

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
IDD Workforce Training Expansion – Program Administration
FY 2026–27

Request

The State Board of Community Colleges is requested to approve the authorization of up to \$640,000 as outlined in Session Law 2026-41, Section 6.3.(b) for the North Carolina Community College System Office to support the expansion of work-based learning opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), including the creation of two full-time positions dedicated to statewide business and industry engagement and workforce development activities during FY 2026–2027.

Strategic Plan Reference

Goal 4: Economic and Workforce Development

Strategy: 4.1: Provide education, training, and credentials to develop the most competitive and agile workforce in the nation.

Background

The North Carolina Community College System's Access to Achievement initiative expands workforce education and employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Through partnerships with community colleges, employers, workforce agencies, and community organizations, the initiative provides workforce training, industry-recognized credentials, work-based learning experiences, and pathways to competitive, integrated employment.

To expand these efforts, the General Assembly appropriated \$640,000 in recurring funds in Session Law 2026-41 to create two positions dedicated to developing work-based learning opportunities and strengthening statewide engagement with business and industry partners. The legislation also directs these funds to support the expansion of Career and College Promise pathways, pre-apprenticeships, and work-based learning opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Rationale

The North Carolina Community College System proposes using this appropriation to expand the Access to Achievement initiative by establishing two full-time workforce development SHRA positions (housed in the Program and Student Services division) that will coordinate statewide employer engagement, support local community colleges, and strengthen partnerships with ApprenticeshipNC, business and industry, and workforce development agencies.

These positions will provide the statewide leadership and coordination necessary to increase work-based learning opportunities, expand employer partnerships, support the growth of Career and College Promise pathways and pre-apprenticeships, and implement legislative intent. This investment will increase access to career-connected learning experiences that prepare individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities for competitive, integrated employment.

Method of Allocation

Up to \$640,000 will be allocated from the FY 2026–27 General Fund appropriation to support the expansion of work-based learning opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including personnel, employer engagement activities, technical assistance, and other allowable expenditures consistent with legislative intent.

Fund Source and Allocation Period

Funding is available from FY 2026–27 General Fund appropriation. The allocation period is July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Contact Person

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