

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Multicampus Center Approval Process
Section 10.7, S.L. 2013-360
(Approved by the State Board on 1/17/2014)

Background: Multi-campus centers (MCCs) are State Board-approved convenience locations geographically apart from a community college’s main campus, where students may complete certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees as well as access literacy and continuing education courses.

Consistent with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accreditation and State Board requirements, MCCs must provide comprehensive instructional support functions such as libraries and student development services. Currently, students are being served at 33 MCCs. Attachment A provides a list of those MCCs and associated full-time equivalent (FTE) students served at those locations.

Prior to 2010, the State Board would review college requests for multi-campus center designations. If approved, the State Board would then request funds from the General Assembly to help support the operations of that MCC. During the most recent recession, the General Assembly did not appropriate funds for all newly established MCCs. As a result, five colleges did not receive funding to help support the operations of six new MCCs in FY 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11.

In 2010, the General Assembly amended G.S. 115D-5(o) to state, “The State Board of Community Colleges shall not approve any additional multicampus centers without identified recurring sources of funding.”¹ In 2011, the General Assembly further amended G.S. 115D-5(o) to require “(a)ll multicampus centers approved by the State Board of Community Colleges shall receive funding under the same formula.” Since no additional funds were appropriated, this mandate ensured that all 33 MCCs received funding, but effectively reduced the amount of funding provided to each MCC.

The combination of the requirement to not approve new MCCs without identifying recurring funds, the requirement to fund all approved MCCs under the same formula, and the desire to not further dilute the amount of funding provided to support these centers has resulted in confusion about which entity – the General Assembly or the State Board of Community Colleges – should take action first on future MCC requests.

Recommended Process: To address this confusion, Section 10.7 of S.L. 2013-360 directs, “The State Board of Community Colleges shall develop a process for approval of community college multicampus centers.” **The State Board recommends a three-step process:**

¹ Section 8.11 of S.L. 2010-31.

Step 1: Initial State Board Review and Recommendation

To help ensure that appropriate geographic access is provided to community college programs and services, while minimizing the unnecessary duplication and proliferation of facilities, the State Board has adopted a policy that governs MCC designation. The State Board requires college sites to meet the following criteria to receive MCC designation:²

1. An adequate population base must exist to support the multi-campus operation.
2. Programs and services provided are based on appropriate student demand and needs.
3. Programs and services provided through multi-campus centers comply with the *Criteria for Accreditation* of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
4. Adequate county government maintenance and operation of physical plant support is available.
5. An instructional program and services plan has been developed which includes appropriate details concerning program mix, staffing, and instructional support functions.
6. The multicampus center does not have a negative impact on institutions in contiguous areas.
7. Students enrolled at a multicampus location must be able to complete at least one associate degree at the campus that requests the multi-campus designation.
8. The duplication of instructional support and other cost expenses are justifiable from cost effectiveness and quality perspectives.
9. The multi-campus operation must enroll a minimum of 300 budget FTE. The method to be used in deriving the FTE shall be the same as the method used for calculating Budgeted FTE (the higher of the current year or a two-year rolling average).³

The State Board should require colleges seeking MCC designations to submit their applications no later than October 15th of each year. This deadline would ensure that the State Board could review requests according to its policy in a timeframe that would allow incorporation of its recommendation into the information provided for the State budget process. The State Board's recommendation should also clearly outline any conditions the college must meet to receive final State Board approval, contingent on the General Assembly funding.

² 2006 State Board Policy on the Designation of Off-Campus Centers & Multi-Campus Colleges: Policies and Funding Methods

³ Note that approved multi-campus centers serving fewer than 300 BFTE at the time this policy was adopted were grandfathered for inclusion by the State Board of Community Colleges.

Step 2: Appropriation of Funds by the General Assembly

If recommended for approval, the System Office will include the State Board's recommendation in the information provided to the Office of State Budget and Management and the General Assembly for budget deliberations. The college seeking the MCC designation would be primarily responsible for advocating for expansion funding for the MCC with support from the System Office. The expansion budget request shall be for an amount necessary to fund an additional MCC under the existing funding formula. Currently, that amount is \$500,919 for an MCC serving 1500 or less FTE and \$839,311 for an MCC serving greater than 1500 FTE. If the General Assembly decides to appropriate funds for the recommended MCC, the request moves to Step 3. If the General Assembly decides not to appropriate funds, the college's request will be resubmitted in future years unless the college withdraws its request.

Step 3: State Board Approval

If the General Assembly appropriates adequate funds to support the MCC consistent with the existing funding formula, the State Board would then consider granting approval for the MCC designation. In addition to adequate recurring funding, the State Board would only grant approval if the college has satisfied any conditions included in its original recommendation. If final approval is granted, the State Board shall allocate funds to the college for the newly approved MCC. If for any reason the State Board fails to grant approval of the MCC, then the funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the MCC shall remain unexpended and revert to the General Fund.

Recommended Legislation: In addition to recommending a plan for a multicampus approval process, Section 10.7 of S.L. 2013-360 also asked the State Board to identify any statutory changes necessary to implement that plan. While no statutory changes are required to enable the above plan, the State Board will need to amend its current policy to establish a deadline for MCC applications and clearly communicate this multi-step process.

NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
Multi-Campus FTE and Allotment
FY 2013-14

Attachment FC 2 - A

Community College	Campus	2-Year Average FTE	Campus Allotment	Total Allotment
Blue Ridge CC	Transylvania Campus	306	500,919	\$500,919
Caldwell CC	Watauga Cty. Campus	859	500,919	500,919
Cape Fear CC	North Campus	2,230	839,311	839,311
Central Carolina CC	Chatham Cty. Campus	399	500,919	
	Harnett Cty. Campus	837	500,919	1,001,838
Central Piedmont CC	North Campus	868	500,919	
	Levine Campus	2,128	839,311	
	Harper Campus	788	500,919	
	Harris Campus	436	500,919	
	Cato Campus	1,006	500,919	2,842,987
College of The Albemarle	Dare Cty. Campus	221	500,919	500,919
Craven CC	Havelock Campus	390	500,919	500,919
Davidson Co. CC	Davie Campus	386	500,919	500,919
Edgecombe CC	Rocky Mount Campus	854	500,919	500,919
Fayetteville Tech. CC	Spring Lake Campus	641	500,919	500,919
Gaston College	Lincoln Cty. Campus	644	500,919	
	Kimbrell Campus	203	500,919	1,001,838
Guilford TCC	Greensboro Campus	2,258	839,311	
	High Point Campus	1,042	500,919	1,340,230
Piedmont CC	Caswell Campus	341	500,919	500,919
Rowan-Cabarrus CC	Cabarrus Cty. Campus	1,810	839,311	
	Cloverleaf Plaza Campus	318	500,919	
	Hwy 29 Campus	267	500,919	1,841,149
South Piedmont CC	West Campus	1,211	500,919	500,919
Southwestern CC	Macon Cty. Campus	384	500,919	500,919
Stanly CC	Western Stanly Campus	668	500,919	500,919
Vance-Granville CC	Franklin Cty. Campus	473	500,919	
	Granville Cty. Campus	442	500,919	1,001,838
Wake TCC	Health Sciences Campus	1,356	500,919	
	Northeast Campus	3,510	839,311	
	West Campus	723	500,919	
	Public Safety Training Campus	450	500,919	2,342,068
Wilkes CC	Ashe Cty. Campus	282	500,919	500,919
TOTAL		28,731	18,222,287	\$ 18,222,287