

SB 1 Grant Prohibitions

Decision Framework

The Advance Ohio Higher Education Act (SB 1) includes broad prohibitions on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Anything that is “for” or “intended to benefit” or “especially appropriate for” one or more protected class groups is prohibited by SB 1. Protected class is defined in SB 1 as race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or religion.

Anything that is “for” or “intended to benefit” or “especially appropriate for” one or more protected class groups is prohibited by SB 1. This includes but is not limited to:

- Any orientation or training course regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion.
 - The term “training” includes any event or program intended to equip attendees with skills, excluding content in a course offered for credit or that covers the work of academic inquiry or research. This includes content delivered live, in written form or recorded; professional development conferences, including non-credit educational offerings like executive education and continuing education; and peer education.
- Contracting with anyone whose role is or would be to promote admissions, hiring, or promotion based on the specified protected classes.
- Merely changing the name of any DEI office, department, orientation, training, or position while continuing to “serve the same or similar purposes,” or use “the same or similar means.”

SB 1 also prohibits gifts, donations and contributions from the People’s Republic of China.

Details about SB 1’s DEI prohibitions are available on the SB 1 Compliance [Implementation Guide](#) and information about SB 1’s impact on partnerships with China is available on the SB 1 Compliance [website](#).

Application to Research Activity

These prohibitions do not restrict the freedom of faculty to teach, conduct research and publish research findings or to discuss in classrooms, in their own manner, any material that is relevant to the subject matter within an academic discipline as defined in the course syllabus.



Evaluation

When evaluating if a research grant is allowed under SB 1 consider the following:

- **Is the research proposal from a faculty member with an academic and/or research focus that includes protected class?**
 - If yes, there is no SB 1 prohibition. SB 1 does not restrict the freedom to perform research, and the grant is likely in compliance with SB 1.
- **Does the grant proposal include a training requirement involving DEI or protected class?**
 - If so, this is prohibited unless an exception request is granted by the Ohio Department of Higher Education. More information about the exception process is available on the [SB 1 Compliance website](#).
- **Does the grant proposal include contracting with consultants or third parties whose role is to promote admissions, hiring, or promotion on the basis of protected class?**
 - If yes, this is prohibited.
 - If no, the grant may be allowed.
- **Is the grant funding from the People's Republic of China, including Hong Kong and Macau, meaning the government of China, the Chinese Communist Party, the People's Liberation Army, or any other extension of, or entity affiliated with, the government of China?**
 - If yes, this is prohibited.
 - If no, the grant may be allowed.

