

## Potential Enrollment Issues for Gateway to College

### 1. What is Gateway to College?

A program which recruits high school dropouts, reenrolls them in high school, and provides instruction to those students on community college campuses. Students earn both high school and college credit for community college courses, enabling them to finish their high school degree while earning community college credit.

### 2. What is the problem?

G.S. 115D-1

"The major purpose of each and every [community college] . . . shall continue to be the offering of vocational and technical education and training, and of basic, high school level, academic education needed in order to profit from vocational and technical education, for students who are high school graduates or who are beyond the compulsory age limit of the public school system and who have left the public schools[.]"

The community college system may only serve high school students when there is an exception to G.S. 115D-1.

**Key issue: Gateway to College students are high school students enrolled in community college curriculum courses.**

### 3. What are the exceptions?

Prior to January 1, 2012, several exceptions had been created which permitted high school students to dually enroll in community college courses in different ways. These included Huskins, Concurrent Enrollment, Cooperative and Innovative High Schools, Learn and Earn, and Learn and Earn Online. S.L. 2011-145, Sec. 7.1A replaced all high school transition programs with a new program, Career and College Promise. Career and College Promise created three pathways for dual enrollment:

1. Enrollment in a cooperative innovative high school program (small high schools generally located on a community college campus)
2. Career technical education pathway for qualified junior and senior high school students.
3. College transfer pathway for qualified junior and senior high school students.

### 4. How does Gateway to College fit with Career and College Promise?

Gateway to College serves reenrolled high school dropouts, many of who may not have sufficient credits or prior academic performance to meet the enrollment criteria for the college transfer pathway of Career and College Promise as "qualified juniors and seniors". New rules established by the State Board of Education and State Board of Community College require that to enroll in a college transfer pathway, a student must:

1. Be a junior or senior.
2. Have at least a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 weighted scale, and
3. Have demonstrated college readiness on an approved assessment or placement test.

While some of the student dropouts who reenroll through Gateway to College will meet these criteria, it is likely that all will not. Currently, Gateway to College programs are authorized to provide developmental education to the high school students enrolled in the program – courses which are designed to provide remedial education to adult learners who are not ready to take curriculum courses at the community college, and most Gateway to College students take some remedial classes in their first semesters in the program.

**5. What are potential solutions if the General Assembly would like to provide for dual enrollment of Gateway to College students?**

- a. Establish Gateway to College as a cooperative innovative high school – under this option, some amount of funding specific to the Durham Gateway to College program would be needed to permit State Board approval of the program. Section 7.21.(e) of the 2010 budget prohibits the State Board of Education from approving any additional schools under the Cooperative and Innovative High School Act after July 1, 2010, unless the school has received an explicit appropriation from the General Assembly.
- b. Create a statutory exception in Career and College Promise to provide a 4<sup>th</sup> pathway for students enrolled in the Gateway to College program (or more broadly for dropout recovery programs), similar to the exception for cooperative and innovative programs. Some approval process for establishment of new Gateway to College (or dropout recovery) programs may be considered under this option.
- c. Eliminate need to "dually enroll" students as high school students in order to generate funding through high school ADM by providing funding specific to Gateway to College program as an adult dropout recovery program.