Ohio **Department of Higher Education**

ODHE Updates on the State Budget & Higher Education Policy
Jim Bennett - *Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor*

The Heart of Education

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- **State resources and policy levers should be utilized, where possible and appropriate, to encourage and support certain outcomes**

Key ODHE Policy Pillars

1. Access and Affordability

2. Student Success and Achievement

3. Workforce Relevance

Access and Affordability

- **College Credit Plus**
  - Statewide Innovative Waiver Pathways
  - Teacher Credentialing Grants ($3 million per fiscal year through ODE)

- **Work Ready Grants**
  - $10 million per fiscal year
  - Up to $3,000 for qualifying students in eligible programs

- **FAFSA Support Teams**
  - $1 million in FY25

Access and Affordability

- **Second Chance Grants**
  - $2 million per fiscal year ($3,000/student) – currently accepting applications
  - Focused on adults and those with some credits, but no degree

- **College Comeback**
  - In tandem with Second Chance Grants, may involve some level of debt forgiveness
  - All institutions are encouraged to develop a program or join a compact

- **Transcript Withholding**
  - Employment-related prohibition - BOT resolution due 12/1/23 on policy

Student Success and Achievement

- **State Share of Instruction**

  - 100% outcomes-based funding – core operating subsidy

- **Governor's Merit Scholarship**

  - $20 million in FY25

  - $5,000 per student (top 5% of HS graduating class) for up to 4 years

- **Mental Health Supports**

  - $10 million per fiscal year

  - Award notifications sent 8/24/23

Workforce Relevance

- **Super RAPIDS**
  - $100 million in FY24 – focused on key industry sectors
  - RFP released 9/5/23 – responses due 10/5/23

- **Talent Ready Grants**
  - $10 million per fiscal year
  - Award notifications sent 9/13/23 – support for short-term certificates

- **Choose Ohio First**
  - $30 million in FY24 and $32 million in FY25
  - RFP released 7/17/23 – responses due 8/29/23 (currently under review)

Workforce Relevance

- **Teacher Apprenticeship**
  - Announced 8/11/23 – collaborative model between secondary and postsecondary partners

- **Grow Your Own Teacher Program**
  - $5 million in FY24 and $10 million in FY25
  - Scholarships of up to $7,500 per year for up to 4 years

- **Computer Science**
  - $4 million per fiscal year in the Teach CS program

Other Key Policy Items/Agency Initiatives

- **Intel Curriculum Collaboration**

  - Manufacturing foundations, semi-conductor 101 and vacuum systems

- **Science of Reading (ReadOhio)**

  - 12/31/23 deadline for initial survey evaluation

  - 1/1/25 new standards take effect and compliance audits begin

Other Key Policy Items/Agency Initiatives

- **Collegiate Purple Star Designation**

  - Next round of applications open today through 10/13/23

  - Not all public institutions have applied yet

- **Ohio Reach Postsecondary Designation**

  - First round of institutions announced 8/31/23

  - 10 community colleges designated in first round

Thank You For the Opportunity to Present

Any questions or concerns, you are always welcome to reach me at jbennett@highered.ohio.gov.

**Department of
Higher Education**

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