



**COOPERATIVE
INNOVATIVE
HIGH SCHOOLS**
Key Takeaways

2019



RESOURCE EXPERTS

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

- In North Carolina, **schools that are structured to give students dual enrollment opportunities are known as Cooperative Innovative High Schools (CIHS).**
 - CIHS partner with an institution of higher education – either a local community college, UNC campus, or private institution – and offer students the **opportunity to complete tuition-free college coursework** while getting their high school diploma.
 - The main goal of CIHS is to provide students with structured, intentional pathways to the workforce.
 - Eighty percent of CIHS in the state use the Early College High School model, which consists of a small school located on a college campus, allowing students to earn both their high school diploma and an associate's degree concurrently.
 - Baseline funding for the CIHS program is distributed based on Average Daily Membership and most schools also receive supplemental funding based on the economic tier of their geographic region.
 - The state's budget for the last two years has not included appropriations for CIHS supplemental funding. Participants discussed the need to develop a sustainable funding plan for the program going forward.
- It is important for stakeholders to **begin conversations about structured pathways with students before they enter high school** to ensure that they can access the opportunities that best fit their academic goals.
 - Resource experts discussed the need for more comprehensive advising services to help students access CIHS and to close achievement gaps.
- According to a longitudinal study of early college high schools in NC completed by Dr. Julie Edmunds at the UNC-Greensboro SERVE Center, **early college students are 66 percent more likely to earn a high-quality postsecondary degree.** (*resource link provided below*)
- The strength and success of the CIHS program in NC can be attributed to the fact that the program is codified in [legislation](#), and to the program's structure that provides tuition reimbursement (up to the maximum rate at the UNC System) directly to participating institutions of higher education.

ACTION STEPS

- Develop a plan to provide the CIHS program with adequate funding, including supplemental funding, that can be sustained across multiple years and will allow innovative practices to be scaled up across the state.
- Explore pilot programs to provide advising services to middle school students who would benefit from participating in the CIHS program.
- Visit a CIHS in your district to see the program in action.

KEY RESOURCES

- [**The Impacts, Costs and Benefits of NC Early Colleges: Results from an experimental study**](#)
- [**Annual Report to the North Carolina General Assembly**](#) (March 2019)
- [**Mandated Engagement: The Impact of Early College High Schools**](#) (Edmunds, et al)