



Report to the North Carolina General Assembly

Vocational Rehabilitation Pilot Program *Session Law 2023-134, Section 6.11*

Deadline: March 15, 2024

Submitted by the State Board of Community Colleges, in conjunction with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services of the Department of Health and Human Services (DVR)S

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PILOT PROGRAM

In 2023, the General Assembly appropriated \$750,000.00 in non-recurring funds for a Vocational Rehabilitation Pilot Program. Section 6.11(a) reads, “The purpose of the Program is to provide support services to community college students with intellectual and developmental disabilities to help students reach their goals for employment and independence without duplicating the existing vocational support network.”

Section 6.11(b) reads, “Use of Funds; Selection. – Community colleges may apply to the State Board of Community Colleges to participate in the Program. The State Board, in consultation with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services of the Department of Health and Human Services (DVR), shall select community colleges to participate in the Program. As part of the Program, the Community Colleges System Office shall contract with DVR to place student counselors at selected community colleges in the State.”

In compliance with Section 6.11.(c), the State Board of Community Colleges reports, in consultation with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, shall report on the impact of the Program on participants, including at least the following information:

- (1) The mental health and well-being of participants.
- (2) Job placements of participants.

The following timeline represents the status of the project and future plans.

PLANNED TIMELINE

2023-24	Joint Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Planning meetings with NCCC System office and Vocational Rehabilitation staff- Identifying process and procedures to strategically select colleges- Drafting MOU and VR counselor role- Solidifying reporting and assessment procedures- Aligning project with other initiatives to maximize services to students
2024-25	Pilot Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none">- July 1, 2024: VR counselors begins at selected colleges- College reporting schedule begins- February 2025: Staff report to the State Board of Community Colleges- March 2025: Submit Legislative report with program assessment & recommendations
2025-26	Final Pilot Year <ul style="list-style-type: none">- VR Counselor continues services until funding is exhausted- February 2026: Staff report to the State Board of Community Colleges- March 2026: submit legislative report with assessment results, conclusion, and recommendations