

## As Introduced

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Representatives Bubp, Pryor

Cosponsors: Representatives Adams, J., Adams, R., Balderson, Blair,  
Burke, Daniels, Derickson, Domenick, Fende, Gardner, Grossman, Hackett,  
Huffman, Jordan, Lehner, Letson, Luckie, Maag, Martin, McGregor,  
Mecklenborg, Morgan, Murray, Okey, Pillich, Ruhl, Sears, Snitchler,  
Stebelton, Uecker, Wagner, Williams, B., Yuko

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### A B I L L

To amend section 3313.603 of the Revised Code to	1
include Junior ROTC as a permitted elective within	2
the Ohio Core curriculum and to permit schools to	3
excuse Junior ROTC students from high school	4
physical education.	5

#### BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

<b>Section 1.</b> That section 3313.603 of the Revised Code be	6
amended to read as follows:	7

<b>Sec. 3313.603.</b> (A) As used in this section:	8
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(1) "One unit" means a minimum of one hundred twenty hours of	9
course instruction, except that for a laboratory course, "one	10
unit" means a minimum of one hundred fifty hours of course	11
instruction.	12

(2) "One-half unit" means a minimum of sixty hours of course	13
instruction, except that for physical education courses, "one-half	14

unit" means a minimum of one hundred twenty hours of course 15  
instruction. 16

(B) Beginning September 15, 2001, except as required in 17  
division (C) of this section and division (C) of section 3313.614 18  
of the Revised Code, the requirements for graduation from every 19  
high school shall include twenty units earned in grades nine 20  
through twelve and shall be distributed as follows: 21

(1) English language arts, four units; 22

(2) Health, one-half unit; 23

(3) Mathematics, three units; 24

(4) Physical education, one-half unit; 25

(5) Science, two units until September 15, 2003, and three 26  
units thereafter, which at all times shall include both of the 27  
following: 28

(a) Biological sciences, one unit; 29

(b) Physical sciences, one unit. 30

(6) Social studies, three units, which shall include both of 31  
the following: 32

(a) American history, one-half unit; 33

(b) American government, one-half unit. 34

(7) Elective units, seven units until September 15, 2003, and 35  
six units thereafter. 36

Each student's electives shall include at least one unit, or 37  
two half units, chosen from among the areas of 38  
business/technology, fine arts, and/or foreign language. 39

(C) Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the 40  
first time on or after July 1, 2010, except as provided in 41  
divisions (D) to (F) of this section, the requirements for 42  
graduation from every public and chartered nonpublic high school 43

shall include twenty units that are designed to prepare students 44  
for the workforce and college. The units shall be distributed as 45  
follows: 46

(1) English language arts, four units; 47

(2) Health, one-half unit; 48

(3) Mathematics, four units, which shall include one unit of 49  
algebra II or the equivalent of algebra II; 50

(4) Physical education, one-half unit; 51

(5) Science, three units with inquiry-based laboratory 52  
experience that engages students in asking valid scientific 53  
questions and gathering and analyzing information, which shall 54  
include the following, or their equivalent: 55

(a) Physical sciences, one unit; 56

(b) Life sciences, one unit; 57

(c) Advanced study in one or more of the following sciences, 58  
one unit: 59

(i) Chemistry, physics, or other physical science; 60

(ii) Advanced biology or other life science; 61

(iii) Astronomy, physical geology, or other earth or space 62  
science. 63

(6) Social studies, three units, which shall include both of 64  
the following: 65

(a) American history, one-half unit; 66

(b) American government, one-half unit. 67

Each school shall integrate the study of economics and 68  
financial literacy, as expressed in the social studies academic 69  
content standards adopted by the state board of education under 70  
division (A)(1) of section 3301.079 of the Revised Code and the 71

academic content standards for financial literacy and 72  
entrepreneurship adopted under division (A)(2) of that section, 73  
into one or more existing social studies credits required under 74  
division (C)(6) of this section, or into the content of another 75  
class, so that every high school student receives instruction in 76  
those concepts. In developing the curriculum required by this 77  
paragraph, schools shall use available public-private partnerships 78  
and resources and materials that exist in business, industry, and 79  
through the centers for economics education at institutions of 80  
higher education in the state. 81

(7) Five units consisting of one or any combination of 82  
foreign language, fine arts, business, career-technical education, 83  
family and consumer sciences, technology, agricultural education, 84  
a junior reserve officer training corps (JROTC) program approved 85  
by the congress of the United States under title 10 of the United 86  
States Code, or English language arts, mathematics, science, or 87  
social studies courses not otherwise required under division (C) 88  
of this section. 89

Ohioans must be prepared to apply increased knowledge and 90  
skills in the workplace and to adapt their knowledge and skills 91  
quickly to meet the rapidly changing conditions of the 92  
twenty-first century. National studies indicate that all high 93  
school graduates need the same academic foundation, regardless of 94  
the opportunities they pursue after graduation. The goal of Ohio's 95  
system of elementary and secondary education is to prepare all 96  
students for and seamlessly connect all students to success in 97  
life beyond high school graduation, regardless of whether the next 98  
step is entering the workforce, beginning an apprenticeship, 99  
engaging in post-secondary training, serving in the military, or 100  
pursuing a college degree. 101

The Ohio core curriculum is the standard expectation for all 102  
students entering ninth grade for the first time at a public or 103

chartered nonpublic high school on or after July 1, 2010. A 104  
student may satisfy this expectation through a variety of methods, 105  
including, but not limited to, integrated, applied, 106  
career-technical, and traditional coursework. 107

Whereas teacher quality is essential for student success in 108  
completing the Ohio core curriculum, the general assembly shall 109  
appropriate funds for strategic initiatives designed to strengthen 110  
schools' capacities to hire and retain highly qualified teachers 111  
in the subject areas required by the curriculum. Such initiatives 112  
are expected to require an investment of \$120,000,000 over five 113  
years. 114

Stronger coordination between high schools and institutions 115  
of higher education is necessary to prepare students for more 116  
challenging academic endeavors and to lessen the need for academic 117  
remediation in college, thereby reducing the costs of higher 118  
education for Ohio's students, families, and the state. The state 119  
board of education and the chancellor of the Ohio board of regents 120  
shall develop policies to ensure that only in rare instances will 121  
students who complete the Ohio core curriculum require academic 122  
remediation after high school. 123

School districts, community schools, and chartered nonpublic 124  
schools shall integrate technology into learning experiences 125  
whenever practicable across the curriculum in order to maximize 126  
efficiency, enhance learning, and prepare students for success in 127  
the technology-driven twenty-first century. Districts and schools 128  
may use distance and web-based course delivery as a method of 129  
providing or augmenting all instruction required under this 130  
division, including laboratory experience in science. Districts 131  
and schools shall whenever practicable utilize technology access 132  
and electronic learning opportunities provided by the eTech Ohio 133  
commission, the Ohio learning network, education technology 134  
centers, public television stations, and other public and private 135

providers. 136

(D) Except as provided in division (E) of this section, a 137  
student who enters ninth grade on or after July 1, 2010, and 138  
before July 1, 2014, may qualify for graduation from a public or 139  
chartered nonpublic high school even though the student has not 140  
completed the Ohio core curriculum prescribed in division (C) of 141  
this section if all of the following conditions are satisfied: 142

(1) After the student has attended high school for two years, 143  
as determined by the school, the student and the student's parent, 144  
guardian, or custodian sign and file with the school a written 145  
statement asserting the parent's, guardian's, or custodian's 146  
consent to the student's graduating without completing the Ohio 147  
core curriculum and acknowledging that one consequence of not 148  
completing the Ohio core curriculum is ineligibility to enroll in 149  
most state universities in Ohio without further coursework. 150

(2) The student and parent, guardian, or custodian fulfill 151  
any procedural requirements the school stipulates to ensure the 152  
student's and parent's, guardian's, or custodian's informed 153  
consent and to facilitate orderly filing of statements under 154  
division (D)(1) of this section. 155

(3) The student and the student's parent, guardian, or 156  
custodian and a representative of the student's high school 157  
jointly develop an individual career plan for the student that 158  
specifies the student matriculating to a two-year degree program, 159  
acquiring a business and industry credential, or entering an 160  
apprenticeship. 161

(4) The student's high school provides counseling and support 162  
for the student related to the plan developed under division 163  
(D)(3) of this section during the remainder of the student's high 164  
school experience. 165

(5) The student successfully completes, at a minimum, the 166

curriculum prescribed in division (B) of this section. 167

The department of education, in collaboration with the ~~the~~ 168  
chancellor of the Ohio board of regents, shall analyze student 169  
performance data to determine if there are mitigating factors that 170  
warrant extending the exception permitted by division (D) of this 171  
section to high school classes beyond those entering ninth grade 172  
before July 1, 2014. The department shall submit its findings and 173  
any recommendations not later than August 1, 2014, to the speaker 174  
and minority leader of the house of representatives, the president 175  
and minority leader of the senate, the chairpersons and ranking 176  
minority members of the standing committees of the house of 177  
representatives and the senate that consider education 178  
legislation, the state board of education, and the superintendent 179  
of public instruction. 180

(E) Each school district and chartered nonpublic school 181  
retains the authority to require an even more rigorous minimum 182  
curriculum for high school graduation than specified in division 183  
(B) or (C) of this section. A school district board of education, 184  
through the adoption of a resolution, or the governing authority 185  
of a chartered nonpublic school may stipulate any of the 186  
following: 187

(1) A minimum high school curriculum that requires more than 188  
twenty units of academic credit to graduate; 189

(2) An exception to the district's or school's minimum high 190  
school curriculum that is comparable to the exception provided in 191  
division (D) of this section but with additional requirements, 192  
which may include a requirement that the student successfully 193  
complete more than the minimum curriculum prescribed in division 194  
(B) of this section; 195

(3) That no exception comparable to that provided in division 196  
(D) of this section is available. 197

(F) A student enrolled in a dropout prevention and recovery program, which program has received a waiver from the department of education, 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 Ohio core curriculum 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 state board of education under division (E)(6) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code, division (B)(2) of that section.

(4) The program develops an individual career plan for the student that specifies the student's matriculating to a two-year degree program, acquiring a business and industry 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 229  
parent, guardian, or custodian to sign and file, in accordance 230  
with procedural requirements stipulated by the program, a written 231  
statement asserting the parent's, guardian's, or custodian's 232  
consent to the student's graduating without completing the Ohio 233  
core curriculum and acknowledging that one consequence of not 234  
completing the Ohio core curriculum is ineligibility to enroll in 235  
most state universities in Ohio without further coursework. 236

(7) Prior to receiving the waiver, the program has submitted 237  
to the department an instructional plan that demonstrates how the 238  
academic content standards adopted by the state board of education 239  
under section 3301.079 of the Revised Code will be taught and 240  
assessed. 241

If the department does not act either to grant the waiver or 242  
to reject the program application for the waiver within sixty days 243  
as required under this section, the waiver shall be considered to 244  
be granted. 245

(G) Every high school may permit students below the ninth 246  
grade to take advanced work. If a high school so permits, it shall 247  
award high school credit for successful completion of the advanced 248  
work and shall count such advanced work toward the graduation 249  
requirements of division (B) or (C) of this section if the 250  
advanced work was both: 251

(1) Taught by a person who possesses a license or certificate 252  
issued under section 3301.071, 3319.22, or 3319.222 of the Revised 253  
Code that is valid for teaching high school; 254

(2) Designated by the board of education of the city, local, 255  
or exempted village school district, the board of the cooperative 256  
education school district, or the governing authority of the 257  
chartered nonpublic school as meeting the high school curriculum 258  
requirements. 259

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) Units earned in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies that are delivered through integrated academic and career-technical instruction are eligible to meet the graduation requirements of division (B) or (C) of this section.

(J) The state board of education, in consultation with the chancellor of the Ohio board of regents, 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 state board shall adopt the plan not later than March 31, 2009, and commence phasing in the plan during the 2009-2010 school year. The plan shall include a standard method for recording demonstrated proficiency on high school transcripts. Each school district, community school, and chartered nonpublic school shall comply with the state board's plan adopted under this division and award units of high school credit in accordance with the plan. The state board 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.

(K) This division does not apply to students who qualify for 292  
graduation from high school under division (D) or (F) of this 293  
section, or to students pursuing a career-technical instructional 294  
track as determined by the school district board of education or 295  
the chartered nonpublic school's governing authority. 296  
Nevertheless, the general assembly encourages such students to 297  
consider enrolling in a fine arts course as an elective. 298

Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first 299  
time on or after July 1, 2010, each student enrolled in a public 300  
or chartered nonpublic high school shall complete two semesters or 301  
the equivalent of fine arts to graduate from high school. The 302  
coursework may be completed in any of grades seven to twelve. Each 303  
student who completes a fine arts course in grade seven or eight 304  
may elect to count that course toward the five units of electives 305  
required for graduation under division (C)(7) of this section, if 306  
the course satisfied the requirements of division (G) of this 307  
section. In that case, the high school shall award the student 308  
high school credit for the course and count the course toward the 309  
five units required under division (C)(7) of this section. If the 310  
course in grade seven or eight did not satisfy the requirements of 311  
division (G) of this section, the high school shall not award the 312  
student high school credit for the course but shall count the 313  
course toward the two semesters or the equivalent of fine arts 314  
required by this division. 315

(L) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section, 316  
the board of education of each school district and the governing 317  
authority of each chartered nonpublic school may adopt a policy to 318  
excuse from the high school physical education requirement each 319  
student who, during high school, has participated in 320  
interscholastic athletics, marching band, or cheerleading for at 321  
least two full seasons or in the junior reserve officer training 322  
corps for at least two full school years. If the board or 323

authority adopts such a policy, the board or authority shall not 324  
require the student to complete any physical education course as a 325  
condition to graduate. However, the student shall be required to 326  
complete one-half unit, consisting of at least sixty hours of 327  
instruction, in another course of study. In the case of a student 328  
who has participated in the junior reserve officer training corps 329  
for at least two full school years, credit received for that 330  
participation may be used to satisfy the requirement to complete 331  
one-half unit in another course of study. 332

**Section 2.** That existing section 3313.603 of the Revised Code 333  
is hereby repealed. 334