

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Location Waiver Request for Cooperative Innovative High Schools

Request: At the request of staff, the State Board of Community Colleges is asked to approve the location waiver request for established Cooperative Innovative High Schools (CIHS) that are not located on a N.C. Community College campus. The list of CIHS seeking a location waiver is indicated in the chart on the next page.

Background: During the 2011 legislative session, the General Assembly established the following criteria to define a cooperative innovative high school (G.S. 115C-238.50A):

- a) It has no more than 100 students per grade level;
- b) It partners with an institution of higher education to enable students to concurrently obtain a high school diploma and begin or complete an associate degree program, master a certificate or vocational program, or earn up to two years of college credit within five years;
- c) **It is located on the campus of the institution of higher education, unless the governing Board . . . specifically waives the requirement through adoption of a formal resolution.**

Additionally, S.L. 2011 Section 7.1A.(k) requires that “Cooperative innovative high schools . . . shall meet the requirements of G.S. 115C-238.50A no later than July 1, 2014. **Any cooperative innovative high school which fails to meet the requirements by that date shall no longer be authorized as a cooperative innovative high school.**”

Rationale: If the community college partners with a local school board to offer a cooperative innovative high school (i.e., early college, middle college, STEM high school, etc.) that is not located on the college’s campus, the CIHS may request a State Board waiver for the location of the school. This waiver request applies only to a cooperative innovative high school that has already been approved by the State Board of Education and the State Board of Community Colleges and that is not located on the community college campus.

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CIHS Location Waiver Request (for Existing CIHS Programs not on N.C. Community College Campuses)

College Name	CIHS Name	CIHS Approval Year	Current Location	Waiver Rationale
Beaufort County Community College	Mattamuskeet Early College High School (ECHS)	2008	20392 US 264 Swan Quarter, NC 27885	Mattamuskeet ECHS is located in Hyde County which does not have an institute of higher education within its boundaries, and is approximately 60 miles from the closest community college. A building on the Mattamuskeet Campus was specifically renovated for occupancy by the early college students and staff. Mattamuskeet ECHS sends a bus to the Beaufort County Community College campus daily. Students also take classes broadcast from Beaufort County Community College over the Information Highway.
Isothermal Community College	Polk Early College	2007	51 Walker Street Columbus, NC 28722	Polk Early College is located less than two miles from Isothermal Polk Center in the former Polk County Library. The facility is provided by the County Commissioners free of charge. Isothermal Polk Center does not have the space required to host the Early College.