

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES & UNC BOARD OF GOVERNORS
JOINT POLICY REQUEST
Financial Aid Simplification**

Request: Consolidate and simplify the Community College Grant, the UNC Need-based Grant, and the Education Lottery Scholarship into one North Carolina Scholarship.

Background: In August 2018, then UNC System President Margaret Spellings and then Community College System President Peter Hans convened the North Carolina Student Aid Study Group consisting of a group of leaders from across the two systems to identify opportunities to simplify state grant programs and align them with student success goals. Included in the Study Group were staff from the NC Community College System Office as well as nine representatives from community colleges including two community college presidents. In May of 2019, the Study Group released [Strengthening North Carolina's Need-Based State Grant Programs to Support Student Success](#) which made several recommendations and the Strategic Planning Committee reviewed those recommendations at its July 2019 meeting.

One of the primary recommendations was to create a State financial aid system that is simple, transparent, targeted, and accessible. To achieve this goal, the Group recommended consolidating the three state-funded grant programs for UNC and NCCCS students into one single “North Carolina Scholarship”. This consolidation will maintain the amount of funds available to students through the Community College Grant Program and the System’s proportional share of the Educational Lottery Scholarship.

Rationale: The existence of three separate financial aid programs, with three different eligibility criteria, makes state-based grant programs more complex to navigate and understand for students and families. Consolidating these three programs into a single North Carolina Scholarship would create a simpler, more user- friendly state aid system.

Contact(s)

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