

OHIO DIRECT ADMISSION
DATA SHARING & PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT
Between
The Ohio Department of Higher Education
and
Local Educational Agency

Article I: Purpose and Background

This Agreement is entered into by and between the Ohio Department of Higher Education (“ODHE”) and _____ (“LEA”) to establish the terms under which the LEA will participate in the Ohio Direct Admissions Pilot Program established under section 381.770 of House Bill 96 of the 136th General Assembly (“Direct Admission”) and disclose student data to ODHE in a manner consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (“FERPA”), 20 U.S.C. 1232g and 34 CFR Part 99 as well as additionally applicable federal and state laws, through the ODHE managed portal operated by the Management Council of Ohio Computer Network (“MC”), for the limited purpose of enabling direct admissions matching and facilitating postsecondary enrollment opportunities for students.

Section 381.770 (F) of House Bill 96 states: “no student, school governing body, or postsecondary institution shall be required to participate” in Direct Admission. To ensure no student is required to participate, LEAs must facilitate a process that allows students to opt out of participation.

Article I: LEA Responsibilities

The LEA agrees to the following:

- As required by § 381.770, of House Bill 96 of the 136th General Assembly, the LEA hereby confirms that its governing body has formally approved participation in the Ohio Direct Admission program.
- This Agreement shall constitute both the LEA’s application to participate and the acknowledgment of the governing body’s authorization of such participation.
- Identify a staff member to oversee Direct Admission implementation, serve as the point of contact, upload necessary data (if not already engaged with the Management Council of Ohio), and verify data.
- The LEA will comply in all respects with all applicable provisions of FERPA and its implementing regulations, including 34 C.F.R. §§ 99.31(a)(2), 99.34, in disclosing student data pursuant to this Agreement. In furtherance of those obligations, LEA represents that it will include Ohio Direct Admission in its annual FERPA notification to students and parents.
 - The notice shall inform families that student data will be disclosed to ODHE for purposes related to students’ enrollment or transfer to

participating postsecondary institutions pursuant to the Direct Admission Program.

- Provide students/parents with an opportunity to opt out of Ohio Direct Admission and certify within the Portal, by a date determined by ODHE, that each student being matched was given written notice by the LEA of the opportunity to opt out of Direct Admission.
- Notify students/parents of the process by which they may review the data elements that are being matched for Ohio Direct Admissions. This notice must include the timeframe for optional reviewing and submitting corrections or appeals. LEAs must provide this information to families as soon as possible after the school year begins so that students have enough time to complete the optional review process prior to the fall match.
- Ensure that emails from the @highered.ohio.gov domain can be delivered to students' school email addresses. This will ensure that students are able to receive the email that indicates the schools that are offering them direct admission.
- Submit all required data to ODHE in the manner specified by ODHE, using secure, encrypted channels.
- Ensure that all data submitted are accurate, up to date, and maintained consistently with state and federal requirements
- Follow guidance issued by ODHE. Up-to-date versions of ODHE guidance will be available at <https://highered.ohio.gov/initiatives/access-acceleration/direct-admission-program/direct-admission-program>.
- If the LEA chooses to adopt a written policy authorizing any LEA-operated high school to participate in the Direct Admissions pilot program, the LEA shall transmit not later than ninety days after the adoption of the policy an electronic copy of the policy to the Chancellor and the Director of Education and Workforce.

Article II: Data Elements to Be Shared

The LEA agrees to disclose the following student data for each high school student that did not opt out of participating in Direct Admission:

- Student name;
- Cumulative high school GPA;
- High school class rank;
- ACT and/or SAT scores (if available);
- Date of birth;
- Student contact information (email, mailing address);
- State student identifier (SSID); and

- Name of high school;

These data elements are necessary to determine eligibility for direct admission under criteria established individually by participating institutions of higher education.

Article III: FERPA Authority for Disclosure and Redisclosure

Disclosure to ODHE:

The LEA may disclose the data listed above without the student's written consent to ODHE, through ODHE's contractor, MC, pursuant to 34 C.F.R. 99.31(a)(2) for purposes related to the student's intent to enroll at one or more Ohio colleges and universities. Additionally, LEAs may share student data without the student's consent with another agency or institution if the student receives services from the other agency or institution pursuant to 34 C.F.R. 99.34. Direct Admission disclosures from LEA to ODHE qualify under these FERPA exceptions because ODHE is providing services, including resources and information that support a student's access to higher education and pathways to institutions of higher education through the Direct Admission Portal.

Redisclosure by ODHE/MC to Institutions of Higher Education: The data listed above will be redisclosed without the student's written consent to the institutions selected by the student in the Direct Admission Portal under 34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a)(2). This section states disclosure is permitted to an institution or entity when the student seeks or intends to enroll.

Article IV: Student Selection of Institutions

In Direct Admission, participating students will securely log in to the Direct Admission Portal and review the institutions to which the student is directly admitted based on the data elements being matched to the direct admission criteria established individually by participating institutions of higher education. At that point, the student may select which institution(s) will receive his/her data. This action constitutes an indication of intent to initiate enrollment.

When a student selects one or more institutions inside the Direct Admission Portal the student is deemed to seek or intend to enroll at those institutions under 34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a)(2) permitting ODHE to redisclose the relevant student data only to the institutions the student selects.

- Redisclosure will be logged within the Portal in compliance with 34 C.F.R. § 99.32.

Article V: ODHE Responsibilities

ODHE will:

- Maintain strict FERPA compliance in all use and redisclosure of student data.
- Ensure MC operates under direct control of ODHE.

- Implement role-based access controls, logging, encryption, retention, and destruction policies.
- Provide LEAs with templates for Direct Admission opt out and data review language.

Article VI: Data Protection

ODHE and MC shall:

- Store data in a secure environment with encryption in transit and at rest
- Maintain audit logs of access, matching activity, and redisclosures
- Destroy or return LEA-submitted data when it is no longer necessary to fulfill the purposes of the Direct Admissions program, including any retention needed for audit or program review or upon written request from the LEA
- Comply with State of Ohio cybersecurity standards

Article VII: Duration and Termination

This Agreement remains in effect for the duration of the Direct Admission unless terminated by either party with 30 days' written notice. Upon termination, ODHE and MC shall securely destroy all LEA-submitted data within the Portal.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement on the day and year set aside by their respective signatures.

LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY

By: Erika S. Bowen

Date: 6/30/26

Title: _____

Name: _____

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

By: Mike Duffey

Mike Duffey, *Chancellor*