



DIRECTIVE 2020-051

October 8, 2020

Re: CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY EASTERN GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO WAIVE STANDARD TUITION RATES FOR STUDENTS LIVING IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLUMBIANA COUNTY, MAHONING COUNTY, AND TRUMBULL COUNTY UNDER THE EASTERN GATEWAY GUARANTEE.

§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 the biennium.

Pursuant to §381.170 of Am. Sub. H.B. 166 as well as Directive 2009-011, Eastern Gateway Community College (“EGCC”) has requested for fall semester 2020, to waive standard tuition rates for students living in Jefferson County, Columbiana County, Mahoning County, and Trumbull County.

EGCC has demonstrated the following:

- EGCC’s Board of Trustees approved a resolution authorizing a tuition waiver at its meeting on July 1, 2020. A copy of the resolution is attached.
- EGCC has submitted a specific request to reduce tuition rates for students living in Jefferson County to \$0 and to reduce tuition rates for students living in Columbiana County, Mahoning County, and Trumbull County to \$1 through the Eastern Gateway Guarantee as described below. The maximum waiver will be \$3,200.00 per student per academic year.
 - Under the Eastern Gateway Guarantee EGCC will waive remaining tuition costs to eligible students as shown below after other grants, scholarships, and other federal funding is applied.

- EGCC’s 2020-2021 tuition and specific amount being waived is shown below:

	Standard Per-Credit Amount	Waiver	Total Amount After Waiver
Mahoning County, Trumbull County, and Columbiana County Residents	\$137.00	\$136.00	\$1.00
Jefferson County Residents	\$131.00	\$131.00	\$0.00

- The specific amount to be waived may change depending on the tuition rates, amount of other grants, scholarships, and other funding available to the student at EGCC, but in any event, students living in Jefferson County will not be charged tuition while students living in Mahoning County, Trumbull County, and Columbiana County will be charged a per-credit hour rate of \$1.
- EGCC proposes that the duration of the waiver be fall 2020 semester.
- EGCC expects the tuition waiver will affect approximately 2,500 students per academic year. This estimate is based on the tracking of eligible students.

EGCC’s goal with this waiver is to increase the higher educational attainment rate in their Service District, thus helping to ensure the region’s economy will become stronger and more resilient in the future.

- Measurements of the program will include tracking the number students added to program.

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.

JSF

Based upon my review of staff recommendations, I hereby approve the tuition waiver request from Eastern Gateway Community College be granted for fall semester 2020, as set forth above.

This directive will take immediate effect.


 Randy Gardner
 Chancellor

Resolution #2020 – 7

Resolution on Eastern Gateway Guarantee Tuition Waiver

WHEREAS, Eastern Gateway Community College’s (EGCC) four county Service District has proven especially vulnerable to the effects of national and state economic decline, as industrial closures, the Great Recession and most recently, the COVID 19 Pandemic, has destabilized the area’s workforce and economy; and

WHEREAS, in the most recent state unemployment rankings, all four of the Service District counties have unemployment rates of approximately 15% or above, with Trumbull, Mahoning and Columbiana Counties ranking among the top ten counties in Ohio with the highest unemployment rates¹; and

WHEREAS, while the closure of the GM Lordstown plant garnered national attention, this closing was just the latest in a decades-long trend of regional deindustrialization in which Trumbull County alone lost 62.5 percent of its manufacturing base before the Lordstown plant closed²; and

WHEREAS, along with the loss of jobs, our region has experienced a decline in housing values and an increase in poverty. The Census reported Youngstown’s child poverty rates at 60.3 percent, nearly three times the state average³; and

WHEREAS, the four counties of the EGCC Service District are at greater risk to economic disruption as lower educational attainment rates make it more difficult for residents to adapt to the changing economy; and

WHEREAS, while on average 55% of Ohioans continued their education beyond high school, far fewer did so in the EGCC Service District with only 42.3% in Columbiana

¹ Unemployment Rankings by County, Ohio Labor Market Information, <https://ohiolmi.com/Home/Ranking?page85850=1&size85850=48>

² *Manufacturing a High-Wage Ohio, Table of Manufacturing Job Losses in Ohio*, The Century Foundation, <https://tcf.org/content/report/manufacturing-high-wage-ohio/?agreed=1&agreed=1>

³ *American Community Survey, Five Year*, Bureau of the Census, 2012-2016.

County, 43.6% in Trumbull County, 47.7% in Jefferson County and 52.2% in Mahoning County continuing their education beyond high school⁴; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Eastern Gateway Community College (“the Board”) recently instituted the EGCC Summer Guarantee, utilizing federal CARES Act funding to ensure that residents of the Service District could attend classes during the 2020 Summer Semester without cost through a last dollar scholarship, and

WHEREAS, the EGCC Summer Guarantee proved that there is a great demand for free college opportunities in the Service District, with enrollment increasing by 44% at the Youngstown Campus and 32% at the Steubenville Campus over the 2019 Summer Semester enrollment levels; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that increasing the higher educational attainment rate in the Service District will help ensure that the region’s economy will become stronger and more resilient in the future; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the College’s Interim President and Chief Financial Officer to create the Eastern Gateway Guarantee to make college accessible and affordable for all residents of Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana and Jefferson Counties by providing free tuition to area residents for the 2020-2021 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to cover the cost of the tuition assistance portion of the Eastern Gateway Guarantee, the Board authorizes the College President to request the following tuition waivers from the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education effective for the Fall semester 2020:

- **\$131 per credit hour will be waived for eligible students in Jefferson County and \$137 per credit hour for eligible students in Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties. This is a complete waiver of tuition (instructional and general fees).**
- **The maximum waiver will be \$3,200 per student per academic year for a projected 2,500 students over the biennium.**

⁴ *Educational Attainment, Ohio by the Numbers*, Ohio Dept. of Dev. Services, <https://development.ohio.gov/files/research/P7006.pdf>; *Educational Attainment by County*, Ohio Dept. of Higher Education, <https://www.ohiohighered.org/attainment/dashboard>



EASTERN GATEWAY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Moved: Angela Mastros

Second: Kathy Maguschak

Roll Call: Chair Gasior, David Coy, Angela Mastros, Ms. Dennison, Ms. LaGuardia, Ms. Maguschak, Mr. Meredith, Mr. Nurczyk

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Carried: Yes

Chair, James Gasior

Date

Angela Mastros, Secretary of the Board

Date