

Excellence for Every Student

JLEOC Report

Career and College Promise & Cooperative Innovative High Schools

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Desired Outcomes

Provide an overview of Career and College Promise and Cooperative Innovative High Schools in North Carolina, including structured pathways, statewide participation, and strategic partnerships.

Highlight 2024–2025 participation and outcome data, highlighting enrollment growth, credential attainment, associate degrees, postsecondary transitions, and workforce impact.

Recognize student achievement and district partnership excellence, reinforcing CCP and CIHS as powerful engines for college access and career mobility.



ACHIEVING EDUCATIONAL **EXCELLENCE**



**Prepare Each Student
for Their Next Phase
in Life**

PILLAR 1

Focus Area 3 | Promote Excellence For All

ACTION 1



Support PSUs in expanding access to rigorous pathways, such as AP, International Baccalaureate (IB), Cambridge International, Career and College Promise (CCP), credentialed Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC), to **ensure every student takes and passes a college level and career-connected course.**

“**Career and College Promise and Cooperative Innovative High Schools are powerful, structured pathways that accelerate opportunity and launch students toward college, careers, and life-ready success.**”

Focus Area 3 | Promote Excellence For All

ACTION 2



Expand access to advanced learning opportunities K-12, including North Carolina Governor's School and K-8 talent development programming, **aligned to student strengths, interests and career pathways.**



of graduates **took at least one college level course** (AP, IB/CIE, or Dual Enrollment)



of graduates **passed at least one college level course** (AP, IB/CIE, or Dual Enrollment)



2024-2025

Expanding Access

Reaching More Students with College
and Career-Connected Opportunities

Career and College Promise

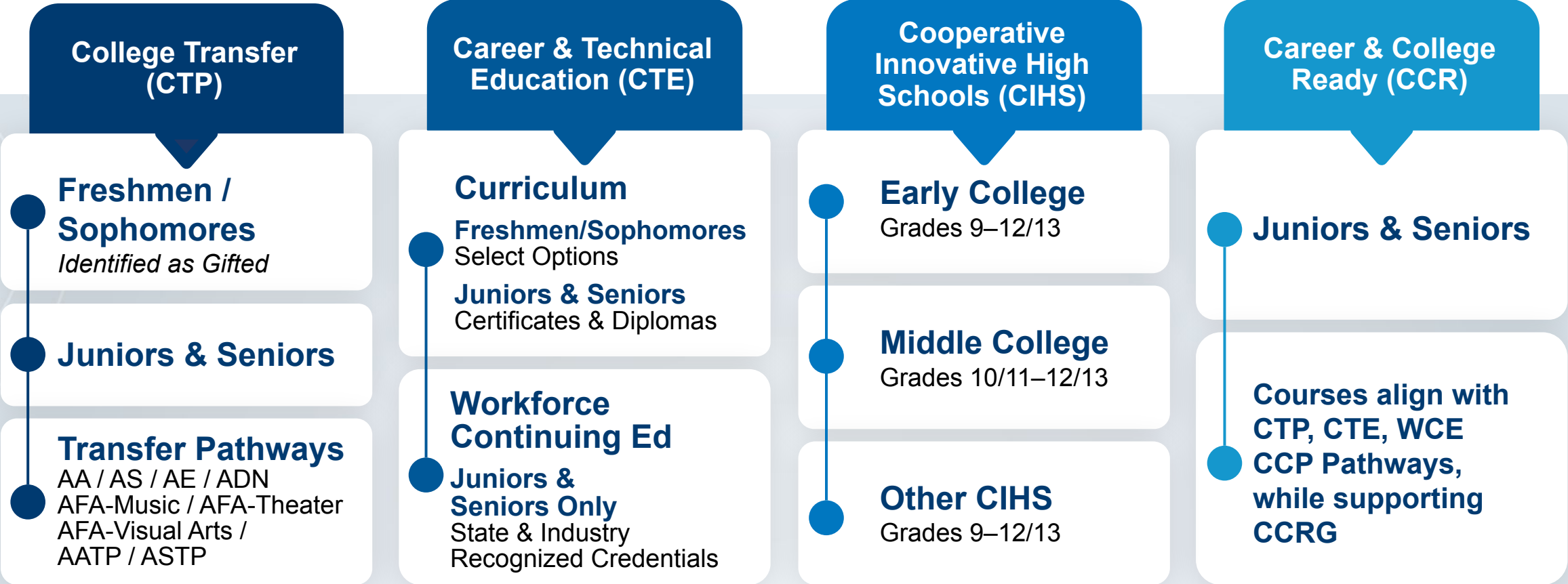
NC Session Law 2011-145

“The purpose of Career and College Promise is to offer *structured opportunities* for qualified high school students to dually enroll in community college courses that provide pathways consistent with subsection (b) of this section that lead to a certificate, diploma, or degree as well as provide entry-level jobs skills.”

Career and College Promise

Structured Pathways

NC's program to provide high school students access to post-secondary education, without cost.



Report Requirements

§ GS 115D-5(x)
Career and College Promise (CCP)

§ GS 115C-238.55
Cooperative Innovative High Schools (CIHS)

Success shall be measured by:

- High school retention rates
- High school completion rates
- High school dropout rates
- Certification and associate degree completion
- Admission to four-year institutions
- Post-graduation employment

CCP Program

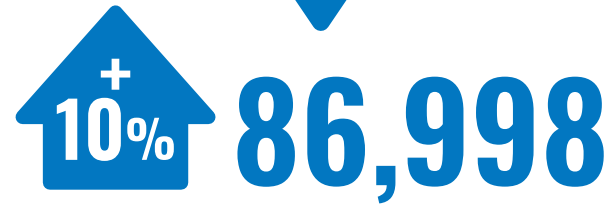
Key Report Highlights

Graduate Participation



38% of all graduates enrolled in dual enrollment opportunities in their high school years – a **2% increase** from the previous year. This represents **44,436** graduates who enrolled in average of **4 courses**. **95%** of those who participated earned college credit.

Enrollment



In 2024-2025, there were **86,998** public high school students enrolled in college courses while in high school, an increase of **10%** from the previous year.

Admissions



UNC system admissions of NC Public High School students increased by **10,564**, an increase of **10%** from the previous year.



On average, high school students perform *better* at community colleges than the typical student population.

Focus on Expanding Excellence

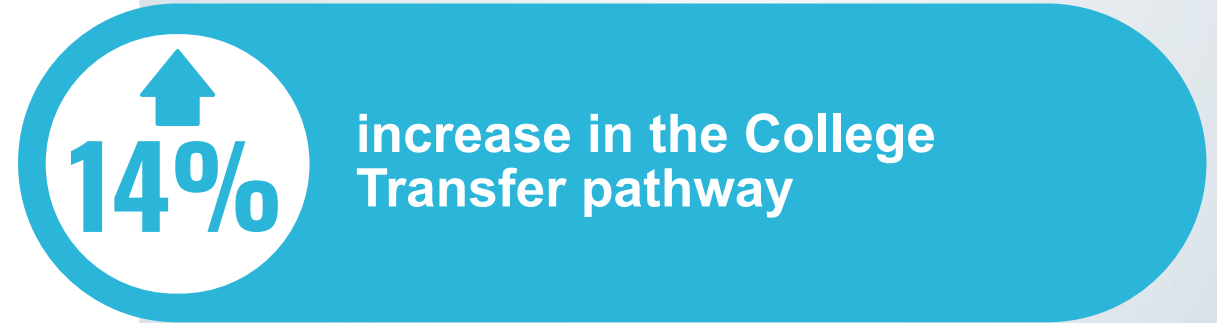
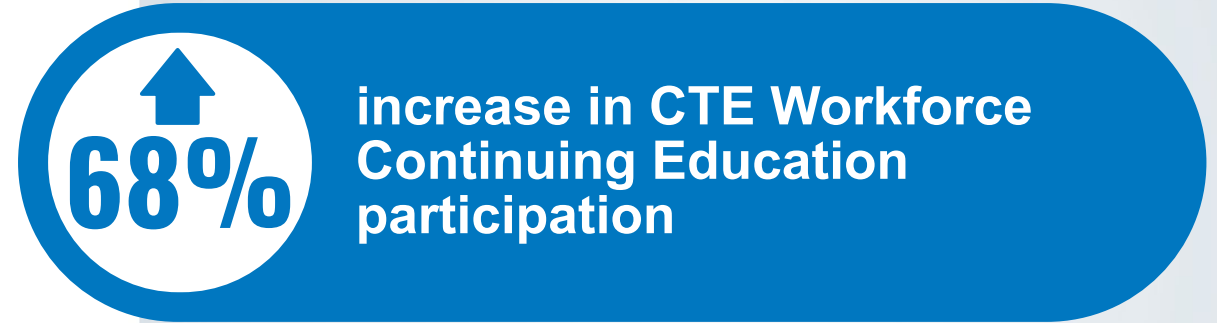
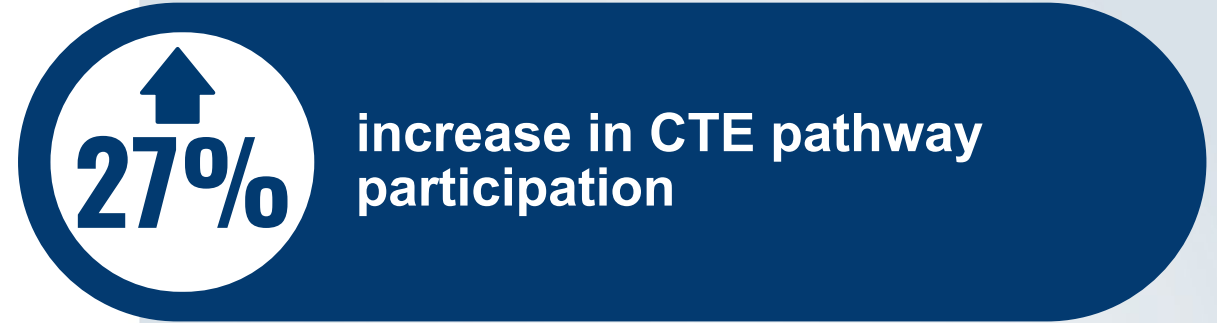
Number and percent of 2024-25 graduates who enrolled in at least one **dual enrollment course** while in high school by race/ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity	Number (#) of graduates enrolled	Total Graduates	Percent (%) of graduates enrolled
American Indian or Alaska Native	388	1,083	36% +1%
Asian	2,498	4,594	54% +5%
Black or African American	7,072	28,167	25% +1%
Hispanic or Latino	7,598	24,526	31% +3%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	44	151	29% -5%
Two or More	2,067	5,668	36% +4%
White	24,769	51,914	48% +3%
Total:	44,436	116,103	38% +3%

NC Community College System Office

Report Highlights

Students participating in CCP are continuing to show strong success as measured by *college GPA, college course enrollment and credential attainment.*



Results that Matter!

Demonstrating Measurable Gains in Academic Success and Postsecondary Momentum

NC Community College System Office

CCP Investment Cost Analysis Highlights

Total Estimated Investment of Waivers

For 2024-25, total estimated investment of waivers for CCP was **\$86,746,517** (does not include HS ADM cost). Proportionally grew.

\$45,413,456

College Transfer Pathway

\$13,397,281

CTE Pathway

\$27,508,968

CIHS

\$426,812

Workforce Continuing Education

2019 – 2026

Recent Research IES Grant Study

Impact of CCP on Employment and Earnings

Data from NC Unemployment Insurance System revealed the following key impacts on students seven years post high school:

College Transfer pathway students were more likely to be employed, with **7% higher** cumulative wages than comparison students.

CTE pathway students were more likely to be employed, with **14% higher** cumulative wages, than comparison students.

CIHS students had cumulative **higher earnings** than comparison students, likely because they entered the workforce more quickly.

UNCG, RAND Co., NCDPI and NCCCS

District and Student Highlight

CCP in Traditional High Schools



Cumberland County Schools

Seventy-First High School

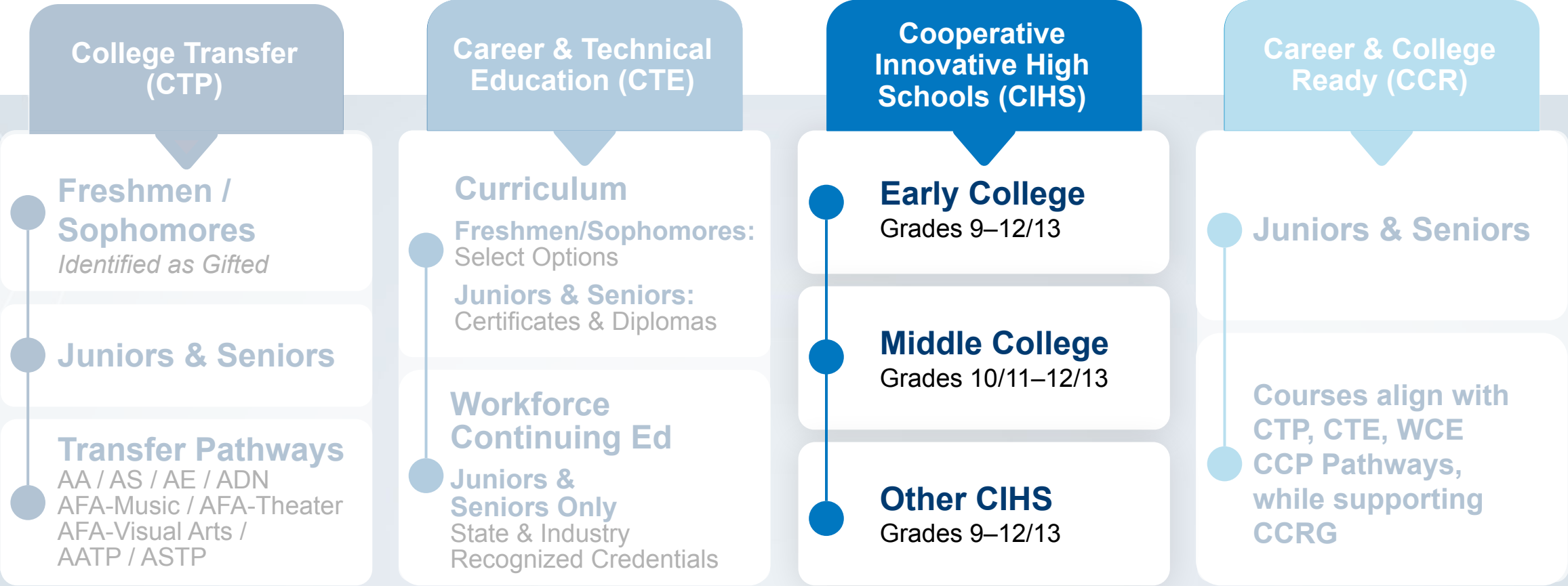
District Representatives

Brittany Raines, Career Pathways Coordinator
Sa’Nai Lewis-Dewalt, 12th Grade

Career and College Promise

Structured Pathways

NC's program to provide high school students access to post-secondary education, without cost.



Cooperative Innovative High School (CIHS) Programs

NC Session Law 2011-145

“The purpose of this Part is to authorize local boards of education to jointly establish with one or more boards of trustees *cooperative innovative programs* in high schools and colleges or universities that will expand students' opportunities for educational success through high quality instructional programming.”

Cooperative Innovative High Schools

CIHS / Early Colleges

Currently, there are **138** operating CIHS:

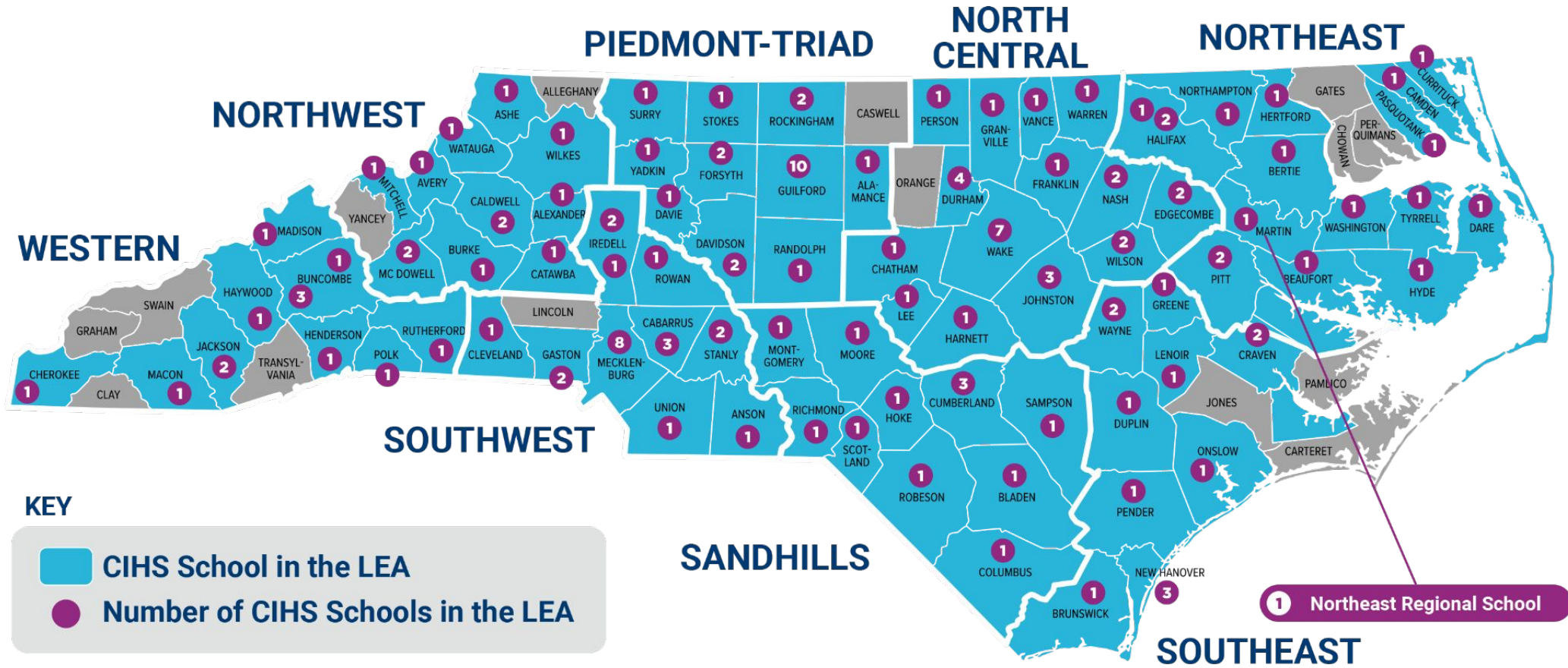
- **121** CIHS partner with community colleges
- **11** CIHS partner with UNC institutions
- **6** CIHS partner with independent colleges

Average enrollment: **206** students

- Supplemental Funding \$27,085,000
- Tuition \$5,275,828

NC Cooperative Innovative High Schools

As of September 2025



CIHS Programs

Key Report Findings for 2024-2025



Enrollment

27,599

students enrolled in CIHS, **1,343 fewer** than the previous year.



Graduation

6,560

students graduated from CIHS, **286 more** than the previous year.



Associate Degrees

3,498

Associate Degrees earned by CIHS graduates, **409 more** than the previous year.



Industry Credentials

7,259

industry-recognized credentials earned through high school CTE courses, **1,971 more** than the previous year.



Diplomas & Certifications

6,560

diploma and certificate credentials earned, **189 more** than the previous year.

CIHS Programs

Key Report Findings

*Students may apply and be admitted to multiple UNC Institutions. These data are preliminary, refer to the UNC System [Stats, Data, & Reports](#) page for official results.

**Students may apply and be admitted to multiple NCICU Institutions.

13,715^{*}
Applications

+1,021

from CIHS students were admitted to the **UNC System four-year institutions** for Fall 2025, an increase of **1,021** applications from the previous year.

3,932^{**}
Applications

+839

from CIHS students were admitted to **North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities** for Fall 2025, an increase of **839** applications from the previous year.

**ABOVE
AVERAGE**
Outcomes

Academic outcomes **above state averages:**

- High school retention and completion rates
- High school dropout rates
- Performance in Community College courses

District and Student Highlight

CIHS Programs/ Early Colleges



Durham Public Schools

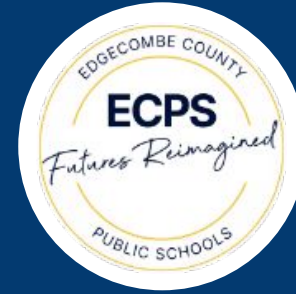
JD Clement Early
College High School

District Representative

Lori Bruce, Principal
Jose Aleman, 12th Grade

District and Student Highlight

CIHS Programs/ Early Colleges



Edgecombe County Public Schools

Edgecombe Early College

District Representative

Matt Bristow-Smith, Principal
Yurisbet Diaz Diego, 12th Grade

CCP Pathway and CIHS Success Stories

To understand the full impact beyond numbers, report includes stories to show transformational outcomes for CIHS and CCP Pathway students across North Carolina. Examples follow from:



**Blue Ridge
Early College**



**Caldwell Academy
of Applied Sciences**



**Gaston
Early College**



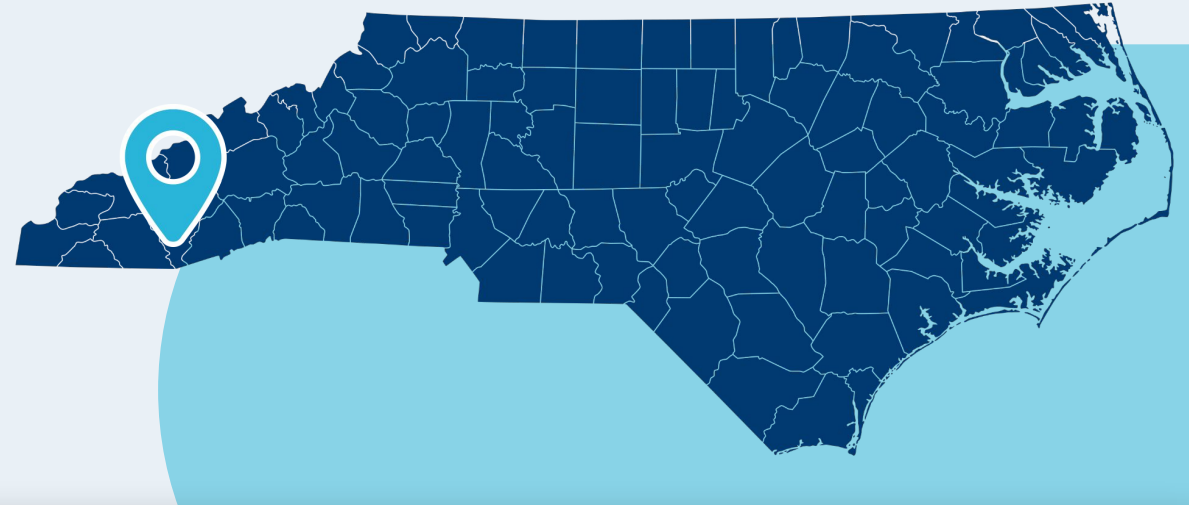
**South Piedmont
Community College**



SUCCESS STORIES

Blue Ridge Early College

Jackson County Schools



At Blue Ridge Early College, we are proud to celebrate students who embody what is possible when determination meets opportunity. This student dedicated hundreds of hours to volunteering at area churches, interpreting for families in need, and providing tutoring support to non-English-speaking classmates.

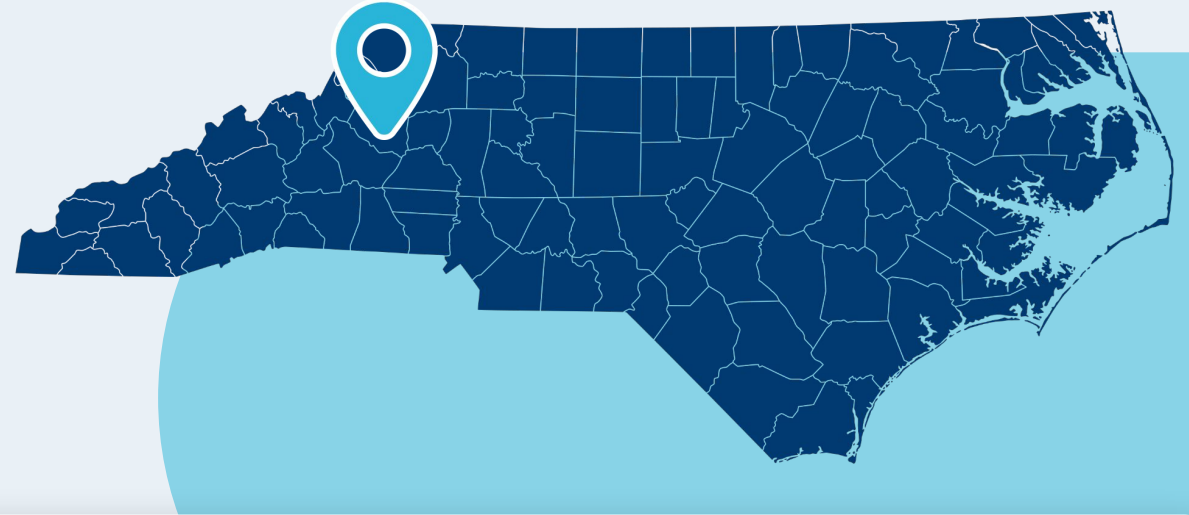
They stepped up during Hurricane Helene relief efforts, packaging and delivering food and supplies to impacted families. Their bilingual skills, combined with a genuine care for others, have made them a trusted leader and advocate in both the school and wider community.

As a first-generation college student, this young leader will continue their journey at a Division I University in North Carolina. Their achievement is not only the result of their own drive and resilience but also a reflection of the collective effort of our faculty and staff.

SUCCESS STORIES

Caldwell Academy of Applied Sciences

Caldwell County Schools



The Caldwell Applied Sciences Academy SkillsUSA chapter proudly took **17 students** to the state competition, where they competed in both leadership and career-specific clusters.

Throughout the year, our students dedicated themselves to strengthening our chapter, and their hard work paid off – we achieved **Chapter of Excellence Silver Level** in our very first attempt!

At the state level, five of our competitors earned first place finishes, advancing to the National Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta, with impressive results:

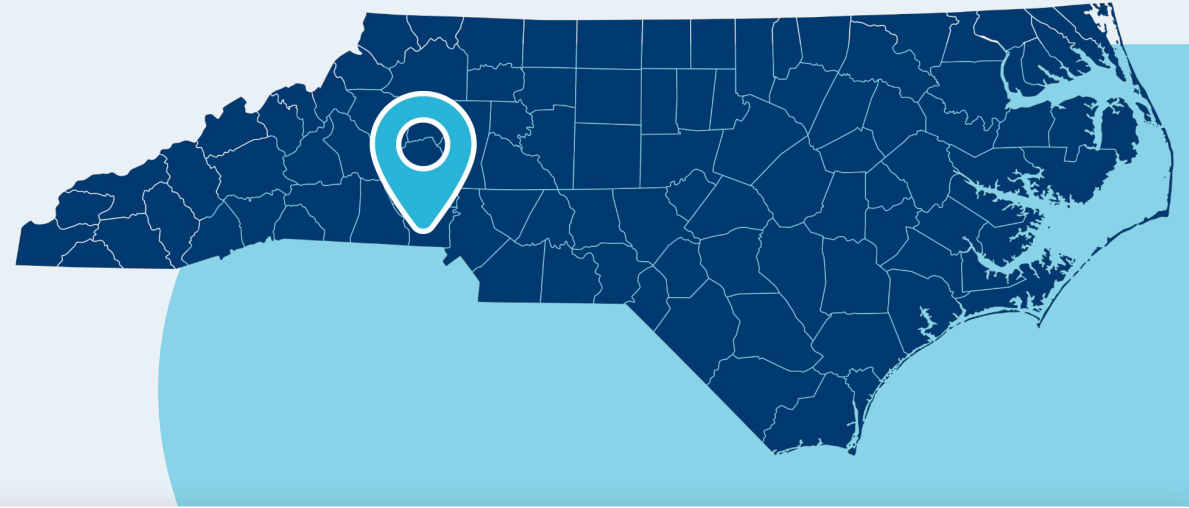
- **5th in the Nation, Web Design**
- **8th in the Nation, Health Portfolio**
- **18th in the Nation, Electronic Technology**

In addition, one student proudly earned a **Customer Service Certification**, further highlighting the career-readiness focus of SkillsUSA.

SUCCESS STORIES

Gaston Early College

Gaston County Schools



Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences is proud to highlight a graduate from the class of 2025 who took advantage of all opportunities available to her through our school and partnership with Gaston College.

This student graduated from the Associate of General Education Nursing pathway with the associate in general education and her high school diploma. She completed Certified Nurse Aide I through Gaston College the summer after 11th grade and was **immediately hired** after her name was added to the North Carolina CNA registry.

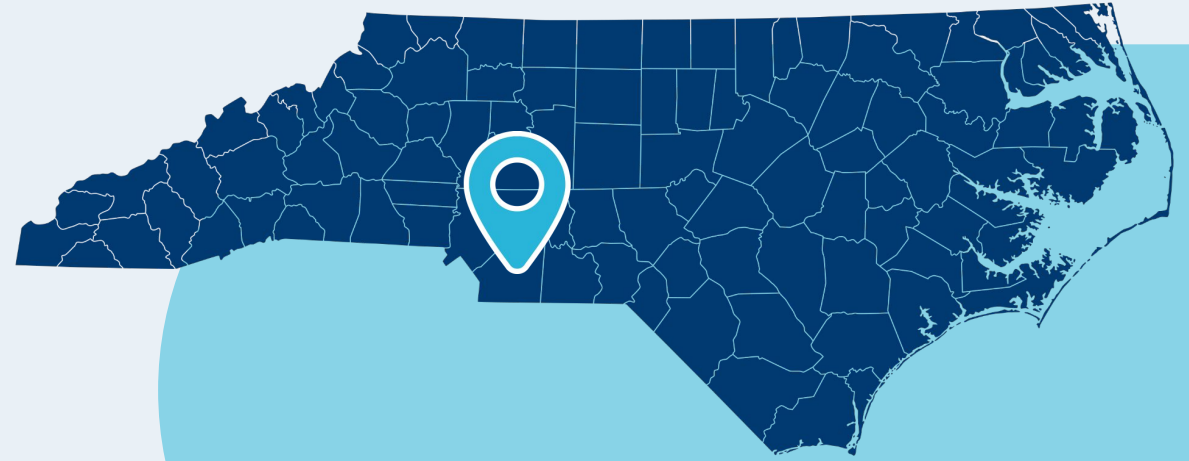
Through her senior year, she worked as an **emergency room CNA**. Providing direct patient care solidified her desire to continue on the nursing pathway.

This student is currently enrolled in the **Registered Nursing program** at Gaston College, and she continues to work as a CNA. She shared that Gaston Early College prepared her for nursing school through rigorous coursework and a supportive environment while in high school.

SUCCESS STORIES

South Piedmont Community College

Anson County Schools



In 2024, after completing their junior year of high school, two classmates earned certificates in industrial systems through the South Piedmont Community College CCP program. The certificate includes courses on basic welding, machining, and hydraulic systems. Both students also participated in the Anson High School Pre-Apprenticeship program, which provided them with the opportunity to gain relatable experiences that aligned with college courses.

A local industry partner in Anson County, Southern Fabricators, Inc., took these students in and gave them the opportunity to discover a passion for welding. Their site supervisor recognized growth in both students, noting their willingness "to listen, think critically, and problem solve". After these students graduated from Anson High School in May of 2025, both graduates accepted full-time employment with Southern Fabricators, Inc.

This is a perfect example of the power of partnerships being made between our high schools, community colleges, and local industries across the state.

Building What's Next

Continuing to Grow Access, Impact,
and Workforce Alignment

Continued Support for CCP



Joint Sector Partnership Meetings to facilitate as seamless as possible work.



Virtual Sessions to support the implementation of CCP partnership agreements and share innovative and collaborative strategies to ensure all students are empowered to be successful in the program.



Resources, such as a CCP Promising Practices Guide, which includes examples of existing partnership agreements and practices from across the state.



Face-to-Face Sessions focused on Expanding College Access in spring of 2026, focused on both CCP and NC College Connect.



Clarity about course transfers, coding, etc.



Potential Barriers

- Intentional student advising and support
- Communication and collaboration across K-12 and IHE
- Funding for CCP fees, transportation, books, etc.
- Logistics, course delivery and scheduling with various college needs



Potential Opportunities

- Each child can **and** will be career and college ready
- Expand “type” of student to take courses
- Integration with new Comp Science Graduation courses
- Integration with Career Development Plans



of graduates **took at least one college level course** (AP, IB/CIE, or Dual Enrollment)



of graduates **passed at least one college level course** (AP, IB/CIE, or Dual Enrollment)



2024-2025



Questions?

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Isaac Lake, Isaac.Lake@dpi.nc.gov