



Transforming Ohio for Growth

Stronger. Together.

IMPROVING HIGHER EDUCATION AFFORDABILITY

Gov. John R. Kasich's leadership has brought a new culture to Ohio's 37 public colleges and universities. Early in 2012, the governor called on Ohio's college and university presidents to put aside their old fractious process for allocating construction funds and instead collaborate on a single list of recommendations designed to meet the needs of the state and all of its students. The result was unprecedented and widely applauded cooperation.

Building on that success, Gov. Kasich charged the presidents with developing a single, unified recommendation for funding the operations of Ohio's public two- and four-year institutions. The result was a funding formula based not on enrolling more students but instead on helping them complete courses and graduate, thereby aligning the goals of students with the colleges that teach them.

The Kasich Administration will build on these types of innovations with additional new policies for higher education that continue to improve how Ohio helps students prepare for their futures while also helping colleges improve their own operations:

Improving Affordability and Reducing Costs: Gov. Kasich believes that the high cost of college is one of the greatest challenges facing higher education. While a number of Ohio colleges and universities have taken innovative steps to control costs, more work is needed to help universities avoid prohibitively large hikes in tuition and fees.

- **Getting More High School Students Access to College-Level Credit (College Credit Plus):** Too few Ohio high schools have enough teachers qualified to teach college-level courses, so the budget provides \$10 million to train more teachers in college instruction. With more high schools able to offer college-level credit, students can get a jump start on college at no cost and reduce their overall college education costs. Students will also have access to College Credit Plus during summers.
- **Freezing Tuition and Fees:** While Ohio's public colleges and universities have been among the nation's leaders in limiting tuition increases under Gov. Kasich, the budget seeks to do better by freezing tuition and general fees for two- and four-year schools.
- **Examining New Ways for Universities to Reduce Costs:** Ohio created a nine-member Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency to examine ways for its public colleges and universities to hold down costs. Following the work of the Task Force, the board of trustees at each of Ohio's public colleges and universities will conduct an efficiency review to identify ways to improve efficiencies and reduce costs.

- Using Campuses During Summer, to Help Low-Income Students: To help low-income community college and regional campus students accelerate their coursework, the budget will give them access to funds from the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) to fill a gap in the federal Pell Grant, which does not fund year-round studies.
- Higher Education Innovation Grants: Ohio will establish a new \$10 million grant program to promote educational excellence and economic efficiency to stabilize or reduce student tuition rates

Making Campuses Safer: Ohio will identify best practices for preventing and responding to campus sexual assaults by September 1, and allocate \$2 million to implement these new strategies.

Preparing Students for the Workforce Through Work Experiences: Ohio will work with its public and private colleges and universities and the business community to, by the end of 2015, embed into the curriculum of degree programs work experiences (including co-ops and internships) for in-demand jobs, such as computer science, with OhioMeansJobs.com as the central location for college students to access information on work experiences and career opportunities.

Helping Ohio Adults Without Diplomas Get Back on Track: After the age of 22, adults are no longer eligible for traditional high school diplomas. In 2014, the governor's Mid-Biennium Review launched a pilot program allowing five community colleges and technical centers to create new initiatives to help adults earn credits toward a high school diploma, while pursuing job training coupled with credential efforts. The budget provides \$1.25 million for as many as five additional pilot sites at Ohio community colleges and technical centers.

Enhancing Scholarship Opportunities: Ohio currently invests nearly \$130 million annually in higher education scholarship programs, and the budget provides an additional \$13 million to enhance several scholarships, including:

- Ohio College Opportunity Grant: Expanded to let students at community colleges and regional campuses study 12 months per year, and added \$10 million in new funds.
- War Orphans: Increased from 77 percent to 100 percent of tuition and general fees for children of deceased or severely disabled Ohio veterans.
- Ohio National Guard: Increased \$1 million to continue covering 100 percent of tuition and general fees.

