



**Department of
Higher Education**



SB1 – Advance Ohio Higher Education Act

The Heart of Education

Notes Regarding Today's Presentation

- **ODHE is not your legal counsel**
 - On matters of legal substance, please consult directly with the Attorney General's Office and/or your in-house counsel, if applicable.
- The information presented today is advisory in nature and limited to provisions over which ODHE/the Chancellor have specific functions, roles, or authority, as prescribed by the bill.
- The primary goal of today's discussion is to provide you with an overview of ODHE's current thinking on relevant provisions within the bill, to help you plan and prepare for timely and effective implementation of the legislation.

Notes Regarding Today's Presentation

- ODHE built a webpage dedicated to SB1 information: <https://highered.ohio.gov/educators/academic-programs-policies/sb1/sb1>
- On the website, you will find a comprehensive FAQ document.
 - Much of the information shared today is covered in that document.
- You will also find templates that will be used to collect the information necessary to evaluate and process the waiver and exception opportunities contained within the bill
- We have created a dedicated email address for SB1 implementation-related questions and submission of required policies/reports:
 - SB1@HigherEd.ohio.gov – please use for fast and direct, iterative communications with our team as you work through questions and concerns.

3333.045 – Trustee Training

- ODHE must develop and provide annual trainings for Boards of Trustees.
 - Focus on the role, duties, and responsibilities of trustees in 17 areas.
- Today's conference provides a portion of the required training.
- ODHE is in the process of developing additional content to satisfy all components of the required trustee training.
 - Once developed, the information will be available on the SB 1 webpage.

3345.029 - Syllabus Requirements

- Requires each state institution to create a syllabus, using specific requirements established in the bill, for each course offered for undergraduate credit and post the syllabus on its publicly accessible website in accordance with the bill's website posting requirements.
- Requires each state institution to prepare a report regarding its compliance with requirements in the section.
- The posting of syllabi as outlined in the section is required to be in effect beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year.
 - A syllabi *compliance report form* will be available on our website, which will be due to the Chancellor by June 30, 2026.
- In addition to the syllabus requirements in SB1, please ensure that the language required in ORC Section [3345.026](#) regarding religious accommodations is included in each syllabus.

3345.0217 - Prohibition on DEI Orientation or Training

- Prohibits: 1) DEI orientations or training; 2) DEI offices; 3) DEI job descriptions; 4) use of third parties to promote admissions, hiring, or promotion based on DEI; and 5) DEI scholarships.
- For DEI orientations or trainings, institutions can seek an exception from ODHE to comply with state law, federal law, professional licensure requirements, or to obtain or retain accreditation.
- When the requirements to obtain a research grant conflict with the DEI prohibitions, institutions can seek an exception from ODHE.
- The *request for exception forms* is currently available on the SB1 ODHE webpage.
- Requests should be submitted to ODHE at SB1@HigherEd.ohio.gov.

3345.382 - American Civic Literacy Course

- Requires each state institution to
 - (1) adopt a resolution and submit a plan to ODHE for offering an American Civic Literacy course;
 - (2) establish at least one three-credit-hour course in the subject of American civic literacy; and
 - (3) adopt a resolution specifying the conditions under which the institution's president may exempt a student from the course requirement.
- Requirement does not apply to associate degree programs.
- Institution presidents may exempt a CCP or AP course from this requirement if the course meets the statutory requirements and the course is approved by the Chancellor.

3345.382 - American Civic Literacy Course

- ODHE must approve the plan and the course(s) submitted by the Board of Trustees.
- A *plan template* is currently available on the SB1 ODHE webpage and should be submitted to SB1@HigherEd.ohio.gov by September 30, 2025.
- ODHE will maintain a list of all courses that have received the Civic Literacy designation as approved by the Chancellor on the ODHE SB1 webpage.

3345.45 - Faculty Workload Policy

- Requires each state institution to take formal action to adopt a faculty workload policy consistent with standards adopted by the Chancellor; review and update its policy on faculty tenure; include multiple pathways to tenure to receive certain state funds; and update its faculty workload policy every five years.
- Goal is for general *faculty workload standards* to be completed by ODHE by September 30, 2025.
 - ODHE will work closely with institutions to allow for consultation and input.
- Updated institutional workload policies should be provided by the Board of Trustees to ODHE by December 31, 2025, and every five years thereafter.
 - Once adopted, policies should be submitted to SB1@HigherEd.ohio.gov.

3345.451 - Faculty Evaluation

- Requires the Chancellor to develop a *minimum set of standard questions* to be used in student evaluations, including a question about whether a faculty member creates a classroom atmosphere free of bias.
- The minimum set of standard questions is available on the SB1 ODHE webpage.

3345.452 – 3345.454 Policy Submissions

- Faculty Annual Performance Evaluations
- Requires state institutions to adopt and submit to the Chancellor of Higher Education the following:
 1. A faculty annual performance evaluation policy
 2. A post-tenure review policy
 3. A tenure and retrenchment policy
- Policies should be submitted to SB1@HigherEd.ohio.gov by December 31, 2025.
 - Policies are to be reviewed and updated every five years.

3345.454 – Program Elimination

- Requires state institutions to eliminate any undergraduate degree program that confers an average of fewer than five degrees in that program annually over any three-year period.
 - Applies only to institutions with tenured faculty.
- In 2025, programs subject to elimination must be inactivated within 90 days after the effective date of the law.
- In subsequent years, programs must be inactivated by August 15 following the completion of the academic year that triggered the program elimination.
- To inactivate a program, follow the process described on the ODHE website and by appropriate accreditation agencies.

3345.454 –Program Elimination

- The Chancellor may grant a waiver to a state institution for a program to which this division applies. There are three types of waivers available:

1.Request for Waiver

- Allows the program to continue for up to two years, subject to conditions specified by the Chancellor.

2.Request for Waiver – Associate of Technical Study

- Utilized for Associate of Technical Study degrees designed to meet the requirement for the One-Year Option.

3.Request for Temporary Waiver

- Utilized when an institution merges multiple programs into a single program or when an institution is completing the program elimination process.
- Institution must commit to eliminating the program under this waiver within the upcoming academic year.

3345.454 –Program Elimination

- *Waiver templates* are currently available on the ODHE SB1 webpage.
- Waiver requests will be received and processed at SB1@HigherEd.ohio.gov.
- The deadline for subsequent years is July 15 following the completion of the academic year that triggered the program elimination.

3345.591 - Interactions with China

- Prohibits, with certain exceptions, state institutions from accepting gifts, donations, or contributions from the People's Republic of China or any organization that the institution reasonably suspects is acting on behalf of the People's Republic of China.
- Requires state institutions to submit to the Chancellor a copy of the foreign gifts report it sends to the United States Department of Education.
 - A copy of the report required by this section should be sent to SB1@HigherEd.ohio.gov concurrent with submission to the United States Department of Education.
- Requires state institutions to notify the Chancellor of any new or renewed academic partnership with an academic or research institution located in China.
 - State institutions of higher education shall notify the Chancellor of any new or renewed academic partnership with an academic or research institution located in China within 30 days of establishing or renewing the partnership.

3345.80 – Five-Year Institutional Cost Summaries

- Requires state institutions to submit a rolling five-year summary of institutional costs to be considered by the General Assembly when evaluating operating and capital project funding for each biennial main operating appropriations bill and capital appropriations bill.
- The Chancellor is in the process of creating a *standard reporting format* to collect this information.
 - Given the effective date of the bill, it will first be utilized for the FY27-28 capital appropriations bill process, which likely will require submission of the five-year summary information to ODHE toward the end of calendar year 2025.
 - More information to come as details are finalized.
- Once the *standard reporting format* is completed, it will be posted on the ODHE SB1 webpage.

3345.88 - Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination

- State institutions of higher education shall issue a report on disciplinary actions, student academic qualifications disaggregated by race and sex, and retention rates disaggregated by race and sex, based on guidelines established by the Chancellor.
- The Chancellor is in the process of creating *guidelines* for the collection of this information.
- Once the guidelines are completed, they will be posted on the SB1 ODHE webpage and the report should be sent to SB1@HigherEd.ohio.gov by June 30, 2026, and each year thereafter.

Summary of Current Forms

American Civic Literacy Course (ORC Section 3345.382)

- American Civic Literacy Course | Request for Approval
- American Civic Literacy Plan | Request for Approval

Policy on DEI (ORC Section 3345.0217) – Request for Exception

- Orientation or Training Course and Research Grants | Request for Exception(s)

Program Elimination – Request for Waiver (ORC Section 3345.454)

- Program Elimination | Request for Waiver
- Program Elimination | Request for Temporary Waiver
- Program Elimination | Request for Waiver — ATS

Guidelines in Development

- Five-Year Institutional Cost Summary Report (ORC Section 3345.80)
- Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Report (ORC Section 3345.88)
- Syllabi Compliance Report (ORC Section 3345.029)
- Intellectual Diversity Rights Report (ORC Section 3345.0218)
- Faculty Workload Standards (ORC Section 3345.45)
- State Share of Instruction (SSI) Set Aside Funding (Section 381.250 of House Bill 96 of the 136th General Assembly) Compliance Report (applies only to state universities)

Summary of Key Dates

- September 25, 2025:
 - **DEI Policy** (ORC 3345.0217) - Submit the DEI policy adopted by the Board of Trustees. For an exception, submit the exception request form.
 - **Low-Enrollment Program Elimination** (ORC 3345.454) – Low enrollment programs that did not receive a waiver must submit a program inactivation form for new students.
 - In subsequent academic years, the deadline to submit a program inactivation form is August 15.
- September 30, 2025:
 - **American Civic Literacy Plan** (ORC 3345.382) - Submit the ODHE American Civic Literacy Plan form, along with a resolution from the Board of Trustees, to the Chancellor.

Summary of Key Dates

- December 31, 2025:

- **Faculty Workload Policy** (ORC 3345.45) – Submit the board-adopted policy based on the standards released in September.
- **Faculty Annual Performance Evaluation Policy** (ORC 3345.452) - Submit the board-adopted faculty performance evaluation policy.
- **Post-tenure Review Policy** (ORC 3345.453) - Submit the board-adopted post-tenure review policy outlining the review process for tenured faculty.
- **Faculty Tenure Policy** (ORC 3345.45 and 3345.454) - Submit the board-adopted faculty tenure policy.
- **Retrenchment Policy** (ORC 3345.454) - Submit the board-adopted policy on retrenchment.
- **Five-Year Institutional Cost Summary Report** (ORC 3345.80) – Submit a report including a rolling five-year summary of institutional costs to be considered by the General Assembly when evaluating operating and capital project funding.

Summary of Key Dates -

- June 30, 2026:
 - **Syllabi Compliance Report** (ORC 3345.029) – Submit report regarding syllabus posting practices.
 - **Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Report** (ORC 3345.88) – Submit report regarding equal opportunity and non-discrimination.
- 2026-2027 Academic Year:
 - **Syllabus Posting** (ORC 3345.029) – Post syllabi no later than the first day of classes in which the course is offered, for the semester or academic term in which the course is offered.
- 2029-2030 Academic Year - Spring Semester
 - **American Civic Literacy Course Requirement** (ORC 3345.382) - The American Civic Literacy Course becomes a graduation requirement for all students seeking a bachelor's degree at an Ohio public university.

Summary of Key Dates -

- **Partnerships with China (ORC 3345.591)**
 - Within 30 days of establishing/renewing partnerships with China, notify ODHE.
 - A copy of the report required by this section should be sent to ODHE concurrent with submission to the U.S. Department of Education.
- **Faculty Workload Policy (ORC 3345.45)**
 - Update and submit to the Chancellor every five years.

Thank you!

- We look forward to working with you and your teams on SB1 implementation.
- SB 1 inquiries should be sent to SB1@HigherEd.ohio.gov.
- ODHE SB 1 Webpage: <https://highered.ohio.gov/educators/academic-programs-policies/sb1/sb1>