



**NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM**  
*Dr. R. Scott Ralls, President*

August 12, 2008

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Select Presidents Early College High School Liaisons  
Select Chief Academic Officers Select Student Development Administrators

**FROM:** Antonio Jordan, Director  
Joint High School Partnership Programs

**RE:** **Appropriate Fees Assessed to Learn and Earn Early College High School Students**

Learn and Earn early college high schools provide students with the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and a community college associate degree, or two years of transferable university credit toward a four-year degree, while gaining the skills to pursue a career in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy. Governor Easley has expanded this nationally recognized Learn and Earn high school program statewide so that every student in North Carolina can have equal opportunity.

Learn and Earn is revolutionary because it allows students to jump-start their college education or gain high-level career skills **without the burden of any tuition charges**. Learn and Earn allows students to attend a high school located on a college campus, and in no more than five years, earn a high school diploma as well as two years of transferable college credit or an associate's degree, **at no cost**.

The legislation that governs Learn and Earn early college high schools prohibits the use of grant funds for the payment of fees assessed to Learn and Earn early college high school students which are specified in statute. HB 1473 (see below) allows payments from grant funds for technology fees and fees associated with courses exclusively.

**Only the fees stated in the legislation are appropriate** and permissible for Learn and Earn early college high school students. The assessment of fees outside of those specified in the statute is not consistent with the intent of the initiative. Please take time to review the legislation.

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**SECTION 7.19.(f)** *Textbooks required for college courses in which Learn and Earn students are enrolled may be purchased with these funds.\**

**SECTION 7.19.(g)** *Payment of fees from these funds by local school administrative units to partnering community colleges and universities are restricted to technology or course fees. Funds appropriated in this act shall not be used to support the cost of athletic or other student activity or campus fees not required by enrollment in a specific course.\**

**SECTION 7.19.(h)** *The State Board of Education shall allot funds for university enrollment, tuition and fees, and textbooks on the basis of and after verification of the credit hour enrollment of Learn and Earn students in university courses. The State Board of Education shall allot funds for community college fees and textbooks on the basis of and after verification of the credit hour enrollment of Learn and Earn students in community college courses.\**

*\*Emphasis added*

Please feel free to contact Antonio Jordan at [jordana@nccommunitycolleges.edu](mailto:jordana@nccommunitycolleges.edu), 919/807-7133 if you have questions.

AJJ/pck  
Attachment

C: Dr. Delores A. Parker  
Mr. J. B. Buxton, NCDPI  
Ms. Rebecca Garland, NCDPI  
Dr. Tony Habit, NSP  
Ms. Tabitha Grossman, NSP  
Mr. Van Wilson  
Mr. Kennon Briggs

**S08-051**  
**E-mail**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007**

**SESSION LAW 2007-323  
HOUSE BILL 1473**

**FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THE ABCS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**

**LEARN AND EARN HIGH SCHOOLS**

**SECTION 7.19.(a)** Funds are appropriated in this act for the Learn and Earn high school workforce development program. The purpose of the program is to create rigorous and relevant high school options that provide students with the opportunity and assistance to earn an associate degree or two years of college credit by the conclusion of the year after their senior year in high school. The State Board of Education shall work closely with the Education Cabinet and the New Schools Project in administering the program.

**SECTION 7.19.(b)** These funds shall be used to establish new high schools in which a local school administrative unit, two- and four-year colleges and universities, and local employers work together to ensure that high school and postsecondary college curricula operate seamlessly and meet the needs of participating employers.

Funds shall not be allotted until Learn and Earn high schools are certified as operational.

**SECTION 7.19.(c)** During the first year of its operation, a high school established under G.S. 115C-238.50 shall be allotted a principal regardless of the number of State-paid teachers assigned to the school or the number of students enrolled in the school. The budget flexibility authorized by G.S. 115C-105.25 does not apply to these positions.

**SECTION 7.19.(d)** The State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Board of Community Colleges and The University of North Carolina Board of Governors, shall conduct an annual evaluation of this program. The evaluation shall include measures as identified in G.S. 115C-238.55. It shall also include: (i) an accounting of how funds and personnel resources were utilized and their impact on student achievement, retention, and employability; (ii) recommended statutory and policy changes; and (iii) recommendations for improvement of the program. The State Board of Education shall report the results of this evaluation to the Office of State Budget and Management, the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, and the Fiscal Research Division by January 15 of each fiscal year.

**SECTION 7.19.(e)** Enrollment fees and tuition for The University of North Carolina courses in which Learn and Earn students are enrolled are allowable uses of these funds. Tuition costs may include laboratory fees assessed to all students enrolled in the course or a similar course.

**SECTION 7.19.(f)** Textbooks required for college courses in which Learn and Earn students are enrolled may be purchased with these funds.

**SECTION 7.19.(g)** Payment of fees from these funds by local school administrative units to partnering community colleges and universities are restricted to technology or course fees. Funds appropriated in this act shall not be used to support the cost of athletic or other student activity or campus fees not required by enrollment in a specific course.

**SECTION 7.19.(h)** The State Board of Education shall allot funds for university enrollment, tuition and fees, and textbooks on the basis of and after verification of the credit hour enrollment of Learn and Earn students in university courses. The State Board of Education shall allot funds for community college fees and textbooks on the basis of and after verification of the credit hour enrollment of Learn and Earn students in community college course

**SECTION 7.19.(i)** Of the funds appropriated to the State Public School Fund for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the State Board of Education may use up to eight hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$850,000) to establish additional Learn and Earn high schools that become certified as operational.

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**SECTION 32.6.** Except as otherwise provided, this act becomes effective July 1, 2007. In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 30th day of July, 2007.