STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
NC College Connect Direct Access Letter
State Board Reserve Request
FY 2026-27

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) is requested to approve $70,000 in State Board Reserve funds to finance the printing and mailing of the NC College Connect Direct Access Letter. This letter, a new extension of the NC College Connect program, will be sent to every North Carolina public high school senior, inviting them to apply to their local community college.

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

Background: NC College Connect is a program that directly admits North Carolina public high school seniors to participating UNC System universities, North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, and their local North Carolina community college. Previously, program eligibility was limited to students who earned a weighted GPA of 2.8 or higher and completed a fourth-level math course. Beginning with the 2026–27 academic year and in future program iterations, all public high school students will be included in NC College Connect and will receive a letter providing direct admission to their local community college, consistent with the NCCCS open admissions policy.

Rationale: This is a proactive, statewide marketing outreach initiative that promotes community college enrollment. The proposed letter raises NCCCS visibility and affirms to all North Carolina public high school students and their families that they are college-eligible by extending a clear invitation to enroll at their local community college after high school graduation.

Method of Allocation: Funds will be used by the System Office to pay the letter printing vendor**.**

Funding Source and Availability: FY 2026-27 funding is available from the State Board Reserve from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. 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. This request would allocate $70,000.

Allocation Period: July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027

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