

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Tuition and Registration Fee Waiver Reporting for FY 2017-18

Background: Session Law 2017-57 enacted G.S. 115D-5(b2), which reads, “Beginning February 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, the State Board of Community Colleges shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the number and type of waivers granted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.”

Current Procedures: In the summer of 2017, the North Carolina Community College System released a software patch that allows colleges to generate a report with this data from their financial system and transmit it to the System Office. The information contained in the attached report is compiled from the data obtained in this fashion.

Scope: The report contains information about tuition that is waived pursuant to G.S. 115D-5, with the exception that there is no data for the following two groups, as these groups do not have tuition or registration fees charged and therefore have nothing to waive:

- persons not enrolled in elementary or secondary schools who are taking courses leading to a high school diploma or equivalent certificate; and
- trainees enrolled in courses conducted under the Customized Training Program

Although the State Board of Community Colleges is not required to report on tuition waivers granted under the authority of G.S. 115B-2, they have been included in this report. These waivers include waivers for survivors of a law enforcement officers, firefighters, volunteer firefighters, or rescue squad workers killed as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty; spouses and children of such workers who become disabled as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty; and wards of the State.

Executive Summary:

Tuition and registration fee waivers increased 4.6% during FY2017-18 to \$103,558,242. The growth was driven by the popular Career and College Promise program, which allows North Carolina’s high school students to be dually enrolled in postsecondary courses while earning their high school diploma. This program represents nearly half (\$50.9 million or 49.1%) of all waivers during the fiscal year and increased by 14.3% from prior year, switching the majority of the waiver volume from continuing education to curriculum during the year. Training for emergency service workers, such as law enforcement, fire, EMS, rescue, emergency response, and lifesaving personnel remained steady at about \$40.4 million (39.0% of the total waivers). Human resource development waivers contracted again this year by 15.5% to \$8.8 million (8.5%), and the remaining \$3.5 million (3.4%) of waivers were for corrections inmates and employees, CPR courses for elementary and secondary education employees, the youth apprenticeship program, and the waivers granted under G.S. 115B-2, as described previously. The following table provides the amounts and student counts for each waiver type.



Finance and Operations Division 2017-18 Tuition Waiver Analysis

	\$ Waived	Waivers	Students
Fire department (volunteer)	\$ 11,154,321	147,755	56,711
Fire department (municipal, county, or state)	6,815,202	92,022	27,856
EMS or rescue and lifesaving departments (volunteer)	2,261,847	29,100	11,973
EMS or rescue and lifesaving departments (municipal, county, or state)	4,084,518	53,399	21,324
Law enforcement, fire, EMS & rescue/lifesaving entities as an eligible lake authority	-	-	-
Law enforcement agencies (municipal, county, or state)	15,849,059	172,015	75,075
Radio Emergency Associated Citizen Teams (REACT)	7,410	98	95
Division of Adult Correction (Department of Public Safety) employees	2,846,775	35,176	18,197
Division of Juvenile Justice (Department of Public Safety) employees	9,695	133	133
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians law enforcement, fire, EMS rescue/lifesaving programs	6,340	78	41
Fire, EMS, or rescue and lifesaving personnel whose duty station is on a NC military installation	206,035	2,440	918
Elementary and secondary school employees in first aid/CPR courses	362,233	5,954	5,789
Human resources development program (eligible enrollees)	8,804,428	67,503	54,019
High school students (Career and College Promise)	50,873,127	228,841	102,337
Youth Apprenticeship	222,095	902	434
Eligible survivor ¹	5,548	29	6
Eligible spouse ¹	-	-	-
Eligible child ¹	4,964	14	5
Ward of the State ¹	3,838	16	5
Basic Skills Plus (only for approved colleges)	40,807	214	172
Grand totals	\$ 103,558,242	835,689	375,090

*New waiver for this fiscal year

¹ Authorized by NCGS §115B-2

Unless otherwise noted, all waivers are authorized by NCGS §115D-5