

## **PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAREER AND COLLEGE READY GRADUATES PROGRAM**

A Report to the:  
Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee

Submitted by The State Board of Community Colleges  
and the State Board of Education

S.L. 2015-241, Section 10.13, as amended by S.L. 2016-94 and S.L. 2018-5

October 15, 2020

**Report to the NC General Assembly:  
Career and College Ready Graduates Programs (CCRG)  
S.L. 2015-241, Section 10.13, as amended by S.L. 2016-94 and S.L. 2018-5**

**BACKGROUND**

S.L. 2015-241, Section 10.13 amended by S.L. 2016-94 and S.L. 2018-5, Career and College Ready Graduates, requires the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC), in consultation with the State Board of Education (SBE), to develop a program that introduces the college developmental mathematics and developmental reading and English curriculums in the high school senior year and provides opportunities for college remediation for students prior to high school graduation. Implementation of select model partnerships began in the 2016/17 academic year with a scaled implementation planned for subsequent years and statewide implementation planned for 2020/21.

State law requires that high school students enroll in the program if they have not met benchmarks established by the SBCC by the end of their junior year. High schools are required to use the curriculum approved by the SBCC, in consultation with the SBE. The SBCC is also required to determine the appropriate measure of successful completion to ensure students are prepared for coursework at a North Carolina community college. Professional development is being prepared and delivered by the professional development sub-committee of the Career and College Ready Graduate Alignment Partnership (CCRGAP) committee this fall semester. The CCRG courses will be delivered by high school faculty after completing training requirements. The NC Community College System (NCCCS) will provide oversight for the program.

Aligned with the NCCCS RISE placement and remediation program, the NCCCS has selected the NROC platform to deliver the CCRG curriculum. NCDPI has procured the NROC platform for all NC public high schools, and implementation is expected by districts in the spring semester.

In working to design the program, the NCCCS and the NCDPI are partnering to support the goal of students successfully graduating from public high schools who are career and college ready. In doing so, both the NCCCS and NCDPI are engaged in developing the best additional strategies to target specific academic deficiencies.

**CURRENT STATUS**

***CCRG Implementation***

As previously reported, CCRG content will be taught in high schools statewide in 2020-2021, focusing on seniors. Due to issues with procurement and the COVID-19 crisis, initial statewide implementation is planned to take place in the Spring semester of 2021; however, LEAs have expressed concerns with the initial state-wide implementation of CCRG during COVID-19. NCDPI and NCCCS are committed to

**SBCC  
08/21/2020**

supporting the implementation and will work with LEAS to support student success even during the pandemic.

- Once CCRG has been launched, all high school students, prior to the senior year, will be able to access the mathematics CCRG content modules through NROC/EdReady at any time to master the modules. However, the required proctored assessments must be taken no earlier than the junior year in order to be considered for placement in the NC community colleges.
- Eligible students will access the CCRG modules for English when they enroll in English IV. The goal is for eligible students to demonstrate mastery of the content prior to high school graduation and entering NC community colleges.
- Guidance for indicating students participating in CCRG in the NC Student Information System, PowerSchool, has been shared with the districts and is ready for implementation.

### ***Professional Development***

Planned professional development by NCCCS in Spring 2020 was not completed as the NROC platform was not available to LEAs at that time. Fall 2020 Train-the-Trainer professional development is being planned so that time is available for LEAs to complete training downstream to high schools and teachers. This professional development is a collaborative effort between NROC and NCCCS so that LEAs have the tools necessary to implement CCRG classes in the Spring of 2021. Up to eight Train-the-Trainer sessions across the state will be conducted to ensure every LEA has the opportunity to participate.

Spring 2021 professional development and support for CCRG implementation is also being planned and will be made available to LEAs and high schools as those plans are finalized. NCCCS will provide webinars and other support materials as appropriate to help teachers navigate the first semester of implementation.

NCDPI will be supporting NCCCS professional development with NROC by communicating with LEAs, providing regular updates, and working with the NROC platform to ensure access and progress continues with the vendor for CCRG program.

### ***Procurement, Security, and Data Sharing***

The NCCCS has chosen the NROC/EdReady platform to deliver the CCRG content. NCDPI has finalized procurement with the NROC/EdReady online platform. Payment via lapsed salaries was provided for the first year of implementation; payment of \$469,000 has been rendered. There was a delay in the procurement process so that the vendor could increase their security and meet DIT guidelines. Subsequent payment for subsequent years of implementation has not been secured. As in previous years, NCDPI/SBE requests funding for the NROC/EdReady platform to ensure its continued availability for the CCRG program. The NROC/EdReady platform is in the process of finalizing account establishment for all NC LEAs.

### ***Program Outcomes***

The most recent legislation requires an annual “report on program outcomes, including impact on remediation rates by high school in both mathematics and reading and English for recent high school graduates entering a North Carolina community college or constituent institution of The University of North Carolina.” This information will not be available until the Fall semester of 2021 at the earliest, after CCRG courses are implemented in Spring 2021. NCCCS and NCDPI are discussing how this data can be captured for future reporting.

### **CONCLUSION**

The NCCCS Career and College Ready Graduate Alignment Partnership team and NCDPI believe the current plan has strong potential for success as it is designed to ensure that:

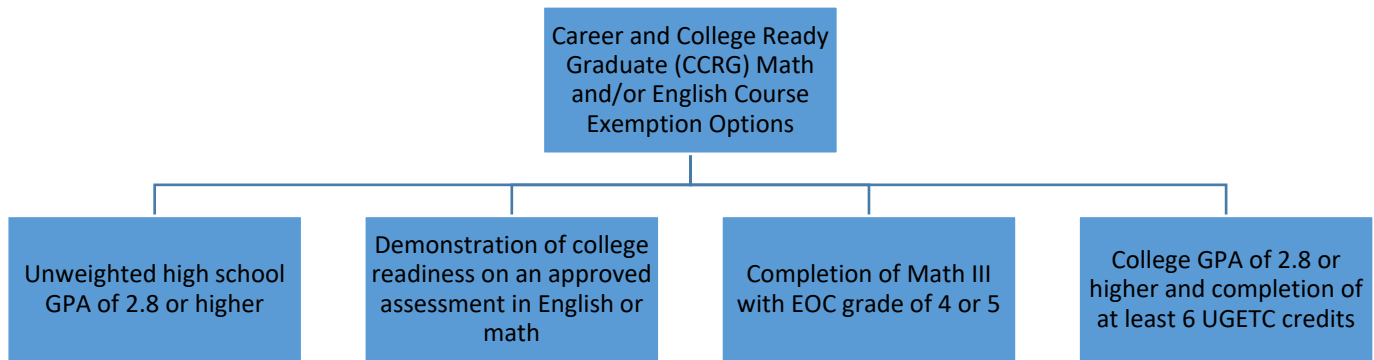
1. Input and participation from the community colleges, NCDPI, LEA’s and high school teachers have been incorporated at every phase.
2. The possible need for multiple strategies to sufficiently address the statewide need is identified and supported.
3. The program is built on policies already in place as well as partnerships with work that has already occurred within the State.
4. Students who successfully master the Tier Tests will enter the community college remediation-free and will be placed in credit-bearing courses.
5. Students that were not able to complete the entire program will still be able to reduce their developmental education footprint when enrolling at their community college.
6. The NCCCS has piloted a developmental education redesign, with 30 colleges using the redesign model. Statewide rollout is tentatively planned for Fall 2021 pending additional data from the pilots regarding student gateway course success. The developmental education redesign aligns with the CCRG content. CCRG is an opportunity for NC’s high school students to be even more prepared for career and college.

### **CCRG PROGRAM DETAILS, previously reported.**

#### ***CCRG Student Eligibility and Exemptions***

The criteria for determining career and college ready has been set for consistency across this program (CCRG), regular community college placement, and Career and College Promise (CCP) for current high school students.

- High school seniors will be eligible for CCRG English placement with an unweighted HS GPA 2.2-2.799. These students may be exempted with ACT English 18+ or ACT Reading 22+ or SAT Evidence Based Reading 480+.
- High school seniors will be eligible for CCRG Math placement with an unweighted HS GPA 2.2-2.799. These students may be exempted with ACT Math 22+ or SAT Math 530+.
- Additional criteria may exempt a student from the CCRG courses as indicated below.



Students who have an **unweighted** GPA between 2.2 and 2.799 as a high school junior are required to take CCRG math and English courses in their senior year. An unweighted GPA 2.8 or above signifies career and college ready. Students with an unweighted GPA below 2.2 may opt into the CCRG courses. If the student meets any of the following criteria in either math or English s/he will be exempt from the CCRG course for which the criteria is met.

Test	SAT (March 2016 and Future)	ACT	Math 3 EOC	College GPA and Credit
English	480 composite score for Evidenced- Based Reading and Writing	18		College GPA 2.8+  <i>and</i> 6+ UGETC credits earned
Reading		22		
Mathematics	530	22	4 or 5	

The following test scores provide English or math credit at the college and so will also exempt students from CCRG course:

Advanced Placement (AP)		International Baccalaureate (IB)		Cambridge International Examinations	
English, Language and	3 or higher	IB English A (Standard or Higher Level)	4 or higher	AS Level English Language	C or higher

Composition					
English, Literature, and Composition	3 or higher	IB Mathematics (Higher Level)	4 or higher	A Level English Language	C or higher
Calculus AB	3 or higher	IB Advanced Mathematics (Higher Level)	4 or higher	AS Level Language and Literature in English	C or higher
Calculus BC	3 or higher	IB Mathematical Studies (Standard Level)	4 or higher	AS Level Math	C or higher
				A Level Math	C or higher
				A Level Mathematics - Further	C or higher

*Students who are eligible for a CCP College Transfer Pathway are exempt from CCRG courses.*

In addition, to clarify on the above placement criteria, the following items were considered:

- Community college faculty, high school English teachers, and NC DPI curriculum specialists reviewed the CCRG Enhanced English IV course. There is agreement that this course can satisfy the English IV high school graduation requirement. The course is listed as English IV on the transcript and will satisfy the UNC minimum admissions requirement.
- Community college faculty, high school math teachers, and NC DPI curriculum specialists reviewed the CCRG Math course. This course can count as a fourth mathematics credit for high school graduation but not as a fourth level mathematics course. Since this is not a fourth level mathematics course, it will not satisfy UNC minimum admissions requirements.
- Each course will include assessments that align to placement benchmarks at the community college. Scores on these assessments will determine placement at the community college upon completion of the CCRG English and math courses. The assessments may be taken as early as the junior year to be used as placement criteria at the community college.
- The overall grades for the English and Math courses with CCRG curriculum will determine credit for high school graduation.

**CCRG Content**

**English Language Arts**

The CCRG English content has been developed to align with the ELA Standard Course of Study as well as NCCCS student outcomes.

- The CCRG content for English Language Arts will be integrated into English IV with specific coding guidance to indicate students who are receiving this content. This guidance has already been send to the LEAs and is ready for implementation.
- For CCRG content guidance, refer to the NCCCS.
- For CCRG implementation guidance, refer to the NCDPI.

### **Mathematics**

The CCRG content for mathematics involves mastery-based modules through the chosen NROC/EdReady platform.

- Prior to a student's senior year, the CCRG mathematics units may be integrated into another existing mathematics course or offered during an intervention time frame to increase the likelihood that students have met the CCRG exemption criteria and will not have to take the stand-alone course during their senior year.
- In addition to mastering the CCRG content, the required, proctored assessments may be taken as early as the junior year to be used as consideration for placement at the community college.
- The CCRG mathematics content does not satisfy a fourthlevel mathematics course and does not meet UNC System Minimum Course Requirements for admission because it does not build on Math 3.
- The standalone CCRG Math course will earn a fourth mathematics credit towards graduation requirements.
- For CCRG content guidance, refer to the NCCCS.
- For CCRG implementation guidance, refer to the NCDPI.