

# Cooperative Innovative High School Program Recommendations

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# Career and College Promise

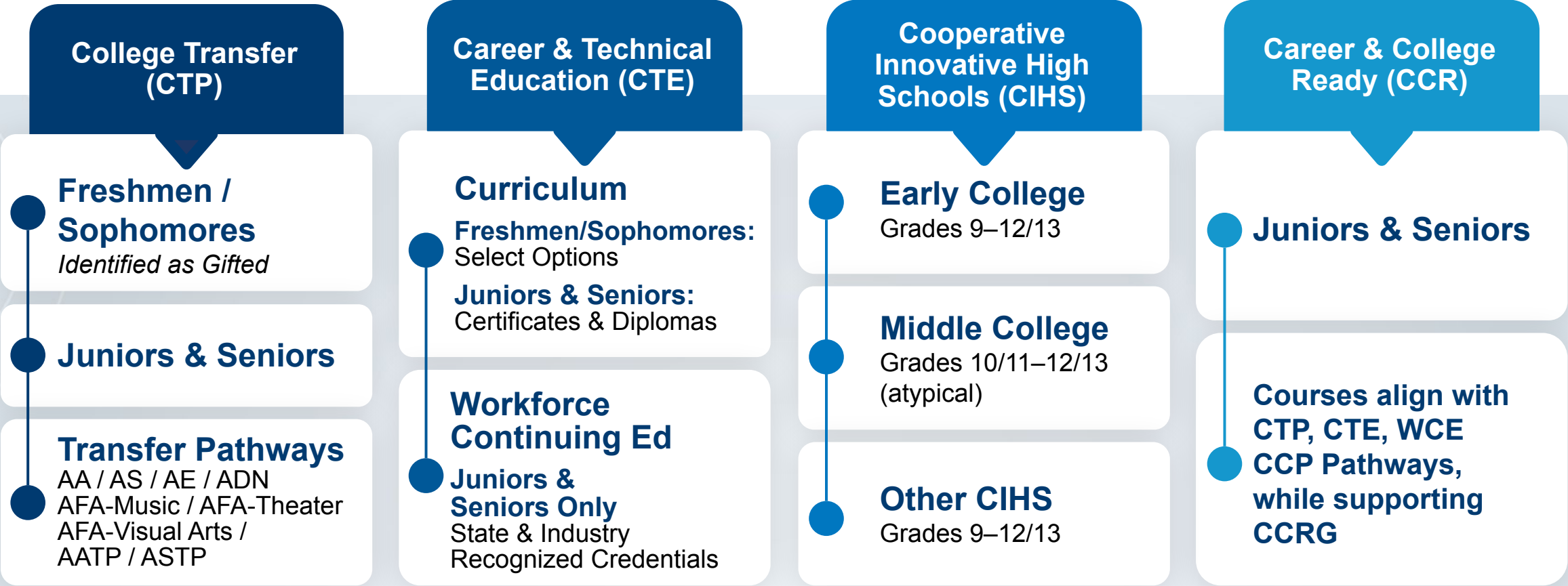
NC Session Law 2011-145

“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.



# CIHS Application Process

Per legislation, led by the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC):  
Representatives from NCDPI,  
NC Community College System,  
UNC System, NC Independent  
Colleges and Universities



01.

Submission of Letter of Intent | **June 15**



02.

Applicants Orientation Meeting | **June 30**



03.

Technical Assistance and Individual Feedback



04.

Application submitted | **October 10**



05.

JAC Application Review/Clarifications



06.

JAC Recommendations to the SBE, then to  
State Board of Community Colleges or independent  
colleges Governing Board for approval



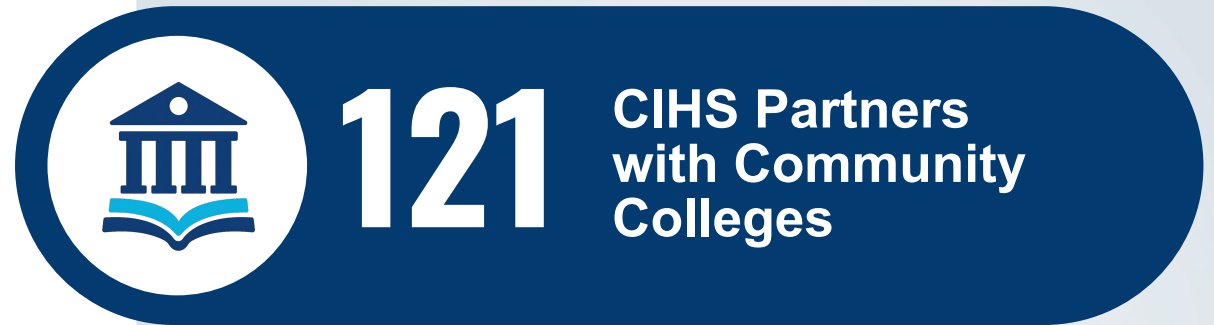
07.

**Final approval by General Assembly**

# Cooperative Innovative High Schools (CIHS) 2025-2026

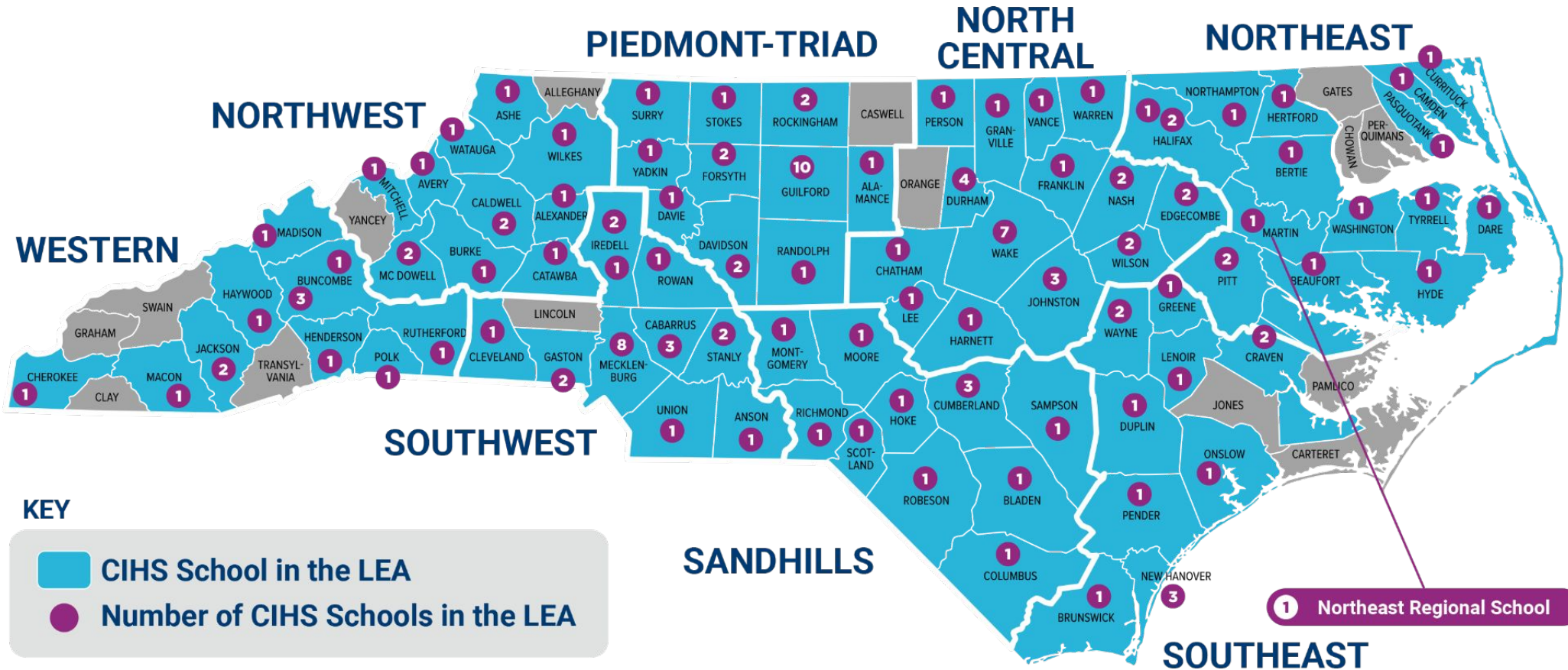
# 138

Current CIHS in Operation



# NC Cooperative Innovative High Schools

As of September 2025



# NC Session Law 2020-64

## Limitation on Approvals

The State Board may only conditionally approve **up to three applications** for cooperative innovative high schools that request additional funds...

The State Board **may prioritize conditional approval of applications** for cooperative innovative high schools located in local school administrative units that **do not already operate a school pursuant to this Part.**

NCDPI received **3 CIHS applications** to open new CIHS and/or request supplemental funding for existing CIHS.

# CIHS Applications Status

JAC Recommendations Summaries are included in SBE items.

**3 CIHS applications** are currently being recommended for SBE approval:

- **2 existing CIHS**, partnered with community colleges, are applying for supplemental funding.
- **1 new CIHS**, partnered with an independent college, is applying to open and for supplemental funding.

Applications are on file here at NCDPI, signed by both LEA and partnering Institution of Higher Education.

# JAC Recommendations for CIHS Programs

*The Joint Advisory Committee recommends approval with additional funding for three CIHS applications:*

- **Durham Early College of Health Sciences**, Durham Public Schools and Durham Technical Community College (*existing*)
- **Hertford STEM Early College at Chowan University**, Hertford County Schools with Chowan University
- **School of Inquiry and Life Sciences in Asheville**, Buncombe County Schools with Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College (*existing*)

# Durham Early College of Health Sciences

- **CIHS supplemental funding requested** for the redesign of an existing CIHS from a middle college to an early college serving grades 9-13.
- **Redesign** as a health sciences early college addresses critical need for health care workers in the local economy.
- **Curricular focus** of four career pathways: nursing, allied health, surgical tech, and clinical research.
- **Work-based learning opportunities** and preferred consideration for employment of graduates with Duke Health Systems.
- **Redesign** supported by a grant from **Bloomberg Philanthropies**.
- **Intent** to serve all three CIHS target populations.

# Hertford STEM Early College at Chowan University

- Application to **open a new CIHS** serving grades 9-13.
- **Robust recruitment strategies** beginning in elementary years.
- **Pipeline to increase** the percentage of residents with postsecondary credentials.
- **STEM-Focused Pathways** aligned to regional workforce development goals.
- **Career Pathways** include advanced manufacturing, healthcare, agribusiness, and IT/analytics.
- **College Transfer pathways** include Associate of Arts and Associate of Applied Science degrees.
- **Work-Based Learning opportunities**, including apprenticeships leading to employment.
- **Intent to serve all three CIHS target populations.**

# School of Inquiry and Life Sciences in Asheville (SILSA)

- **CIHS supplemental funding requested** for the expansion of an existing CIHS to grade 13 and program enhancements, including expanded recruitment, additional student supports, and a dedicated college liaison position.
- **Broad and inclusive recruitment strategies** to serve all three CIHS target populations.
- **Low-barrier, non-selective** student application and admissions process.
- **Inquiry-based learning model** with a life sciences theme and community engagement.
- **Curriculum and work-based learning opportunities** aligned to local and regional workforce needs.
- **Robust student supports**, including personalized onboarding for students and families.
- **Intent** to serve all three CIHS target populations.

# Next Steps



**SBE Approval**



**Approval** by the NC Community College Board and the Independent College Governing Board



**Request for Approval** to Operate and Appropriations to NC General Assembly

# Questions?

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