

As Introduced

**130th General Assembly
Regular Session
2013-2014**

S. B. No. 241

Senator Sawyer

**Cosponsors: Senators Seitz, Lehner, Kearney, Skindell, Tavares, Turner,
Schiavoni, Brown**

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A B I L L

To amend Section 263.325 of Am. Sub. H.B. 59 of the 1
130th General Assembly to modify the membership 2
structure of the Straight A Program Governing 3
Board. 4

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

Section 1. That Section 263.325 of Am. Sub. H.B. 59 of the 5
130th General Assembly be amended to read as follows: 6

Sec. 263.325. (A) The Straight A Program is hereby created 7
for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 to provide grants to city, local, 8
exempted village, and joint vocational school districts, 9
educational service centers, community schools established under 10
Chapter 3314., STEM schools established under Chapter 3326., 11
college-preparatory boarding schools established under Chapter 12
3328. of the Revised Code, individual school buildings, education 13
consortia (which may represent a partnership among school 14
districts, school buildings, community schools, or STEM schools), 15
institutions of higher education, and private entities partnering 16
with one or more of the educational entities identified in this 17
division for projects that aim to achieve significant advancement 18

in one or more of the following goals:	19
(1) Student achievement;	20
(2) Spending reduction in the five-year fiscal forecast required under section 5705.391 of the Revised Code;	21 22
(3) Utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom.	23 24
(B)(1) Grants shall be awarded by a nine-member <u>thirteen-member</u> governing board consisting of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, or the Superintendent's designee, four members appointed by the Governor, two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and two members appointed <u>by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives</u> , two members appointed by the President of the Senate, and two members <u>appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate</u> . The Department of Education shall provide administrative support to the board. No member shall be compensated for the member's service on the board.	25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34
(2) The board shall select grant advisors with fiscal expertise and education expertise. These advisors shall evaluate proposals from grant applicants and advise the staff administering the program. No advisor shall be compensated for this service.	35 36 37 38
(3) The board shall issue an annual report to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the chairpersons of the House and Senate committees that primarily deal with education regarding the types of grants awarded, the grant recipients, and the effectiveness of the grant program.	39 40 41 42 43 44
(4) The board shall create a grant application and publish on the Department's web site the application and timeline for the submission, review, notification, and awarding of grant proposals.	45 46 47
(5) With the approval of the board, the Department shall	48

establish a system for evaluating and scoring the grant applications received under this section.

(C) Each grant applicant shall submit a proposal that includes all of the following:

(1) A description of the project for which the applicant is seeking a grant, including a description of how the project will have substantial value and lasting impact;

(2) An explanation of how the project will be self-sustaining. If the project will result in increased ongoing spending, the applicant shall show how the spending will be offset by verifiable, credible, permanent spending reductions.

(3) A description of quantifiable results of the project that can be benchmarked.

If an education consortia described in division (A) of this section applies for a grant, the lead applicant shall be the school district, school building, community school, or STEM school that is a member of the consortia and shall so indicate on the grant application.

(D)(1) Within seventy-five days after receiving a grant application, the board shall issue a decision on the application of "yes," "no," "hold," or "edit." In making its decision, the board shall consider whether the project has the capability of being replicated in other school districts and schools or creates something that can be used in other districts and schools. A grant awarded under this section to a school district, educational service center, community school, STEM school, college-preparatory boarding school, individual school building, institution of higher education, or private entity partnering with one or more of the educational entities identified in division (A) of this section shall not exceed \$5,000,000 in each fiscal year. A grant awarded to an education consortia shall not exceed \$15,000,000 in each

fiscal year. The Superintendent of Public Instruction may make 80
recommendations to the Controlling Board that these maximum 81
amounts be exceeded. Upon Controlling Board approval, grants may 82
be awarded in excess of these amounts. 83

(2) If the board issues a "hold" or "edit" decision for an 84
application, it shall, upon returning the application to the 85
applicant, specify the process for reconsideration of the 86
application. An applicant may work with the grant advisors and 87
staff to modify or improve a grant application. 88

(E) Upon deciding to award a grant to an applicant, the board 89
shall enter into a grant agreement with the applicant that 90
includes all of the following: 91

(1) The content of the applicant's proposal as outlined under 92
division (C) of this section; 93

(2) The project's deliverables and a timetable for their 94
completion; 95

(3) Conditions for receiving grant funding; 96

(4) Conditions for receiving funding in future years if the 97
contract is a multi-year contract; 98

(5) A provision specifying that funding will be returned to 99
the board if the applicant fails to implement the agreement, as 100
determined by the Auditor of State. 101

(6) A provision specifying that the agreement may be amended 102
by mutual agreement between the board and the applicant. 103

(F) An advisory committee for the Straight A Program is 104
hereby established. The committee shall consist of not more than 105
eleven members appointed by the Governor that represent all areas 106
of the state and different interests. The committee shall annually 107
review the Straight A Program and provide strategic advice to the 108
governing board and the Director of the Governor's Office of 21st 109

Century Education. 110

(G) Each grant awarded under this section shall be subject to 111
approval by the Controlling Board prior to execution of the grant 112
agreement. 113

Section 2. That existing Section 263.325 of Am. Sub. H.B. 59 114
of the 130th General Assembly is hereby repealed. 115