

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Legislative Agenda

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges is requested to approve the attached Legislative Agenda.

Background: The NC Association of Community College Presidents Legislative and Finance Committees jointly endorsed the proposed Legislative Agenda during their Winter Conference. The agenda was also shared with the full association. The Legislative Agenda will be presented to the NC Association of Community College Trustees Executive Committee later in February where we will also ask for their endorsement.

Contact(s):

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Propel NC

Legislative Agenda for a New Community College Business Model

Updated 2026-2027



STRATEGIC PRIORITY

PROPEL NC transforms the community college business model by aligning funding with labor-market data to support historic enrollment growth and high-demand industries. The agenda prioritizes significant recurring investments, led by a \$68.5M Workforce Sector Funding Modernization formula, alongside strategic policy changes for long-term operational stability.

<p>PROPEL NC Workforce Sector Funding Modernization Formula Implement a data-driven funding model based on labor-market needs. This incentivizes continuing education and high-wage sectors, creating transparency and alignment between programs and industry demands.</p>	<p>\$68.5M (R)</p>
<p>PROPEL NC Base Funding Modernization and Enhancement Ensures colleges have effective tools and services to support students and boost student completion.</p>	<p>\$24.4M (R)</p>
<p>PROPEL NC Enrollment Growth Increase Reserve Ensure a stable, reliable funding source for enrollment spikes at community colleges that see large enrollment growth throughout the academic year.</p>	<p>\$6M (NR)</p>
<p>PROPEL NC Excess Tuition Retention Revise GS 115D-31(e) to return total excess tuition receipts proportionally to all colleges based on actual receipts collected by colleges, if no budget call-backs are necessary.</p>	<p>Statutory Change</p>

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

Enrollment Growth Funding - Community colleges are increasingly the FIRST CHOICE for post-secondary education across North Carolina. This has driven enrollment growth at historic level for transformative, innovative student and business engagement and sector partnerships.

Community College Multi-Campus Funding - Allocate funding for State Board-approved multi-campus centers at Alamance, Forsyth Tech, and Wake Tech Community Colleges.

Community College Employee Salary Increases - Provide salary increases for community college personnel in line with state employee rates to ensure the recruitment and retention of a high-quality workforce.

STRATEGIC FUNDING INITIATIVES

ApprenticeshipNC - Provides stable funding for a statewide ApprenticeshipNC framework, ensuring a strong foundation, with needed flexibility to make continuous improvements and provide a governance structure which provides system-level support for apprenticeships through the 58 colleges to expand opportunities for apprentices and employers statewide. A \$3.1M(R) investment would increase the State’s recurring investment in apprenticeships to \$4.3M.

Capital Funding Consideration - Include community colleges in capital and equipment funding proposals, as a 2024 survey identified nearly \$3 billion in needs across the 58 colleges. Increased enrollment continues to strain aging infrastructure.