



# SENATE BILL 366: 9th/10th Grade/College Transfer Pathways.

2019-2020 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	December 17, 2019
<b>Introduced by:</b>		<b>Prepared by:</b>	Samantha Yarborough Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	S.L. 2019-185		

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**OVERVIEW:** *S.L. 2019-185 does all of the following: (i) expands the career and technical education (CTE) pathway to high school freshmen and sophomores to include construction and business technologies courses, (ii) expands the college transfer pathway to certain high school freshmen and sophomores, (iii) requires that those freshmen and sophomores receive academic advising on entering college early and get parental consent before participating in the pathway, and (iv) makes changes to adjunct CTE instructor hiring and employment.*

*The act became effective August 1, 2019, and applies beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.*

## CURRENT LAW:

### Career and College Promise

The Career and College Promise Program allows local community colleges to collaborate with local school administrative units to offer courses to high school students through various pathways: (i) Cooperative Innovative High Schools (CIHS); (ii) college transfer pathway; and (iii) career and technical education (CTE) pathway.

#### Career and Technical Education Pathway—High School Juniors and Seniors

High school juniors and seniors are eligible for the career and technical education pathway if they have a weighted GPA of 3.0 for their high school courses or have a recommendation of the high school principal or designee. These college and technical education courses can be used to provide partial or full fulfillment of the four-unit high school career cluster.

#### Career and Technical Education Pathway—High School Freshmen and Sophomores

High school freshmen and sophomores are eligible for the career and technical education pathway for certificates and diplomas in the following areas: (i) industrial technologies; (ii) engineering technologies; (iii) agriculture and natural resources; and (iv) transportation. These students also must meet academic requirements, including having passed Math I with a grade of "C" or better; test college ready in math, English, and reading, and have the recommendation of the high school principal or designee. These college and technical education courses can be used to provide partial or full fulfillment of the four-unit high school career cluster.

#### College Transfer Pathway—High School Juniors and Seniors

High school juniors and seniors are eligible for the college transfer path if they have a weighted GPA of 3.0 and have demonstrated college readiness in English, reading, and mathematics by meeting benchmarks on diagnostic assessment tests which have been approved by the State Board of Community Colleges.

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## Adjunct CTE Instructors

G.S. 115C-157.1 requires the State Board of Education to develop minimum criteria of relevant education or employment experience to qualify to contract as an adjunct instructor in each career and technical education career cluster. Adjunct instructors can be employed for no more than 10 hours per week.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Section 1 of the act expands the career and technical education pathway to high school freshmen and sophomores to include construction and business technologies courses that lead to career technical education certificates, diplomas, or State or industry-recognized credentials.

The act also expands the college transfer pathway to certain high school freshmen and sophomores. In order to qualify to take college transfer courses, these high school students must be determined to be academically gifted, have a demonstrated readiness for the course material, and have the maturity to justify admission to the community college by the following people: (i) the community college president, (ii) the student's high school principal, or equivalent administrator, and (iii) the Academically Gifted Coordinator, if one is employed by the high school or local school administrative unit.

Additionally, the act requires freshmen and sophomore high school students to participate in academic advising focused on the implications of being admitted to college early with representatives from the high school and the community college. The student's parent or guardian must give consent in order for the student to participate in the pathway.

Section 1.5 requires the State Board of Education to include in its adjunct instructor hiring criteria that an individual who does not possess an associate or baccalaureate degree is qualified to be an adjunct instructor if the individual (i) can clearly demonstrate a minimum of 6 years in the last 10 years of professional experience in a relevant skill or trade and (ii) possesses a recognized industry credential or an active professional license that is required for each subject area or course.

The act also extends the amount of time that an adjunct instructor can be employed from 10 hours a week to 20 hours a week, or no more than 5 full consecutive months of employment. It clarifies that adjunct instructors are not eligible to participate in the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System or the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The act became effective August 1, 2019, and applies beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

*\*Drupti Chauhan, Staff Attorney with the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.*