

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CCP CTE Ninth & Tenth Grade Expansion Pilot Support
FY 2025-2026

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

Rationale: After the pilot and FC 03 was approved by the State Board in May 2025, the System Office received an overwhelming response from colleges to participate in the CCP CTE ninth and tenth grade expansion pilot in June. Several participating colleges across the state have identified the greatest need to support prospective students in transportation and textbooks. Funding is crucial to address significant barriers that hinder student access to CCP CTE pathways. This additional allocation aims to prioritize funds for those concerns equally among the pilot colleges to enhance student access.

Strategic Plan Reference: Objective 2.3: Streamline and strengthen the pathways to community colleges and careers; Strategy 2.3.3: Increase dual enrollment opportunities and expand Career and College Promise (CCP) participation.

Background: In May, the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) approved a waiver of the rule 1D SBCCC 400.11(o)(3)(A-F) Education Services through Career and College Promise (CCP) to implement a pilot program expanding eligibility criteria for 9th and 10th grade students in Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways. The waiver will remain in effect through August 15, 2026, for the selected pilot colleges.

Objective: This proposal seeks secure funding to assist participating colleges in managing the operational and logistical aspects of the pilot program. The program will evaluate the effectiveness of extending eligibility to younger students in CTE pathways.

Scope of the Pilot Program: The participating colleges will collaborate with local school districts to implement and evaluate innovative measures aimed at college access and student success. The pilot will analyze outcomes related to enrollment trends and pathway completion in accordance with NC General Statutes 115D-20(4).

Potential Pilot Outcomes: Results from the pilot will be used to assess the feasibility of expanding Career and College Promise (CCP) eligibility for 9th and 10th grade CTE students. Extensions or adjustments to the waiver may be requested based on the findings of the study. Potential deliverables may include:

- Increased Workforce Engagement: Exposure to CTE programs earlier in their academic careers may help students better understand career opportunities, leading to more motivated students pursuing careers in high-demand fields

- **Early Skill Development:** Early access to CTE programs may help students gain industry-recognized credentials and technical skills, enhancing their readiness for post-graduation employment or further education.
- **Expanded and Accessible Opportunities for Younger Students:** The pilot could increase access to CTE pathways for underserved or underrepresented students by extending CCP enrollment to 9th and 10th graders beyond what is already available.
- **Higher Participation Rates:** Younger students may demonstrate greater interest in exploring CTE programs, leading to increased overall enrollment in CTE programs.
- **Smoother Transition to Postsecondary Education:** The pilot could reveal whether a new CCP enrollment option for younger students eases their transition to postsecondary education by providing early exposure to college-level coursework and expectations.

Funding Source and Availability: FY 2025-2026 funding is available from the State Board Reserve from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. G.S. 115 D-5(j) provides that “(t)he State Board of Community Colleges shall use its Board Reserve Fund for feasibility studies, pilot projects, start-up of new programs, and innovative ideas.” The State Board Reserve is a recurring funding source of \$250,000 annually. Of the remaining balance, this request would allocate \$25,000

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