (C)(2) and (3) of this section or section 3313.65 of the Revised Code and pay to the district of attendance that amount plus any amount required to be paid by the state.

(K) In the event of a disagreement, the director of education and workforce shall determine the school district in which the parent resides.

(L) Nothing in this section requires or authorizes, or shall be construed to require or authorize, the admission to a public school in this state of a pupil who has been permanently excluded from public school attendance by the director pursuant to sections 3301.121 and 3313.662 of the Revised Code.

(M) In accordance with division (B)(1) of this section, a child whose parent is a member of the national guard or a reserve unit of the armed forces of the United States and is called to active

duty, or a child whose parent is a member of the armed forces of the United States and is ordered to a temporary duty assignment outside of the district, may continue to attend school in the district in which the child's parent lived before being called to active duty or ordered to a temporary duty assignment outside of the district, as long as the child's parent continues to be a resident of that district, and regardless of where the child lives as a result of the parent's active duty status or temporary duty assignment. However, the district is not responsible for providing transportation for the child if the child lives outside of the district as a result of the parent's active duty status or temporary duty assignment.

Sec. 3313.7118. Each public school, as defined in section 3301.28 of the Revised Code, and chartered nonpublic school that serves elementary school students shall provide either an electronic or paper copy of the informational materials described in section 3707.61 of the Revised Code to each student's parent or guardian on the student's enrollment in elementary school.

Sec. 3313.753. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Electronic communications device" means any device that is powered by batteries or electricity and that is capable of receiving, transmitting, or receiving and transmitting communications between two or more persons or a communication from or to a person.

(2) "School" means any school that is operated by a board of education of a city, local, exempted village, or joint vocational school district.

(3) "School building" means any building in which any of the instruction, extracurricular activities, or training provided by a school is conducted.

(4) "School grounds or premises" means either of the following:

(a) The parcel of real property on which any school building is situated;

(b) Any other parcel of real property that is owned or leased by a board of education and on which some of the instruction, extracurricular activities, or training of the school is conducted.

(B) The board of education of any city, exempted village, local, joint vocational, or cooperative education school district may adopt a policy prohibiting students from carrying an electronic communications device in any school building or on any school grounds or premises of the district. The policy may provide for exceptions to this prohibition as specified in the policy. The policy shall specify any disciplinary measures that will be taken for violation of this prohibition.

If a board of education adopts a policy under this division, the board shall post the policy in a central location in each school building and make it available to students and parents upon request.

~~(C)(C)(1)~~ Not later than ~~the first day of July that immediately follows the effective date of this amendment~~ January 1, 2026, each school district board of education shall adopt a policy governing the use of cellular telephones by students during school hours. The policy shall ~~do all of the following~~:

~~(1) Emphasize that student cellular telephone use be as limited as possible during school hours;~~

~~(2) Reduce cellular telephone-related distractions in classroom settings;~~

~~(3) prohibit all cellular telephone use by students during the instructional day, except as described in division (C)(2) of this section or if permitted under the building's comprehensive emergency management plan adopted under section 5502.262 of the Revised Code.~~

(2) If determined appropriate by the district board, or if included in a student's individualized education program developed under Chapter 3323. of the Revised Code or plan developed under section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 29 U.S.C. 794, ~~permit students to~~ may use cellular telephones or other electronic communications devices for student learning or to monitor or address a health concern.

A district board shall permit a student to use a cellular telephone or other electronic communications device to monitor or address a health concern if the board receives a written statement from the student's physician requiring such use.

~~(D) Division (C) of this section shall not be construed to require a district board to adopt a policy that prohibits all cellular telephone use by students. Nonetheless, any~~ Any district board that adopts a policy that prohibits all cellular telephone use by students shall be considered to have met the requirements in division (C) of this section.

(E) Any district board that adopts a policy that meets the requirements prescribed in division (C) of this section prior to ~~the effective date of this amendment~~ the effective date of this amendment, shall be considered to have met the requirement to adopt a policy under this section.

(F) Each district board that adopts a policy under this section after ~~the effective date of this amendment~~ the effective date of this amendment, shall do so at a public meeting of the board.

(G) Each district board shall make any policy it adopts under this section publicly available and post it prominently on its publicly accessible web site, if it has one.

~~(H) Not later than sixty days after the effective date of this amendment, the department of education and workforce shall develop a model policy that meets the requirements prescribed in division (C) of this section. To the extent possible, the model policy shall take into account available research concerning the effect of the use of cellular telephones by students in school settings. The model policy may be utilized by districts and schools.~~

Sec. 3313.90. As used in this section, "formula ADM" has the same meaning as in section 3317.02 of the Revised Code. Notwithstanding division (D) of section 3311.19 and division (D) of section 3311.52 of the Revised Code, the provisions of this section that apply to a city school district do not apply to any joint vocational or cooperative education school district.

(A) Except as provided in division (B) of this section, each city, local, and exempted village school district shall, by one of the following means, provide to students enrolled in grades seven through twelve career-technical education adequate to prepare a student enrolled therein for an occupation:

(1) Establishing and maintaining a career-technical education program that meets standards adopted by the department of education and workforce;

(2) Being a member of a joint vocational school district that meets standards adopted by the

department;

(3) Contracting for career-technical education with a joint vocational school district or another school district that meets the standards adopted by the department.

The standards of the department shall include criteria for the participation by nonpublic students in career-technical education programs without financial assessment, charge, or tuition to such student except such assessments, charges, or tuition paid by resident public school students in such programs. Such nonpublic school students shall be included in the formula ADM of the school district maintaining the career-technical education program as part-time students in proportion to the time spent in the career-technical education program.

By the thirtieth day of October of each year, the director of education and workforce shall determine and certify to the superintendent of each school district subject to this section either that the district is in compliance with the requirements of this section for the current school year or that the district is not in compliance. If the director certifies that the district is not in compliance, the director shall notify the board of education of the district of the actions necessary to bring the district into compliance with this section.

In meeting standards established by the department, school districts, where practicable, shall provide career-technical education programs in high schools. A minimum enrollment of ~~fifteen hundred students in grades nine through twelve is established as a base for comprehensive career-technical education course offerings. Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, this base shall increase to a minimum enrollment of two thousand two hundred fifty students in grades seven through twelve~~ is the base for comprehensive career-technical education course offerings. A school district may meet this requirement alone, through a cooperative arrangement pursuant to section 3313.92 of the Revised Code, through school district consolidation, by membership in a joint vocational school district, by contract with a school district, by contract with a school licensed by any state agency established by the Revised Code which school operates its courses offered for contracting with public schools under standards as to staffing and facilities comparable to those prescribed by the department for public schools provided no instructor in such courses shall be required to be certificated by the department, or in a combination of such ways. Exceptions to the minimum enrollment prescribed by this section may be made by the department based on sparsity of population or other factors indicating that comprehensive educational and career-technical education programs as required by this section can be provided through an alternate plan.

(B) ~~If Until July 1, 2026, the department shall waive the requirement for a city, local, or exempted village school district to provide career-technical education to students enrolled in grades seven and eight for that particular school year, if the board of education of a city, local, or exempted village school that~~ district adopts a resolution that specifies the district's intent not to provide career-technical education to students enrolled in grades seven and eight for a particular school year and submits that resolution to the department by the thirtieth day of September of that school year, the ~~department shall waive the requirement for that district to provide career-technical education to~~

~~students enrolled in grades seven and eight for that particular school year.~~

Sec. 3313.902. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Competency-based educational program" means any system of academic instruction, assessment, grading, and reporting in which individuals receive credit based on demonstrations and assessments of their learning rather than the amount of time they spend studying a subject. A competency-based educational program shall encourage accelerated learning among individuals who master academic materials quickly while providing additional instructional support time for individuals who need it.

(2) "Eligible individual" means an individual who satisfies all of the following criteria:

(a) The individual is at least eighteen years of age.

(b) The individual is officially withdrawn from school.

(c) The individual has not been awarded a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalence as defined in section 4109.06 of the Revised Code.

(3) "Eligible provider" means a city, local, or exempted village school district that operates a dropout prevention and recovery program, the buckeye united school district operated by the department of youth services, the Ohio central school system established under section 5145.06 of the Revised Code, or a joint vocational school district that operates an adult education program.

(4) "Ohio technical center" has the same meaning as in section 3333.94 of the Revised Code.

(B) An eligible provider may establish a competency-based educational program that complies with standards adopted by the department of education and workforce and may enroll eligible individuals in the program for up to three consecutive school years for the purpose of earning a high school diploma. The provider shall establish a career plan for each individual enrolled in the program that specifies the individual's career goals and describes how the individual will demonstrate competency or earn course credits under division (C) of this section to earn a diploma and attain the individual's career goals.

(C) Notwithstanding sections 3313.61, 3313.611, 3313.613, 3313.614, 3313.618, and 3313.619 of the Revised Code, the department shall award a high school diploma to an individual enrolled in a program under division (B) of this section who meets either of the following conditions:

(1) The individual demonstrates competency by completing at least three of the following activities, at least one of which shall be the activity described in division (C)(1)(a) or (b) of this section:

(a) Attaining a competency score as determined under division (B)(10) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code on each of the Algebra I and English language arts II end-of-course examinations prescribed under division (B)(2) of that section;

(b) Attaining a workforce readiness score, as determined by the department, on the nationally recognized job skills assessment selected by the department under division (F) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code;

(c) Obtaining an industry-recognized credential, or group of credentials, in a single career field that meet the criteria established under section 3313.6113 of the Revised Code to qualify for a high school diploma or earning an industry-recognized credential that is aligned to a technical education program provided by an Ohio technical center;

(d) Earning a cumulative score of proficient or higher on three or more state technical assessments aligned with section 3313.903 of the Revised Code in a single career pathway;

(e) Doing either of the following:

(i) Completing a pre-apprenticeship program aligned with options established under section 3313.904 of the Revised Code in the individual's chosen career field and providing evidence of acceptance into a registered apprenticeship program in that career field;

(ii) Completing an apprenticeship registered with the apprenticeship council established under section 4139.02 of the Revised Code in the individual's chosen career field.

(f) Completing two hundred fifty hours of a work-based learning experience with evidence of positive evaluations;

(g) Obtaining an OhioMeansJobs-readiness seal under section 3313.6112 of the Revised Code.

(2) The individual demonstrates competency by completing at least two of the activities described in divisions (C)(1)(a) to (g) of this section and earns course credits distributed as follows:

(a) English language arts, four credits;

(b) Mathematics, four credits. One credit may be a career-based mathematics course aligned to the individual's career plan developed under division (B) of this section.

(c) Science, three credits;

(d) Social studies, three credits;

(e) Financial literacy, one-half credit. The one-half credit of financial literacy may be applied toward the number of mathematics or social studies credits required under division (C)(2) of this section.

(D) An eligible provider shall report each individual enrolled in a program under division (B) of this section to the department. The department annually shall certify the enrollment and attendance of each individual reported under this division and shall pay the provider up to \$7,500 for each such individual per school year, as determined by the department based on the extent of the individual's successful completion of the diploma requirements prescribed in division (C) of this section.

(E) Notwithstanding anything in this section to the contrary, an eligible provider may request that the department allow an eligible individual to enroll in a program under division (B) of this section for more than three consecutive school years due to a hardship experienced by the individual that necessitates additional time to meet the diploma requirements prescribed in division (C) of this section.

(F) An eligible individual shall not be assigned to classes or settings with individuals who

are younger than eighteen years of age.

(G) Each eligible provider shall contact each individual to whom a diploma is awarded under this section to collect data on the individual's career and educational outcomes at six months, twelve months, and eighteen months after the awarding of the diploma. At each time of contact, the provider shall request information regarding whether the individual is gainfully employed, participating in an apprenticeship, enrolled in postsecondary education, or serving in the military. The provider shall report the data collected to the department in the manner determined by the department.

(H) The department shall adopt rules as necessary to administer this section. The rules may include all of the following:

- (1) Standards for competency-based educational programs;
- (2) Standards for applying an individual's work or life experiences toward the requirements of division (C) of this section;
- (3) Requirements for determining the amount paid to providers under division (D) of this section;
- (4) Guidelines for approving or denying a hardship request made under division (E) of this section.

Sec. 3313.905. (A) Southern state community college shall establish and maintain the Ohio code-scholar program, a hands-on educational initiative designed for students in grades four through twelve, with an emphasis on experiential learning in computer science, coding, and digital literacy.

(B) Southern state community college shall use any funds appropriated by the general assembly for the Ohio-code scholar program for the following purposes:

- (1) All of the following:
 - (a) Curriculum development and alignment;
 - (b) Teacher training and resource creation;
 - (c) Coordination with K–12 schools statewide;
 - (d) Partnership development with other educational institutions, workforce agencies, and regional employers;
- (2) To implement and scale the program statewide, prioritizing outreach to underserved and rural areas, particularly within Ohio's Appalachian region.
- (3) To provide ongoing institutional support for southern state community college, including all of the following:
 - (a) Operational needs that enhance its educational mission;
 - (b) Technology and infrastructure upgrades;
 - (c) Community outreach;
 - (d) Services that strengthen the college's regional impact in the Appalachian corridor.
- (C) The director of development shall oversee the allocation and use of these funds. The director of education and workforce may establish guidelines to ensure compliance with this section.