

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Title:** Program Approvals Under the Innovative Education Initiatives Act

**Type of Executive Summary:**

- Action
- Action on First Reading
- Discussion
- Information

**Policy Implications:**

- Constitution \_\_\_\_\_
- General Statute #115C-238.50 Part 9 (General Session 2003-277 - Senate Bill (656))
- SBE Policy # \_\_\_\_\_
- SBE Policy Amendment
- SBE Policy (New)
- APA # \_\_\_\_\_
- APA Amendment
- APA (New)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Presenter(s):** Ms. Fay Agar (Director, Learn and Earn Early College High Schools)

**Description:**

An Act to Establish the Innovative Education Initiatives Act, Section 2, Article 16 of Chapter 115C-238, Part 9, Cooperative Innovative High School Programs authorizes boards of trustees of community colleges and local boards of education, boards of governors of the UNC System and the independent colleges to jointly establish cooperative innovative programs in high schools and community colleges that will expand students' opportunities for education success through high quality instructional programming. These cooperative innovative high school programs shall target: (1) high school students who are at risk of dropping out of high school before attaining a high school diploma or (2) high school students who would benefit from accelerated academic instruction. GS 115C-238.53, (f) states "Except as provided in this Part and pursuant to the terms of the agreement, a program is exempt from laws and rules applicable to a local board of education, a local school administrative unit, a community college, or a local board of trustees of a community college."

The attachment for this item provides the description of the 12 applying schools including the one conversion school. The schools are ready to begin the first year of implementation.

**Resources:**

**Input Process:**

Personnel of LEAs and Community Colleges

**Stakeholders:**

Local Education Agencies, Community Colleges, Universities of North Carolina, Independent Colleges, High School Students, Parents, and School Staff

**Timeline For Action:**

This item is being presented for Action on First Reading at the March 2009 State Board of Education meeting.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the SBE approve the Early College High School Programs.

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**Audiovisual equipment requested for the presentation:**

- Data Projector/Video (Videotape/DVD and/or Computer Data, Internet, Presentations-PowerPoint preferred)  
Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

- Audio Requirements (computer or other, except for PA system which is provided)  
Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Document Camera (for transparencies or paper documents – white paper preferred)

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Motion By: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Postponed \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_  
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\*Person responsible for SBE agenda materials and SBE policy updates: Susan Auton, 807-3435

## **STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **2009 Cooperative Innovative High School Programs**

#### **Innovative Education Initiatives Act Summary**

Session Law 2003-277 (SB 656) as amended by S.L. 2005-276 requires boards of education to jointly establish with one or more boards of trustees cooperative innovative programs in high schools and colleges or universities to serve high school students who are at risk of dropping out of school before attaining a high school diploma, or to serve high school students who would benefit from accelerated academic instruction. Students would be eligible to attend these programs as early as ninth grade. The programs may include the creation of a school within a school, a technical high school, or a high school or technical center located on the campus of a college or university. A program would operate under the terms of a signed written agreement for a term of no more than five school years.

The act further directs “that the boards may approve programs recommended by the joint advisory committee or may approve other programs that were not recommended.” General Statute (G.S.) 115C-238.51(d) as modified by S.L. 2005-345 further directs that the “State Boards shall approve all applications by June 30 of each year.” G.S. 115C-238.53(f) also provides that “[e]xcept as provided in this Part and under the terms of the agreement, a program may be exempted by the applicable governing board from laws and rules applicable to a local board of education, a local school administrative unit, a community college, a constituent institution or a local board of trustees. (2005-276, s. 7.33.a.)” Nothing in the act is to be construed to obligate the General Assembly to make appropriations to implement the act. This act became effective June 27, 2003, and was subsequently codified as Part 9, G.S. 115C-238.50 – G.S. 115C-238.55.

#### **Applying Schools**

The following schools submitted applications under Section 2 of the Innovative Education Initiatives Act for consideration by the governing boards with State Board of Education districts in parenthesis:

#### **Cabarrus-Kannapolis Early College (6)**

The Cabarrus-Kannapolis Early College (CKEC) is a collaborative project with Rowan-Cabarrus Community College (RCCC), Cabarrus County Schools (CCS) and Kannapolis City Schools (KCS). The main goal is to prepare all students for successful entry into an institution of higher learning and/or the workplace. The CKEC will facilitate students in pursuing either an associate in arts (A.A.) degree or an associate in science (A.S.) degree, or in accumulating college transfer credits while simultaneously earning a high school diploma.

### **Early College EAST High School (2)**

Early College EAST (Eastern Applied Sciences and Technology) High School is a school within Craven County Schools located on the Havelock campus of Craven Community College. Students will experience an integrated, problem-based curriculum and embedded work experience through direct partnerships with NAV Air as associated with Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station and the Fleet Readiness Center East, NC State University, and the Craven Community College Institute of Aeronautical Technology. The applied sciences and technology emphasis will promote careers in the local community mentored by local engineers and technicians who support the air fleet at Cherry Point. The small autonomous high school setting will promote personalization and family. Students will have the opportunity to experience an accelerated curriculum and graduate in the thirteenth year with a high school diploma and an associate's degree or up to two years of college transfer credit.

### **Franklin County Early College High School (3)**

Franklin County Early College High School will be closely coordinated with its partner, Vance-Granville Community College to create a bridge for Franklin County High School students not only to graduate from high school, but also to earn an associate's degree while simultaneously completing high school graduation requirements. Additionally, the plan would enable students to be prepared to go beyond the two-year degree and pursue an undergraduate degree at a four-year college or university. This school is designed to prepare students for college work while providing nurturing support for the student body, 80% of whom will be the first in their families to earn college degrees.

The goals of Franklin County Early College High School will be to increase the high school graduation rate of the county, to improve the skills of Franklin County's potential workforce, and to inspire students to continue their education at four-year colleges and universities.

### **Granville County Early College High School (3)**

Granville County Early College High School is an innovative partnership between Vance-Granville Community College and Granville County Schools. This small, autonomous high school will provide a rigorous and relevant academic focus, along with personalized relationships among faculty, parents, and students that will serve a diverse population reflective of Granville County Schools. Technology will be a primary method to teach students the 21st Century skills necessary to prosper in today's global society. This will be done through a 1 to 1 laptop program. The Granville County Early College will address the needs of first-generation college bound students who are capable of accepting the challenge of this progressive school. Our mission is to help the students that the traditional school setting has not worked for and provide unique alternatives to make college possible for those who do not see it as such. The students will graduate with a high school diploma and transferable college credit, with the possibility of obtaining an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Office Systems Technology, Business Administration, or an Associate of Arts Degree.

### **Henderson County Early College (8)**

Henderson County Early College is a coalition between Henderson County Public Schools and Blue Ridge Community College. The vision is to ensure that students successfully graduate from high school in the university-prep course of study with at least two years of college transfer courses or complete a two-year community college associate degree within a K-13 time frame. Offering a challenging, yet career-relevant curriculum through engaging and interactive teaching strategies in a small school setting will promote student success. Serving a student population representative of the community, as well as first generation college attendees, will be the priority of the new school.

### **Mayland Early College High School (7, 8)**

The Mayland Early College High School, a collaboration between three local education agencies (Mitchell, Avery and Yancey County Schools) and Mayland Community College, will deliver core academic standards as represented by the Future-Ready program of study as defined by the State Board of Education in a rigorous, relevant and responsive environment. An expansion of students' educational opportunities within the public schools system, Mayland Early College High School will prepare students for future learning in the workforce or in an institution of higher education during a four- to five-year early college experience resulting in a high school diploma and an opportunity for two years of college credit.

### **Stokes County Early College High School (5)**

Stokes County Early College High School is a small high school with a maximum of 250 students housed on the satellite center of Forsyth Technical College. The academic design of the school is rigorous, and students are expected to successfully complete high school and college coursework. Students can earn an associates degree in five years. Student identification is critical to student success and includes enrollment of representative students from the district's comprehensive high schools and consideration of "first-generation" college status.

### **Wake NC State University Early College High School (3)**

The Wake NC State University Early College High School is an innovative collaboration between North Carolina State University and the Wake County Public School System. The school is located on the campus of North Carolina State University, a comprehensive university known for its leadership in education and research, and globally recognized for its science, technology, engineering and mathematics leadership. This innovative collaboration provides a highly supportive and academically challenging learning environment for students underserved in a traditional high school setting and underrepresented in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) disciplines who will graduate prepared to compete globally in careers related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

### **Roanoke Valley Early College (3)**

The Roanoke Valley Early College (RVEC) is a five-year school within Weldon City Schools located on the campus of Halifax Community College. Through a relevant and rigorous curriculum program, students earn both a high school diploma and associates degree and have the opportunity to further their education. Instruction is based on an inquiry model of learning, and classes function as small communities of learners. Supportive relationships with RVEC staff provide the students with tutoring, counseling, and nurturing to help them reach their goals. RVEC students are active learners who engage in service learning projects and clubs to prepare them to be productive citizens.

### **Wilkes Early College High School (7)**

Wilkes Early College High School is an innovative early college high school created from a partnership between Wilkes County Schools and Wilkes Community College. The school offers a challenging, personalized, and supportive environment with emphasis on hands-on and inquiry-based learning, performance assessments and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Graduates will be well-prepared for further education and for assuming roles as community leaders and productive citizens.

### **Wilson Early College Academy (3)**

Wilson Early College Academy (WECA) is located on the campus of Wilson Community College. The school is an extension of the high school reform initiative underway in Wilson County Schools. At capacity, WECA is designed to serve a maximum of 250 students in grades 9-13. Academically rigorous high school courses, college-preparatory courses, and college-level courses characterize the curriculum. The goal of the school is for students to graduate within five years with a high school diploma and an associates degree, or college transferable credit.

#### **Conversion Site:**

### **James Kenan Early College High School (2)**

Part of the high school turn-around initiative, James Kenan School of Engineering opened as a science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) focused redesign high school in 2007-2008. The school currently serves 110 students and plans to transition to an early college high school model, partnering with James Sprunt Community College to afford greater educational opportunities to the students of Duplin County.