

CollegeCredit PLUS



**Results &
Cost-Effectiveness**
December 2022



Department of Education
Department of Higher Education

Introduction

Ohio's College Credit Plus (CCP) program allows high school students to earn transcribed college credit while still in high school by taking college courses from community colleges or universities. The purpose of the program is to promote rigorous academic pursuits and to provide college-ready students an opportunity to jump-start their postsecondary studies while in high school. Students in the CCP program can reduce the time and cost needed to earn a postsecondary credential, some earning associate degrees and/or certificates prior to graduation at no cost to them.¹

CCP also supports the Ohio Department of Education's ongoing work to transform the high school experience and inspire high school students to identify pathways to future success. CCP transforms the high school experience by giving students access to higher education opportunities. It spotlights higher education as an option for students who may not have considered postsecondary enrollment and sets students on a pathway to expedited completion of a postsecondary degree.

To successfully compete for business investment and jobs, Ohio is working diligently to increase the number of its citizens with in-demand postsecondary education credentials relevant in the workplace. For Ohio to prosper in a global economy, the state must have world-class talent with verifiable knowledge and skills aligned with specific workplace needs. For Ohio citizens to maximize their job, wage, and career advancement opportunities, they must possess trusted credentials that reliably document their qualifications and readiness for employment. By giving students postsecondary experiences in high school, CCP supports Ohio's need for more citizens with the postsecondary credentials needed for a strong economy and healthy, vibrant communities.

This report, the second report on cost-effectiveness, was prepared to fulfill the requirements contained in House Bill 110, Section 265.530, of the 134th General Assembly, and summarizes the cost-effectiveness of the CCP program. **Significant highlights include:**

- During the 2021-2022 academic year, students took 689,916 credit hours through CCP, saving families more than \$165 million in tuition costs.
- For the 2021-2022 academic year, 92.4 percent of CCP students earned passing grades with the overall average grade point average (GPA) being a 3.34 in CCP courses.
- Since the beginning of the CCP program in the 2015-2016 school year, students have earned 6,728 associate degrees and 2,523 certificates before graduating high school.
- CCP students who graduated in 2020 needed an average of 35.4 credit hours more to earn an associate degree once enrolled in a college or university, compared to the 60 hours needed by students who did not earn credits in high school.
- In the 2022 school year, the CCP payments to colleges and universities were just more than \$55 million (see Table 4), compared to the standard tuition of nearly \$165 million. This shows that for every \$1 invested in CCP, the program saved Ohio families \$3 in tuition alone (not including textbooks or other fees).
- CCP saved Ohio's families more than \$3.7 million in combined textbook costs and fees in Fiscal Year 2022.

This report also aligns with the findings of the Auditor of State's recent Performance Audit of the College Credit Plus program. Readers of both this report and the audit will find coherence in the conclusion that CCP saves Ohioans significant amounts of college tuition each year. This report also acknowledges that

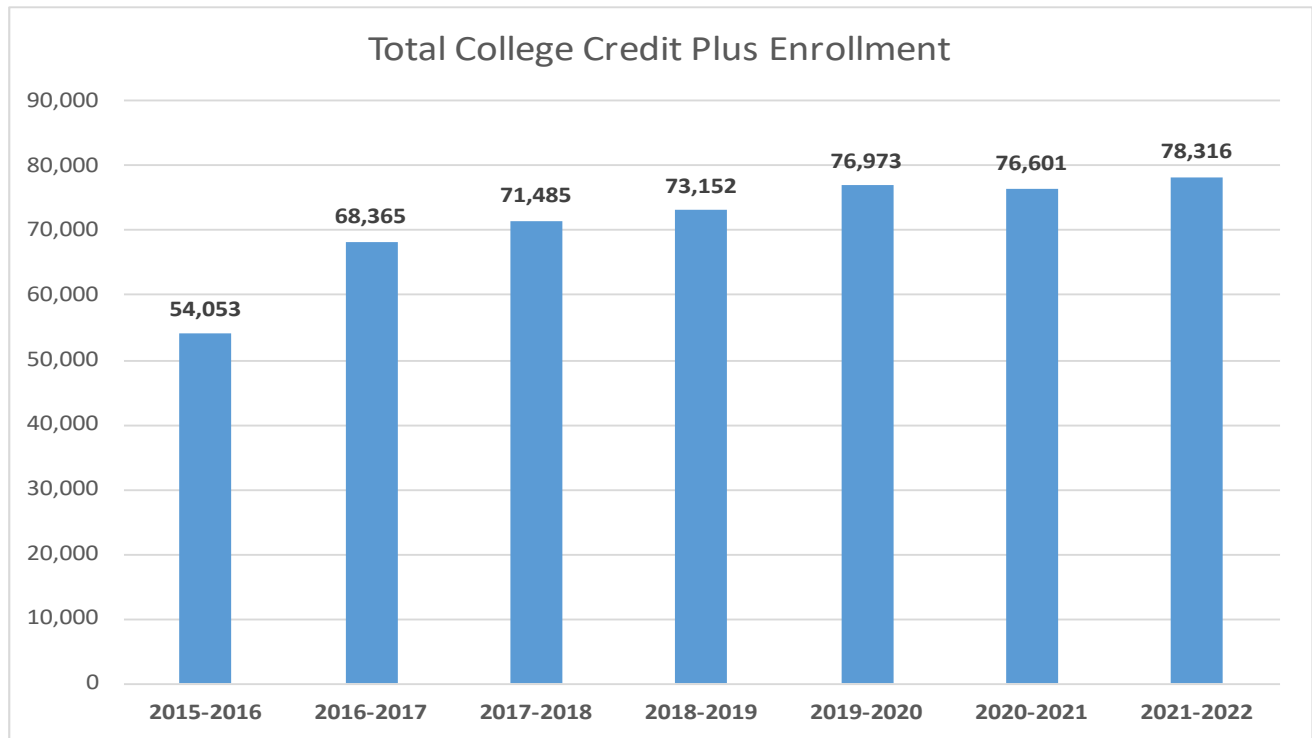
¹ CCP uses taxpayer funds redirected from the district to pay colleges at a reduced rate, districts provide textbooks, and all college fees are waived.

there is work to be done in ensuring those most in need of the benefits of that savings are indeed benefiting. As the Ohio Department of Higher Education continues to implement the findings of the audit, this report serves as a benchmark of the continued savings of Ohio’s families due to the wide availability of the College Credit Plus program.

Results: Student Enrollment and Attainment

The CCP program has grown since its implementation during the 2015-2016 school year. As represented in Figure 1, enrollment in CCP has expanded from 54,053 to 78,316 total participants in seven years, representing an increase of 45 percent in CCP enrollment. The total enrollment of CCP includes students in grades 7 through 12 in Ohio’s public and nonpublic secondary schools and home-schooled families, though the vast majority of students participate in their 11th and 12th grade years of high school.²

Figure 1: Enrollment in CCP



Student Performance

Students in the program have performed exceedingly well in college courses. For the 2021-2022 academic year, 92.4 percent of CCP students earned passing grades, with the overall average GPA being a 3.34 in CCP courses.³

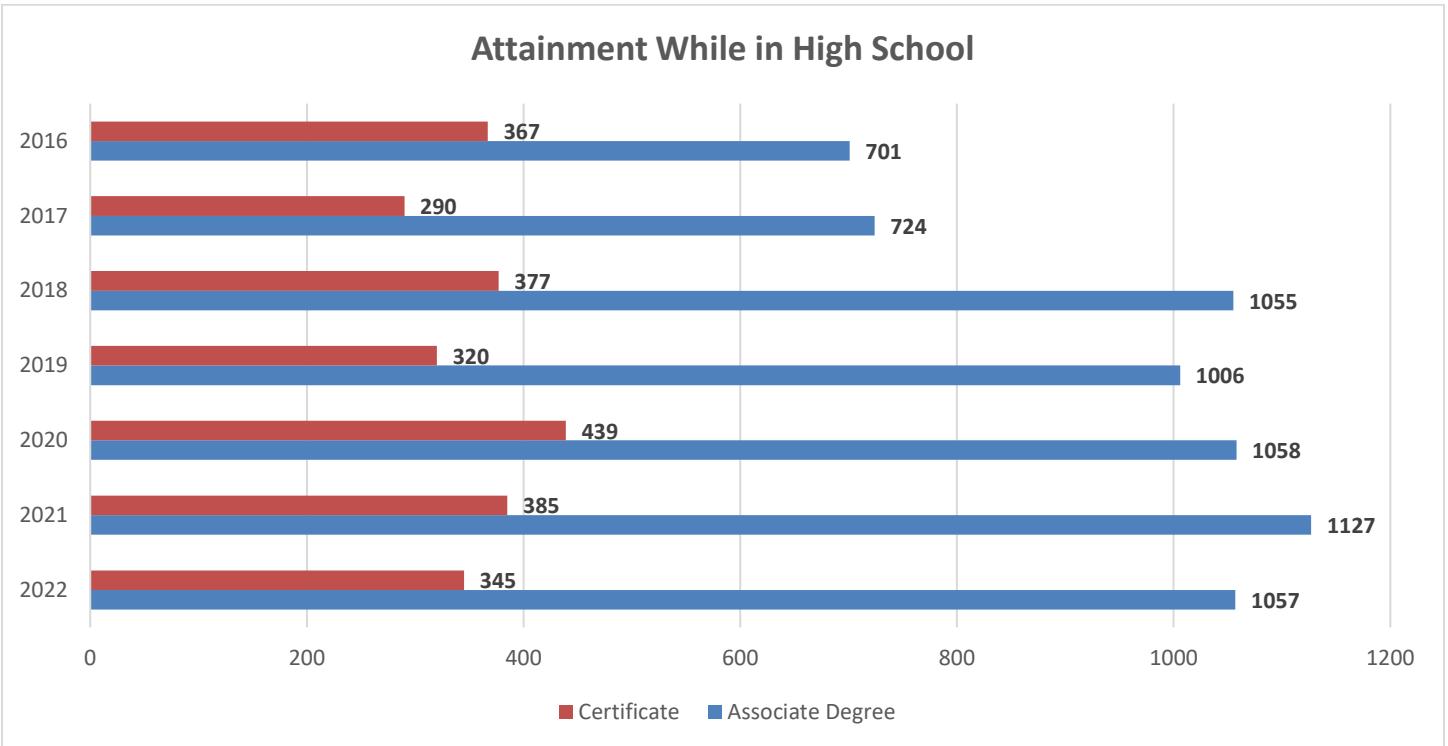
² Additional information is available in the College Credit Plus Annual Reports: <https://highered.ohio.gov/initiatives/access-acceleration/college-credit-plus/reports-committee>

³ For additional information about student performance, please review the annual reports: <https://highered.ohio.gov/data-reports>

Attainment While in High School

In addition to setting students on an expedited path to college completion by earning credits while in high school and transforming the high school experience by offering more advanced course options to students, CCP allows students to earn certificates and associate degrees before they graduate from high school. Figure 2 shows the number of certificates and associate degrees earned by CCP students prior to high school graduation. As displayed in Figure 2, associate degrees and certificates show an up and down sawtooth pattern. Associate degrees peaked in 2020 and 2021 with similar counts, and certificates peaked in 2020. Since the beginning of the CCP program, students have earned 6,728 associate degrees and 2,523 certificates before graduating high school.

Figure 2: Number of Certificates and Associate Degrees Earned by CCP Students Prior to High School Graduation



Matriculation after High School

Of the 40,928 CCP students who graduated in the 2021-2022 academic year, nearly 78 percent matriculated to a college or university. Of those students, more than 18 percent (5,790) enrolled in a two-year college and nearly 82 percent (26,043) attended a four-year university. As illustrated in Table 1, between students graduating in 2019 and 2020, an average of 70.4 percent of students matriculated post-high school. It should be noted that data include students who matriculate to private and out-of-state colleges or universities.

Table 1: Percent of Students who Matriculated Post-High School

Graduation Year	CCP Participating High School Graduates	Matriculated Post High School	Two Year College	Four Year University	Persisted to 2020-2021	Persisted to 2021-2022
2019	39,724	72.46%	19.58%	80.42%	95.37%	94.34%
2020	41,269	68.43%	21.61%	78.39%	-	95.99%

Time to Completion

For students who participate in CCP and earn college credit while still in high school, the required remaining credit hours that must be earned once the student matriculates to a two-year college or four-year university is significantly reduced. Bachelor’s degrees typically require at least 120 credit hours to complete and associate degrees require at least 60 credit hours. Once enrolled in a college or university, CCP students who graduated from high school in 2020 and earned a degree within two years needed an average of 10 additional credit hours to earn a certificate and 35.4 credit hours to earn an associate degree. This is a significant reduction in required credits that results in less time and less expense for students to earn a degree. By entering a college or university with some credits already earned, a student can complete a certificate or degree more quickly, graduate early, and enter the workforce sooner.

Table 2: Credits Earned in High School

			Degree Standards		
			Certificate Credits for Credential Completion: 30	Associate Degree Credits for Credential Completion: 60	Bachelor’s Degree Credits for Credential Completion: 120
High School Graduation Year	Degree Attained	Credits Earned in High School	Credits remaining for Certificate Completion	Credits remaining for Associate Degree Completion	Credits remaining for Bachelor's Degree Completion
2016	Certificate	15.2	14.8	44.8	104.8
2016	Associate Degree	19.1		40.9	100.9
2016	Bachelor’s Degree	16.4			103.6
2017	Certificate	14.7	15.3	45.3	105.3
2017	Associate Degree	18.4		41.6	101.6
2017	Bachelor’s Degree	15.9			104.1
2018	Certificate	16.1	13.9	43.9	103.9
2018	Associate Degree	18.2		41.8	101.8
2018	Bachelor’s Degree	17.6			102.4
2019	Certificate	15.8	14.2	44.2	104.2
2019	Associate Degree	19.7		40.3	100.3
2020	Certificate	20.0	10.0	40.0	100.0
2020	Associate Degree	24.6		35.4	95.4

Tuition Expenditures

CCP results in significant savings for Ohio families because students earn college credit while in high school that they would otherwise pay for out-of-pocket as college students. The cost per credit hour for CCP is set by statute in Ohio Revised Code 3365.01. The cost varies depending on the delivery mode of the course (i.e., whether it is delivered on a college campus, high school campus, or online) and ranges from \$41.64 per credit hour for courses taught by qualified high school teachers on a high school campus to \$166.55 per credit hour for courses taught on a college campus. These costs for CCP courses are supported by taxpayer funds that are redirected from the student's high school to the college delivering the courses, relieving the family and student of the cost for these credit hours.

Table 3 illustrates the cost savings to Ohio families and Table 4 shows the total payments made to colleges and universities through the CCP program, with the comparison rate that a family would pay for the same credit hours if the student paid tuition at the college or university. In 2022, the amount paid through CCP was just more than \$55 million, compared to the standard tuition of nearly \$165 million. This shows that for every \$1 the state invests in CCP, Ohio families are saving \$3 in tuition alone (not including textbooks or other fees).

Table 3: Total Tuition Savings

Sector	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Community College	\$42,473,427	\$50,988,732	\$55,262,729	\$64,391,093	\$58,080,517	\$68,237,992	\$74,096,049
Independent University	\$40,719,468	\$47,341,463	\$46,081,945	\$40,186,307	\$42,717,867	\$36,034,171	\$39,997,825
University Main and Branch Campuses	\$40,779,912	\$45,772,788	\$47,089,903	\$48,510,068	\$54,906,480	\$53,786,367	\$51,089,191
Total	\$123,972,808	\$144,102,983	\$148,434,576	\$153,087,469	\$155,704,864	\$158,058,529	\$165,183,065

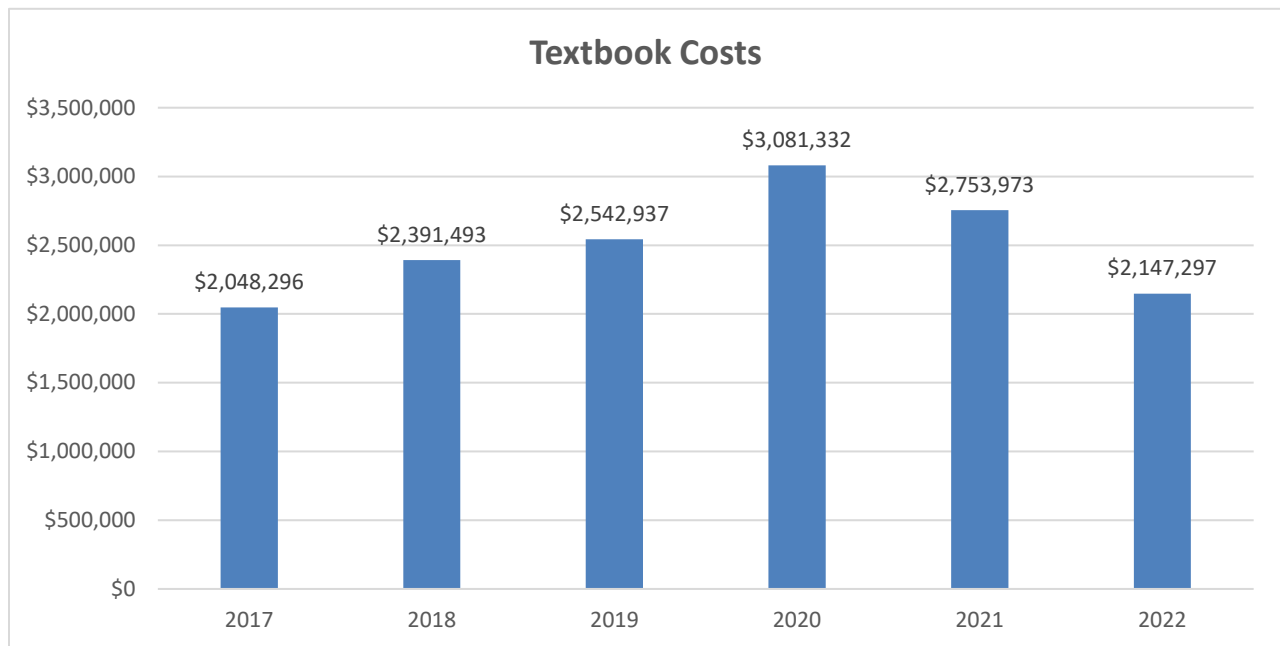
Table 4: Total CCP Payments to Colleges/Universities

Sector	Total CCP Payments to Colleges/Universities						
	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
Community Colleges	\$21,108,231	\$26,042,567	\$28,367,441	\$31,781,677	\$32,690,886	\$36,490,977	\$34,920,422
Independent Universities	\$3,484,916	\$4,120,105	\$4,093,245	\$3,576,336	\$3,316,475	\$3,682,517	\$3,441,575
University Main and Branch Campuses	\$13,951,576	\$15,775,152	\$16,514,713	\$16,606,505	\$17,292,016	\$18,815,452	\$16,641,634
Total	\$38,544,723	\$45,937,824	\$48,975,399	\$51,964,517	\$53,299,377	\$58,988,945	\$55,003,631

Textbook Expenditures

In addition to tuition savings that students experience due to participation in CCP, students also save on the cost of textbooks for CCP courses they take. Under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3365, secondary schools are responsible for textbooks for their CCP students' college courses. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2017, public secondary schools had the opportunity to report textbook costs for CCP within the Education Management Information System. Figure 3 illustrates the total reported costs of CCP textbooks by secondary schools from Fiscal Years 2017 to 2022. Note that a small percentage of districts that had students participating in CCP courses actually reported CCP textbook costs. This would indicate the actual cost savings for families is much higher.

Figure 3: Reported Costs of Textbooks by Secondary Schools



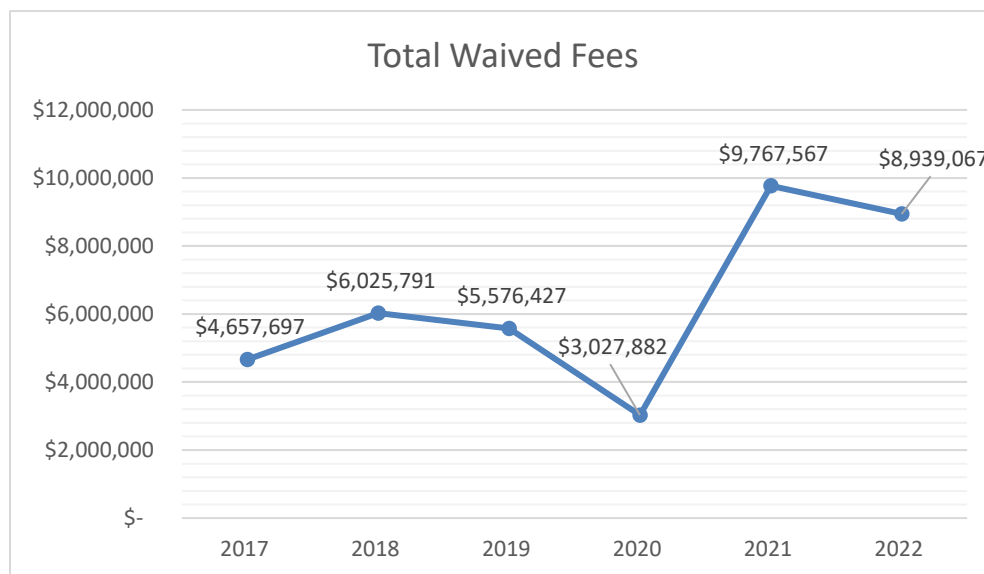
Waived Fees

Ohio Revised Code also requires colleges and universities to waive all fees for student participation in the CCP program. These fees include admissions, testing, transcript, and course-specific (i.e., lab or supplies) fees. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2017, public and independent colleges and universities were required to provide the amount of waived fees for students in the program (Table 5). Figure 4 illustrates the total amounts of waived fees.

Table 5: Fees Waived by Type

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Admission Fees Waived	\$1,254,890	\$1,504,371	\$1,453,650	\$1,003,823	\$1,326,553	\$1,781,354
Total Testing Fees Waived	\$68,800	\$89,118	\$78,060	\$46,541	\$59,716	\$38,214
Total Transcript Fees Waived	\$50,325	\$22,541	\$15,531	\$2,517	\$3,832	\$3,645
Total Specific Course-related Fees Waived	\$2,442,595	\$2,184,535	\$2,283,759	\$1,501,039	\$4,909,121	\$3,184,657
Total Other Fees Waived	\$841,087	\$2,225,226	\$1,745,427	\$473,962	\$3,468,345	\$3,931,197

Figure 4: Total Waived Fees 2017-2022



Tuition Cost

As described above, participation in CCP is entirely free for students who are enrolled in public schools and take CCP courses through public colleges or universities.⁴ The cost of participation is supported by taxpayer funds that are redirected from the public high school to the college or university delivering the courses. Foundation funds, identified by the General Assembly, serve as the base for the calculation of the default tuition rates for CCP. As outlined in Table 6, the default rates vary based on the delivery method of the course. For example, offering CCP courses on a college campus cost, by default, \$166.55 for the 2021-2022 school year, while offering a course on the high school campus using a qualified high school teacher cost, by default, \$41.64. By offering more CCP courses on their own campuses, public high schools can save on the costs of providing these opportunities to students and gain efficiencies. Additionally, secondary schools can work with partner colleges and universities to negotiate and agree to other amounts between the floor and ceiling, arriving at alternative rates beyond those reflected in Table 6.

Table 6: Default Rates of Courses Based on Delivery Method

School Year	Per Pupil Foundation Amount	Ceiling Rate	Mid-Level Rate	Floor Rate	
		Course delivered on the college campus	Course delivered at the high school with college faculty instruction	Course delivered at the high school, with credentialed high school teacher	
		<i>(83% of Foundation divided by 30 credits)</i>	<i>(50% of ceiling rate)</i>	<i>(25% of ceiling rate)</i>	<i>On-line</i>
2017-2018	\$6,010	\$166.28	\$83.14	\$41.57	\$166.28
2018-2019	\$6,020	\$166.55	\$83.28	\$41.64	\$166.55
2019-2020	\$6,020	\$166.55	\$83.28	\$41.64	\$166.55
2020-2021	\$6,020	\$166.55	\$83.28	\$41.64	\$166.55
2021-2022	\$6,020	\$166.55	\$83.28	\$41.64	\$166.55

⁴ Students choosing to attend a private college may be charged a limited amount by that college, depending on where the course is delivered, and in accordance with state law. (see [ORC 3365.07](#)) Students who are economically disadvantaged may not have to pay costs to attend a private college.

Table 7 shows the percentage of total enrollment in the different delivery methods in the CCP programs. In Table 7, it should be noted that the significant rise in online course delivery was due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 7: Percentage of Total Enrollment by Delivery Mode

Delivery Mode	Percentage of Total Enrollment						
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
High School, College Faculty	8.5%	11.1%	8.9%	10.5%	8.9%	6.7%	8.0%
High School, Approved High School Teacher	39.1%	42.1%	36.2%	35.2%	39.5%	38.1%	40.3%
On college campus	39.4%	34.1%	37.0%	33.5%	29.0%	14.4%	15.4%
Online	13.0%	12.6%	17.9%	20.7%	22.6%	40.7%	36.2%

Conclusion

Since implementation in 2015, the College Credit Plus program has been a transformative addition to the high school experience and a game-changer for Ohio students. Early access to postsecondary courses supports Ohio’s work to transform the high school experience through advanced course offerings and exposure to careers and opportunities beyond high school graduation. It is no longer enough to offer pathways *to* graduation, rather Ohio must work to offer pathways *through* graduation, into whatever is next for each and every student in the state. For Ohio students, CCP participation means an expedited pathway to a postsecondary degree — on average, the remaining credit hours needed to earn an associate or bachelor’s degree once a student matriculates to a college or university is nearly half of what would be required if the student had earned no credits while in high school. For families, the tuition savings realized are significant.

The Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Higher Education continue their commitment to the success of the CCP program. As the program continues to mature and students who participated in CCP in high school graduate from a college or university and enter the workforce, both departments are committed to continued data collection to track, monitor, and improve CCP.



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