



# OHIO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NETWORK

*A project of Citizens for Community Values*

## **House Bill 166 – State Biennial Budget (As Enacted)**

### **Education Choice Enhancements**

- Adds \$50M to the EdChoice Expansion line item in FY 2021 so that no student is waitlisted because of an underfunded appropriation.
- Provides parents of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students a true choice at the critical high school decision point by allowing any 8<sup>th</sup> grade student assigned to an EdChoice designated public school to apply for EdChoice for high school. Makes private school 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders, who would be assigned to an EdChoice designated school, eligible for regular EdChoice.
- Beginning in 2020-2021 school year, all students in grades k-12 are eligible for EdChoice Expansion, a program for low income families in grades k-12 regardless of where they attend school.
- Allows the EdChoice Expansion program for low income families to grow by increasing the program by 5% in each year the number of scholarship applications reaches 90% of capacity. Currently there are 60,000 available scholarships.
- Clarified that EdChoice is to be applied after standard deductions (church affiliation, multi child, employee discounts, ect.) and prior to financial aid and grants. This ensures high quality providers will remain participants in the EdChoice programs by clarifying the calculation of the EdChoice scholarship.
- Creates a generally continuous application window for EdChoice so that families have a choice in their education when they need it. The priority window for applications starts February 1<sup>st</sup> and remains open for 75 days. ODE is required to award scholarships by May 31<sup>st</sup>. Students may apply throughout the year and receive a prorated scholarship amount.
- Starting with the 2020-2021 school year, the Cleveland scholarship will have two 75-day application periods, starting February 1<sup>st</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup>. It also requires ODE to determine by June 30<sup>th</sup> if funds are available for a second application window.
- Allows chartered non-public schools to choose which state assessment they administer to students enrolled with a state scholarship in grades 3-8.
- Gives chartered non-public schools the ability to determine the best educational path for students with disabilities including excusing them from state assessments where deemed appropriate by the student's teachers and parents.
- Increases the earmark to Cleveland to \$23.5M to remove waitlisted students in the Cleveland program.
- Allows ODE to directly verify family income with the Ohio Department of Tax, removing this step locally within the EdChoice program.



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## **College Credit Plus**

- Earmarks \$2,600,000 in each fiscal year for nonpublic school student participation in the College Credit Plus Program. Specifies that the remainder of the appropriation be used for auxiliary services for chartered nonpublic schools.

## **Transportation**

- We successfully defeated any cuts to non-public transportation and removed additional threats to this transportation, getting rid of the “study committee,” aimed at reducing non-public transportation. Additionally, here are two protections included in the budget:
  - Prohibits a school district from reducing transportation it has opted to provide to students the district is not required to transport after the first day of the school year.
  - Requires a school district, in lieu of providing transportation, to pay that parent, guardian, or other person at least \$250 and not more than the amount determined by ODE as the average cost of pupil transportation for the previous school year. Permits the payment to be prorated if the time period involved is only a part of the school year.

## **Athletics**

- Permits any international student attending an elementary or secondary school in Ohio that holds an F-1 U.S. visa to participate in interscholastic athletics, regardless of whether the student's school began operating a dormitory prior to 2014 as specified for participation under current law.
- Prohibits discrimination of non-public students in athletics by requiring a school district, interscholastic conference, or organization that regulates interscholastic athletics to have the same transfer rules for public and nonpublic schools and prohibits the creation of rules, bylaws, or other regulations to the contrary.

## **Study Committees**

- Economically disadvantaged student study:  
Requires ODE to conduct a study that (1) reviews and determines the effectiveness of the criteria used in the current school funding formula to define economically disadvantaged students and (2) researches how other states define economically disadvantaged students and address them in their school funding formulas.  
Requires them to submit a report of findings by December 31, 2020.



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- Report cards study committee:  
Establishes a study committee, which must convene and elect a chairperson not later than 30 days after the bill's immediate effective date, to study the calculation and weighting of performance measures, components, and the overall letter grade on the report card. Also requires the committee to consider the report card's design principles, primary audience, and the manner in which it addresses student academic achievement. Requires the committee to submit a report to the General Assembly by December 15, 2019, that includes recommendations on at least certain topics concerning the calculation of report cards.

## **Safety Grants/ Tax Levy**

- Provides the Attorney General, in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services, to make grants for school safety and school climate programs and training to public and chartered nonpublic schools, local law enforcement agencies, and schools operated by county boards of developmental disabilities. The grants may be used for at least the following: (1) school resource officer certification training, (2) any type of active shooter and school safety training or equipment, (3) all grade level type educational resources, (4) training to identify and assist students with mental health issues, (5) school supplies or equipment related to school safety or for implementing the school's safety plan, and (6) any other training related to school safety.
- Authorizes the board of education of a school district to propose a tax levy for school safety and security and give some of the revenue to chartered nonpublic schools located in the district to be used for that purpose. Vetoed Language - Permits chartered nonpublic schools to require vaccinations for attendance.

## Line Items

	FY '19	FY'20	% Change	FY' 21	% Change
Auxiliary Services	\$ 150,515,630	\$ 154,939,134	2.94%	\$ 154,939,134	0%
Administrative Cost Reimbursement <sup>1</sup>	\$ 67,241,077	\$ 69,997,735	4.10%	\$ 69,997,735	0%
EdChoice Expansion	\$ 44,636,864	\$ 57,223,340	28.20%	\$ 121,017,418	111.48%

<sup>1</sup>Specifies that GRF appropriation item 200532, Nonpublic Administrative Cost Reimbursement, be used to reimburse chartered nonpublic schools for their administrative costs associated with maintaining their state charter. Permits the reimbursements to be up to \$405 per student, notwithstanding the statutory cap of \$360 per student.