

## **NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM** *Dr. William S. Carver, II Interim President*

Public Safety Memo PS23-02

January 31, 2023

(This memo supersedes PS18-04)

- To: Senior Continuing Education Administrators North Carolina Community College System
- From: Tracy McPherson, Director, Public Safety Training Programs Kenny Weatherington, Fire/Rescue and Emergency Management Training Specialist

#### RE: Enrolling 15-Year-Old Firefighters in Fire-Training Courses (Effective February 1, 2023)

Please see attached memo <u>CC23-005</u> SBCC-Approved Course List for 15-Year-Old Firefighters (Effective February 1, 2023) and share on your campus as appropriate.

Additional details are found below, with references attached:

- On January 20, 2023, the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) took action to allow community colleges to enroll <u>qualified</u> 15-year-old firefighters in <u>selected</u> continuing education fire-training courses, <u>beginning February 1, 2023</u>.
- This action was authorized in <u>Session Law 2022-69</u> House Bill 661 and supports the workforce development needs of the state's volunteer fire departments.
- The issuance of the attached SBCC-Approved Course List for 15-Year-Old Firefighters (Effective February 1, 2023) is associated with a corresponding revision to State Board of Community Colleges Code (SBCCC) 1D SBCCCC 300.4 Program Management related to serving minors. This action was communicated to colleges via attached memo <u>CC23-003</u>.
- The State Board's actions authorize colleges to enroll, issue a fire registration fee waiver to, and earn FTE for qualified 15-year-old firefighters in selected fire-training courses as outlined in the SBCC-Approved Course List for 15-Year-Old Firefighters (Effective February 1, 2023).
- These policies are <u>not</u> designed for Career and College Promise (CCP): Fifteen-year-olds are not permitted to enroll in any CCP course if they do not meet all CCP requirements. *This action is designed to support training provided by colleges to local fire departments by authorizing enrollment of the departments' 15-year-old firefighters, as well.*
- This action supersedes information previously provided via memo PS18-04 (attached).

Thank you for your ongoing support of efforts to recruit and train North Carolina's firefighters. If you have questions, please contact Kenny Weatherington, Fire/Rescue and Emergency Management Training Specialist, at <u>weatheringtonk@nccommunitycolleges.edu</u> or email <u>publicsafetytraining@nccommunitycolleges.edu</u>.

#### Attachments

C: Levy Brown Barbara Boyce Lisa Eads Michelle Lair Aaron Mabe Brian Taylor, NCOSFM Brian Wade, NCOSFM



# NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

Dr. William S. Carver, II Interim President

#### NUMBERED MEMO CC23-005

(Information Issued also as Public Safety Memo PS23-02)

TO: Community College Presidents, Senior Continuing Education Administrators
FROM: Barbara Boyce, Interim Associate VP, Workforce and Continuing Education Programs
SUBJECT: SBCC-Approved Course List for 15-Year-Old Firefighters (Effective February 1, 2023)
DATE: January 27, 2023

On January 20, 2023, the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) took action to allow community colleges to enroll qualified 15-year-old firefighters in selected fire-training courses, beginning February 1, 2023. This action was authorized in <u>Session Law 2022-69</u> House Bill 661 and supports the workforce development needs of the state's volunteer fire departments.

The related State-Board actions follow:

- Approval of the attached "Specialized Course List for Minor Firefighters Pursuant to G.S. 115D-20(4): SBCC-Approved Course List for 15-Year-Old Firefighters," with an effective date of February 1, 2023. *Reference*: SBCC Agenda Item <u>PROG 01</u>.
- Amendment of **1D SBCCC 300.4 Program Management**, with an effective date of February 1, 2023, to allow for the enrollment of 15-year-old minor firefighters, as authorized in the Session Law. *Reference*: SBCC Agenda Item <u>PROG 02</u>.
  - Related memos documenting this revision process are <u>CC22-053</u> and <u>CC23-003</u>.

Please note:

- This memo supersedes Public Safety Memo PS18-04.
- **Colleges** <u>may</u> earn FTE for 15-year-old firefighters enrolled per these policies.
- As defined by the Session Law, these 15-year-old students must be "uncompensated" members of a "bona fide fire department" to qualify for enrollment under these policies; therefore, **they** <u>do</u> **qualify for registration fee waivers** in the same manner as other affiliated firefighters, as outlined in CC18-053 <u>Tuition and Registration Fee Waiver Reference Guide</u>.
- These policies are <u>not</u> designed for Career and College Promise (CCP): Fifteen-year-olds are <u>not permitted</u> to enroll in any CCP course if they do not meet all CCP requirements.
- Colleges may continue to enroll and earn FTE for those older than 15 under policies and practices that have not changed (the specialized course list only applies to 15-year-old firefighters).
- Moving forward, the SBCC-Approved Course List for 15-Year-Old Firefighters will be maintained in the NCCCS Tuition and Registration Fee Waiver Reference Guide.

#### Attachment

C:	Dr. Levy Brown	Dr. Lisa Eads	Ms. Tracy McPherson	Mr. Kenny Weatherington

## Specialized Course List for Minor Firefighters Pursuant to G.S. 115D-20(4): SBCC-Approved Course List for 15-Year-Old Firefighters

#### Effective February 1, 2023

Approved by the State Board of Community Colleges on January 20, 2023, per PROG 01

#### Background:

Session Law 2022-69 House Bill 661, approved on July 8, 2022, authorizes community colleges to enroll 15-year-olds in fire training courses, as authorized in G.S. 115D-20(4)e, pursuant to G.S. 95-25.5(n), and on a specialized course list approved by the State Board of Community colleges in accordance with G.S. 115D-5(b)(2). The following courses, along with specific caveats, are approved for this purpose.

#### Caveats to Enrollment of 15-Year-Olds in <u>Any</u> Community College Fire Training Course:

- Fifteen-year-olds are **not permitted** to enroll in any course that includes live fire training.
- Fifteen-year-olds are <u>not permitted</u> to enroll in any course that contains content that would require the student to possess a valid North Carolina driver's license.
- Fifteen-year-olds are <u>not permitted</u> to enroll in any course governed by an outside entity, including but not limited to the NC Office of the State Fire Marshal which governs the fire certification program under the authority of the NC Fire and Rescue Commission; the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its divisions; and the NC Department of Labor (NCDOL), if/when enrollment of 15-year-olds is prohibited by the outside entity.
- Fifteen-year-olds are <u>not permitted</u> to enroll in any Career and College Promise (CCP) course if they do not meet all CCP requirements.
- Enrollment of 15-year-olds is limited to the Workforce Continuing Education course ID numbers/prefixes from the NCCCS Combined Course Library listed below and must not violate any of the other caveats above.
- Registration fee waivers authorized for public safety responders may be issued to 15-yearold firefighters enrolling in courses on this approved list, provided that they meet the fire department affiliation parameters outlined in the Fire Departments section of the NCCCS *Tuition and Registration Fee Waiver Reference Guide*.

#### State-Certification-Related Fire Courses Approved for 15-Year-Old Community College Students

Note: Enrollment of 15-year-old firefighters must comply with the associated caveats listed above.

FIP-3031	Firefighter 2019 - Block 01	FIP-5720	TR MAG Machinery-Ag Block
FIP-3032	Firefighter 2019 – Block 02	FIP-5721	TR MAG-Rescue Ops Machine/Ag
FIP-3033	Firefighter 2019 - Block 03	FIP-5722	TR MAG-Stabilize/Extricate
FIP-3040	FF General and Comm (FF 2019)	FIP-5723	TR MAG-Large Machine/Ag Equip
FIP-3041	FF Fireground Ops 1 (FF 2019)	FIP-5724	TR MAG-Victim Management
FIP-3042	FF Fireground Ops 2 (FF 2019)	FIP-5800	TR Ropes Block
FIP-3043	FF Fireground Ops 3 (FF 2019)	FIP-5801	TR Ropes Rescue Operations
FIP-3044	FF Fireground Ops 4 (FF 2019)	FIP-5802	TR Ropes Anchors

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FIP-3045	FF Fireground Ops 5 (FF 2019)	FIP-5803	TR Ropes Mechanical Advantage				
FIP-3046	FF Fireground Ops 6 (FF 2019)	FIP-5804	TR Ropes Fixed Ropes Systems				
FIP-3047	FF Fireground Ops 7 (FF 2019)	FIP-5805	TR Ropes Lowers & Raises				
FIP-3048	FF Fireground Ops 8 (FF 2019	FIP-5806	TR Ropes High Lines				
FIP-3050	FF Rescue Ops 1 (FF 2019)	FIP-5807	TR Ropes Victim Management				
FIP-3051	FF Fire and Life Safety Initiatives (FF 2019)	FIP-6300	TR Wilderness Block				
FIP-3555	HM Awareness	FIP-6301	TR Rescue Operations				
FIP-3556	HM Ops	FIP-6302	TR Rescue Rigging				
FIP-3557	HM Ops MSC (6.2)	FIP-6303	TR Navigation and Tracking				
FIP-3558	HM Ops MSC (6.3/6.4)	FIP-6304	TR Victim Management				
FIP-3559	HM Ops MSC (6.7)	FIP-6413	Mayday/Safety & Survival				
FIP-3560	HM Ops MSC (6.8)	FIP-6500	TR Technical Rescuer Block				
FIP-3561	HM Ops MSC (6.5/6.9)	FIP-6501	TR Rescue Operations				
FIP-3562	HM Ops MSC (6.6)	FIP-6502	TR Anchors & MAS				
FIP-3716	Fire Chief 101	FIP-6503	TR Fixed Rope Systems				
FIP-3717	Fire Chief 101 Update	FIP-6504	TR Health and Wellness				
FIP-3718	Fire Officer I	FIP-6505	TR Helicopter Transport				
FIP-4630	FLSE Educator Level I	FIP-6506	TR Horizontal Systems				
FIP-4631	FLSE Educator Level II	FIP-6507	TR Lowers and Raises				
FIP-4632	FLSE Educator Level III	FIP-6508	TR Personal Protective Equip				
FIP-5710	TR VR Vehicle Rescue Block	FIP-6509	TR Rescue Equipment				
FIP-5711	TR VR Rescue Ops/Vehicle Rescue	FIP-6510	TR Rope Basics				
FIP-5712	TR VR Vehicle Anatomy/New Tech	FIP-6511	TR Victim Management				
FIP-5713	TR VR Stabilization/Extrication	FIP-6900	Rescue Officer				
FIP-5714	TR VR Large Vehicle Rescue	FIP-7000	Traffic Incident Management				
FIP-5715	TR VR Victim Management	FIP-7001	FF/TR Emergency Medical Care				

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# <u>Non-Certification-Related</u> Fire Training Courses Approved for 15-Year-Old Community College Students

Non-certification related courses approved for 15-year-olds <u>must meet all of the following</u> <u>criteria</u>:

- Must have a Workforce Continuing Education course ID from the Combined Course Library that has an FIP prefix;
- Must have content <u>specific to and limited to</u> topics that align with training topics of one or more of the certification-related courses specified in the approved certification-course list above; and
- Must not violate any of the caveats above.

If you have questions, please contact Kenny Weatherington, Fire/Rescue and Emergency Management Training Specialist, at <u>weatheringtonk@nccommunitycolleges.edu</u> or email <u>publicsafetytraining@nccommunitycolleges.edu</u>.



# NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM Dr. William S. Carver, II Interim President

## NUMBERED MEMO CC23-003

- TO: Members of the State Board of Community Colleges, Chairs of the Community College Boards of Trustees, Community College Presidents, Chief Academic Officers, Chief Admissions Officers, Basic Skills Directors, Business Officers, Continuing Education Officers, Customized Training Directors, Chief Financial Officers, Financial Aid Officers, Personnel Directors, Student Development Administrators, Public Information Officers, Registrars, & Other Interested Parties
- FROM: Tawanda Foster Artis NCCCS General Counsel

**SUBJECT:** Amendment of 1D SBCCC 300.4 – Program Management

**DATE:** January 24, 2023

On January 20, 2023, the State Board of Community Colleges voted to amend State Board Code, **1D SBCCC 300.4 – Program Management**. This amendment allows "qualified youth" over age 15 and under age 18 to enroll in fire-training courses on a specialized list approved by the State Board of Community Colleges in accordance with G.S. 115D-5(b)(2). Colleges may earn fulltime-equivalent (FTE) hours for minors enrolled in fire training courses.

The amendment will be effective February 1, 2023. The new rule will be published in the North Carolina Community College System's website, <u>www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/sbcccode</u>. For your convenience, a copy of the code in its final form is attached to this memorandum.

CC23-003

E-mail Copy Attachments



## State Board of Community Colleges Code Title 1 – COMMUNITY COLLEGES

# CHAPTER D. EDUCATION PROGRAMS

# SUBCHAPTER 300. CONTINUING EDUCATION

## 1D SBCCC 300.4 Program Management

- (a) Program Accountability.
  - (1) Each college's local board of trustees shall adopt a Continuing Education Accountability and Integrity Plan. At a minimum, the Continuing Education Accountability and Integrity Plan shall define a system of checks and balances to prevent and detect errors or irregularities when reporting hours for FTE purposes and establish a framework for defining program quality and improvement procedures.
  - (2) Each college shall adopt a class visitation plan as part of the Continuing Education Accountability and Integrity Plan as referenced in 1G SBCCC 400.3(c)(2). At a minimum, class visitation plans shall include the following:
    - (A) Course sections offered with waiver eligibility;
    - (B) Course sections delivered through distance learning technologies;
    - (C) Course sections held at non-college facilities;
    - (D) Course sections with irregular or non-traditional schedules; and
    - (E) Visitation plans must define frequency visits by reporting term
  - (3) The local board of trustees shall review the Continuing Education Accountability and Integrity Plan at least once every three years from the date the local board of trustees adopts the Continuing Education Accountability and Integrity Plan.
  - (4) Colleges shall submit a copy of the Continuing Education Accountability and Integrity Plan, including amendments, to the Continuing Education Department at the System Office upon adoption.
- (b) Faculty. Colleges shall employ faculty so as to meet Southern Association of

Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges' (SACSCOC) criteria and local college policies. All faculty providing instruction in programs with external agency oversight must be a qualified instructor as established by the respective agency or certifying entity.

- (c) Services to Minors. For the purposes of this subsection, the word "minor" shall not include minors who have graduated from high school. The major purpose of community colleges is to serve students who have graduated from high school, have obtained a high school equivalency diploma, or are beyond the compulsory age limit of the public school and have left public school. However, a minor may enroll in Continuing Education course sections subject to the following:
  - (1) Minors Age 16 and 17. A minor, age 16 or 17, may enroll in Continuing Education course sections subject to the following conditions:
    - (A) Minors shall not displace adults.
    - (B) Minors shall pay the registration fees associated with the course section except for cases where they meet eligibility requirements for a fee waiver.
    - (C) If the minor is enrolled in high school, the following restrictions apply:
      - (i) Colleges shall not designate Continuing Education course sections taken by the high school student to provide partial or full credit towards meeting high school graduation requirements.
      - (ii) Colleges shall not offer Continuing Education course sections that are specifically scheduled for high school students except:
        - (I) Course sections that are part of an approved Workforce Continuing Education Career and College Promise Pathway (1D SBCCC 300.4 (c)(1)(D)).
        - (II) Self-supporting course sections.
    - (D) Workforce Continuing Education Career and College Promise The purpose of Workforce Continuing Education Career and College Promise Pathways are to offer structured opportunities for qualified high school students, as determined by the high school principal or the high school principal's designee and the college's senior continuing education administrator, the chief student development administrator or the college's chief academic

officer, to dually enroll in community college courses that provide pathways that lead to a State or industry-recognized credential. Career and College Promise rules applicable to curriculum programs are provided in 1D SBCCC 400.11.

- (i) Career and College Promise is a dual enrollment program for eligible North Carolina high school students. Community colleges may collaborate with local administrative units to offer courses through a Workforce Continuing Education pathway approved by the Continuing Education staff of the System Office.
- (ii) All non-self-support continuing education courses taken by high school students at community colleges in accordance with this Section are registration fee waived.
- (iii) High school students may not audit courses offered under the Career and College Promise Program.
- (iv) A college shall submit a Workforce Continuing Education Pathway application for each Career and College Promise program the college plans to offer to the North Carolina Community College System Office using course codes provided by the North Carolina Community College System Office.
  - (I) The North Carolina Community College System Office assigned Workforce Continuing Education staff shall approve Workforce Continuing Education Pathways before students may enroll.
  - (II) Within the Workforce Continuing Education Pathway, a college shall verify its capacity to teach all course sections in the pathway.
  - (III)Students enrolled in Adult Basic Education or Adult Secondary Education are not eligible for Career and College Promise.
- (v) High school students shall complete college registration documents and provide a high school transcript which demonstrates eligibility to enroll in Career and College Promise as outlined in 1D SBCCC 300.4(c)(1)(D)(ix) to be admitted into a Workforce Continuing Education Career and College Promise pathway.

- The high school shall provide signed and dated documentation from the high school principal or high school principal's designee providing that the eligibility requirements for enrollment in Career and College Promise have been met.
- (II) Colleges shall verify eligibility prior to enrollment of the student in the Career and College Promise pathway.
- (III)Colleges shall maintain verification of student eligibility for Career and College Promise pathways.
- (vi) Colleges shall assign student codes provided by the North Carolina Community College System Office and shall update the student code to reflect when the student transitions out of the Career and College Promise program and is no longer provided registration fee-waiver status.
- (vii) Colleges shall comply with 1D SBCCC 300.6(a) regarding Level I Instructional Service Agreements when providing courses to Career and College Promise students outside of the college's service area.
- (viii) High school students who delay graduation to continue eligibility for the Career and College Promise program shall not be eligible to participate in the Career and College Promise program.
- (ix) Workforce Continuing Education Pathway
  - (I) To be eligible for registration in a Workforce Continuing Education Pathway, a high school student shall:
    - Be a high school junior or senior as designated by the local education agency;
    - b. Have an unweighted GPA of 2.8 on high school courses or have the recommendation of the high school principal or the high school principal's designee; and
    - c. Have received career pathway information outlining program requirements for completion of the pathway.
  - (II) To maintain eligibility for continued registration, a student shall:
    - a. Continue to make progress toward high school graduation as

outlined in G.S. 115C-105.35, and

- b. Continue to make progress toward successful completion of the Workforce Continuing Education pathway as defined in the pathway syllabus
- c. A student who does not meet these criteria will be subject to the college's policy for satisfactory progression.
- (III)With approval of the high school principal or the high school principal's designee and the college's senior continuing education administrator, chief student development administrator or chief academic officer, a Workforce Continuing Education Junior or Senior may concurrently enroll in the following:
  - a. Two Career and Technical Education Workforce Continuing Education Pathways;
  - b. One Career and Technical Education Workforce Continuing Education Pathway and one College Transfer Pathway; or
  - c One Career and Technical Education Workforce Continuing Education Pathway and one Career and Technical Education Curriculum Pathway.
- (IV) The student may change the student's pathway with approval of the high school principal or the high school principal's designee and the college's senior continuing education administrator, chief student development administrator or the college's chief academic officer. The college's chief student development administrator or the college's chief academic officer shall approve a change in pathway based on verification that the program change allows the student to meet their newly chosen career path.
- (V) The college may award the Workforce Continuing Education Pathway completion, to the Career and College Promise student prior to high school graduation.
- (2) Minors Less than Age 16. A minor less than 16 years old may enroll in Continuing

Education course sections subject to the following conditions:

- (A) Minors less than 16 years old may enroll in self-supporting safe driving course sections during any reporting term.
- (B) A college may provide classes for minors less than 16 years old only during the summer reporting term. These classes must be self-supporting and may not be designated by the college to provide partial or full credit towards meeting high school graduation requirements.
- (C) Notwithstanding 1D SBCCC 300.4(c)(2)(B), Minors who are at least 15 years old and less than 18 years old, and who are uncompensated members of a bona fide fire department or rescue squad, pursuant to G.S. 95-25.5(n), may enroll in fire-training courses, including certification-eligible courses, on a specialized course list approved by the State Board of Community Colleges in accordance with G.S. 115D-5(b)(2). Colleges may earn fulltime-equivalent (FTE) hours for minors enrolled in fire-training courses.
- (D) Minors shall not displace adults.
- (E) Minors shall pay the registration fees associated with the course section except for cases where they meet eligibility requirements for a fee waiver.
- (F) If the minor is enrolled in high school, the following restrictions apply:
  - (i) Colleges shall not designate Continuing Education course sections taken by the high school student to provide partial or full credit towards meeting high school graduation requirements.
  - (ii) Colleges shall not offer Continuing Education course sections that are specifically scheduled for high school students except:
    - (I) Course sections that are part of an approved Workforce Continuing Education Career and College Promise Pathway (1D SBCCC 300.4 (c)(1)(D)).
    - (II) Self-supporting course sections.
- (d) Juvenile Justice. Colleges may provide Continuing Education course sections to juveniles of any age who are committed to the Division of Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety, if the juvenile is otherwise qualified for registration in the Continuing Education class and has the approval of the Director of the Youth

Development Center to which the juvenile is assigned.

(e) Once enrolled, minors shall be treated the same as all other students.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115D-5; G.S. 115D-20(4)(b);

Eff. June 1, 2016; Amended Eff. <u>February 1, 2023; April 1, 2020; November 1, 2017</u>.



# NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

### Peter Hans, President

(Public Safety Memo PS18-04) SUPERSEDED BY PS23-02 (See also CC23-003 and CC23-005)

May 14, 2018

To: NC Community College Fire and Rescue School Directors

- From: Margaret Roberton, Associate Vice President, Workforce Continuing Education Kim Williams, Deputy Director, Office of State Fire Marshal
- RE: Clarification of NC Community College Services to Minors Requirements

This memo serves as clarification of how the North Carolina Community Colleges, as Fire and Rescue Delivery Agencies, may support the development of minors towards involvement in the Fire and Rescue profession.

The North Carolina Community Colleges are uniquely focused on providing access to post-secondary education. The System is also highly engaged with industry and agency partners to develop the workforce required by employers and others to support the growth and economic health of the state. Along with the Office of State Fire Marshal, the community colleges are engaged in the recruitment and training of individuals interested in serving in the fire and rescue services including creating opportunities to expose young people to fire and rescue services.

One area of recruitment includes the efforts to reach out to high school students to ensure their awareness of the opportunities in fire and rescue as well as the initial preparation of skills to enter this environment. Local community colleges may play a role in reaching out to high school students in their training path but community colleges are bound by specific state laws that define how that engagement functions.

North Carolina General Statute 115D sets the framework of laws under which the community colleges operate. As it relates to serving minors there is specific language as to what programs colleges are permitted to provide. Specifically, around 'Continuing Education' courses the following language is relevant:

§ 115D-20(4) "...local community colleges are permitted to offer the following programs: ... (b) During the summer quarter, <u>persons less than 16 years old</u> may be permitted to take noncredit courses on a self-supporting basis, subject to rules of the State Board of Community Colleges.

(d) High school students <u>16 years and older</u> may be permitted to take noncredit courses, except adult basic skills, subject to rules promulgated by the State Board of Community Colleges."

This language is supported by the State Board of Community College Code which provides additional structure to how colleges apply general statute and policy on programs. Specific code language to this issue is found in 1D SBCCC 300.4(c)

"For the purposes of this subsection, the word "minor" shall not include minors who have graduated from high school. The major purpose of community colleges is to serve students who have graduated from high school, have obtained a high school equivalency diploma, or are beyond the compulsory age limit of the public school and have left public school. However, a minor may enroll in Continuing Education course sections subject to the following:

- (1) Minors Age 16 and 17. A minor, age 16 or 17, may enroll in Continuing Education course sections subject to the following conditions:
  - (A) Minors shall not displace adults.
  - (B) Minors shall pay the registration fees associated with the course section except for cases where they meet eligibility requirements for a fee waiver. ...
- (2) Minors Less than Age 16. A minor less than 16 years old may enroll in Continuing Education course sections subject to the following conditions ...
  - (B) A college may provide classes for minors less than 16 years old only during the summer reporting term. These classes must be self supporting and may not be designated by the college to provide partial or full credit towards meeting high school graduation requirements. ..."

Subject to local community college capacities and policies, community colleges may provide access to workforce continuing education training to minors 16 years and older. This may include involvement in fire and rescue training programs as determined by the college.

There is additional North Carolina General Statute language under the Department of Labor that provides opportunities for delivery agencies other than the community colleges to support the training of students less than 16 years old.

§ 95-25.5(n) Nothing in this section prohibits qualified youths under 18 years of age from participating in training through their fire department, the Office of State Fire Marshal, or the North Carolina Community College System. As used in this subsection, the term "qualified youth under 18 years of age" means an uncompensated fire department or rescue squad member who is at least the age of 15 and under the age of 18 and who is a member of a bona fide fire department, as that term is defined in G.S. 58-86-25, or of a rescue squad described in G.S. 58-86-30.

While this language does reference the North Carolina Community College System, it states that the labor section does not prohibit the participation in training of members who are at least the age of 15 and under the age of 18. This section does not nullify the language in  $\S115D-20(4)$  referenced above.

North Carolina Community Colleges and the Office of State Fire Marshal are dedicated to developing a robust workforce pipeline for the fire and rescue services of the state. This includes the recruitment and sound training of individuals for this demanding profession.

CC:

Dr. Lisa Chapman – Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, NCCCS Brian Taylor – Chief State Fire Marshal, Senior Deputy Commissioner, OSFM Senior Continuing Education Administrators, NCCCS