The Chancellor, the Ohio Board of Regents, and the Ohio Department of Higher Education

The Ohio Board of Regents (Regents) and the chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) are created by the Ohio Revised Code and charged with overseeing higher education in the state of Ohio. The governor appoints both the chancellor and the Regents.

The chancellor is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor. This appointment is subject to the advice and consent of the Ohio Senate. Additionally, the chancellor serves as a member of the governor’s cabinet.

The Ohio Board of Regents is an 11-member panel, nine of whose members are appointed by the governor, that acts as an advisory board to the chancellor. From its founding in 1963 until 2007, it had been an independent policymaking body that hired the chancellor. Terms of office for nine of the Regents are staggered, with three members’ terms beginning in September of each even-numbered year. The term for each Regent is six years, and each Regent may be reappointed once. In addition to the nine members appointed by the governor, the chairs of the House and Senate Education Committees are ex-officio members of the board.

While much of the work of the Chancellor and the Regents deals with Ohio’s public colleges and universities, the chancellor also has authority over a variety of independent-college issues. This authority includes:

- **Institutional authorization and reauthorization**
  To offer degrees in Ohio, all higher education institutions, except those owned by the state of Ohio, must have authorization from the chancellor. This authorization, under current procedures, lasts ten years. Each institution must then seek reauthorization de novo unless it is a nonprofit college or university that has retained its regional accreditation and its state institutional authorization for the past twenty years.

- **Program authorization**
  To add a new degree to its academic programs, any institution – public or private – must receive authorization for the new program from the chancellor.

- **Administration of student aid programs**
  As part of the chancellor’s overall responsibility for overseeing the expenditure of state funds for higher education, the agency manages all state-funded financial aid.
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- Shared administration and oversight of the College Credit Plus (CCP) program with the Ohio Department of Education. CCP is Ohio’s dual-enrollment program where high school students can obtain college credit.
- All other initiatives the ODHE is currently pursuing can be found here.

In 2009, the oversight of creating metrics for educator preparation programs as well as issuing a report on the quality of teacher preparation programs transitioned from the Ohio Department of Education to the Ohio Department of higher Education.

In addition to their statutory oversight authority, the ODHE also assists in the administration of programs that benefit independent colleges, including:

- **The Higher Education Facilities Commission**  
  A board that approves tax-exempt joint bond funds for independent colleges and universities.

- **OhioLINK**  
  The state’s public-private academic library consortium.

- **Ohio Supercomputer Center**  
  Housed at Ohio State University, offering research and infrastructure services to both public and independent colleges.

- **Ohio College Access Network (OCAN)**  
  An independent 501(c)(3) that collaborates with the Regents and the Department of Education to increase the state’s college-going rate.

References:

Ohio Board of Regents

Ohio Revised Code Sections:

- **ORC §3333.01** – Authority of the Board of Regents and Terms of the Regents
- **ORC §3333.03** – Authority of the Chancellor
- **ORC §1713.02** – Authority over Private Colleges and Universities
- **ORC §3333.08** – Authority over Program Approval
- **ORC §3333.48** – Creating Metrics for Teacher Education Programs
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