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**COOPERATIVE HIGH SCHOOL
EDUCATION PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY
RESPONSE
TO
SECTION 9.1 OF CHAPTER 237
OF THE 1999 SESSION LAWS**

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**Cooperative High School Education Program
Accountability Response to Section 9.1 of Chapter 237
of the 1999 Session Laws**

Background

The Cooperative High School Education (Huskins/Concurrent Enrollment) Program between the State Board of Community Colleges and the State Board of Education provides opportunities for community colleges and high schools to articulate their programs to effect an uninterrupted educational flow from high school into a community college program. Articulated programs are voluntary and enable qualified students to take college level courses at a community college while enrolled in high school.

Section 10.7 of the Current Operations Appropriations and Capital Improvement Appropriations Act of 1998 directed the State Board of Community Colleges and the State Board of Education to create a joint task force to study the existing policies for cooperative high school education programs and to recommend changes necessary to improve the programs' success and accountability; and to report their findings and recommendations to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division prior to March 1, 1999.

Submission of the report led to Section 9.1 in which the General Assembly requests that the Boards jointly reconsider existing policies for cooperative high school education programs. The General Assembly further requests that the Boards make a preliminary report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division prior to November 15, 1999, and a final report prior to April 15, 2000.

A preliminary report was submitted prior to November 15, 1999. This is the final report due prior to April 15, 2000.

Purpose

This report includes findings and recommendations that will enable the State to achieve the goal of the General Assembly; to increase the numbers of qualified high school students taking community college courses.

Process

A plan for studying the existing laws, statutes and policies for jointly providing courses for high school students was designed. This plan included the following:

1. Formulation of a joint task force to (a) identify issues and barriers, (b) study the existing policies and legislation for cooperative high school education programs, and (c) recommend changes necessary to improve the program's success and accountability.

2. Solicitation of input from the general public.
 - (a) Placed a news release with the *Insider*, Associated Press, and Capital News Network to announce two public hearings for the purpose of identifying barriers and issues.
 - (b) Provided a web page requesting the public to state barriers to cooperative high school programs. (See <http://www.ncccs.cc.nc.us>)
3. Rewriting of administrative codes, policies and laws that address Huskins/Concurrent Enrollment practices.
4. Formulation of success indicators.
5. Obtaining approval of joint task force report from the (a) State Board of Education and (b) State Board of Community Colleges.
6. Submission of joint report to the (a) Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and (b) Fiscal Research Division.

Recommendations

As a result of the review of the existing policy, the task force has made the following recommendations for eliminating the identified barriers and to address issues that would improve the cooperative programs' success and accountability.

1. Revise the operating policies for Huskins/Concurrent Enrollment.
2. Revise General Statues
 - (a) G.S. 115D-20(4) (House Bill 1044 "Huskins Bill" ratified 1983)
 - (b) G.S. 115D-20(4) – (House Bill 577 ratified in 1985)
 - (c) G.S. 115D-5(b)-(Senate Bill 44 ratified in 1989)
3. Administrative Code revision required – NCAC-2C.0305 – EDUCATION SERVICES FOR MINORS
4. Policies to be established
 - (a) Accountability
 - (b) Weighted Credit

The enclosed operating procedures manual: *Enrollment of High School Students in Community College Courses* contains proposals for addressing these recommendations.

ENROLLMENT OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN COMMUNITY COLLEGE COURSES

Summary of major changes proposed in current policies regulating the enrollment of high school students in community colleges:

1. Course offerings

Current policy:

- Curriculum, non-developmental courses may be offered to groups of high school students.
- Individual high school students may register, if space is available, concurrently in existing college courses, except adult high school and developmental courses.

Proposed policy:

- Curriculum courses from the North Carolina Community College Common Course Library (including developmental courses) and occupational extension courses from the *Master Course List for Continuing Education* may be offered to groups of high school students.
- Individual high school students may register, as space is available, concurrently in any courses, except adult high school.

Rationale: The committee identified a need to increase the course offerings available to high school students as to more adequately address the variable needs in all geographic areas across the state. In particular, a need for occupational and developmental courses was identified. Community Colleges and Local Educational Agencies (LEA's) would still be required to specify in an annual agreement what course the college would offer specifically to high school students and to certify that the courses offered would not duplicate existing efforts and could not be feasibly offered by the local high school.

2. Tuition and fee waivers

Current policy:

- Tuition for high school students taking non-remedial curriculum courses is waived.

Proposed policy:

- Tuition for high school students taking curriculum courses, and fees for remedial and continuing education occupational extension registration for high school students would be waived.

Rationale: To make educational opportunities more accessible to high school students, as well as providing a wide array of course registration fees for continuing education occupational extension classes would need to be waived for high school students just as curriculum tuition is currently waived.

3. Student Eligibility

Current policy:

- High school students (grades 9-12) may enroll in college credit classes set up specifically for high school students under the Huskins Bill.
- High schools students, age 16 or older, may enroll individually in community college classes except those which are remedial in nature.

Proposed policy:

- High school students, age 16 or older or who will become 16 during the current academic year, may enroll in classes set up specifically for high school students or may enroll in existing community college classes.

Rationale: Currently, age requirements differ for high school students depending on whether they enroll in a class that is specifically designed for high school students (Huskins) or enter a regularly scheduled class at the college (concurrent enrollment). To make age eligibility policies consistent, and to ensure that all high school students, including those in private schools or home schooled, have the same access to educational opportunities in the community college system; the committee recommends that one age requirement be applied. The above eligibility requirement would be applicable regardless of whether the class was set up specifically for high school students or not.

Often, students who may be otherwise qualified may miss the age cut off by a few days because they turn 16 during the course of the year rather than prior to the course start date. This is particularly true for students with birth dates late in the academic year. However, the committee felt that all high school students, particularly those in 9th grade who may only be 14 or 15 years old, did not have the maturity and social skills necessary to enter college courses, even though they may have the academic aptitude. By using only one age requirement (students 16 or over or who will turn 16 during the academic year) students would not be ineligible to take appropriate courses based on the time of year in which they were born. This proposed student age eligibility requirement would be uniformly applied to all enrolling high school students while still restricting renrollment to those students who are most likely to have the maturity and social skills to handle college level work. Any high school student taking community college courses would still be required to meet the other eligibility requirements currently required.

4. Enrichment Classes

Current policy:

- Colleges may offer non-credit enrichment courses to students of any age during the summer months only.

Proposed policy:

- Colleges may offer non-credit enrichment courses to students of any age at any time throughout the year.

Rationale: Allowing Community Colleges to offer classes on a self-supporting basis at any time throughout the year would increase educational opportunities for high school students by allowing colleges to address educational needs in the community (such as SAT preparation classes) without expending State funds.

5. Inclusion of Non-public and Home School Students

Current policy:

- Community colleges may offer college level, for credit classes specifically for high school students in conjunction with public high schools.

Proposed policy:

- Community colleges may offer classes designed specifically for high school students for both public and non-public high school students.

Rationale: Current legislation does not mention private high school students or home schooled students, therefore, it appears that these students do not have access to some of the same educational opportunities available to public school students due to the omission under current legislation. Changing the wording of current legislation to include non-public entities would allow colleges, if feasible, to offer classes for non-public high school students as well.

General Statute Revisions Required

G.S. 115D-20(4)- (House Bill 1044 “Huskins Bill” ratified in 1983)

“Provided, not withstanding any law or administrative rule to the contrary, local administrative boards and local school boards or local non-public school governing bodies may establish cooperative programs in the areas they serve to provide for college courses, limited to those courses contained in the Common Course Library and occupational extension courses contained in the Master Course List for Continuing Education, to be offered to qualified high school students with college appropriate credits to be awarded to those high school students upon the successful completion of the courses.”

Revisions needed:

1. Add a provision that allows colleges to contract with non-public schools as well as public schools.
2. Expand the allowable courses to any in the common course library, including developmental courses, and to all occupational extension courses.
3. Reword “college credits” to “appropriate credits” to accommodate for those courses that do not earn college credit.

G.S. 115D-20(4) – (House Bill 577 ratified in 1985)

“Provided, further, that ~~during the summer quarter~~, persons less than 16 years old may be permitted to take noncredit courses on a self-supporting basis, subject to rules of the State Board of Community College.”

Revision needed:

1. Amend the time frame to allow non-credit enrichment courses to be provided to persons of any age at any time during the year on a self-supporting basis.

G.S. 115D-5(b) – (Senate Bill 44 ratified in 1989)

“Provided further, curriculum tuition and registration fees for continuing education occupational extension courses shall also be waived for all courses taken by North Carolina high school students at community colleges in accordance with G.S. 115D-20(4) and this section.”

Revisions needed:

1. Included an occupational extension registration fee waiver for high school students consistent with the curriculum tuition waiver.
2. Specify that the tuition and occupational extension fee waivers are only applicable to North Carolina high school students.

ENROLLMENT OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN COMMUNITY COLLEGE CLASSES

NORTH CAROLINA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE - 2C.0305

EDUCATION SERVICES FOR MINORS

(a) The state board shall encourage individuals to complete high school before seeking admission to a college.

(b) A minor, 16 years old or older, or who will become 16 during the academic year, ~~may be considered a student with special needs and~~ may be admitted to an appropriate program at a college if the local public or private educational agency determines that admission to the program is the best educational option for the student and the admission of such students to the program is approved by the college. This requirement may be waived if the student has been out of school at least six months and the application is supported by a notarized petition of the student's parent, legal guardian, or other person or agency having legal custody and control. The petition shall certify the student's residence, date of birth, date of leaving school, and the petitioner's legal relationship to the student.

(c) A high school student, 16 years or older, based upon policies approved by the local public or private board of education and board of trustees, may be admitted to appropriate courses, except adult high school, concurrently under the following conditions:

- (1) Upon recommendation of the chief administrative school officer and approval of the president of the college;
- (2) Upon approval of the student's program by the principal chief administrative officer of the school and the president of the college; and
- (3) Upon certification by the principal chief administrative officer that the student is taking the equivalent of one-half of a full-time schedule and is making appropriate progress toward graduation.

(d) ~~High school students, taking courses pursuant to Paragraphs (b) and (c) of this Rule, shall not displace adults but may be admitted any semester on a space-available basis to any curriculum or continuing education course.~~ Once admitted, they high school students shall be treated the same as all other students.

(e) Local boards of trustees and local school boards or non-public school governing bodies may establish ~~cooperative~~ programs in areas they serve in order to provide college courses to ~~qualified~~ high school students. College credits shall be awarded to those high school students upon successful completion of the courses. ~~Cooperative programs~~ Courses for high school students shall be approved, prior to implementation, by the State Board or its designee.

(f) Except as authorized by G.S. 115D-20(4), colleges shall not start classes, offer summer school courses, or offer regular high school courses for high school students.

(g) A college may make available to persons of any age non-credit, ~~non-remedial~~, enrichment courses ~~during the summer period~~. These courses shall be self-supporting and shall not earn credit toward a diploma, certificate, or degree at the college or high school.

(h) At the request of the director of a training school having custody of juveniles committed to the ~~Division of Youth Services, Department of Human Resources,~~ Office of Juvenile Justice a college may make available to such juveniles any course offered by that college if they meet the course admission requirements. The director's request shall include the director's approval for each juvenile to enroll in the course. Courses made available to such juveniles shall follow the approval process for immured groups as set forth in Rule 2E.0403.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-1; 115D-5; 115D-20; S.L. 1995, c. 625;

Eff. January 1, 1987;

Amended Eff. September 1, 1993;

Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 1997;

Admended Eff. July 1, 1998.

Proposed Policies to be Established Accountability

The following accountability measures must be adhered to:

- (1) A college's curriculum or continuing education occupational extension FTE generated by high school students must not exceed 20 percent of the colleges total FTE in those categories. If a college's FTE for Huskins/concurrent enrollment exceeds 20 percent, then the college must perform a review and write a justification for the exception. This report must be filed with the Vice President of Academic and Student Services at the North Carolina Community College System office by April 30 of each year.
- (2) All cooperative agreements between a community college and a high school must ensure that courses offered by the college are cost effective and do not duplicate high school advanced placement courses that are currently being offered or could feasibly be offered by the high school. **This statement must be signed by the chief academic officer of the college, or the local education agent or non-public governing body.**

Weighted Credit

This proposed policy should be presented to the Joint Education Boards for an amendment to their policy addressing G.S.116-11.

Students who complete Common Course Library (CCL) courses numbered 100 and above for use as elective high school credit that are listed in the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA) between the North Carolina Community College System and the University of North Carolina System will receive the same weighted credit on a high school transcript as a student who is enrolled in a high school Advanced Placement (AP) course. Weighted credit for high school honor's courses should be eliminated.

Note: Typically, students do not receive weighted credit for classes taken at the community college but do receive weighted credit for Advanced Placement courses whether or not they take or pass the AP exam.