



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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Sub. H.B. 597

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(LSC 130 2660-1)

Reps. Thompson and Huffman

BILL SUMMARY

Academic content standards and assessments

Repeal of the Common Core State Standards and related assessments

- Prohibits the State Board of Education from adopting, and the Department of Education from implementing, the Common Core State Standards, or any standards developed by any similar initiative process or program, as the state's academic content standards for English language arts and mathematics and voids any prior actions taken to adopt or implement the Common Core State Standards. (R.C. 3301.078(B).)
- Prohibits the State Board from using the assessments developed by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), the Smarter Balanced Assessment, or any other assessment related to or based on the Common Core State Standards. (R.C. 3301.078(B) and Section 9 of H.B. 487 of the 130th General Assembly repealed in Section 3 of the bill.)
- Specifies that the bill's intent is that any assessment related to the PARCC or Smarter Balanced consortia may not be used for the 2014-2015 school year or any school year thereafter. (Section 7.)
- Prohibits any state official from joining an organization that requires ceding state or school district control over education. (R.C. 3301.078(C)(1).)
- Limits the academic standards that the State Board may adopt to the subject areas prescribed under current law. (R.C. 3301.078(C)(2).) The principal subject areas are English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. After completing

standards for those areas, current law permits the State Board to adopt standards for technology, financial literacy and entrepreneurship, fine arts, and foreign language. Finally, current law requires the State Board to adopt the most recent standards developed by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education or its own standards for physical education. (R.C. 3301.079(A).)

- Prohibits the withholding of state funds from a school district or school for failure to adopt or use the state academic content standards or the state assessments. (R.C. 3301.078(D).)

Academic content standards and assessments for 2014-2015

- Does not specify any particular academic content standards for the 2014-2015 school year.
- Requires, for the 2014-2015 school year, the Department to furnish and school districts and schools to administer the elementary and secondary assessments administered for the 2013-2014 school year (Ohio Achievement Assessments and the Ohio Graduation Tests). (Section 8.)

Interim academic content standards for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017

- Requires the State Board, within 90 days after the bill's effective date, to replace the academic content standards in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies with new standards that are consistent with the standards adopted by Massachusetts as those standards existed prior to December 21, 2010, so that Ohio's standards are as identical as possible to those adopted by Massachusetts, except where an Ohio context requires otherwise. (Section 4(A)(1).)
- Specifies that Ohio's academic content standards that are based on the Massachusetts standards are effective for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years only. (Section 4(A)(1).)

Academic content standards for 2017-2018 and thereafter

- Requires the State Board, by June 30, 2016, to adopt new academic content standards for each of grades kindergarten through twelve in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies that are distinct and independent from the standards previously adopted by the State Board so that they are in place for the 2017-2018 school year and each school year thereafter. (R.C. 3301.079(A)(1) and Section 4(B).)
- States that the new academic content standards must emphasize coherence, focus, and essential knowledge, as under current law, but adds that the new standards also



emphasize "rigor." (R.C. 3301.079(A)(1).) For that purpose, the bill defines rigor as "requiring a high degree of academic content knowledge appropriate to the subject and grade level." (R.C. 3301.079(K)(6).) The bill also maintains the current statutory statement that the standards be "more challenging and demanding when compared to international standards." (R.C. 3301.079(A)(1).)

- Removes the other current specifications for the academic content standards and, instead, specifies that the new standards must be designed to teach the competencies for which students are tested and to prepare students for active citizenship, employment, or successful completion of post-secondary education without the need for remedial coursework at the post-secondary level. (R.C. 3301.079(A)(1)(a).) Current law specifies that the standards (1) include essential academic content and skills students are expected to know and be able to do at each grade level, (2) include the development of skill sets that promote information, media, and technological literacy, (3) include interdisciplinary, project-based, real world learning opportunities, (4) instill lifelong learning by providing essential knowledge and skills based in the liberal arts tradition, as well as science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and career-technical education, and (5) be clearly written, transparent, and understandable by parents, educators, and the general public. (R.C. 3301.079(A)(1)(a)(i) to (v), removed by the bill.)
- Specifies that the standards for English language arts require the use of English phonograms and all of their sounds; include significant instruction in English grammar; require that at least 80% of English study focus on imaginative literature; require that at least 80% of literary works taught in grades 8 through 12 be complete works of classic British and American authors published prior to 1970; and require a choice of literary works to be studied solely on the basis of literary merit rather than popularity or political considerations. (R.C. 3301.079(A)(1)(a)(i).)
- Specifies that the standards for mathematics require a mastery of the standard algorithm; require fluency with addition and subtraction of multi-digit whole numbers using the standard algorithm by third grade; require fluency with arithmetic operations on decimals and multiplication and division of multi-digit numbers using the standard algorithm by fifth grade; prepare students to take the first authentic Algebra I course by eighth grade; and include a traditional Euclidean geometry course. (R.C. 3301.079(A)(1)(a)(ii).)
- Specifies that the standards in science be based in core existing disciplines of biology, chemistry, and physics; incorporate grade-level mathematics and be referenced to the mathematics standards; focus on academic and scientific knowledge rather than scientific processes; and prohibit political or religious interpretation of scientific facts in favor of another. (R.C. 3301.079(A)(1)(a)(iii).)

- Specifies that the standards for social studies incorporate the original texts and the original context of the Declaration of Independence, the Northwest Ordinance, the Constitution of the United States and its amendments with emphasis on the Bill of Rights; incorporate the Ohio Constitution; define the United States of America as a constitutional republic; be based on acquisition of real knowledge of major individuals and events; require the study of world and American geography; and prohibit a specific political or religious interpretation of the standards' content. (R.C. 3301.079(A)(1)(a)(iv).)
- States that a school district is not required to utilize all or any part of the academic content standards adopted by the State Board. (R.C. 3301.079(A)(4), second paragraph.)

Assessments for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017

- Requires the State Board to adopt or develop, not later than 90 days after the bill's effective date, elementary and secondary assessments in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies that are aligned with the Ohio's version of the Massachusetts standards for use during the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years only. (Section 4(A)(2).)

Assessments for 2017-2018 and thereafter

- Requires the State Board to adopt or develop by June 30, 2017, elementary and secondary assessments in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies that are aligned with the new standards for use during the 2017-2018 school year and each school year thereafter. (Section 5.)

Specifications for secondary assessments

- Specifies that the nationally standardized assessment that measures college and career readiness that is required as part of the College and Work Ready Assessment System under current law be "norm-referenced." (R.C. 3301.0712(B)(1).)
- Removes the current requirement that the other part of the College and Work Ready Assessment System be made up of seven specific "end-of-course" examinations and, instead, generally prescribes a "series of examinations" in English language arts, mathematics, science, American history, and American government. (R.C. 3301.0712(B)(2); conforming changes in R.C. 3313.61, 3313.612, 3313.618, and 3328.01.) Current law requires seven end-of-course examinations in each of the areas of English language arts I, English language arts II, mathematics, physical science, Algebra I (with possible substitution of Algebra II), geometry, American history, and American government.

- Eliminates the following provisions related to end-of-course examinations: (1) timeline and specifications for the American history and American government examinations, (2) requirement for the State Board to determine and designate scoring levels and related scoring items for the end-of-course examinations, (3) specifications for the use of substitute examinations in certain subject areas in lieu of end-of-course examinations, (4) requirement for the examinations to be selected jointly with the Superintendent of Public Instruction and Chancellor of the Board of Regents in consultation with certain faculty members at state institutions of higher education, (5) exemption of certain students who earned course credit prior to July 1, 2014, from taking the corresponding end-of-course examination, and (6) requirement for the State Board to consider additional assessments that may be used as substitute examinations in lieu of the end-of-course examinations. (R.C. 3301.0712(B)(3) to (7)) and 3313.618(A)(2).)

Review of academic content standards

- Prohibits the State Board from adopting or revising any academic content standards in English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies until both the following conditions are met:
 - (1) The General Assembly approves the proposed standards or revisions by a concurrent resolution. The bill requires each of the Education committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate to hold at least one public hearing on the proposed standards or revisions.
 - (2) The appropriate subject area subcommittee appointed by the academic content standards steering committee approves the proposed standards or revisions. The bill also requires that the State Board propose any new or revised standards to the academic content standards steering committee prior to submitting them to the General Assembly for approval (see below). (R.C. 3301.0718(A) and (C).)
- Creates the 13-member Academic Content Standards Steering Committee to do the following: (1) determine a chair and co-chair for the committee, (2) appoint four individuals to oversee the development of the standards documents, (3) contract, if necessary, with an individual who has a "national reputation" in the areas of academic content standards and assessments to facilitate the committee's work, (4) establish a subcommittee each in the areas of English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies, and (5) select, by majority vote of all members, a chair for each subcommittee. (R.C. 3301.0718(C) and (D).)

- Specifies the composition of the Academic Content Standards Steering Committee as follows: the Governor, or the Governor's designee, six individuals appointed by the President of the Senate, of whom not more than one may be a member of the Senate, and six individuals appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, of whom not more than one may be a member of the House. (R.C. 3301.0718(C).)
- Requires the President and Speaker to give consideration to the appointment of parents of students enrolled in Ohio schools, primary and secondary teachers, and curriculum experts, provosts, chairs, and deans of state institutions of higher education. (R.C. 3301.0718(C)(3), second paragraph.)
- Specifies that each subject area subcommittee consist of five members as follows: (1) a chairperson who is an instructor or professor in a related subject area at a state institution of higher education, appointed by the Academic Content Standards Steering Committee and (2) four other members who are teachers with at least ten years of teaching experience, who may be nominated by the superintendent of their employing school district, and are appointed by the State Board. (R.C. 3301.0718(D)(4)(a).) Nothing in the bill indicates whether or not the subcommittees must be made up of members of the Academic Content Standards Steering Committee.
- Provides that a school librarian, nominated by the Ohio Library Council, may provide assistance to the English language arts subcommittee, and that an engineer, nominated by one of the state's engineering organizations, may provide assistance to the mathematics and science subcommittees. (R.C. 3301.0718(D)(4)(a).)
- Requires each subcommittee to approve or disapprove the academic content standards for its respective subject area, obtain from teachers comments on the appropriateness and wording of the proposed academic content standards for each grade and, if necessary, offer revisions to the proposed standards, which must be recorded. (R.C. 3301.0718(D)(4)(b).)
- Maintains the appointment and operation under current law of the separate academic content standards review committees for each of the subjects of English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. (R.C. 3301.079(I).) For a more detailed description of the current review committees, see pp. 76-77 of the Final Analysis for H.B. 487 of the 130th General Assembly, available online at <http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/bills/default.htm>.

Comparisons of academic content standards and related assessments

- Requires the State Board to compare the new academic content standards in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies (to be adopted by June 30,



2016) with the standards in place just prior to the bill's effective date (that were adopted in 2010 pursuant to H.B. 1 of the 128th General Assembly) and to submit a report to the General Assembly and Governor outlining the results of the comparison of the standards. In conducting its evaluation and comparison of the standards, the State Board must consider public comments, the use of best practices, evidence, and research. (Section 6(A).)

- Requires the Department to compare, the new elementary and secondary assessments (to be adopted by June 30, 2017) with the Ohio Achievement Assessments and Ohio Graduation Tests and with the assessments that are used for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years and requires the Department to publish the comparison on its website. (Section 6(B).)

Release of personally identifiable data

- Requires that the standards for the Education Management Information System (EMIS), in regard to processing and reporting student data to the Department of Education, to restrict access to personally identifiable information by a person who performs data processing services for a school district to just the information necessary for fulfillment of contractual obligations. (R.C. 3301.0714(D)(1).)
- Requires the contract between a school district and a data processing entity to include a stipulation that personally identifiable information shall not be shared with additional parties. (R.C. 3301.0714(D)(1).)
- Specifies that if the U.S. Department of Education requires a grant recipient to provide personally identifiable information of students or teachers as a condition of a federal education grant, only aggregate data may be provided for such purpose. (R.C. 3301.078(E).)
- Prohibits a federal grant recipient from releasing personally identifiable information without informed written consent of the student's parent or guardian for a student's information or of the teacher for a teacher's information. (R.C. 3301.078(E).)

State Board minimum standards for schools

- Removes the words "and other such factors the Board finds necessary" from the provision that enumerates categories for which the State Board must adopt minimum standards for schools. (R.C. 3301.07(D)(2).) Current law requires the State Board to "formulate and prescribe minimum standards to be applied to all elementary and secondary schools in this state for the purpose of providing children access to a general education of high quality according to the learning needs of each individual . . ." These minimum standards specifically must provide for (1)



licensing of teachers, administrators, and other professional personnel, (2) efficient and effective instructional materials and equipment, (3) 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, (4) safe buildings, grounds, health and sanitary facilities and services, (5) student admissions and promotion, and (6) graduation requirements. These standards are not the academic content standards that are required by separate law.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	07-28-14

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