

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Service Area Review Report

The 2015 General Assembly amended G.S. 115D-5 by adding a new subsection which reads:

“(w) The State Board of Community Colleges shall review, at least every five years, service areas that include counties assigned to more than one community college to determine the feasibility of continuing to assign those counties to more than one community college. The State Board shall revise service areas as needed to ensure that counties are served effectively. The first review and any revisions shall be completed no later than March 1, 2016, and the State Board shall report its findings and any revisions to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee no later than March 1, 2016. All subsequent reviews and revisions shall also be submitted to the Committee.”

This report represents the first review as required by this statute. Currently, there are only two examples of two community colleges jointly serving a county:

- Northampton County is served by Halifax Community College and by Roanoke-Chowan Community College.
- Bertie County is served by Roanoke-Chowan Community College and Martin Community College.

Service Area Assignments

- **Bertie County** - Martin Community College serves the townships of Indian Woods and Merry Hill and has exclusive authority for offering curriculum and adult basic education courses in the Windsor Township, which includes the county seat and only public high school. Both Roanoke-Chowan Community College and Martin Community College are authorized to offer continuing education courses in the Windsor Township. Roanoke-Chowan Community College serves the townships of Colerain, Mitchells, Roxobol, Snakebite, Whites, and Woodville.
- **Northampton County** - Halifax Community College serves the townships of Gaston, Occoneechee, Pleasant Hill and Seaboard. Roanoke-Chowan Community College serves the townships of Jackson, Kirby, Rich Square, Roanoke, and Wiccacanee.

Review Process.

This review of the Service Area assignments for Bertie and Northampton counties included the following:

- Notification to the presidents of the three community colleges involved of the review process;

- Campus visits to the three community colleges involved to meet with the Presidents and their selected staff to determine if any issues exist regarding the delivery of educational programs within the shared counties; and,
- A review of the course offerings in each county to evaluate the number and types of course offerings being delivered by each college. This information was compared with counties of similar demographics to determine if the shared counties are being adequately served.

Summary of Interviews.

The conversations with the presidents revealed no major issues. While there are no major issues, the three instructional areas that could potentially lead to concern include Career and College Promise offerings, emergency services training and education, and instructional delivery at correctional institutions.

These three areas need consistent attention based on the following:

- Career and College Promise
 - Development of Early College High Schools that attract students from more than one service area
 - Merging or redistricting high schools with resulting move of students to attend high schools in a different service area from the service area in which they reside
- Emergency Services Training and Education
 - Requests from agencies that cross service area due to size and location of townships
 - Low enrollment requests resulting in need of collaboration that supports combined classes spanning more than one service area
- Instructional Delivery at Correctional Institutions
 - Facility located in a service area of a college which is not currently prepared or possibly approved to offer requested programming

Review of Delivery of Educational Programs.

Enrollment data was reviewed for both Credit (Credit) and Non-Credit offerings for Bertie and Northampton counties for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 enrollment periods. Based on the population and demographics for Bertie and Northampton counties, it appears that the offerings and enrollments are consistent with comparable counties.

The following data is from the fall 2014 term. Enrollment and participation rates for Bertie and Northampton counties were compared with data from Martin County, Hertford County (home of Roanoke Chowan Community College) and Warren County, a county in the region with similar population and demographics.

| Fall 2014 | Curriculum | | Non-Credit | | Unduplicated Total | |
|-------------|------------|-------|------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| | 15-24 | 25-59 | 15-24 | 25-59 | 15-24 | 25-59 |
| | Bertie | 346 | 194 | 176 | 627 | 502 |
| Hertford | 434 | 225 | 127 | 389 | 536 | 589 |
| Martin | 388 | 264 | 122 | 463 | 503 | 719 |
| Northampton | 220 | 151 | 70 | 399 | 285 | 541 |
| Warren | 293 | 167 | 107 | 431 | 393 | 592 |

| | Population | | Participation rate | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|-------|--------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| | 15-24 | 25-59 | Curriculum | | Non-Credit | | Unduplicated Total | |
| | | | 15-24 | 25-59 | 15-24 | 25-59 | 15-24 | 25-59 |
| Bertie | 2798 | 9646 | 12% | 2% | 6% | 7% | 18% | 8% |
| Hertford | 3481 | 11523 | 12% | 2% | 4% | 3% | 15% | 5% |
| Martin | 2834 | 9066 | 14% | 3% | 4% | 5% | 18% | 8% |
| Northampton | 2641 | 9502 | 8% | 2% | 3% | 4% | 11% | 6% |
| Warren | 2537 | 9273 | 12% | 2% | 4% | 5% | 15% | 6% |
| STATE | | | 9% | 2% | 3% | 4% | 11% | 6% |

Note – The participation rate and enrollment numbers in the 15-24 age group for Northampton County are lower than the surrounding counties. This is probably the result of the presence of Cooperative Innovative High Schools (CIHS) in the other four counties. The Northampton County Early College High School has been approved by the State Board of Education and is scheduled for consideration by the State Board of Community Colleges at its February 2016 meeting.

Findings. Based on the review of the service area participation and enrollment data and interviews with the Presidents of the community colleges serving Bertie and Northampton counties, it appears that the current shared service areas for these counties is working and serving the citizens of these counties. While there are potential areas of concern, the colleges have been able to work through the challenges to satisfactory resolution and it is anticipated that that will continue. Following are the findings:

1. The assigned shared service areas for Bertie and Northampton counties remain as currently assigned;
2. The community colleges serving these counties continue to communicate and collaborate as appropriate to provide access to adequate educational program offerings for the citizens of these counties; and,
3. The North Carolina Community College System Office and the State Board of Community Colleges continue to review the educational offering provided in Bertie and Northampton counties, and provide assistance as needed to help the colleges work through any challenges to serving these counties.