



DIRECTIVE 2019-036

September 17, 2019

Re: CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO CONTINUE TO WAIVE STANDARD TUITION RATES FOR NONPUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO DO NOT RECEIVE FUNDING UNDER COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS.

§375.30.30 of Am. Sub. H.B. 119 of the 127th General Assembly required any waiver of tuition for a student or class of students not otherwise permitted by law at a state-assisted institution of higher education be approved by the Chancellor of Higher Education (the “Chancellor”). On April 17, 2009, the Chancellor signed Directive 2009-011 establishing procedures for institutions to follow when requesting to waive standard tuition rates. §381.170 of Am. Sub. H.B. 166 of the 133rd General Assembly continues this authority of the Chancellor for this biennium.

Pursuant to the continued authority in §381.170 of Am. Sub. H.B. 166 and Directive 2009-011, Sinclair Community College (“SCC”) has requested that for academic year 2019-2020 to continue to waive standard tuition rates for Ohio nonpublic high school students and home school students who did not receive funding under College Credit Plus. While all of Ohio students in grades 7 through 12 are eligible to participate in College Credit Plus if accepted by the institution in which they seek to attend there is limited funding for students that do not attend public high schools.

SCC has demonstrated the following:

- SCC’s Board of Trustees approved a resolution authorizing the tuition waiver at its meeting on November 18, 2018. A copy of the resolution is attached.
- Sinclair’s current tuition rate is as follows:
 - Instructional Fees \$94.78 per credit hour
 - All General Fees \$21.25 per credit hour
 - Combined Tuition Rate of \$116.03
 - Out of County Surcharge \$47.25 per credit hour
 - Combined Out of County Tuition Rate of \$163.28
- SCC has submitted a specific request to reduce tuition to the statutory floor for nonpublic high school and home school students who were not funded or received limited funding under College Credit Plus. For academic year 2019-2020 the floor rate is \$41.64. This is a waiver of \$74.39 of a combined tuition rate per credit hour for Montgomery County resident students and \$120.64 of a combined out of county tuition rate per credit hour for other Ohio students.
 - This statutory floor rate applies to all instructional modalities (i.e. online classes, classes taught on SCC’s campus and classes taught at the high school).

- The specific amount being waived per credit hour may change depending on SCC's tuition rates and College Credit Plus funding levels, but in any event, the CCP floor will be charged with the \$1 out of county surcharge as applicable.
- SCC proposes that the duration of the continued waiver be for academic year 2019-2020.
- It is estimated that the proposed waiver will continue to affect approximately 150 students who may receive limited funding per academic year.
- The goals of this waiver are to encourage maximum participation in College Credit Plus and at the same time reduce the cost of attaining a college education to students and parents.
 - SCC reports that the goals of this waiver were met in academic year 2018-2019. During the 2018-2019 year, 523 home school and nonpublic school students submitted funding letters for a total of 4,478 credit hours awarded by the state. These students earned 5,064 college credits, resulting in students directly billed for 586 credit hours. The tuition waiver saved these families approximately \$57,000. Additionally, 92% of the students that participated successfully completed their courses with a grade of C or greater.
- SCC will assess the outcome of this continued waiver by reviewing participation levels and student success in the College Credit Plus courses.

Agency staff reviewed the request and posted its recommendations to the ODHE website for the purpose of providing a public comment period before final approval by the Chancellor. No public comments were received.

Based upon my review of staff recommendations and public comments received, I hereby approve the tuition waiver request from Sinclair Community College as set forth above for the 2019-2020 academic year.

This directive will take immediate effect.



Randy Gardner
Chancellor, Ohio Department of Higher Education

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March 18, 2019

Chancellor Randy Gardner
Ohio Department of Higher
Education 25 S. Front Street
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Tuition Waiver for Home School and Non-Public School Students

Dear Chancellor Gardner:

On April 3, 2018, Chancellor Carey signed Directive 2018-018 to approve a tuition waiver request from Sinclair Community College. This request was to set tuition rates for home school students and non-public high school students who are not funded under College Credit Plus (CCP) at the rate established by Sinclair's Board of Trustees for participating high school partners for the 2018-2019 academic year. Sinclair respectfully requests continuation of this waiver for the upcoming 2019-2020 academic year.

Rationale and specifics for this request are as follows:

1. For students taking CCP courses in 2019-2020 through Sinclair, the school districts will be charged the minimum amount allowed by state law for all instructional modalities (i.e. online classes, classes taught on Sinclair's campus or classes taught at a high school) as approved by Sinclair's Board of Trustees.
2. Home school and non-public school students may participate in the CCP program if approved and funded by the State of Ohio. However, many of the students who have applied are not being approved for the total requested funding for the CCP program. In order for these students to take CCP classes through Sinclair, the students/parents would need to self-pay for tuition at the full Sinclair tuition rates, creating a significant financial burden, if not for the tuition waiver granted by Directive 2018-018.
3. The ability to charge students/parents not funded by the CCP program at Sinclair's approved CCP tuition rate has been very successful and extremely appreciated by students/parents who have not received full funding through the state CCP resources. More than 650 home school and non-public school student applications were processed for this current academic year with approximately 150 students paying out of pocket for a portion of their college credits at a reduced rate per the approved directive.
4. Sinclair strongly believes in the CCP program as an excellent opportunity for students to accumulate college credits and reduce the total cost of attaining a college credential and has seen tremendous growth in the program – serving over 6,700 students during the current year. The goal continues to be to encourage maximum participation in CCP, while reducing the cost of attaining a college education to students and parents. This is consistent with both Sinclair's and the

State of Ohio's emphasis on affordable college attainment.

On November 13, 2018, the Sinclair Board of Trustees approved a resolution in favor of this tuition waiver request. The resolution is attached. The tuition waiver request would continue Directive 2018-018 as follows:

- a. Serving home school and non-public school students who apply to participate in CCP but do not receive the requested state funding or any funding. Providing Sinclair the ability to charge them the CCP default floor rate once established for FY2020.
- b. Would be in effect for the 2019-2020 academic year beginning with Summer 2019 registrations.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and I look forward to hearing back from you soon. If you or your staff should have any questions, please contact Melissa Tolle, Chief School Partnerships Officer at (937) 512-2259.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven L. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Steven L. Johnson. Ph.D. President and
CEO

**AUTHORIZATION TO REQUEST SPECIAL COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS WAIVERS
FROM THE OHIO CHANCELLOR AND PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT
(RESOLUTION #2018-48)
NOVEMBER 13, 2018**

This resolution authorizes the Sinclair President to apply for two special waivers, as allowed under College Credit Plus (CCP) Regulations. The first is a special tuition waiver, which would allow Sinclair to continue to provide home schooled and non-public school students with the same tuition rate that Sinclair charges partner CCP schools. The second is a waiver in support of the Dayton Early College Academy (DECA) to be exempt from CCP and supported under a financial arrangement outside of CCP as detailed in Enclosure #10 of the November 2018 Board agenda.

WHEREAS, within the past two years the statewide Ohio College Credit Plus legislation has reset, standardized, and consolidated the policies and rules for high school student dual enrollment and early-to-college programs across Ohio (beginning with the Fall 2015 school year); and

WHEREAS, Sinclair has two special situations that require Sinclair to request special consideration and approval by the Chancellor and Public School Superintendent if Sinclair wishes to conduct business in the manner that Sinclair traditionally has done with (1) home school/non-public school students, and with (2) DECA; and

WHEREAS, the special waiver for home school/non-public students would allow Sinclair to charge these students the lower CCP tuition rate (currently \$41.63), instead of the higher rate prescribed under State-policy (which is the required default rate of Sinclair's full tuition rate); and

WHEREAS, DECA applied to be exempt from CCP rules for 2018-2019 and the state has conditionally approved this application for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. In partnership with DECA, Sinclair will fund tuition and textbooks for DECA students earning early college credit through a special Sinclair financial reserve with expenditures for this not to exceed \$100k annually; and

WHEREAS, Sinclair must apply to renew the tuition waiver to maintain relationship continuity with home school/non-public school students and must report to the state on the performance of DECA students; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sinclair Board of Trustees approves the Sinclair President to apply for the respective waivers so that (1) Sinclair can charge home school and non-public school students the Sinclair CCP tuition rate, and (2) that Sinclair can provide DECA with full scholarships and free textbooks as Sinclair has traditionally done.

BOARD ACTION: A motion was made to approve the resolution by Trustee Mike Geygan and seconded by Trustee Joe Sciabica. The motion carried. Trustee Ron Budzik abstained from the vote since he is a trustee on the DECA Board.