

Senate Bill 1 Overview

This spring, Governor DeWine signed SB 1, the “Advance Higher Education Act,” into law, with most provisions of the bill taking effect June 27, 2025. A university-wide committee has developed implementation guidance in collaboration with teams of faculty, staff and students. Here’s a summary of what you need to know about how SB 1 impacts Ohio State and what we’re doing to comply. Information about more provisions and policies is available on go.osu.edu/SB1.

What **DOESN'T** SB 1 do?

Academic freedom is a core value at Ohio State. SB 1 does not restrict the freedom of faculty to teach, conduct research or publish research findings or to discuss in classrooms, in their own manner, any material that is relevant to the subject matter as defined in the course syllabus.

SB 1 also does not prohibit controversial issues from being discussed in class, though it does require the university to “ensure the fullest degree of intellectual diversity” to allow students to reach their own conclusions.

What **DOES** SB 1 Do?

The law has broad requirements for programs, operations and policies at Ohio’s public universities, including Ohio State.

THOSE INCLUDE:

Institutional Neutrality

Consistent with our existing Philosophy on Statements, SB 1 prevents universities from taking institutional positions on controversial political or global matters that extend beyond the university’s operations.

Partnerships with China

The law requires new processes for evaluating academic partnerships with and donations/contributions from China.

Invited Speakers

SB 1 requires Ohio State to post a list of most paid speakers at university-sponsored events. Events sponsored by registered student organizations are not included.

Policies

SB 1 requires the Board of Trustees to enact and update several policies, including faculty annual review, post-tenure review process and updated workload policies.

Statement of Commitment

SB 1 requires Ohio State to include a legislatively defined “Statement of Commitment” anywhere the university mission statement appears. The statement must also accompany offers of admission to students and offers of employment to faculty.

WHAT'S NEXT?

SB 1 includes new requirements for course syllabi and a required American government or history course for students. Both provisions must be implemented by Autumn 2026 and are not yet required at Ohio State. The university will continue to share updates when they are available.

QUESTIONS?

Visit Ohio State’s website dedicated to SB 1 compliance for details on the law’s requirements and read the latest news and updates. Ohio State community members can contact legislativequestions@osu.edu with questions or refer to guidance issued by their college or administrative unit.

