DIRECTIVE 2020-047

September 23, 2020

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 2020-2021 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 12, 2019. A copy of the resolution is attached.

• Sinclair’s current tuition rate is as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Montgomery County Residents</th>
<th>Other Ohio Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instruction &amp; General Fees</td>
<td>$126.03</td>
<td>$126.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-of-county Surcharge</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$47.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$126.03</strong></td>
<td><strong>$173.28</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• 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 2020-2021 the floor rate is $41.64. This is a waiver of $84.39 per credit hour for Montgomery County resident students and $131.64 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 2020-2021.

• It is estimated that the proposed waiver will continue to affect approximately 250 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.
  o SCC reports that the goals of this waiver were met in academic year 2019-2020. During the 2019-2020 year, 589 home school and nonpublic school students submitted funding letters for a total of 3,502 credit hours awarded by the state. These students earned 6,113 college credits, resulting in students directly billed for 2,611 credit hours. The tuition waiver saved these families approximately $276,000. Additionally, 96% 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, I hereby approve the tuition waiver request from Sinclair Community College be granted for academic year 2020-2021, as set forth above. JSF

This directive will take immediate effect.

Randy Gardner
Chancellor
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 school 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.

WHEREAS, within the past two years the statewide Ohio College Credit Plus (CCP) 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 $41.64), 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 approved this application for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. DECA will be reapplying for state exemption for 2020-2021 with Sinclair listed as their institution of higher education partner. 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 $100,000 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 Community College 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 Dannetta Graves. The motion carried unanimously. Trustee Ron Budzik abstained from the vote since he is a trustee on the DECA Board.