

JLEOC Report: Career and College Promise & Cooperative Innovative High Schools

State Board of Education
February 2025

*Sneha Shah-Coltrane, Senior Director
Isaac Lake, Consultant
Advanced Learning and Gifted Education*



Report Requirements:

§ GS 115D-5(x) Career and College Promise (CCP)

§ GS 115C-238.55 Cooperative Innovative High Schools (CIHS)

“Success shall be measured by:

- High school retention rates
- High school completion rates
- High school dropout rates
- Certification and associate degree completion
- Admission to four-year institutions
- Post-graduation employment”



Career and College Promise:

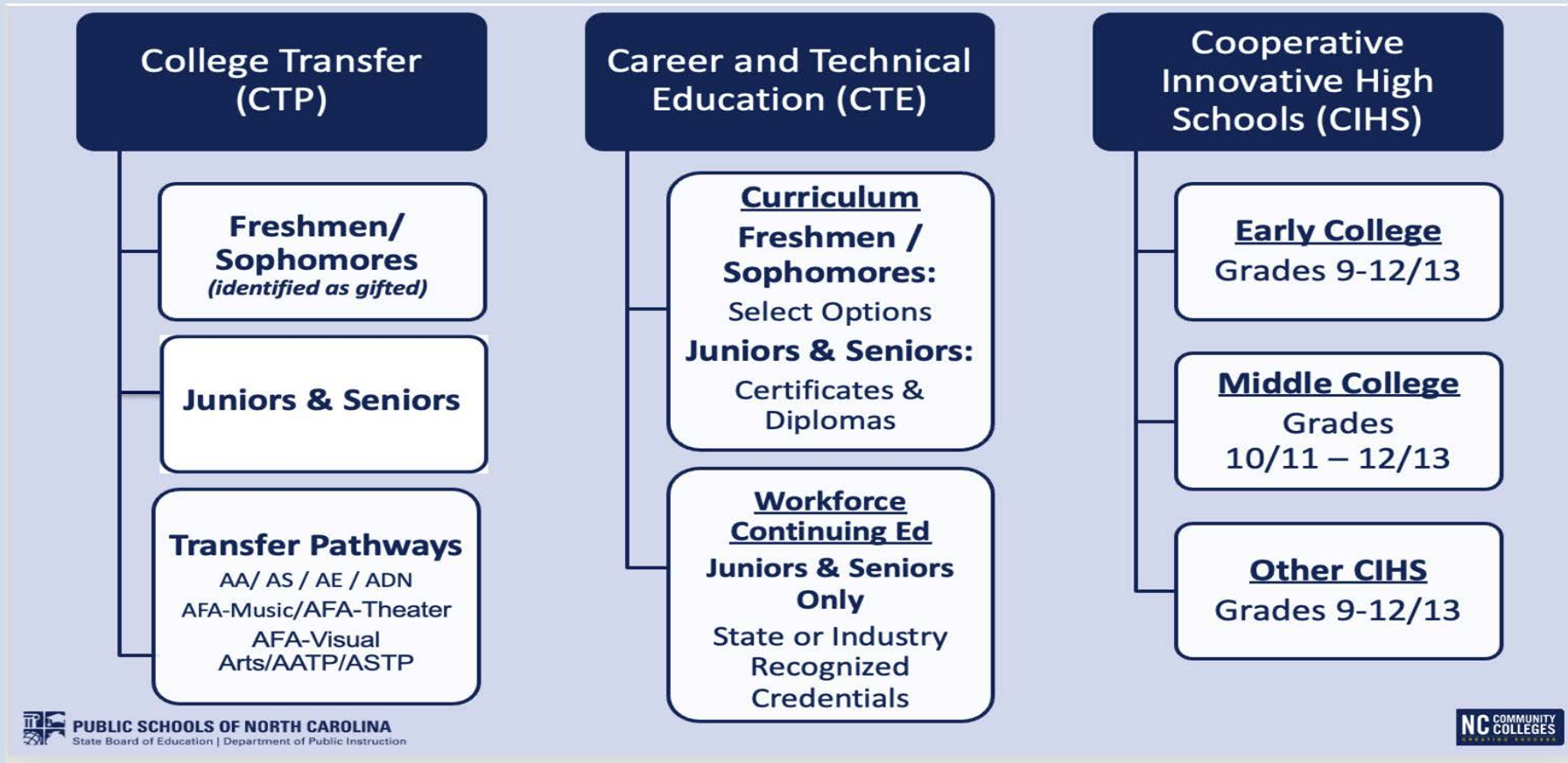
NC Session Law 2011-145

“The purpose of Career and College Promise is to offer structured opportunities for qualified high school students to dually enroll in community college courses that provide pathways consistent with subsection (b) of this section that lead to a certificate, diploma, or degree as well as provide entry-level jobs skills.”



Career and College Promise: Structured Pathways

NC's program to provide high school students access to post-secondary education, without cost.



CCP Program: Key Report Highlights

- **36%** of all graduates earned high school credit through dual enrollment opportunities in their high school years. This is a **3% increase** from the previous year. This represents 37,598 students who enrolled in average of 7 courses.
- In 2023-2024, there were **78,811 public high school students** enrolled in college courses while in high school, **an increase of 9% from the previous year.**
- On average, high school students perform better at community colleges than the typical student population.
- UNC system admissions of NC Public High School students increased by 6,367, **an increase of 9% from the previous year.**



Focus on Equity and Excellence

Number and percent of 2023-24 graduates who enrolled in at least one dual enrollment course while in high school by race/ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity	Number of graduates who enrolled in at least one dual enrollment course while in high school	Total Number of graduates	Percent of graduates enrolled in at least one dual enrollment course while in high school by Race/Ethnicity	
American Indian or Alaska Native	363	1,045	35%	(0%)
Asian	2,103	4,258	49%	(4%) ↑
Black or African American	6,410	26,506	24%	(1%) ↑
Hispanic or Latino	6,284	22,152	28%	(0%)
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	52	152	34%	(-1%)
Two or More	1,675	5,219	32%	(1%) ↑
White	22,932	50,875	45%	(1%) ↑
Total	39,819	110,207	36%	(1%) ↑



NC Community College System Office: Report Highlights

- 19% increase in CTE pathway participation
- 26% increase in CTE Workforce Continuing Education participation
- 12% increase in the College Transfer pathway
- Students participating in CCP are continuing to show strong success as measured by college GPA, college course enrollment and credential attainment.



NC Community College System Office: CCP Investment Cost Analysis Highlights

For 2023-24, total estimated investment of waivers for CCP was \$79,379,921 (does not include HS ADM cost). Proportionally grew.

- The total estimated investment of waivers for College Transfer Pathway was \$40,611,688.
- The total estimated investment of waivers for the CTE Pathway was \$11,260,143.
- The total estimated investment of waivers for CIHS was \$27,247,296.
- The total estimated investment of waivers for Workforce Continuing Education was \$260,794



SBE CCP Policy CACP-000: CCP Partnership Agreement

- The State Board amended CCP Policy in December 2024.
- The SBE policy was amended to:
 - Address questions from PSUs about participation and student eligibility criteria.
 - Clarify that PSUs determine their level of participation in CCP, and that PSUs may not add additional student eligibility criteria for students to access the program.
 - Have LEAs submit partnership agreements to NCDPI beginning in Summer 2025.



CCP Evaluation Partnership USED Grant 7 year, \$5 million

Partners include:

- SERVE Center at UNCG
- North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
- North Carolina Community College System
- RAND Corporation

Dr. Julie Edmunds

Director, Early College Research Center
UNCG SERVE Center



CAREER AND COLLEGE PROMISE

IMPACT, PARTICIPATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION

Julie Edmunds, Director, Early College Research
Center, SERVE, UNCG

jedmunds@serve.org



**EARLY COLLEGE
RESEARCH CENTER**



North Carolina Department of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

ALL THREE CCP PATHWAYS HAVE POSITIVE IMPACTS ON STUDENTS



Higher rates of high school graduation and more college credits earned in high school



More likely to earn a postsecondary credential



Mitigated the impact of COVID on postsecondary outcomes

Impacts on workforce outcomes
are coming soon!!!

DIFFERENT GROUPS PARTICIPATE AT DIFFERENT RATES



College Transfer Pathway has most unequal participation.

Males half as likely to participate as females

Black and Hispanic students half as likely to participate as White students

Economically distressed students half as likely to participate as non-economically distressed students



In CIHS and CTE pathways, participation among these groups is much more equal.



Rural students participate at 2 X the rate of urban/suburban students

STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE ACCESS AND SUCCESS



Support high quality secondary-postsecondary partnerships (MOU development is key!)



Build students' awareness of college courses



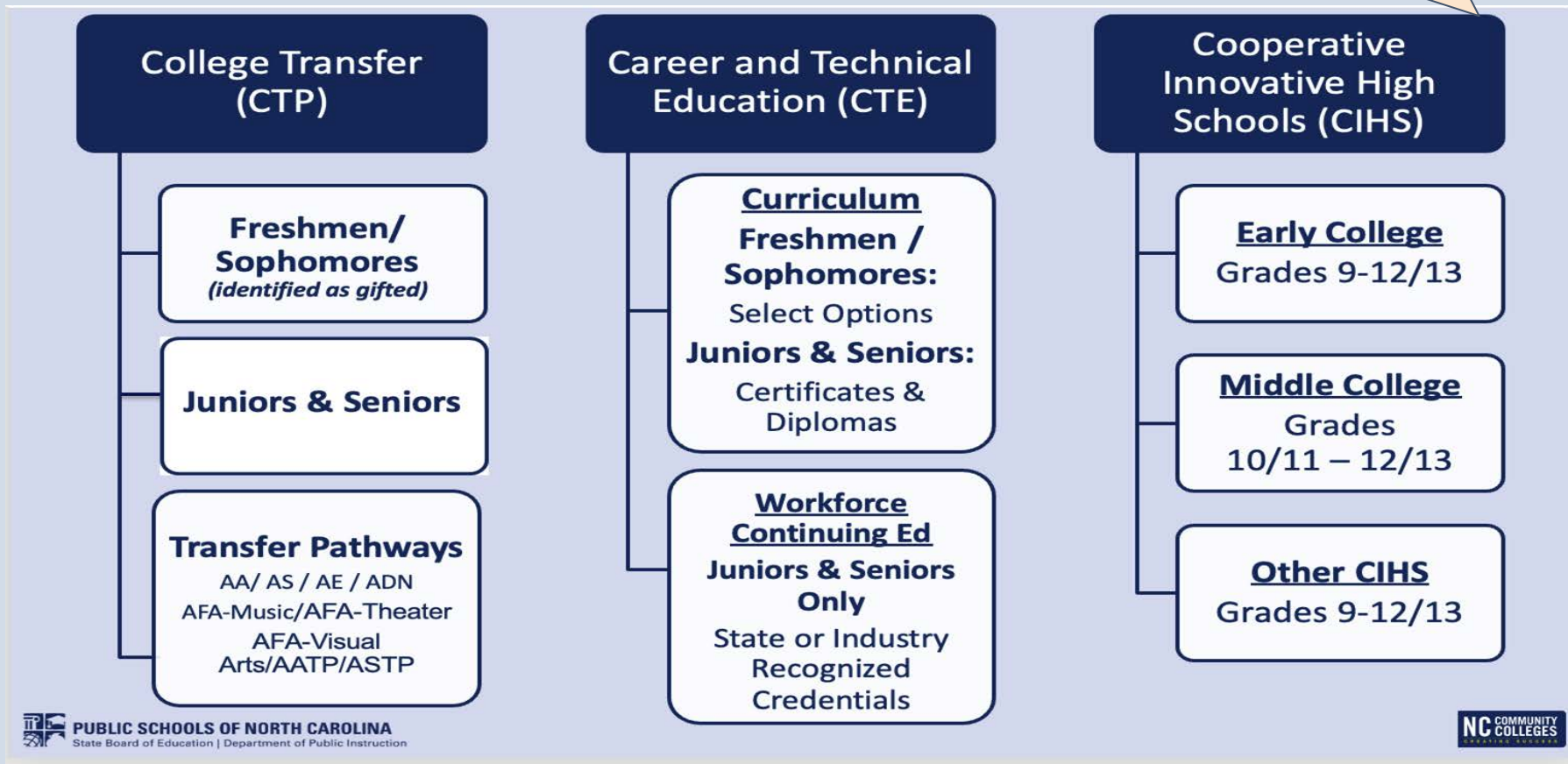
Reduce barriers to access (transportation, book costs, schedules)



High quality advising on courses and careers

Career and College Promise: Structured Pathways

NC's program to provide high school students access to post-secondary education, without cost.



Cooperative Innovative High School (CIHS) Programs:

NC Session Law 2011-145

“The purpose of this Part is to authorize local boards of education to jointly establish with one or more boards of trustees cooperative innovative programs in high schools and colleges or universities that will expand students' opportunities for educational success through high quality instructional programming.”



Cooperative Innovative High Schools (CIHS/Early Colleges): 2023-2024

Currently, there are 134 operating CIHS:

- 118 CIHS partner with community colleges
- 11 CIHS partner with UNC institutions
- 5 CIHS partner with independent colleges

Two additional CIHS programs were approved by NCGA in December 2024 and will open in Fall 2025.



AS OF SEPTEMBER 2024



CIHS School in the LEA

Number of CIHS Schools in the LEA

CIHS Programs: Key Report Findings for 2023-2024

Academic outcomes are consistently above state averages:

- High school retention and completion rates
 - High school dropout rates
 - Performance in Community College courses
- CIHS enrollment was 28,942 students, an **increase** of 580 students from the previous year.
 - 6,274 students graduated from CIHS, an **increase** of 64 students from the previous year.
 - CIHS graduates earned **3,498** Associate Degrees, an **increase** of 97 from previous year.
 - 1,918 CIHS students earned **5,288** industry-recognized credentials through high school CTE courses, based on NCDPI data.



CIHS Programs: Key Report Findings

- **12,694*** applications from CIHS students were accepted by the UNC System four-year institutions for Fall 2024, an **increase of 1,139** applications from the previous year.
- **3,093**** applications from CIHS students were admitted to North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities for Fall 2024, an increase of 1,022 applications from the previous year.
- Academic outcomes above state averages:
 - High school retention and completion rates
 - High school dropout rates
 - Performance in Community College courses

*Students may apply and be admitted to multiple UNC Institutions. These data are preliminary, refer to the UNC System [Stats, Data, & Reports](#) page for official results.

**Students may apply and be admitted to multiple NCICU Institutions.



Highlight of Student Voice

**Edgecombe County Schools
Edgecombe Early College**

Matt Bristow-Smith, Principal

**Yesenia Sanchez Cruz,
Current Senior**



Highlight of Student Voice

**Wake County Public Schools
Panther Creek High School**

**Richard “Richie” Basile,
‘23 WCPSS and ‘24 NCSU
graduate**



**Career and College Promise
continues to be a pillar of
excellence in North Carolina.**

***We must continue to expand
its reach.***



Continue to Build on Success

- **CCP/CIHS SBE Policy Support:**
 - Continue to support LEAs and IHE partners to implement CCP Partnership Agreements successfully
 - Continue to share CCP Promising Practices
- **CCP/CIHS Practices:**
 - Continue supporting new CIHS Leaders and new CCP Coordinators
 - Integration of equity and excellence
- **Communication and collaboration:**
 - Expand access and ensure student success
 - Create new ways to promote program
- **Connection to postsecondary plans:**
 - In all pathways
 - Not just a single course



CIHS and CCP Pathway Success Stories

- This year's report includes CIHS Success Stories from across NC, as well as CCP Success Stories from the College Transfer and CTE Pathways.
- These stories continue to show transformational outcomes for CIHS and CCP Pathway students across North Carolina.
- Examples follow from:
 - Bladen Early College
 - Caldwell Early College
 - Madison Early College
 - Randolph Community College



Bladen Early College, Bladen County Schools

Founded in 2018, Bladen Early College is a relative newcomer to the CIHS community. After Covid, BECHS began work to increase achievement, meet students' needs and improve the rate of credential completion while reducing failures. As a team, we initiated several strategies with exciting and historic results.

To increase our enrollment, we included students and teachers in the recruitment process. We revised our admissions process and set enrollment goals with the aim of reaching a capacity class by the Fall of 2026. We also added a faculty advisor program. All Sophomores and Juniors have an assigned staff member that holds weekly in-person meetings. We arrange tutoring for students in need.

In 2022, our school performance grade was 64/C. In 2023, our school performance grade rose to an 83/B. On the September 4, 2024, release of Accountability data, Bladen Early College made history by becoming Bladen County's first ever A school, with a school performance grade of 87! This A is a testament to the hard work of our staff and students.



Caldwell Early College, Caldwell County Schools

At the beginning of the 2023-24 school year, our Caldwell Early College Civics Instructor, our Economics and Personal Finance Instructor, and our Teacher Support Specialist were accepted to participate in a Co-Designing Profession-based learning (Pro-BL) project in Caldwell County. The teachers worked through the design process, paired with a local business, and our students worked directly with the business to research and solve a real-world problem.

- 89 Caldwell Early College 9th grade participants worked with Caldwell County Human Resources to explore the decline in population in Caldwell County.
- 60 juniors were paired with Exela, working on the problem of better communicating the variety of jobs available with the pharmaceutical company, which is one of the largest employers in Caldwell County.
- 80 12th graders worked with Granite Insurance, a fast-growing niche-market local insurance company, on improving employee recruitment.

Participants in all three projects shared their challenges, solutions, and experiences at the countywide Pro-BL exhibition that included leaders from education, business, and government agencies throughout our community.



Madison Early College, Madison County Schools

Our success story is of a graduate who beat the odds and ended an unhealthy family cycle for herself and her future. This graduate beat the odds and ended an unhealthy family cycle for herself and her future.

Through foster care and the support system at Madison Early College, this young lady graduated with honors, earning her associate in arts degree, and currently attends Mars Hill University, majoring in elementary education.

She was a multi-sport athlete at the Varsity level, a member of our National Honor Society Chapter, and she earned both high school and college honors upon graduation. The ability to build those relationships within our CIHS to surround this student with the love and support needed to achieve this accomplishment is what makes our program so special.



Randolph Community College

In April 2024, Dr. Jill Biden hosted a panel to discuss dual enrollment opportunities that included Governor Roy Cooper, and Undersecretary of the Department of Education, Amy Loyd. In addition to local representatives, several high school students also joined the panel. One was a high school senior from Uwharrie Charter Academy who, through Randolph Community College's CCP program, had completed an EMT certification and several general education courses in preparation for beginning college at North Carolina State University.

This student plans to become a trauma surgeon. Through Randolph Community College (RCC), he has been given the opportunity to accomplish these goals.

This first-generation college student was awarded the Good Night Scholarship. In November of 2024, he was invited to the White House to share his experiences with the Biden Administration and policymakers from across the country. He shared that with the help of the community college's Career Coaches, he was able to transfer a full year of college credits, while working as an EMT during the summer months. This young man plans to attend medical school after completing his undergraduate degree.



SBE CCP Policy CACP-000: CCP Partnership Agreement

- This policy requires each Local Education Agency (LEA) to have developed a CCP Partnership Agreement with their CCP college partner by December 2023. The areas outlined in the policy are key topics that ensure quality programming for high school students.
- The areas outlined in the policy are:
 - Establishment of partnership protocols, including regular communication;
 - Integration of LEA and college program offerings;
 - Plan of communication to students/families to broaden access;
 - Student academic support systems, including advising and sharing student progress;
 - Responsibilities of school/district and college personnel;
 - Responsibilities for program expenses; and
 - Responsibilities of site operations, including use of facilities and transportation.



SBE CCP Policy CACP-000: CCP Partnership Agreement

- *Program Participation and Eligibility: Public School Units (PSUs) shall determine their level of participation in the Career and College Promise program. PSUs that participate in CCP shall award high school credit for college coursework according to the SBE Course for Credit policy (CCRE-001).*
- *Student eligibility for the CCP College Transfer and Career and Technical Education pathways are established by the NC Community College System. PSUs shall not add additional requirements for eligibility. LEAs establish the eligibility requirements for Cooperative Innovative High Schools under their jurisdiction.*
- *The CCP Partnership Agreement will be submitted by the LEA and kept on file at NCDPI beginning Summer 2025.*



SBE CCP Policy CACP-000: CCP Partnership Agreement

Specific Development Supports for LEAs and Colleges:

- Face to Face professional development with work time in Spring 2025
- CCP Partnership Agreements Guide, which includes promising practices in CCP from across NC
- NCDPI and NCCCS continue to provide technical assistance and support for the implementation of CCP Partnership Agreements, jointly facilitating regular meetings for LEA CCP Coordinators and their community college partners' staff, as well as one-on one meetings with LEA and IHE partners scheduled at their convenience.



CCP Program: Big Takeaways 2023-2024



CCP participation continues to increase:

- 36% of recent graduates participated, a 1% increase from 2022-2023.
- **The number of high school students participating increased 9% from 2022-23.**
- Participation increased for most student sub-groups.



CCP students continue to succeed: 36% of all graduates earned high school credit through CCP, a 3% increase from the previous year.



UNC system admissions of NC Public High School students increased by 6,367, **an increase of 9% from the previous year.**



Research indicates CCP participants attained postsecondary credentials at higher rates than similar non-participants.



Research indicates the benefits for economically disadvantaged students were generally larger than those for other populations.