Section 3333.16(C) of the Ohio Revised Code was signed into law in June of 2015. This law requires the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education to develop a process, by December 1, 2018, to establish statewide guaranteed transfer pathways from two-year to four-year degree programs in an equivalent field. This effort is directly related to Ohio’s initiatives in college affordability and degree completion.

Since the passage of the legislation, the Ohio Department of Higher Education, in collaboration with representatives from the Inter-University Council of Ohio and the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, has been meeting to discuss and plan for implementation of the legislation.

As of September, 2016, the Ohio Department of Higher Education is on track to meet the legislative requirement. In order to move forward with the development and implementation of guaranteed transfer pathways, a statewide steering committee is being formed, which will oversee the progress. The steering committee will be co-chaired by Dr. Mary Ellen Mazey, President of Bowling Green State University, and Dr. Marcia Ballinger, President of Lorain County Community College, who represent the Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network Oversight Board. The committee members will consist of representatives from six regions of the state (northwest, northeast, west, central, southwest, and southeast), the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, the Inter-University Council and staff members from the Ohio Department of Higher Education and Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network. Representatives from six regions will include one member from a two-year college and another from a four-year university within each region. Confirmation of those members will begin later this month with an anticipated steering committee meeting in late October.

The development of the guaranteed transfer pathways will be facilitated by existing statewide faculty panel members for Transfer Assurance Guides (TAGs), Career-Technical Assurance Guides (CTAGs) and faculty representatives from the Ohio Mathematics Initiative, with the assistance of additional faculty members as needed. Institutional endorsement will be sought prior to implementation. Transfer pathways will be developed in clusters (meta-majors) with associated specific majors within each cluster. The proposed cluster areas and the anticipated first meeting of the faculty panels are as follows: Business (late fall 2016); Social and Behavioral Sciences and Human Services (late fall 2016); Education (spring or fall 2017); Arts, Humanities, Communication, History, and Design (spring or fall 2017); Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (spring or fall 2017); Public Safety (fall 2017 or spring 2018); Health Sciences (fall 2017 or spring 2018); and Industry/Manufacturing and Construction (fall 2017 or spring 2018). Approximately 50 major specific pathways will fall under the eight clusters.

The development and implementation of guaranteed transfer pathways are not complete without effective wrap-around services like advising and transfer services. Therefore, a statewide Transfer Practices Advisory Committee is also being formed, and the nominations for this committee have been sent out to the institutions. The first meeting of this advisory committee is tentatively scheduled for October or November.

Any inquiries can be directed to Dr. Paula Compton, Associate Vice Chancellor of Articulation and Transfer at the Ohio Department of Higher Education at pcompton@highered.ohio.gov, (614) 466-3334.