

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	Approval Year	Current Location	Waiver Rationale
Asheville – Buncombe TCC	School of Inquiry and Life Sciences at Asheville (SILSA)	2005	419 McDowell St., Asheville, NC 28803	SILSA is one of the original Cohort I institutions for N.C. New Schools. The intent of SILSA has always been to provide a new vision for high school education while in the context of the traditional high school campus. SILSA is located within walking distance from Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College; therefore, SILSA students have easy access to the resources, personnel, and facilities of Asheville High and Asheville-Buncombe TCC.

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