

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

BETWEEN THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, THE NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM AND THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION REGARDING THE NORTH CAROLINA EARLY CHILDHOOD CREDENTIAL COURSEWORK

INTENT

To improve the quality of child care through personnel preparation, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) implemented the North Carolina Early Childhood Credential (NCECC) in 1992 as an early care and education credential initiative targeting the state's child care teachers and directors. Twenty-four years after the implementation of the credential initiative, over 77,544 credentials or equivalents have been awarded.

Two additional collaborating partners in this endeavor are the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI). The NCCCS offers an early childhood education curriculum, including coursework (EDU 119- Introduction to Early Childhood Education) leading to the NCECC. The NCDPI has revised, through the Family and Consumer Sciences Education program area of Career and Technical Education, a set of Early Childhood Education courses that align with the required competencies covered in the NCECC EDU 119 coursework offered by the NC Community Colleges comprising the NCCCS.

The intent of this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is twofold:

1. to reaffirm the basic responsibilities of the relationship between DHHS and NCCCS for meeting the goals of the NCECC and
2. to define the responsibilities of NCDPI regarding the ongoing implementation of the NCECC program.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of all Parties is for all children in state-licensed early childhood facilities to be safe with educated, caring adults working with them. Child development research supports the importance of increased education and specific professional training, and its effect on the promotion of optimal development for children.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

The Parties agree to the following strategies for the ongoing implementation of the NCECC equivalent:

1. DHHS and NCCCS agree that the competencies of the EDU 119 course (Introduction to Early Childhood Education) fulfills the requirements for the NCECC. This course will be offered as a curriculum course for curriculum credit through the NC Community Colleges.
2. DHHS, NCCCS and NCDPI agree that the high school classes, Early Childhood Education I (FE11) and II (FE12) as specified in the most current *North Carolina High School to Community College Articulation Agreement* (effective July, 2012), will satisfy the competencies for the NCECC equivalent.

(See <http://www.ncperkins.org/course/view.php?id=4> and also, Community College

Numbered memo-CC11-021; available at
<http://www.ncccommunitycolleges.edu/sites/default/files/numbered-memos/cc11-021.pdf>

3. DHHS is responsible for communicating to the NCCCS suggested revisions/adaptations to consider for coursework (EDU 119) that leads to the NCECC.
4. NCCCS is responsible for any necessary revisions of the course content of EDU119. Any changes in the course shall be made in consultation with DHHS and NCDPI.
5. NCDPI, in collaboration with NCCCS, is responsible for revising the Early Childhood Education (ECE) I and II course content in accordance with revisions incorporated in EDU 119 to maintain the articulation outlined in the aforementioned *North Carolina High School to Community College Articulation Agreement*.
6. NCDPI is responsible for communicating to local education agencies (LEA's) the requirement that high school students must be 16 years of age before beginning an internship in a state-licensed child care facility.
7. NCDPI is responsible for communicating to LEA's the procedures of advising high school students wishing to become eligible for the NCECC equivalent of all criteria for the approval of college credit and eligibility for the NCECC equivalency.

High school students completing Early Childhood Education I and II during the school year 2016-2017 and beyond shall be advised of the three options available to them:

OPTION 1: EARNED ARTICULATED COLLEGE CREDIT AND NCECC EQUIVALENCY

To earn articulated college credit, high school students must:

- successfully complete the approved Early Childhood Education I (FE11- version 2008) and II (FE12- version 2009) courses with a grade of "B" or higher in each course
- obtain a scale score of 90 or higher on the standardized CTE post-assessment
- enroll at a community college offering an early childhood education program within two years of their high school graduation date



Additionally, high school students shall be advised that to be eligible for the NCECC equivalency they must:

- have received articulated college credit for approved Early Childhood Education I and II courses by meeting all criteria identified in the aforementioned *North Carolina High School to Community College Articulation Agreement*
- have obtained a high school diploma or GED
- be 18 years of age
- be enrolled at a community college offering Early Childhood Education

After meeting both sets of criteria, students applying for the NCECC equivalency should request an official college transcript showing articulated courses. An official college transcript, and the NCECC equivalency completion form/application should be sent to the DHHS Division of Child Development to determine eligibility for the NCECC equivalent.

OPTION 2: NCECC EQUIVALENCY

To earn the NCECC equivalency, high school students must:

- successfully complete the approved and newly revised Early Childhood Education I (FE11- version 2008) and II (FE12- version 2009) courses with a grade of "B" or higher in each course
- X • obtain a score of 90 or higher on the standardized CTE post-assessment
- have obtained a high school diploma or GED
- be at least 18 years of age

After meeting both sets of criteria, students applying for the NCECC equivalency should request an official high school transcript showing required courses and CTE post-assessment score. An official high school transcript indicating graduation, and the NCECC equivalency completion form/application should be sent to the DHHS Division of Child Development to determine eligibility for the NCECC equivalent.

OPTION 3: NCECC CREDENTIAL

To earn the NCECC Credential, a student must complete the EDU 119 course (Introduction to Early Childhood Education) with a "C" or better. This fulfills the requirements for the NCECC.

8. DHHS, NCCCS, and NCDPI are collaboratively responsible for advising individual community colleges and high schools on the implementation of the NCECC equivalency and approved Early Childhood Education I and II courses.
9. DHHS is responsible for issuing the NCECC equivalency letters; approving student eligibility for NCECC equivalency; and administering the NCECC program according to DHHS policies and procedures. See N.C.G.S. § 110-91(8).
10. NCDPI will count the submission of student applications as an earned industry recognized credential for the purpose of CTE reporting and accountability.
11. NCCCS and NCDPI are responsible for updating all instructors of criteria for the approval of college credit and eligibility for the NCECC equivalency who teach EDU 119 or Early Childhood Education I and II coursework, as applicable.
12. The content of this MOA shall be evaluated at a minimum of every three years or at the discretion of the three Parties.
13. All provisions of this MOA are contingent upon applicability of state and federal program and funding regulations. Further, each party's responsibilities under this MOA are contingent upon the availability and allocation of funds for the purposes set forth in this MOA.
14. The MOA becomes effective on the date of latest signature by all Parties.

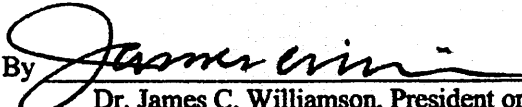
In witness whereof, the DHHS, NCCCS and NCDPI have executed this MOA in triplicate originals, one of which is retained by each of the parties.

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

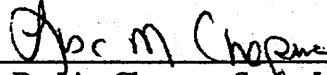
By _____
Rick Brajer, Secretary

Date

NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

By 
Dr. James C. Williamson, President or Designee

11/1/16
Date

By: 
Dr. Lisa Chapman, Senior Vice President/ Chief Academic Officer

10/31/16
Date

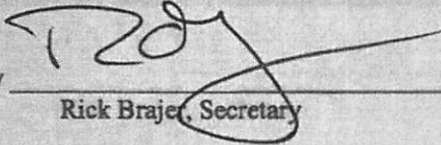
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

By _____
June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D. State Superintendent

Date

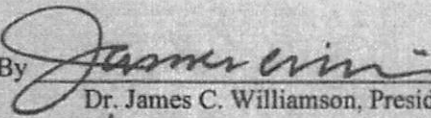
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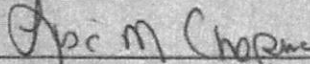
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