

As Introduced

135th General Assembly

Regular Session

2023-2024

H. B. No. 520

Representatives Young, T., Miller, M.

A BILL

To amend section 3313.603 of the Revised Code to 1
permit students to use club sports or other 2
athletic activity to fulfill the high school 3
physical education requirement. 4

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

Section 1. That section 3313.603 of the Revised Code be 5
amended to read as follows: 6

Sec. 3313.603. (A) As used in this section: 7

(1) "One unit" means a minimum of one hundred twenty hours 8
of course instruction, except that for a laboratory course, "one 9
unit" means a minimum of one hundred fifty hours of course 10
instruction. 11

(2) "One-half unit" means a minimum of sixty hours of 12
course instruction, except that for physical education courses, 13
"one-half unit" means a minimum of one hundred twenty hours of 14
course instruction. 15

(3) "Club sports" includes both of the following: 16

(a) A sport sanctioned by a school, but not regulated by 17
an organization that regulates interscholastic conferences or 18

<u>events and is limited to participants under nineteen years of</u>	19
<u>age;</u>	20
<u>(b) A youth sports organization as defined in section</u>	21
<u>2707.51 of the Revised Code.</u>	22
<u>(4) "Other athletic activity" means a sport or physical</u>	23
<u>activity taught by an instructor outside of school.</u>	24
(B) Beginning September 15, 2001, except as required in	25
division (C) of this section and division (C) of section	26
3313.614 of the Revised Code, the requirements for graduation	27
from every high school shall include twenty units earned in	28
grades nine through twelve and shall be distributed as follows:	29
(1) English language arts, four units;	30
(2) Health, one-half unit;	31
(3) Mathematics, three units;	32
(4) Physical education, one-half unit;	33
(5) Science, two units until September 15, 2003, and three	34
units thereafter, which at all times shall include both of the	35
following:	36
(a) Biological sciences, one unit;	37
(b) Physical sciences, one unit.	38
(6) History and government, one unit, which shall comply	39
with division (M) of this section and shall include both of the	40
following:	41
(a) American history, one-half unit;	42
(b) American government, one-half unit.	43
(7) Social studies, two units.	44

Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the 45
first time on or after July 1, 2017, the two units of 46
instruction prescribed by division (B) (7) of this section shall 47
include at least one-half unit of instruction in the study of 48
world history and civilizations. 49

(8) Elective units, seven units until September 15, 2003, 50
and six units thereafter. 51

Each student's electives shall include at least one unit, 52
or two half units, chosen from among the areas of 53
business/technology, fine arts, and/or foreign language. 54

(C) Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the 55
first time on or after July 1, 2010, except as provided in 56
divisions (D) to (F) of this section, the requirements for 57
graduation from every public and chartered nonpublic high school 58
shall include twenty units that are designed to prepare students 59
for the workforce and college. The units shall be distributed as 60
follows: 61

(1) English language arts, four units; 62

(2) Health, one-half unit, which shall include instruction 63
in nutrition and the benefits of nutritious foods and physical 64
activity for overall health; 65

(3) Mathematics, four units, which shall include one unit 66
of algebra II or the equivalent of algebra II, or one unit of 67
advanced computer science as described in the standards adopted 68
pursuant to division (A) (4) of section 3301.079 of the Revised 69
Code. However, students who enter ninth grade for the first time 70
on or after July 1, 2015, and who are pursuing a career- 71
technical instructional track shall not be required to take 72
algebra II or advanced computer science, and instead may 73

complete a career-based pathway mathematics course approved by 74
the department of education and workforce as an alternative. 75

For students who choose to take advanced computer science 76
in lieu of algebra II under division (C)(3) of this section, the 77
school shall communicate to those students that some 78
institutions of higher education may require algebra II for the 79
purpose of college admission. Also, the parent, guardian, or 80
legal custodian of each student who chooses to take advanced 81
computer science in lieu of algebra II shall sign and submit to 82
the school a document containing a statement acknowledging that 83
not taking algebra II may have an adverse effect on college 84
admission decisions. 85

A student may fulfill one unit of mathematics under 86
division (C)(3) of this section by completing one-half unit of 87
financial literacy instruction to satisfy the requirement 88
prescribed under division (C)(9) of this section and one-half 89
unit of a mathematics course. The one-half unit course in 90
mathematics shall not be in algebra II, or its equivalent, or a 91
course for which the department requires an end-of-course 92
examination under section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code. 93

Students who choose to take one unit of advanced computer 94
science in lieu of algebra II, as described in division (C)(3) 95
of this section, shall not be permitted to complete one-half 96
unit of financial literacy instruction to satisfy the 97
mathematics unit requirements of that division. Instead, those 98
students shall be required to complete the one-half unit of 99
financial literacy instruction under division (C)(8) of this 100
section. 101

(4) Physical education, one-half unit; 102

(5) Science, three units with inquiry-based laboratory	103
experience that engages students in asking valid scientific	104
questions and gathering and analyzing information, which shall	105
include the following, or their equivalent:	106
(a) Physical sciences, one unit;	107
(b) Life sciences, one unit;	108
(c) Advanced study in one or more of the following	109
sciences, one unit:	110
(i) Chemistry, physics, or other physical science;	111
(ii) Advanced biology or other life science;	112
(iii) Astronomy, physical geology, or other earth or space	113
science;	114
(iv) Computer science.	115
No student shall substitute a computer science course for	116
a life sciences or biology course under division (C) (5) of this	117
section.	118
(6) History and government, one unit, which shall comply	119
with division (M) of this section and shall include both of the	120
following:	121
(a) American history, one-half unit;	122
(b) American government, one-half unit.	123
(7) Social studies, two units.	124
Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the	125
first time on or after July 1, 2017, the two units of	126
instruction prescribed by division (C) (7) of this section shall	127
include at least one-half unit of instruction in the study of	128

world history and civilizations.	129
(8) Five units consisting of one or any combination of	130
foreign language, fine arts, business, career-technical	131
education, family and consumer sciences, technology which may	132
include computer science, agricultural education, a junior	133
reserve officer training corps (JROTC) program approved by the	134
Congress of the United States under title 10 of the United	135
States Code, or English language arts, mathematics, science, or	136
social studies courses not otherwise required under division (C)	137
of this section.	138
One-half unit of instruction under division (C) (8) of this	139
section may be instruction in financial literacy to satisfy the	140
requirement under division (C) (9) of this section.	141
(9) (a) Except as provided in division (C) (9) (b) of this	142
section, for students who enter ninth grade for the first time	143
on or after July 1, 2022, financial literacy, one-half unit.	144
Each student shall elect to complete the one-half unit of	145
instruction in financial literacy either in lieu of one-half	146
unit of instruction in mathematics under division (C) (3) of this	147
section or an elective under division (C) (8) of this section. A	148
student may fulfill the financial literacy instruction	149
requirement under division (C) (9) of this section through the	150
successful completion of an advanced placement course in	151
microeconomics or macroeconomics.	152
(b) A student attending a nonpublic school accredited	153
through the independent schools association of the central	154
states or any other chartered nonpublic school shall not be	155
required to complete the one-half unit of financial literacy	156
instruction prescribed in division (C) (9) (a) of this section,	157
unless that student is attending the school under a state	158

scholarship program as defined in section 3301.0711 of the Revised Code. 159
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The study and instruction of financial literacy required under division (C) (9) of this section shall align with the academic content standards for financial literacy and entrepreneurship adopted under division (A) (2) of section 3301.079 of the Revised Code. The instruction provided under an advanced placement course in microeconomics or macroeconomics shall be considered to be aligned with those academic content standards. In developing the curriculum for the study and instruction of financial literacy, schools may use available public-private partnerships and resources and materials that exist in business, industry, and through the centers for economics education at institutions of higher education. 161
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Ohioans must be prepared to apply increased knowledge and skills in the workplace and to adapt their knowledge and skills quickly to meet the rapidly changing conditions of the twenty-first century. National studies indicate that all high school graduates need the same academic foundation, regardless of the opportunities they pursue after graduation. The goal of Ohio's system of elementary and secondary education is to prepare all students for and seamlessly connect all students to success in life beyond high school graduation, regardless of whether the next step is entering the workforce, beginning an apprenticeship, engaging in post-secondary training, serving in the military, or pursuing a college degree. 173
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The requirements for graduation prescribed in division (C) of this section are the standard expectation for all students entering ninth grade for the first time at a public or chartered nonpublic high school on or after July 1, 2010. A student may 185
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satisfy this expectation through a variety of methods, 189
including, but not limited to, integrated, applied, career- 190
technical, and traditional coursework. 191

Stronger coordination between high schools and 192
institutions of higher education is necessary to prepare 193
students for more challenging academic endeavors and to lessen 194
the need for academic remediation in college, thereby reducing 195
the costs of higher education for Ohio's students, families, and 196
the state. The department and the chancellor of higher education 197
shall develop policies to ensure that only in rare instances 198
will students who complete the requirements for graduation 199
prescribed in division (C) of this section require academic 200
remediation after high school. 201

School districts, community schools, and chartered 202
nonpublic schools shall integrate technology into learning 203
experiences across the curriculum in order to maximize 204
efficiency, enhance learning, and prepare students for success 205
in the technology-driven twenty-first century. Districts and 206
schools shall use distance and web-based course delivery as a 207
method of providing or augmenting all instruction required under 208
this division, including laboratory experience in science. 209
Districts and schools shall utilize technology access and 210
electronic learning opportunities provided by the broadcast 211
educational media commission, chancellor, the Ohio learning 212
network, education technology centers, public television 213
stations, and other public and private providers. 214

(D) Except as provided in division (E) of this section, a 215
student who enters ninth grade on or after July 1, 2010, and 216
before July 1, 2016, may qualify for graduation from a public or 217
chartered nonpublic high school even though the student has not 218

completed the requirements for graduation prescribed in division 219
(C) of this section if all of the following conditions are 220
satisfied: 221

(1) During the student's third year of attending high 222
school, as determined by the school, the student and the 223
student's parent, guardian, or custodian sign and file with the 224
school a written statement asserting the parent's, guardian's, 225
or custodian's consent to the student's graduating without 226
completing the requirements for graduation prescribed in 227
division (C) of this section and acknowledging that one 228
consequence of not completing those requirements is 229
ineligibility to enroll in most state universities in Ohio 230
without further coursework. 231

(2) The student and parent, guardian, or custodian fulfill 232
any procedural requirements the school stipulates to ensure the 233
student's and parent's, guardian's, or custodian's informed 234
consent and to facilitate orderly filing of statements under 235
division (D)(1) of this section. Annually, each district or 236
school shall notify the department of the number of students who 237
choose to qualify for graduation under division (D) of this 238
section and the number of students who complete the student's 239
success plan and graduate from high school. 240

(3) The student and the student's parent, guardian, or 241
custodian and a representative of the student's high school 242
jointly develop a student success plan for the student in the 243
manner described in division (C)(1) of section 3313.6020 of the 244
Revised Code that specifies the student matriculating to a two- 245
year degree program, acquiring a business and industry- 246
recognized credential, or entering an apprenticeship. 247

(4) The student's high school provides counseling and 248

support for the student related to the plan developed under 249
division (D) (3) of this section during the remainder of the 250
student's high school experience. 251

(5) (a) Except as provided in division (D) (5) (b) of this 252
section, the student successfully completes, at a minimum, the 253
curriculum prescribed in division (B) of this section. 254

(b) Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the 255
first time on or after July 1, 2014, a student shall be required 256
to complete successfully, at the minimum, the curriculum 257
prescribed in division (B) of this section, except as follows: 258

(i) Mathematics, four units, one unit which shall be one 259
of the following: 260

(I) Probability and statistics; 261

(II) Computer science; 262

(III) Applied mathematics or quantitative reasoning; 263

(IV) Any other course approved by the department using 264
standards established by the superintendent not later than 265
October 1, 2014. 266

(ii) Elective units, five units; 267

(iii) Science, three units as prescribed by division (B) 268
of this section which shall include inquiry-based laboratory 269
experience that engages students in asking valid scientific 270
questions and gathering and analyzing information. 271

(E) Each school district and chartered nonpublic school 272
retains the authority to require an even more challenging 273
minimum curriculum for high school graduation than specified in 274
division (B) or (C) of this section. A school district board of 275

education, through the adoption of a resolution, or the 276
governing authority of a chartered nonpublic school may 277
stipulate any of the following: 278

(1) A minimum high school curriculum that requires more 279
than twenty units of academic credit to graduate; 280

(2) An exception to the district's or school's minimum 281
high school curriculum that is comparable to the exception 282
provided in division (D) of this section but with additional 283
requirements, which may include a requirement that the student 284
successfully complete more than the minimum curriculum 285
prescribed in division (B) of this section; 286

(3) That no exception comparable to that provided in 287
division (D) of this section is available. 288

If a school district or chartered nonpublic school 289
requires a foreign language as an additional graduation 290
requirement under division (E) of this section, a student may 291
apply one unit of instruction in computer coding to satisfy one 292
unit of foreign language. If a student applies more than one 293
computer coding course to satisfy the foreign language 294
requirement, the courses shall be sequential and progressively 295
more difficult. 296

(F) A student enrolled in a dropout prevention and 297
recovery program, which program has received a waiver from the 298
department, may qualify for graduation from high school by 299
successfully completing a competency-based instructional program 300
administered by the dropout prevention and recovery program in 301
lieu of completing the requirements for graduation prescribed in 302
division (C) of this section. The department shall grant a 303
waiver to a dropout prevention and recovery program, within 304

sixty days after the program applies for the waiver, if the 305
program meets all of the following conditions: 306

(1) The program serves only students not younger than 307
sixteen years of age and not older than twenty-one years of age. 308

(2) The program enrolls students who, at the time of their 309
initial enrollment, either, or both, are at least one grade 310
level behind their cohort age groups or experience crises that 311
significantly interfere with their academic progress such that 312
they are prevented from continuing their traditional programs. 313

(3) The program requires students to attain at least the 314
applicable score designated for each of the assessments 315
prescribed under division (B)(1) of section 3301.0710 of the 316
Revised Code or, to the extent prescribed by rule of the 317
department under division (D)(5) of section 3301.0712 of the 318
Revised Code, division (B)(2) of that section. 319

(4) The program develops a student success plan for the 320
student in the manner described in division (C)(1) of section 321
3313.6020 of the Revised Code that specifies the student's 322
matriculating to a two-year degree program, acquiring a business 323
and industry-recognized credential, or entering an 324
apprenticeship. 325

(5) The program provides counseling and support for the 326
student related to the plan developed under division (F)(4) of 327
this section during the remainder of the student's high school 328
experience. 329

(6) The program requires the student and the student's 330
parent, guardian, or custodian to sign and file, in accordance 331
with procedural requirements stipulated by the program, a 332
written statement asserting the parent's, guardian's, or 333

custodian's consent to the student's graduating without 334
completing the requirements for graduation prescribed in 335
division (C) of this section and acknowledging that one 336
consequence of not completing those requirements is 337
ineligibility to enroll in most state universities in Ohio 338
without further coursework. 339

(7) Prior to receiving the waiver, the program has 340
submitted to the department an instructional plan that 341
demonstrates how the academic content standards adopted by the 342
department under section 3301.079 of the Revised Code will be 343
taught and assessed. 344

(8) Prior to receiving the waiver, the program has 345
submitted to the department a policy on career advising that 346
satisfies the requirements of section 3313.6020 of the Revised 347
Code, with an emphasis on how every student will receive career 348
advising. 349

(9) Prior to receiving the waiver, the program has 350
submitted to the department a written agreement outlining the 351
future cooperation between the program and any combination of 352
local job training, postsecondary education, nonprofit, and 353
health and social service organizations to provide services for 354
students in the program and their families. 355

Divisions (F) (8) and (9) of this section apply only to 356
waivers granted on or after July 1, 2015. 357

If the department does not act either to grant the waiver 358
or to reject the program application for the waiver within sixty 359
days as required under this section, the waiver shall be 360
considered to be granted. 361

(G) Every high school may permit students below the ninth 362

grade to take advanced work. If a high school so permits, it 363
shall award high school credit for successful completion of the 364
advanced work and shall count such advanced work toward the 365
graduation requirements of division (B) or (C) of this section 366
if the advanced work was both: 367

(1) Taught by a person who possesses a license or 368
certificate issued under section 3301.071, 3319.22, or 3319.222 369
of the Revised Code that is valid for teaching high school; 370

(2) Designated by the board of education of the city, 371
local, or exempted village school district, the board of the 372
cooperative education school district, or the governing 373
authority of the chartered nonpublic school as meeting the high 374
school curriculum requirements. 375

Each high school shall record on the student's high school 376
transcript all high school credit awarded under division (G) of 377
this section. In addition, if the student completed a seventh- 378
or eighth-grade fine arts course described in division (K) of 379
this section and the course qualified for high school credit 380
under that division, the high school shall record that course on 381
the student's high school transcript. 382

(H) The department shall make its individual academic 383
career plan available through its Ohio career information system 384
web site for districts and schools to use as a tool for 385
communicating with and providing guidance to students and 386
families in selecting high school courses. 387

(I) A school district or chartered nonpublic school may 388
integrate academic content in a subject area for which the 389
department has adopted standards under section 3301.079 of the 390
Revised Code into a course in a different subject area, 391

including a career-technical education course, in accordance 392
with guidance for integrated coursework developed by the 393
department. Upon successful completion of an integrated course, 394
a student may receive credit for both subject areas that were 395
integrated into the course. Units earned for subject area 396
content delivered through integrated academic and career- 397
technical instruction are eligible to meet the graduation 398
requirements of division (B) or (C) of this section. 399

For purposes of meeting graduation requirements, if an 400
end-of-course examination has been prescribed under section 401
3301.0712 of the Revised Code for the subject area delivered 402
through integrated instruction, the school district or school 403
may administer the related subject area examinations upon the 404
student's completion of the integrated course. 405

Nothing in division (I) of this section shall be construed 406
to excuse any school district, chartered nonpublic school, or 407
student from any requirement in the Revised Code related to 408
curriculum, assessments, or the awarding of a high school 409
diploma. 410

(J) (1) The department, in consultation with the 411
chancellor, shall adopt a statewide plan implementing methods 412
for students to earn units of high school credit based on a 413
demonstration of subject area competency, instead of or in 414
combination with completing hours of classroom instruction. The 415
plan shall include a standard method for recording demonstrated 416
proficiency on high school transcripts. Each school district and 417
community school shall comply with the department's plan adopted 418
under this division and award units of high school credit in 419
accordance with the plan. The department may adopt existing 420
methods for earning high school credit based on a demonstration 421

of subject area competency as necessary prior to the 2009-2010 422
school year. 423

(2) The department shall update the statewide plan adopted 424
pursuant to division (J)(1) of this section to also include 425
methods for students enrolled in seventh and eighth grade to 426
meet curriculum requirements based on a demonstration of subject 427
area competency, instead of or in combination with completing 428
hours of classroom instruction. Beginning with the 2017-2018 429
school year, each school district and community school also 430
shall comply with the updated plan adopted pursuant to this 431
division and permit students enrolled in seventh and eighth 432
grade to meet curriculum requirements based on subject area 433
competency in accordance with the plan. 434

(3) The department shall develop a framework for school 435
districts and community schools to use in granting units of high 436
school credit to students who demonstrate subject area 437
competency through work-based learning experiences, internships, 438
or cooperative education. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school 439
year, each district and community school shall comply with the 440
framework. Each district and community school also shall review 441
any policy it has adopted regarding the demonstration of subject 442
area competency to identify ways to incorporate work-based 443
learning experiences, internships, and cooperative education 444
into the policy in order to increase student engagement and 445
opportunities to earn units of high school credit. 446

(K) This division does not apply to students who qualify 447
for graduation from high school under division (D) or (F) of 448
this section, or to students pursuing a career-technical 449
instructional track as determined by the school district board 450
of education or the chartered nonpublic school's governing 451

authority. Nevertheless, the general assembly encourages such 452
students to consider enrolling in a fine arts course as an 453
elective. 454

Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the 455
first time on or after July 1, 2010, each student enrolled in a 456
public or chartered nonpublic high school shall complete two 457
semesters or the equivalent of fine arts to graduate from high 458
school. The coursework may be completed in any of grades seven 459
to twelve. Each student who completes a fine arts course in 460
grade seven or eight may elect to count that course toward the 461
five units of electives required for graduation under division 462
(C) (8) of this section, if the course satisfied the requirements 463
of division (G) of this section. In that case, the high school 464
shall award the student high school credit for the course and 465
count the course toward the five units required under division 466
(C) (8) of this section. If the course in grade seven or eight 467
did not satisfy the requirements of division (G) of this 468
section, the high school shall not award the student high school 469
credit for the course but shall count the course toward the two 470
semesters or the equivalent of fine arts required by this 471
division. 472

(L) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this 473
section, the board of education of each school district and the 474
governing authority of each chartered nonpublic school may adopt 475
a policy to excuse from the high school physical education 476
requirement each student who, during high school, has 477
participated in interscholastic athletics, club sports, marching 478
band, show choir, or cheerleading for at least two full seasons, 479
in other athletic activities for at least one hundred twenty 480
hours, or in the junior reserve officer training corps for at 481
least two full school years. If the board or authority adopts 482

such a policy, the board or authority shall not require the 483
student to complete any physical education course as a condition 484
to graduate. However, the student shall be required to complete 485
one-half unit, consisting of at least sixty hours of 486
instruction, in another course of study. In the case of a 487
student who has participated in the junior reserve officer 488
training corps for at least two full school years, credit 489
received for that participation may be used to satisfy the 490
requirement to complete one-half unit in another course of 491
study. 492

(M) It is important that high school students learn and 493
understand United States history and the governments of both the 494
United States and the state of Ohio. Therefore, beginning with 495
students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after 496
July 1, 2012, the study of American history and American 497
government required by divisions (B) (6) and (C) (6) of this 498
section shall include the study of all of the following 499
documents: 500

(1) The Declaration of Independence; 501

(2) The Northwest Ordinance; 502

(3) The Constitution of the United States with emphasis on 503
the Bill of Rights; 504

(4) The Ohio Constitution. 505

The study of each of the documents prescribed in divisions 506
(M) (1) to (4) of this section shall include study of that 507
document in its original context. 508

The study of American history and government required by 509
divisions (B) (6) and (C) (6) of this section shall include the 510
historical evidence of the role of documents such as the 511

Federalist Papers and the Anti-Federalist Papers to firmly 512
establish the historical background leading to the establishment 513
of the provisions of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. 514

(N) A student may apply one unit of instruction in 515
computer science to satisfy one unit of mathematics or one unit 516
of science under division (C) of this section as the student 517
chooses, regardless of the field of certification of the teacher 518
who teaches the course, so long as that teacher meets the 519
licensure requirements prescribed by section 3319.236 of the 520
Revised Code and, prior to teaching the course, completes a 521
professional development program determined to be appropriate by 522
the district board. 523

If a student applies more than one computer science course 524
to satisfy curriculum requirements under that division, the 525
courses shall be sequential and progressively more difficult or 526
cover different subject areas within computer science. 527

(O) Any student who participates in a club sport or other 528
athletic activity under division (L) of this section shall 529
submit a signed statement attesting that the student has met the 530
requirements under that division to the school district board of 531
education or the chartered nonpublic school governing authority 532
of the school in which the student is enrolled. The statement 533
shall include signatures from the coach of the club sport or 534
instructor of the athletic activity and the student's parent or 535
guardian. 536

Section 2. That existing section 3313.603 of the Revised 537
Code is hereby repealed. 538