

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocation for the Expansion of the Intellectual and
Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Training Program
FY 2026-27

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) is requested to approve the allocation of \$1,940,000 to ten colleges for the expansion of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Training Program (Access to Achievement).

Strategic Plan Reference: Goal 4: Economic and Workforce Development

Provide education, training, and credentials to develop the most competitive workforce in the nation.

Strategies: 4.1.1

Background: In 2021, a two-year pilot project began to provide opportunities for students with IDD in the community college system to earn credentials leading to increased employment outcomes.

Following a successful pilot project at two community colleges, GS 115D-10.21 established a community college IDD workforce training program, based on the pilot project strategies and outcomes. Funding for 15 colleges began in 2023. To expand these efforts, the General Assembly appropriated additional recurring funds for up to ten more community colleges per Session Law 2026-41.

Rationale: In compliance with GS 115D-10.21, the program exists to (a) provide opportunities for credentials and (b) increase employment outcomes for students with IDD by supporting participating colleges to create or improve educational components which include (a) employability skills, and (b) work-based learning (e.g., practicums, apprenticeships, etc.) A maximum of 10% of the allocation may be spent on programs and classes in which 100% of the students enrolled have disabilities.

The goals of the program include:

1. Establishing best practices for providing vocational training,
2. Providing financial and benefits counseling,
3. Developing strategies integrating assistive technology,
4. Maximizing access with support to credentials and degrees,
5. Identifying methods to integrate students into the campus community,
6. Determining needs assessment, marketing, and evaluation.

A request for proposals was released on July 14, 2026, allowing any interested colleges to apply for funding. Included in the application packet was a scoring rubric. A total of 15 applications were received and reviewed by internal and external stakeholders. Using the rubric, ten colleges were selected.

As a result of this process, the colleges in Table 1 are recommended for recurring funding. Funding is allocated to employ a full-time Access to Achievement Coordinator, purchase assistive

and other instructional technology, provide professional development opportunities, as well as purchase necessary supplies, materials, and student supports such as transportation. Funding may be contingent upon enrollment, budget management, and progress toward achieving program requirements.

Impact: Access to Achievement has documented and tracked significant successes for students with IDD across the original 15 funded colleges. Enrolled students have participated in programming across the colleges, including Curriculum and Continuing Education, as well as College and Career Readiness. These students have earned credentials, certificates, diplomas and degrees and have been engaged in internships and work-based learning. Additionally, some have transferred to four-year institutions to continue their post-secondary education. Others have joined the workforce directly.

Significant outcomes can also be documented for college staff and faculty. Access to Achievement coordinators have provided 128 professional development opportunities across the 15 colleges in the past year, and 525 technical assistance encounters with faculty and staff. This data is a testament to the reach of Access to Achievement as it strengthens services using the one college model.

Funding Allocation: Table 1

College	Allocation
Bladen Community College	\$194,000
Cape Fear Community College	\$194,000
Central Carolina Community College	\$194,000
Durham Technical Community College	\$194,000
Fayetteville Technical Community College	\$194,000
Gaston College	\$194,000
Isothermal Community College	\$194,000
Pitt Community College	\$194,000
Southwestern Community College	\$194,000
Wake Technical Community College	\$194,000
Total Allocation	\$1,940,000

Fund Source and Availability: Funding is available from the State General Fund appropriation from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Contact:

Nancye Gaj
State Director
Access to Achievement