



# NORTH CAROLINA

## State Profile

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
<a href="#"><u>Advanced Placement (AP)</u></a>	Yes	Offered in high schools and online	Yes	Students attending schools in rural and low-wealth counties	Yes	Federal funding; the Advanced Placement Incentive Program and Advanced Placement Fee Reduction Grant
<b>Bridge Programs</b>	Yes	Example: extensive <a href="#"><u>Summer Outreach Program</u></a> at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First-generation students</li> <li>• Low-achieving students</li> </ul>	Yes	Federal funding
<b>Career Academies</b>	Yes	A large number of career academies located throughout the state	Yes	Each local career academy is designed for a specific group of students.	Yes	State funding
<b>College Level Exam Program (CLEP)</b>	Yes	No details known or available	DK	No details known or available	No	Local policy
<a href="#"><u>Distance Learning/ Virtual School</u></a>	Yes	Partnership among NC Department of Public Instruction and <a href="#"><u>LEARN North Carolina</u></a> , a public service of the School of Education at the University of North Carolina to create online versions of 12 of the 34 official AP courses; both television and online formats	Yes	Rural residents, including Native American students, are especially likely to benefit.	Yes	State funding based on full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment
<a href="#"><u>Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment</u></a>	Yes	College classes; designed to blur lines between high school and community college and provide academic enrichment.	No		Yes	<a href="#"><u>Huskins Bill</u></a> replaced concurrent enrollment policy in 2004-05; courses provided at no cost to students
<b>Early or Middle College High Schools</b>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High priority of the Governor; currently 6 early college high schools and more under development; Goal is for every county to have an early college high school in 5 years.</li> <li>• NC also developing some middle college high schools emphasizing small schools.</li> </ul>	Yes	In past, special efforts have been made to reach racial minority and low-achieving students. At first these schools were set up for specific groups, but new emphasis is on serving all students.	Yes	The first 6 schools were started with College Tech Prep funding. Now the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is contributing to the new schools and the governor has added state money.

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<b>GED in College Settings</b>	Yes	Administered by community colleges; NC Department of Education (K-12) not involved	Yes	Low-achieving students	Yes	State policy
<b>Gifted Enrollment</b>	Yes	High performing high school students under age 16 may take college classes for dual credit.	No		Yes	State legislation and funding; NC General Statutes, Chapter 115C Elementary and Secondary Education, Article 9B § 115C-150.5.
<b>International Baccalaureate (IB)</b>	Yes	20 high schools participating	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low-income students</li> <li>• Urban students</li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State funding</li> <li>• IB Schools in North Carolina (IBSNC) is a new organization established by IB coordinators and principals to create a unified voice to work with university and legislative personnel and gain more recognition for IB.</li> </ul>
<b><u>Tech Prep</u></b>	Yes	Referred to as College Tech Prep, the state’s initiative has a statewide articulation agreement with 11 career pathways. Students complete a math and science sequence as well as 4 credits in a career-technical education (CTE) pathway. The state recently updated its articulation agreement for Tech Prep.	Yes	Students who have not traditionally gone to college	Yes	Federal Perkins funding; some state funding

**Summary of academic pathways:**

North Carolina offers a number of academic pathways, several of which are widely available. The state is actively promoting the use of dual credit by requiring that it be provided at no cost to students. The Governor is placing emphasis on early college high schools. In addition, both dual credit and Huskins Bill classes are considered state priorities. Among other advantages, dual credit allows students to use open seats in community colleges. The Huskins Bill is also seen as improving use of resources as it provides a wider range of courses for students in districts with few offerings and makes better use of available staff.



Interesting or unique models identified by state officials:

- Active College Tech Prep program
Distance learning
Large number of early college high schools actively promoted by the state

Observations by state officials about special efforts to reach underserved students:

A number of pathways are making special efforts to reach different groups of students, including racial and ethnic minority, low-achieving, and rural students. The availability of no-cost dual credit courses has the potential to make access to college much easier for these groups of students.

Observations by state officials about state support for pathways:

The state is taking an active role in supporting the pathways. The Governor is committed to opening a large number of early college high schools. In addition, high school students have widespread opportunities to take state-supported college courses through the Huskins Bill courses, dual credit, and College Tech Prep.

Lessons learned by state officials:

- Allowing high school students to attend college keeps them engaged; some perform better in a college environment than in high school.
Tech Prep articulation is somewhat hampered by transfer agreements with local universities and by parents' lack of knowledge and understanding of college Tech Prep.

Programs recommended by state officials:

Table with 5 columns: Pathways, Educational Institution, Contact person, E-mail, Phone. Rows include Bridge Programs, Distance Learning/Virtual School, Early College High School, and Tech Prep.

State official's contact information:

Table with 5 columns: Name, Title, Agency, E-mail, Phone. Rows include \*William Price and \*Bob Witchger.

(Prepared by Elisabeth Barnett/ Updated December, 2004/ This state profile was forwarded to state officials for review.)