



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
H. Martin Lancaster, President

April 23, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief Academic Officers
Early Childhood Department Heads

FROM: Kathy Shepherd, Workforce Section Chief
Division of Child Development

Kristi Snuggs, Program Coordinator
North Carolina Community College System

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding for
EDU 111 Early Childhood Credential I
EDU 112 Early Childhood Credential II

The North Carolina Community College System has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Public Instruction and the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development, for the early childhood credential process. The MOU allows high schools to teach Early Childhood Education I and II to juniors and seniors. Upon successful completion, students will be able to articulate the course credits to the community college under the North Carolina High School-to-Community College Articulation Agreement.

Under the MOU, students may request articulation of their high school coursework if certain conditions are followed. High schools students shall be advised that in order to receive college credit they must:

- Successfully complete the approved Early Childhood Education I and II courses with a grade of “B” or higher in each course,
- Obtain a raw score of 80 or higher on the standardized VoCATS post-assessment, and
- Enroll at a local community college offering an early childhood education program within two years of their high school graduation date.

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Additionally, high school students shall be advised that in order to be eligible for the North Carolina Early Childhood Credential Equivalency awarded by the Division of Child Development they must:

- Receive articulated college credit for Early Childhood Education I and II courses by meeting all criteria identified in the North Carolina High School to Community College Articulation Agreement referenced above,
- Obtain a high school diploma or GED,
- Be 18 years of age,
- Be enrolled at a local community college, and
- Submit completed application to the Division of Child Development after all aforementioned requirements have been met.

The MOU became effective Fall 2003. However, to accommodate students already enrolled in courses while the details of the MOU were finalized, students who completed the high school coursework from Fall 2002 forward may be eligible for articulated credit.

We are excited about the collaborative initiative to improve the quality of child care in North Carolina through personnel preparation coordinated among state agencies. A copy of the official signed MOU will be mailed to all colleges for your reference. We have attached a final copy of the MOU and the form for requesting the credential from the Division of Child Development to this email.

Should you have questions or concerns related to this initiative, please contact Kristi Snuggs at (919) 807-7122, or snuggsk@ncccs.cc.nc.us.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

KS/cap

Attachments

c: Delores A. Parker
Peggy Ball
Darryl McGraw
Judith Mann

CC04-091
E-mail

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES, THE NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM AND
THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION REGARDING
THE NORTH CAROLINA EARLY CHILDHOOD CREDENTIAL

INTENT

To improve the quality of child care through personnel preparation, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) implemented the North Carolina Early Childhood Credential (NCECC) in 1992 as an early care and education credential initiative targeting the state's child care teachers and directors. Ten years after the implementation of the credential initiative over 36,000 credentials have been awarded. A collaborative partner in this endeavor was the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS). As the NCCCS seeks to improve its early childhood education curriculum to better meet industry needs, another partner emerges to assist in the delivery of instruction for the NCECC or equivalent. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) has developed a set of Early Childhood Education courses that closely resemble the competencies covered in the NCECC. The intent of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to reaffirm the basic responsibilities of the relationship between DHHS and NCCCS and to define the responsibilities of NCDPI regarding the on-going implementation of the North Carolina Early Childhood Credential program.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of all parties is that all children in early childhood programs will be safe and have educated, caring adults working with them. Child development research supports the importance of increased education and specific professional training, and its effect on the prevention of harm in childcare as well as the promotion of optimal development for children.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

The parties agree to the following strategies for the on-going implementation of the North Carolina Early Childhood Credential (NCECC) or equivalent:

1. DHHS, NCCCS and NCDPI agree that all NCECC coursework will be offered for credit only through the community college early childhood curriculum programs or the approved Early Childhood Education I and II classes as specified in the *North Carolina High School to Community College Articulation Agreement*.
2. DHHS, in collaboration with NCCCS, will be responsible for coordinating the revision process (es) of the course content which comprise the NCECC.
3. NCCCS and NCDPI will be responsible for revising the Early Childhood Education I and II course content in accordance with revisions incorporated in the NCECC.
4. NCDPI will be responsible for ensuring that high school students are 16 years of age before beginning an internship in a licensed child care facility.

5. NCDPI will be responsible for advising high school students wishing to become eligible for the NCECC or equivalent of all criteria for the approval of college credit and eligibility for the NCECC.

High school students shall be advised that in order to receive college credit they must:

- successfully complete the approved Early Childhood Education I and II courses with a grade of "B" or higher in each course
- obtain a raw score of 80 or higher on the standardized VoCATS post-assessment
- enroll at a local community college offering an early childhood education program within two years of their high school graduation date

Additionally, high school students shall be advised that in order to be eligible for the NCECC they must:

- receive articulated college credit for Early Childhood Education I and II courses by meeting all criteria identified in the *North Carolina High School to Community College Articulation Agreement* referenced above.
- obtain a high school diploma or GED
- be 18 years of age
- be enrolled at a local community college

After meeting both sets of criteria, students wishing to apply for the NCECC should request an official college transcript showing articulated courses. The official college transcript, a copy of their high school diploma, and the NCECC completion form/application should be mailed to the DHHS Division of Child Development to determine eligibility for the NCECC or equivalent.

6. DHHS, NCCCS, and NCDPI will be collaboratively responsible for advising individual colleges and high schools on the implementation of the NCECC or Early Childhood Education I and II courses.
7. DHHS will be responsible for issuing the NCECC certificates; approving student eligibility for NCECC; and administering the early childhood credential program according to DHHS policies and procedures.
8. NCCCS and NCDPI will be responsible for orienting all instructors who teach NCECC or Early Childhood Education I and II coursework.
9. The content of this MOU will be evaluated at a minimum of every three years or at the discretion of the three aforementioned agencies.

All provisions of this MOU are contingent upon applicability of state and federal program and funding regulations.

In witness whereof, the DHHS, NCCCS and NCDPI have executed this MOU in triplicate originals, one of which is retained by each of the parties.

The MOU is effective upon signature of all parties.

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

By _____ Date _____
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

By _____ Date _____
H. Martin Lancaster, President

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

By _____ Date _____
Michael E. Ward, Superintendent

NORTH CAROLINA LEAD TEACHER EQUIVALENCY FORM FOR APPROVED HIGH SCHOOL COURSEWORK

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| A) <u>Student Information</u> | Social Security # _____ - _____ - _____ |
| Applicant _____ | Maiden Name _____ |

| | | |
|--|--------------|-----------|
| Last | First | MI |
| Home Mailing Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____ | | |
| Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ Home Telephone # (____) _____ County of Residence _____ | | |

| | |
|--|--|
| B) <u>Facility Information</u> | Beginning Date of Employment In <u>This</u> Center ____ / ____ / ____ |
| Name of Facility _____ | |
| Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ | |
| County _____ | |
| Facility ID # _____ Facility Telephone # (____) _____ FAX # (____) _____ | |
| Position Title: _____ Number of Hours Worked Per Week: _____ | |

| |
|--|
| C) <u>High School Information (Copy of high school diploma or GED certificate must be attached to form)</u> |
| (check one): ____ High School Diploma ____ GED ____ Neither |
| Date of Graduation: _____ |
| Are you currently enrolled in an Early Childhood curriculum program at the Community College? ____ Yes ____ No |
| If "Yes", where are you enrolled? _____ Date of Enrollment: _____ |

| |
|--|
| D) <u>College Authorization (Must be signed by the Admissions Officer <u>and</u> Head of the Early Childhood Education Dept. at Community College)</u> |
| The above named student has completed the following criteria in order to be considered for the equivalency status: |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Successfully completed the approved Early Childhood Education I & II courses with a grade of "B" or higher in each course. 2. Obtained a raw score of 80 or higher on the standardized VoCats post-assessment. 3. Enrolled at a local community college offering an early childhood curriculum program within two years of their high school graduation date. 4. Received articulated college credit for the Early Childhood Education I & II courses by meeting all criteria identified in the <i>North Carolina High School to Community College Articulation Agreement</i>. 5. Obtained a high school diploma or GED. 6. Is at least 18 years of age. |
| I have verified all six criteria listed above have been met by the above named student. |
| _____ Admissions Officer at _____ Community College _____ Head of Early Childhood Education Department (verifies Admin. Officer's signature) |

NOTE: You must fill out the entire form, sign it, and attach a copy of your high school diploma/GED and your official transcripts from the community college or the form will be returned to you unprocessed.

**Submit to: Workforce Section
 Division of Child Development
 2201 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, NC 27699-2201**

I attest that the information provided on this application is true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that completing the Credential coursework in high school will result in **EQUIVALENCY** status only (not the certificate and/or bonus) and approval of my **equivalency** status is conditional upon, **but not limited to**, successful completion of the coursework and enrollment in the early childhood curriculum program at the community college.

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Application**
Date: _____

