



Dear Parent or Guardian:

If you and your children are thinking about a four-year university or two-year technical college after high school, it's likely that you're already getting ready both financially and academically. During the 2015-2016 school year, more than 32,000 students got a jump start on college and reducing their costs toward college degrees by participating in the **College Credit Plus** program, which is available free of cost to you wherever you live in Ohio.

Ohio's College Credit Plus program offers students in grades 7-12 the chance to earn college credit from any Ohio public college or participating private college while earning high school credit for each college course, if the student qualifies academically. All associated costs are free to qualified students seeking credit from public colleges. There may be limited costs for students seeking credit from private institutions.

Ohio has never offered your child a better start on a college education. A College Credit Plus student enjoys the opportunity to pursue more challenging classes and explore college interests sooner. Your child can earn anywhere from a few college credits to a year's worth while still in high school. Participating in College Credit Plus can reduce your child's time in college and greatly reduce your family's higher education costs. Beginning summer 2016, a summer term will be included in the program. A college's summer term may begin as early as this May.

Nonpublic school and home-school students also can apply to take part in College Credit Plus. The first step is to submit a "notice of intent to participate." The notice of intent form can be found at www.ohiohighered.org/ccp, under "Forms." Next, your student must apply and be admitted to a college or university. Upon receipt of a notice from the college or university stating that your student is admitted to the program, you must register for a SAFE account (using a parent's name on behalf of the student) with the Ohio Department of Education. Instructions for creating a SAFE account are [here](#). The SAFE account is used to apply for state funding, which is required for your student's College Credit Plus participation. Your funding application must include your student's acceptance letter from the college or university.

If you are interested in having your child participate, we urge you to start today. **The deadline to submit the "Notice of Intent to Participate" is April 1.**

Here are your next steps:

- 1. Talk with your child's school.**
Your local school district is required to provide you with information about the College Credit Plus program. If you haven't received an email, letter or call yet, check your district's website.

The district also must hold a public meeting before March 30 to explain the program, and it must invite participating colleges and universities in your area to attend.
- 2. If you have questions about College Credit Plus,** visit our [FAQ page](#) to see if the answer to your question is there.

- 3. If your question is not answered on the FAQ page or you do not receive timely information from your school,** please contact the Ohio Department of Education toll-free at (877) 644-6338 or via email at ccp@education.ohio.gov. Your child's school and your area colleges will have the information you need to do your part on time.

In the meantime, have your child meet with his or her school counselor—you're welcome to attend also—to talk about whether College Credit Plus might be a good fit for your child.

- 4. Once you have the facts,** contact or check the website of participating colleges in your area. [Here are all the public and private colleges](#) in the state. Ask them for College Credit Plus application forms, instructions and a list of criteria they will use to determine if your child is college-ready for admission to that institution.

Once your child is admitted to a college under College Credit Plus, he or she will be able to register for college courses. Again, conversations with the high school counselor or a college advisor can help your child decide which of the many available college courses would match his or her needs and plans.

- 5. Have your child register for classes and provide a copy of his or her schedule to the high school counselor for review.**

Ohio has many hardworking students, and we want to see all of them rewarded with a greater array of options for their futures. Please start talking to your child about College Credit Plus today.

Sincerely,



Dr. Lonny J. Rivera
Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction
Ohio Department of Education



John Carey
Chancellor
Ohio Department of Higher Education