



STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Public Comments

Proposed Adoption of 1F SBCCC 100.96 Community College Students Convicted of Assaulting Officers or Employees of the State

	Respondent	Public Comment	System Office Response
1.	Nicole Worley, NC Community College Alum and Employee	I am writing in opposition to the proposed adoption of 1F SBCCC 100.96 - Community College Students Convicted of Assaulting Officers or Employees of the State. North Carolina community colleges were founded on the principle of "taking people where they are and carrying them as far as they can go." That mission has helped countless North Carolinians gain the education and skills needed to improve their economic prospects and contribute to our communities. State Board Chair Looney is quoted saying that the Board is committed to ensuring the System "leads the nation in workforce development through groundbreaking innovation, exceptional service, and unmatched agility." These two ideals are complementary: workforce development succeeds when educational opportunities are expanded, not restricted. The proposed rule moves the System away from both its historic mission and its current strategic vision by creating new barriers to access rather than helping students move forward. I fully support that vision. However, I believe this proposed rule conflicts with it. Data show education helps break generational poverty, reduces recidivism, and makes communities safer. The State Board of Community Colleges should remain focused on its role of ensuring educational quality, expanding access, and strengthening workforce development, while leaving criminal penalties to the legislative, judicial, and correctional systems. This proposal threatens affordable access to education using it as a penalty to individuals who are already being held accountable through the criminal justice process by denying access to in-state tuition and state-funded financial aid. The proposal also contradicts North Carolina's longstanding commitment to providing educational opportunities to incarcerated adults regardless of their	Thank you for your comment. No changes will be made at this time. This proposed adoption is required by State law.

	offense. If the state recognizes that education is a valuable tool for rehabilitation and workforce development within correctional facilities, it is inconsistent to impose additional educational costs and barriers on individuals outside prison who are seeking to improve their lives through the community college system. The rule also singles out one specific offense for educational consequences while other serious crimes are not treated similarly. Determining whether a criminal offense warrants added punishment is not the responsibility of the State Board. Most importantly, the proposal outright conflicts with the mission of community colleges. Community colleges exist to help individuals gain the skills, credentials, and employment opportunities needed to become productive members of the workforce. Increasing educational costs for a small group of students does not advance rehabilitation, economic self-sufficiency, or workforce participation. Instead, it creates additional barriers for individuals seeking to improve their lives through education and will backfire with negative implications to families and communities. If the Board is committed to workforce development and expanding opportunity, its policies should focus on removing barriers to education, not creating new ones. I respectfully urge the State Board to reject this proposal and remain focused on the mission that has guided North Carolina community colleges for generations: taking people where they are and carrying them as far as they can go. Community colleges exist to transform lives through education, workforce preparation, and opportunity. Policies that create additional barriers to educational access undermine that mission and do not advance the prosperity of our residents, businesses, or communities.	
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State Board of Community Colleges Code
TITLE 1. COMMUNITY COLLEGES



CHAPTER F. STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

SUBCHAPTER 100. FINANCIAL AID

**1F SBCCC 100.96 Community College Students Convicted of Assaulting
Officers or Employees of the State**

(a) The System Office and each community college shall be prohibited from providing a State-funded scholarship or grant to any student who, while enrolled as a student, has been convicted of assaulting an officer or employee of the State or any political subdivision of the State when the officer or employee is discharging or attempting to discharge his official duties.

(b) Any student enrolled at a community college who has been convicted of assaulting an officer or employee of the State or any political subdivision of the State shall be disqualified from receiving the in-state tuition rate. The disqualification begins the semester or academic term following the conviction.

(c) This Section is effective December 1, 2026, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-10.85; G.S. 116-143.2A

Eff.

NO FINANCIAL BENEFIT FOR CC STUDENTS CONVICTED OF ASSAULTING OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE

SECTION 6.7.(a) Part 4 of Article 1 of Chapter 115D of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 115D-10.85. Students convicted of assaulting an officer or employee of the State.

The State Board of Community Colleges shall adopt a policy prohibiting the Community Colleges System Office and community colleges from providing a State-funded scholarship or grant to any student who has been convicted of assaulting an officer or employee of the State or any political subdivision of the State, as provided in G.S. 14-33(c)(4), while enrolled as a student. The prohibition begins with the semester or academic term following the conviction."

SECTION 6.7.(b) This section is effective December 1, 2026, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

NO FINANCIAL BENEFIT FOR UNC STUDENTS CONVICTED OF ASSAULTING OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE

SECTION 8.17.(b) Article 14 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 116-143.2A. In-State tuition rate disqualification.

Notwithstanding G.S. 116-143.1 or any other law to the contrary, a person enrolled at an institution of higher education, as defined in G.S. 116-143.1, is disqualified from receiving the in-State tuition rate if the person has been convicted of assaulting an officer or employee of the State or any political subdivision of the State, as provided in G.S. 14-33(c)(4), while enrolled in the institution. The disqualification begins with the semester or academic term following the conviction."