



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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TO LEA Superintendents
Chief Academic Officers
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FROM Dr. David Stegall 
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COOPERATIVE INNOVATIVE HIGH SCHOOL (CIHS) APPLICATIONS: 2021 TIMELINE FOR SUBMISSION

The Innovative Education Initiatives Act encourages LEAs to partner with their local postsecondary educational institution to establish a Cooperative Innovative High School. The purpose of these schools is to target first-generation college students, students who are at risk of dropping out of high school and/or students who would benefit from accelerated learning opportunities, and to expand students' opportunities for educational success through high quality instructional programming through dual enrollment. Districts interested in creating such a school must apply in partnership with an institution of higher education to develop a CIHS.

The 2021 Timeline has been adjusted due to the continuing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Important Consideration

NC Session Law 2020-64 established that the State Board of Education (SBE) may only conditionally approve up to three applications for CIHS programs that request additional funds to open in a school year. The SBE may prioritize conditional approval of applications for cooperative innovative high schools located in local school administrative units that do not already operate a CIHS.

Submission of a Letter of Intent: Due June 15, 2021

All LEAs and their higher education partners seeking to develop a CIHS must submit a letter of intent by using the electronic form at [CIHS Letter of Intent](#) by **June 15, 2021**. This letter of intent notifies the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC), which consists of representatives from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), the North Carolina Community College System, the University of North Carolina System, and the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, of the intent to submit an application. **This step is required for all applicants**, including any existing CIHS now seeking supplemental funding. The purpose of the letter of intent is to activate application support from the JAC and NCDPI. This assistance will be provided as a service to application partners.

ADVANCED LEARNING AND GIFTED EDUCATION

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Technical Assistance for Application Development:

The JAC is committed to providing you support in the development of your application. A CIHS Applicants Orientation will be held **June 30, 2021**. We encourage all application partners to attend this session to learn more about the application process and to discuss critical components of a CIHS. Further technical assistance will also be available throughout the application development phase.

Submission of Applications:

Applications to develop a CIHS are due to NCDPI by **October 4, 2021**. Applications must follow the electronic template that is available on the [CIHS Applicants Information](#) webpage, which is available for your review.

Selection of Cooperative Innovative High School Programs:

The JAC will review the applications and recommend to the appropriate Governing Boards those programs that meet the requirements and achieve the purposes set out in G. S. 115C-238.50. This process continues with final General Assembly approvals, typically through summer 2022. Please refer to the *Important Consideration* above regarding approvals.

An increasing number of students are benefitting from new opportunities that CIHS programs provide, which lead to stronger outcomes with higher rates of academic achievement, graduation, and postsecondary enrollment. We are committed to supporting your goals and those of your local communities in providing choices for students to reach their potential.

If you are interested in applying to develop a CIHS in your district and would like to discuss this opportunity or have questions, please contact CIHS@dpi.nc.gov.

As always, we appreciate your efforts to personalize learning and to ensure every student has multiple opportunities to determine his or her pathway to the future.

IL/SSC

c: North Carolina Community College System
University of North Carolina System
North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities