

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Regional Online Adult High School Pilot Project
FY 2025-2026

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) is requested to approve an allocation of \$225,000 for Halifax Community College for the purpose of supporting a Regional Adult High School Diploma (AHS) pilot project. This initiative will be funded with Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title II funds.

Strategic Plan Reference: Goal 2: Increase access and enrollment at North Carolina community colleges to meet the state’s educational attainment goal and expand postsecondary opportunities. Strategy 2.1.1

Background: The Adult High School program, a collaborative effort between local public-school systems and community colleges, began in the 1960s as part of broader adult education initiatives and was formally structured in the early 1990s to provide standardized educational opportunities for adults seeking to complete their high school education. Currently, 48 of the 58 community colleges partner with their local education agencies to offer Adult High School programs.

Rationale: Establishing a fully online Adult High School diploma program in North Carolina’s Tier 1 rural counties represents a strategic investment in the state’s educational and economic future. This initiative addresses pressing educational disparities by expanding access for underserved populations, promoting credential attainment, and enhancing economic mobility. Additionally, it leverages the state’s investment in digital infrastructure to foster long-term economic resilience in some of North Carolina’s most economically distressed communities.

Implementing a scalable and cost-effective model allows community colleges to extend services across multiple counties without incurring the expenses associated with operating separate programs. This regional approach supports inter-institutional collaboration, maximizes resource efficiency, and enhances the long-term sustainability of the initiative.

Halifax Community College, Martin Community College, and Roanoke-Chowan Community College will form a three-college regional consortium to implement this Adult High School initiative. As of 2025, all counties served by these institutions are designated Tier 1—signifying the highest level of economic distress in the state.

Halifax Community College, which serves four Local Education Agencies (LEAs), will serve as the lead institution for this initiative. Each LEA has formally committed to supporting the project, reflecting strong local buy-in. Moreover, Halifax Community College’s leadership team has demonstrated clear dedication to launching and sustaining a virtual Adult High School program that effectively supports students’ transition into the workforce or postsecondary education.

The proposed structure includes the establishment of a centralized program hub, managed by a dedicated, full-time Adult High School Project Director. This role will be responsible for guiding the program from initial implementation through student enrollment, progression, and completion. Centralized oversight will reduce the administrative burden on each participating institution while standardizing the program's processes. The initiative will benefit from close coordination with both the Title II program director and the director of Adult High School programs, ensuring a cohesive and high-quality educational experience for all participants.

Deliverables:

Halifax Community College will:

- Manage and provide oversight of the Adult High School consortium.
- Organize and oversee the hiring, training, marketing, and implementation of the Online Adult High School Program.
- Capture and report information and data required by the pilot program.
- Participate in meetings with the NCCC System Office College and Career Readiness team
- Compile report(s) tracking number of people served, number of high school diplomas awarded
- Serve on the Adult High School Advisory Board
- Develop an Instructional Service MOU
- Submit a final report summarizing the outcomes of the Online Adult High School Diploma program.
- Serve as the liaison between the colleges and the local education agencies.

Allocation Amount and Time Period: The total allocation of \$225,000 is for the Period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Fund Source and Availability: WIOA Title II Leadership Funds

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