



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

Dr. William S. Carver, II
Interim President

NUMBERED MEMO CC23-005

(Information Issued also as Public Safety Memo PS23-02)

TO: Community College Presidents, Senior Continuing Education Administrators
FROM: Barbara Boyce, Interim Associate VP, Workforce and Continuing Education Programs
SUBJECT: **SBCC-Approved Course List for 15-Year-Old Firefighters (Effective February 1, 2023)**
DATE: January 27, 2023

On January 20, 2023, the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) took action to allow community colleges to enroll qualified 15-year-old firefighters in selected fire-training courses, beginning February 1, 2023. This action was authorized in [Session Law 2022-69](#) House Bill 661 and supports the workforce development needs of the state’s volunteer fire departments.

The related State-Board actions follow:

- Approval of the attached “**Specialized Course List for Minor Firefighters Pursuant to G.S. 115D-20(4): SBCC-Approved Course List for 15-Year-Old Firefighters**,” with an effective date of February 1, 2023. *Reference:* SBCC Agenda Item [PROG 01](#).
- Amendment of **1D SBCCC 300.4 Program Management**, with an effective date of February 1, 2023, to allow for the enrollment of 15-year-old minor firefighters, as authorized in the Session Law. *Reference:* SBCC Agenda Item [PROG 02](#).
 - Related memos documenting this revision process are [CC22-053](#) and [CC23-003](#).

Please note:

- **This memo supersedes Public Safety Memo PS18-04.**
- **Colleges may earn FTE** for 15-year-old firefighters enrolled per these policies.
- As defined by the Session Law, these 15-year-old students must be “uncompensated” members of a “bona fide fire department” to qualify for enrollment under these policies; therefore, **they do qualify for registration fee waivers** in the same manner as other affiliated firefighters, as outlined in CC18-053 [Tuition and Registration Fee Waiver Reference Guide](#).
- These policies are **not** designed for Career and College Promise (CCP): Fifteen-year-olds are **not permitted** to enroll in any CCP course if they do not meet all CCP requirements.
- Colleges may continue to enroll and earn FTE for those older than 15 under policies and practices that have not changed (the specialized course list only applies to 15-year-old firefighters).
- Moving forward, the *SBCC-Approved Course List for 15-Year-Old Firefighters* will be maintained in the *NCCCS Tuition and Registration Fee Waiver Reference Guide*.

Attachment

C: Dr. Levy Brown Dr. Lisa Eads Ms. Tracy McPherson Mr. Kenny Weatherington

Specialized Course List for Minor Firefighters Pursuant to G.S. 115D-20(4):

SBCC-Approved Course List for 15-Year-Old Firefighters

Effective February 1, 2023

Approved by the State Board of Community Colleges on January 20, 2023, per [PROG 01](#)

Background:

Session Law 2022-69 House Bill 661, approved on July 8, 2022, authorizes community colleges to enroll 15-year-olds in fire training courses, as authorized in G.S. 115D-20(4)e, pursuant to G.S. 95-25.5(n), and on a specialized course list approved by the State Board of Community colleges in accordance with G.S. 115D-5(b)(2). The following courses, along with specific caveats, are approved for this purpose.

Caveats to Enrollment of 15-Year-Olds in Any Community College Fire Training Course:

- Fifteen-year-olds are **not permitted** to enroll in any course that includes live fire training.
- Fifteen-year-olds are **not permitted** to enroll in any course that contains content that would require the student to possess a valid North Carolina driver's license.
- Fifteen-year-olds are **not permitted** to enroll in any course governed by an outside entity, including but not limited to the NC Office of the State Fire Marshal which governs the fire certification program under the authority of the NC Fire and Rescue Commission; the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its divisions; and the NC Department of Labor (NCDOL), if/when enrollment of 15-year-olds is prohibited by the outside entity.
- Fifteen-year-olds are **not permitted** to enroll in any Career and College Promise (CCP) course if they do not meet all CCP requirements.
- **Enrollment of 15-year-olds is limited to** the Workforce Continuing Education course ID numbers/prefixes from the NCCCS Combined Course Library listed below and must not violate any of the other caveats above.
- Registration fee waivers authorized for public safety responders may be issued to 15-year-old firefighters enrolling in courses on this approved list, provided that they meet the fire department affiliation parameters outlined in the Fire Departments section of the *NCCCS Tuition and Registration Fee Waiver Reference Guide*.

State-Certification-Related Fire Courses Approved for 15-Year-Old Community College Students

Note: Enrollment of 15-year-old firefighters must comply with the associated caveats listed above.

FIP-3031	Firefighter 2019 - Block 01	FIP-5720	TR MAG Machinery-Ag Block
FIP-3032	Firefighter 2019 – Block 02	FIP-5721	TR MAG-Rescue Ops Machine/Ag
FIP-3033	Firefighter 2019 - Block 03	FIP-5722	TR MAG-Stabilize/Extricate
FIP-3040	FF General and Comm (FF 2019)	FIP-5723	TR MAG-Large Machine/Ag Equip
FIP-3041	FF Fireground Ops 1 (FF 2019)	FIP-5724	TR MAG-Victim Management
FIP-3042	FF Fireground Ops 2 (FF 2019)	FIP-5800	TR Ropes Block
FIP-3043	FF Fireground Ops 3 (FF 2019)	FIP-5801	TR Ropes Rescue Operations
FIP-3044	FF Fireground Ops 4 (FF 2019)	FIP-5802	TR Ropes Anchors

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FIP-3045	FF Fireground Ops 5 (FF 2019)	FIP-5803	TR Ropes Mechanical Advantage
FIP-3046	FF Fireground Ops 6 (FF 2019)	FIP-5804	TR Ropes Fixed Ropes Systems
FIP-3047	FF Fireground Ops 7 (FF 2019)	FIP-5805	TR Ropes Lower & Raises
FIP-3048	FF Fireground Ops 8 (FF 2019)	FIP-5806	TR Ropes High Lines
FIP-3050	FF Rescue Ops 1 (FF 2019)	FIP-5807	TR Ropes Victim Management
FIP-3051	FF Fire and Life Safety Initiatives (FF 2019)	FIP-6300	TR Wilderness Block
FIP-3555	HM Awareness	FIP-6301	TR Rescue Operations
FIP-3556	HM Ops	FIP-6302	TR Rescue Rigging
FIP-3557	HM Ops MSC (6.2)	FIP-6303	TR Navigation and Tracking
FIP-3558	HM Ops MSC (6.3/6.4)	FIP-6304	TR Victim Management
FIP-3559	HM Ops MSC (6.7)	FIP-6413	Mayday/Safety & Survival
FIP-3560	HM Ops MSC (6.8)	FIP-6500	TR Technical Rescuer Block
FIP-3561	HM Ops MSC (6.5/6.9)	FIP-6501	TR Rescue Operations
FIP-3562	HM Ops MSC (6.6)	FIP-6502	TR Anchors & MAS
FIP-3716	Fire Chief 101	FIP-6503	TR Fixed Rope Systems
FIP-3717	Fire Chief 101 Update	FIP-6504	TR Health and Wellness
FIP-3718	Fire Officer I	FIP-6505	TR Helicopter Transport
FIP-4630	FLSE Educator Level I	FIP-6506	TR Horizontal Systems
FIP-4631	FLSE Educator Level II	FIP-6507	TR Lower and Raises
FIP-4632	FLSE Educator Level III	FIP-6508	TR Personal Protective Equip
FIP-5710	TR VR Vehicle Rescue Block	FIP-6509	TR Rescue Equipment
FIP-5711	TR VR Rescue Ops/Vehicle Rescue	FIP-6510	TR Rope Basics
FIP-5712	TR VR Vehicle Anatomy/New Tech	FIP-6511	TR Victim Management
FIP-5713	TR VR Stabilization/Extrication	FIP-6900	Rescue Officer
FIP-5714	TR VR Large Vehicle Rescue	FIP-7000	Traffic Incident Management
FIP-5715	TR VR Victim Management	FIP-7001	FF/TR Emergency Medical Care

Non-Certification-Related Fire Training Courses Approved for 15-Year-Old Community College Students

Non-certification related courses approved for 15-year-olds **must meet all of the following criteria:**

- Must have a Workforce Continuing Education course ID from the Combined Course Library that has an FIP prefix;
- Must have content **specific to and limited to** topics that align with training topics of one or more of the certification-related courses specified in the approved certification-course list above; and
- Must not violate any of the caveats above.

If you have questions, please contact Kenny Weatherington, Fire/Rescue and Emergency Management Training Specialist, at weatheringtonk@nccommunitycolleges.edu or email publicsafetytraining@nccommunitycolleges.edu.