

Cooperative Innovative High Schools (CIHS) Frequently Asked Questions Spring 2021



Public Schools of North Carolina
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

1. What is a Cooperative Innovative High School (CIHS)?

- North Carolina's Cooperative Innovative High Schools (CIHS), including early colleges, middle colleges, career academies, and other innovative schools, are small public high schools, usually located on the campus of a university or community college, that expand students' opportunities through high quality instructional programming, blending high school course work with college coursework or career preparation.
- Cooperative Innovative High Schools target students who are at risk of dropping out of high school, first-generation college students, and/or students who would benefit from accelerated learning opportunities, including students traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

2. How many CIHS are there in North Carolina?

- Currently, there are a total of 132 CIHS in North Carolina. These schools represent different state initiatives focused on innovation in high schools over the years.
- 116 partner with community colleges
- 11 partner with UNC institutions
- 5 partner with independent colleges

3. How are CIHS funded?

- Like other public schools in North Carolina, CIHS receive state funding based on Average Daily Membership. Higher education partners receive reimbursement for tuition: Full Time Equivalencies (FTEs) for community colleges; UNC System tuition rates by DPI for UNC System and independent colleges and universities.
- Additional supplemental funding (PRC 055) for CIHS was revised by the Current Operations Appropriations Act of 2017. Appropriated supplemental funding for CIHS aligns to the economic tier designation for the region where the CIHS is located. Most CIHS receive some appropriated supplemental funding.

4. How are CIHS connected to Career College Promise?

- CIHS programs are one of three pathways of Career and College Promise (CCP). CCP provides dual enrollment opportunities for NC's high school students. CIHS are one of three pathways offered through Career and College Promise: College Transfer, Career and Technical Education and CIHS.
- The CCP Leadership Team with members from NCDPI and the NC Community Colleges System aligns CCP work across the two agencies. The team will hold regional support sessions to bring together community college staff and LEA staff who work with all CCP programs to review policies, improve programming, and share best practices. The team will also host technical assistance webinars throughout the year based on the needs from the field.

5. How are CIHS evaluated, and by whom?

- "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 in career or study-related fields, and employer satisfaction of employees who participated in and

graduated from the schools.” The Boards shall jointly report by January 15 of each year to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the evaluation of these schools.” (N.C.G.A. § 115C-238.55).

6. How can my child attend a CIHS?

- Prospective students interested in attending a CIHS and parents or guardians should contact the CIHS directly to find out about how to apply.
- Prospective students should attend presentations to 8th grade students at their middle school by CIHS staff to learn the CIHS opportunity.
- Prospective students should talk with their school counselor about their interest in attending the CIHS.
- Prospective students and families are encouraged to visit the CIHS they are considering.

7. How can my school district add a CIHS?

- CIHS are partnerships between one school district and one higher education partner. School districts interested in creating a CIHS should approach a college or university about becoming the higher education partner for the new CIHS.
- If the district and higher education partner decide to apply to open a new CIHS, they should contact the Division of Advanced Learning at NCDPI.

8. What division of NCDPI supports CIHS?

- The Division of Advanced Learning and Gifted Education supports CIHS programs. NCDPI is part of the official Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) which oversees CIHS, by legislation (N.C.G.A. § 115C-238.51A).
- The NC Community College System Office, the UNC General Administration, and the NC Independent Colleges and Universities also serve on the JAC.

9. How does NCDPI support CIHS?

- Provide technical assistance to ensure fidelity to the governing legislation (N.C.G.A. § 115C-238.50-.55).
- Develop and implement policy to support CIHS effectiveness and innovation;
- Facilitate CIHS application process;
- Allocate and manage budget and finances with public school districts;
- Partner with NC Community Colleges System Office and UNC General Administration to lead CIHS programming; and
- Support CIHS as innovative public high schools.

10. What other areas does the Advanced Learning Division support?

- The major work streams of the Division of Advance Learning focus on:
 - Academically and/or Intellectually Gifted students and programming,
 - Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge International Education, and Honors programming,
 - Credit by Demonstrated Mastery and Adult High School, and
 - Dual enrollment through Career and College Promise (CCP) and Cooperative Innovative High Schools.