

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Ninth and Tenth Pilot Program

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) is requested to approve an allocation of State Board Reserve Funds (\$25,000) to support a pilot program expanding eligibility criteria for 9th and 10th grade students in Career and College Promise (CCP), Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways.

Rationale: This initiative is part of an effort to increase access to CTE programs opportunities. The pilot will explore potential additional eligibility criteria to support colleges in offering expanded access to CCP programs. The project's goal is to gather valuable data to inform future state policy decisions regarding CCP eligibility.

Objective: The objective of this proposal is to secure funding to support participating colleges with the operational and logistical aspects of the pilot program, which will assess the effectiveness of expanding program eligibility to 9th and 10th grade students in CTE pathways.

Scope of the Pilot Program: Participating colleges will work with local school districts to implement and study innovative measures to assess college readiness and student success. The study will evaluate the pilot outcomes, enrollment trends, and pathway completion. The proposed pilot will be specific to the following criteria for participating colleges:

- Colleges located in a Tier 1 or Tier 2 county or colleges serving high schools that could benefit from serving student populations with CTE pathways
- Submission of a pilot program application
- Identified support services tailored to younger students, e.g., progress monitoring, academic advising, and mentorships
- Identified support from the college's partner school district(s)

In accordance with NC General Statutes 115D-20(4), the proposed pilot will focus on the following curriculum program areas:

- Industrial and Engineering Technologies
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Transportation Systems
- Construction
- Business Technologies

Allocated State Board Reserve Funds will be available for pilot colleges to cover costs such as:

- Transportation and textbooks
- Instructional materials and supplies to implement CTE coursework for students
- Instructional fees
- Data collection and evaluation
- Student support, onboarding, and internship opportunities

Participating colleges will be expected to submit an initial report by December 15, 2025, and a follow up report by April 15, 2026, that includes:

- Initial student outcomes, including enrollment, persistence/completion rates, and career placement metrics for students in the CTE pathways.
- A recommendation for a new eligibility option that will allow 9th and 10th grade students to enroll in CTE pathways, addressing how this change will improve access to CCP.
- An analysis of the potential impact on program enrollment and outcomes for both 9th/10th graders and upper-grade students.
- A strategy for implementing this eligibility option, including any necessary adjustments to academic policies, partnerships with local education agencies (LEAs), and coordination with state regulations.

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