****

**COOPERATIVE INNOVATIVE HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATION**

In accordance with N.C.G.S. 115C-238.50-.55 | APPLICATION CYCLE 2025-26

***APPLICATION DUE OCTOBER 10, 2025  
For opening in Fall 2026 or Fall 2027***

Submitted to the Joint Advisory Committee, NC State Board of Education, NC State Board of Community Colleges and University of North Carolina Board of Governors and North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities

***PART A – INITIAL APPLICANT INFORMATION***

Proposed Cooperative Innovative High School (CIHS) Name:

Planned Location and Physical Address:

Local Education Agency (LEA) Name:

LEA Number:

Institution of Higher Education (IHE) Partner Name:

Other Program Collaborators:

**PREVIOUS STATUS:** Is this school currently an approved CIHS?  No  Yes

**FUNDING REQUEST:** Are you requesting additional state funds?  No  Yes

***PART B – BASIC OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED CIHS***

**PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION**

LEA Contact Name:  Role:

Email:  Phone:

IHE Contact Name:  Role:

Email:  Phone:

**CIHS LOCATION**

CIHS Planned Location and Physical Address:

Check here if you would like to request an official location waiver for the on-site requirement.  No  Yes

Provide clear justification for this request. How will college courses be delivered to students?

If this CIHS is already operational, describe facilities and indicate if there is an approved location waiver from the IHE Governing Boards.

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF CIHS (LESS THAN 150 WORDS)**

**STUDENT TARGET POPULATIONS**

Indicate the population(s) to be served:

High school students at risk of dropping out before attaining a high school diploma.

High school students with parents who did not continue education beyond high school, defined as  
“first generation college students” by the USED. *\* US Department of Education (USED) defines a first generation college student as a student from a family in which neither parent (whether natural or adoptive) received a baccalaureate degree or a student who, prior to the age of 18, regularly resided with and received support from only one natural or adoptive parent and whose supporting parent did not receive a baccalaureate degree.*

High school students who would benefit from accelerated academic instruction.

If the CIHS application does not indicate the intent to serve all three CIHS target populations, please provide the reasons for limiting this opportunity.

**GRADE LEVELS OFFERED**

Check all grades that apply:  Grade 9  Grade10  Grade 11  Grade12  Grade 13

**PROGRAM FOCUS**

Which program of study will be offered at the CIHS?

Career and Technical Education Programs  College Transfer Programs  Both

**STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND ADMISSION PROCESS**

Describe the student enrollment and admissions process, include specific selection criteria and recruitment efforts.  
If the CIHS application indicates the intent to serve all CIHS target populations, the recruitment strategies and admissions process should reflect that intention and should not create barriers to the enrollment of any target population.

**PROJECTED STUDENT ENROLLMENT, INDICATE APPROPRIATE GRADE LEVELS**

|  | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Grade 9 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Grade 10 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Grade 11 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Grade 12 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Grade 13 |  |  |  |  |  |

If serving less than 100 students per grade level, explain your reasons.

***PART C – PROGRAM INFORMATION***

**COMPREHENSIVE DESCRIPTION**

Describe fully the CIHS, addressing all relevant purposes outlined in the N. C. G. S. 115C-238.50 (a,b). How will this proposed CIHS better prepare students to be college and career ready?

How will the CIHS serve students beyond what is already available through the College Transfer pathway and/or Career Technical Education pathway of Career and College Promise? Clearly state how your proposed school is a different program.

**JUSTIFICATION FOR ADDITIONAL CIHS**

If there is an existing CIHS in the local school administrative unit, and if existing CIHS are serving less than 100 students per grade, what are the reasons for proposing an additional CIHS?

**RESPONSE TO REGION’S ECONOMIC VISION**

Explain how the CIHS relates to the Economic Vision Plan adopted for the economic development region where the school is located. Specifically address how the CIHS pathway will meet your local workforce needs and priorities.

**CURRICULUM**

Provide a description of the overall instructional program and how it will introduce innovation into the classroom. Address how the CIHS will ensure graduates are prepared for college and career.

Develop a proposed curriculum map for the CIHS. Include courses that will support completion of a high school diploma and the IHE program of study aligned to the CIHS program configuration. *Submit a completed CIHS Curriculum Map with this application.* Templates are available in a separate document.

**STUDENT GOALS/EXPECTATIONS**

Describe expected student academic and career/technical achievement goals and the measures used to demonstrate how students have attained the skills and knowledge specified for the goals.

| GOAL | INDICATOR | TARGET |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**PARENT/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT**

Describe how the CIHS, including administrators and teachers, will partner with parents/families to support student success. Include how the CIHS will measure parent/family involvement.

**SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS MEASURES**

Describe how the CIHS, LEA and partner IHE will measure the school’s effectiveness with respect to meeting the purposes specified in NCGS 115C-238.50 and the evaluation of CIHS specified in NCGS 115C-238.55. Please be sure to address the purpose listed in the chart below. Other measures may include:

* Staff collaboration
* Continuous improvement
* Community involvement
* Other innovative practices

| CIHS PURPOSE/OUTCOME | HOW WILL THESE BE MEASURED BY THE CIHS AND/OR THE IHE? |
| --- | --- |
| Innovative instructional practice |  |
| Target student groups served |  |
| High school retention rates |  |
| Post-secondary completion rates: Associate degrees, career credentials, or two years of transferable credit |  |
| Other |  |
| Other |  |
| Other |  |

***PART D – OPERATIONS***

**PROPOSED BUDGET**

Describe the budget development process for the CIHS.

Complete the Proposed Budget Template for the next five years. Template is available in a separate document. *Submit a completed Proposed Budget with this application.*

* Include funding sources in the budget.
* If the CIHS is not requesting additional funding, the CIHS proposed budget is still required. Complete applicable sections.
* If the CIHS is requesting additional funding, the CIHS proposed budget is required. This budget is a five-year proposed budget and includes, Average Daily Membership (ADM) and Full-Time Equivalents (FTE), as well as personnel and equipment needs.

If your IHE partner is a University partner, describe how the tuition charges will be determined.

**PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS**

Describe the specific positions and qualifications of employees in the program.

**STUDENT TRANSPORTATION**

Describe how students are to be transported to the CIHS. Describe how the CIHS will ensure that no child is denied access due to transportation issues.

**OPERATING PROCEDURES**

Explain the CIHS operating procedures, including calendar and hours of operation.

***SUBMISSION***

* The application must be submitted jointly by a Local Board of Education and the Board of Trustees of the partner Institution of Higher Education.
* A complete application packet includes (1) CIHS Signature Page, (2) CIHS Application, (3) CIHS Curriculum Maps for each program of study offered, (4) CIHS Proposed Budget.
* Submit all documents attached to one email.
* Only complete application packets will be reviewed and submitted to the State Board of Education and corresponding Board for action.
* An electronic version of the complete application packet must be submitted to [CIHS@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:CIHS@dpi.nc.gov) by October 10, 2025.