

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
2026-29 Strategic Plan Development Timeline**

Overview

The North Carolina Community College System is undertaking a strategic planning process to establish a shared vision that will guide the future of the state's 58 community colleges. Building on the strategic goals approved by the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC), this process will engage colleges and stakeholders across North Carolina to identify priorities, define measures of success, and align efforts around workforce development, student success, and institutional excellence.

Purpose

The Strategic Vision for the 2026-29 Strategic Plan will establish a shared System direction and common measures of success with the flexibility for the 58 community colleges to address local needs and opportunities. It will align efforts across the North Carolina Community College System's 58 colleges to strengthen institutional capacity, expand opportunities for students, and support North Carolina's continued leadership in talent development and workforce readiness.

The 2026-29 Strategic Plan will support the Strategic Vision and establish a framework for measuring success, focusing resources, and driving meaningful outcomes for students, employers, and communities across the state.

Background

In February 2026, the SBCC approved three strategic goals that serve as the foundation for the development of the System's strategic vision.

- **Strategic Goal 1: Build the Best Workforce in the World**
Position North Carolina as the premier state for talent development by expanding workforce readiness, increasing educational access and attainment, and supporting lifelong learning and career advancement.
- **Strategic Goal 2: Align Employers, Students, and Colleges to Build a Future-Ready Economy**
Strengthen collaboration among colleges, employers, state agencies, K-12 partners, universities, regional organizations, and students to create seamless pathways to credentials, degrees, and workforce-relevant skills.
- **Strategic Goal 3: Transform the System to Empower Colleges and Students for Continuous Success**
Advance systemwide coordination and modernize policies, tools, and infrastructure to strengthen the ability of all 58 colleges to deliver exceptional outcomes.

Strategic Plan Development Process

The strategic planning process will build upon the 2026-29 Strategic Plan goals through stakeholder engagement, data analysis, key performance indicators (KPIs) development, SBCC approval, and System-level and local implementation.

- **Stage 1: Regional Engagement and Input**

Timing: September 2026 to January 2027

Gather perspectives from colleges and stakeholders through 12 regional meetings.

State Board Role: State Board members will be invited to attend regional meetings. Key themes and input from regional meetings will be compiled and shared with the SBCC at the January 2027 Strategic Plan Summit. This information will provide background and context in support of Stage 2, “Data Review and Metric Development”, and ultimately the approval of the 2026-29 Strategic Plan.

- **Stage 2: Data Review and Performance Metric Development**

Timing: December 2026 to January 2027

Establish measures of success and System-wide performance targets.

State Board Role: Metrics for success and recommended System-wide performance targets will be presented at the SBCC Strategic Planning Summit for discussion, validation, and approval. The metrics presented will be shared with colleges, the North Carolina Association of Community College Presidents (NCACCP), and the North Carolina Association of Community College Trustees (NCACCT) for input and feedback in advance of the Summit.

- **Stage 3: State Board Review and Approval**

Timing: February 2027

Finalize and adopt Strategic Vision and associated metrics.

State Board Role: The SBCC will review and adopt or revise a draft of the 2026-29 Strategic Plan that includes the Strategic Goals, performance metrics, key performance indicators (KPIs), and the relevant timelines for the measurement and accomplishment of the Strategic Goals. The plan will be built on the feedback received during the prior stages and the final draft will be shared with the NCACCP and NCACCT before coming to the SBCC for approval in February 2027.

- **Stage 4: Systemwide Implementation**

Timing: February 2027 through June 2029

Launch plan and support colleges as they implement local strategies aligned with statewide priorities.

State Board Role: After the Strategic Goals, performance metrics, and KPIs are approved, the focus will shift to System-wide implementation. The SBCC will receive regular progress updates to ensure accountability and support advocacy for resources and policy changes needed for success.

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