

H. B. No. 96  
As Introduced

\_\_\_\_\_ moved to amend as follows:

After line 33400, insert:

**"Sec. 3301.96. (A) As used in this section:**

(1) "School of origin" means the school in which a student was enrolled at the time of each placement into foster care. If the student's foster care placement changes, the school of origin is the school in which the student is enrolled at the time of the change in placement. "School of origin" includes the designated receiving school at the next grade level for feeder school or zone patterns when the student completes the final grade level served by the school of origin. When there is more than one potential school of origin, the department of education and workforce, or school foster care liaison under division (B) of this section, shall designate the school of origin using the student's input.

(2) "Student placed in foster care" means a child who at any time during an academic semester or term is in foster care, including any child who is in the custody of a public children's services agency or private child placing agency or otherwise placed with a licensed foster caregiver. "Student placed in foster care" includes a child who transfers enrollment as a



result of being returned to the child's home at the conclusion 21  
of the child's placement. 22

(B) If the director of education and workforce determines 23  
that sufficient funds are available from general revenue fund 24  
appropriations made to the department of education and 25  
workforce, the department shall hire a full-time school foster 26  
care liaison. The school foster care liaison shall work with 27  
public children services agencies, private child placing 28  
agencies, and the department of job and family services to 29  
facilitate services to keep students placed in foster care in 30  
the student's school of origin or, if the public children 31  
services agency or private child placing agency determines that 32  
it is not in a student's best interest to remain in the school 33  
of origin, facilitate the prompt and appropriate placement, 34  
transfer, and enrollment of such a student in another public 35  
school. 36

The school foster care liaison's specific duties include: 37

(1) Responding to a request from a public children 38  
services agency or private child placing agency for input from a 39  
school district or school concerning the determination of 40  
whether it is in the best interest of the student placed in 41  
foster care to remain in the school of origin; 42

(2) Collaborating with the public children services agency 43  
or private child placing agency to ensure that any necessary 44  
transportation and services are provided for the student placed 45  
in foster care to remain in the student's school of origin; 46

(3) If a public children services agency or private child 47  
placing agency determines that it is not in the student's best 48  
interest to remain in the school of origin, working with the 49

agency, juvenile probation officer, parents, guardian ad litem 50  
or counsel for the student, and foster caregivers to ensure that 51  
the student is enrolled in a new school immediately with 52  
transition planning, and that the student's complete education 53  
information and records are requested immediately by the 54  
student's new school upon enrollment; 55

(4) Upon receiving the required notification and 56  
invitation, participating in a transition planning meeting 57  
regarding the enrollment in a public school of a student placed 58  
in foster care from a state-licensed day treatment facility, or 59  
hospital, or having a designee participate in the meeting; 60

(5) Participating, or having the liaison's designee 61  
participate, in any interagency collaboration team or threat 62  
assessment team centered on students placed in foster care, 63  
which the school district or school may develop or on which the 64  
school district or school may be invited to participate; 65

(6) Providing students placed in foster care with 66  
information about the foster-to-college scholarship program 67  
established in section 3333.89 of the Revised Code." 68

After line 46676, insert: 69

"Sec. 3333.89. (A) As used in this section: 70

(1) "Chafee ETV grant" means an educational and training 71  
voucher program grant made pursuant to the "John H. Chafee 72  
Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood," 42 73  
U.S.C. 677. 74

(2) "Cost of attendance" has the same meaning as in 75  
section 3333.37 of the Revised Code. 76

(3) "Federal need analysis" means the methodology 77

determined by the United States department of education to 78  
determine the amount of a student's financial need to pay for 79  
postsecondary education. 80

(4) "Institution of higher education" has the same meaning 81  
as in section 3345.19 of the Revised Code. 82

(5) "Noncertified kinship care" means a public children 83  
services agency or private child placing agency has placed a 84  
child in the care of a kinship caregiver, as defined in section 85  
5101.85 of the Revised Code, who has not met the requirements 86  
for a foster home certificate issued under section 5103.03 of 87  
the Revised Code or has chosen not to pursue that certificate. 88

(6) "Qualifying student" means a resident of Ohio as 89  
defined in section 3333.31 of the Revised Code, who has been 90  
accepted for enrollment at an institution of higher education 91  
who has been placed in either of the following: 92

(a) Foster care at any time on or after the student's 93  
thirteenth birthday; 94

(b) Noncertified kinship care at any time on or after the 95  
student's thirteenth birthday and was, at any time, adjudicated 96  
an abused child as defined in section 2151.031 of the Revised 97  
Code, a neglected child as defined in section 2151.03 of the 98  
Revised Code, or a dependent child as defined in section 2151.04 99  
of the Revised Code. 100

(B) (1) The foster-to-college scholarship program is 101  
established. Under the program, beginning in the 2025-2026 102  
academic year, each qualifying student shall be awarded a 103  
foster-to-college scholarship based on the student's federal 104  
need analysis. The amount of the foster-to-college scholarship 105  
shall equal the applicant's recognized cost of attendance after 106

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| <u>deducting all of the following:</u>                                  | 107 |
| <u>(a) The student aid index as calculated by the federal</u>           | 108 |
| <u>need analysis;</u>   | 109 |
| <u>(b) The amount of any federal Pell grant award for which</u>         | 110 |
| <u>the applicant is eligible;</u>                                       | 111 |
| <u>(c) The amount of any state grant;</u>                               | 112 |
| <u>(d) The federal supplemental educational opportunity</u>             | 113 |
| <u>grant;</u>   | 114 |
| <u>(e) The Ohio college opportunity grant, under section</u>            | 115 |
| <u>3333.122 of the Revised Code;</u>                                    | 116 |
| <u>(f) The amount of any other state and federal gift aid;</u>          | 117 |
| <u>(g) The Chafee ETV grant;</u>  | 118 |
| <u>(h) Extended foster care benefits under 42 U.S.C. 675(8)</u>         | 119 |
| <u>(B);</u>   | 120 |
| <u>(i) The amount of any private grants or scholarships,</u>            | 121 |
| <u>excluding grants and scholarships provided by the private</u>        | 122 |
| <u>institution of higher education in which the eligible student is</u> | 123 |
| <u>enrolled;</u>  | 124 |
| <u>(j) For public institutions, the sum of all institutional</u>        | 125 |
| <u>grants, scholarships, tuition waivers, and tuition remission</u>     | 126 |
| <u>amounts.</u>   | 127 |
| <u>(2) The foster scholarship shall be paid directly to the</u>         | 128 |
| <u>participating institution of higher education in which the</u>       | 129 |
| <u>student is enrolled.</u>   | 130 |
| <u>(3) An eligible private institution may choose not to</u>            | 131 |
| <u>participate in the foster-to-college scholarship program</u>         | 132 |

established under this section. To opt out, the institution 133  
shall provide notice to the chancellor of higher education by 134  
the first day of September for the next academic year. 135

(4) An eligible private institution that chooses to 136  
participate in the program and accepts a student's application 137  
to attend the institution shall provide institutional grants, 138  
scholarships, tuition waivers, or tuition remission in an amount 139  
equal to the difference between the institution's cost of 140  
attendance and the sum of the scholarship under this division 141  
and the sum of the amounts in divisions (B) (1) (a) to (j) of this 142  
section. 143

(C) In order to receive a scholarship under the program, 144  
the qualifying student shall do all of the following: 145

(1) Complete the free application for federal student aid, 146  
including acknowledgement of past or current foster care 147  
placement; 148

(2) If eligible, complete the application for a Chafee ETV 149  
grant; 150

(3) Be enrolled in courses leading toward a bachelor's 151  
degree, a postgraduate degree, an associate's degree, an 152  
industry-recognized credential, or a certificate of completion 153  
at an institution of higher education; 154

(4) Request financial assistance in accordance with 155  
policies set forth by the institution of higher education; 156

(5) Remain in satisfactory academic standing in accordance 157  
with the academic policies of the institution of higher 158  
education and be making progress toward completion of the 159  
requirements of the educational program in which the student is 160

enrolled.

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(D) (1) Eligible students shall apply to participate in the  
program in a form and manner prescribed by the chancellor. The  
chancellor shall approve each qualifying student who applies and  
who has a remaining cost of attendance for the period in which  
the application is approved after all other financial aid for  
which that applicant qualifies has been applied to the  
applicant's account at the institution. The chancellor shall  
approve applications in the order in which they are received.  
The amount of scholarships awarded shall not exceed the amount  
appropriated for that purpose.

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(2) The chancellor shall pay to each institution of higher  
education in which a participant who receives a scholarship  
described in division (B) of this section is enrolled the amount  
of the scholarship awarded under that division.

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(E) The chancellor shall enter into an agreement with the  
same organization engaged by the department of job and family  
services to administer the Chafee ETV program to employ four  
full-time employees to serve as foster care student navigators  
and assist prospective qualifying students in applying for and  
enrolling in institutions of higher education and the foster-to-  
college scholarship program. The navigators shall work with  
school district and school foster care liaisons to identify  
prospective qualifying students. A navigator shall provide  
guidance to prospective qualifying students with selecting  
institutions and programs in which the student may wish to  
enroll. A navigator shall, at the request of a student, assist  
the student with completing an institution's application for  
admission, the free application for federal student aid, and, if  
eligible, the application for a Chafee ETV grant.

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(F) (1) The chancellor shall, in accordance with Chapter 191  
119. of the Revised Code, adopt rules necessary to administer 192  
this section. 193

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of section 121.95 of the 194  
Revised Code to the contrary, a regulatory restriction contained 195  
in a rule adopted under division (F) of this section is not 196  
subject to sections 121.95 to 121.953 of the Revised Code." 197

In the table on line 108985, after row BL, insert: 198

" 199

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|   | 1    | 2      | 3                             | 4           | 5           |
|---|------|--------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| A | 5AM1 | 235689 | Foster-to-College Scholarship | \$7,500,000 | \$7,500,000 |

" 201

In the table on line 108985, in rows BV and CH, add \$7,500,000 to 202  
each fiscal year 203

After line 110415, insert: 204

**"Section 381.605. FOSTER-TO-COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP** 205

The foregoing appropriation item 235689, Foster-to-College 206  
Scholarship, shall be used by the Chancellor of Higher Education 207  
to support the Foster-to-College Scholarship Program pursuant to 208  
section 3333.89 of the Revised Code. 209

Of the foregoing appropriation item 235689, Foster-to- 210  
College Scholarship, a portion in each fiscal year may be 211  
allocated to the same organization engaged by the Department of 212  
Job and Family Services to administer the Chafee ETV Program to 213  
employ four full-time foster care student navigators pursuant to 214



division (E) of section 3333.89 of the Revised Code. 215

An amount equal to the unexpended, unencumbered balance of 216  
the foregoing appropriation item 235689, Foster-to-College 217  
Scholarship, at the end of fiscal year 2026 is hereby 218  
reappropriated for the same purpose in fiscal year 2027." 219

After line 112095, insert: 220

"FOSTER-TO-COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND 221

On July 1, 2025, or as soon as possible thereafter, the Director of 222  
Budget and Management shall transfer \$15,000,000 cash from the General 223  
Revenue Fund to the Foster-to-College Scholarship Fund (Fund 5AM1), which 224  
is hereby created in the state treasury." 225

Update the title, amend, enact, or repeal clauses accordingly 226

The motion was \_\_\_\_\_ agreed to.

#### SYNOPSIS 227

#### **Foster-to-College Scholarship Program** 228

#### **R.C. 3301.96 and 3333.89** 229

Requires the Department of Education and Workforce to hire 230  
a full-time school foster care liaison to work with public 231  
children services agencies, private child placing agencies, and 232  
the Department of Job and Family Services to facilitate services 233  
to foster children related to school placement. 234

Establishes the Foster-to-College Scholarship Program to 235  
award qualifying students scholarships based on a federal need 236

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| analysis.  | 237 |
| Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to facilitate        | 238 |
| the employment of four full-time employees to serve as foster    | 239 |
| care student navigators and assist prospective qualifying        | 240 |
| students in applying for and enrolling in institutions of higher | 241 |
| education and the Foster-to-College Scholarship Program.         | 242 |
| <b>Department of Higher Education</b>                            | 243 |
| <b>Sections 381.10, 381.605, and 512.10</b>                      | 244 |
| Establishes Fund 5AM1 ALI 235689, Foster-to-College              | 245 |
| Scholarship, with appropriations of \$7,500,000 in each fiscal   | 246 |
| year, to be used by the Chancellor of Higher Education to        | 247 |
| support the Foster-to-College Scholarship Program.               | 248 |
| Permits a portion of ALI 235689 in each fiscal year to be        | 249 |
| allocated to the same organization engaged by ODJFS to           | 250 |
| administer the Chafee ETV program to employ four full-time       | 251 |
| foster care student navigators to assist with the Program's      | 252 |
| operation.   | 253 |
| Reappropriates the available balance of ALI 235689 at the        | 254 |
| end of FY 2026 for the same purpose in FY 2027.                  | 255 |
| Requires the OBM Director to transfer \$15,000,000 cash in       | 256 |
| FY 2026 from the GRF to the newly created Foster-to-College      | 257 |
| Scholarship Fund (Fund 5AM1).                                    | 258 |