



March 20, 2020

Joint Statement from:

State Superintendent Mark Johnson and State Board of Education Chair Eric Davis

NC Community College System President Peter Hans

University of North Carolina Interim President William Roper

NC Independent Colleges and Universities President A. Hope Williams

In these challenging times, the health and safety of our state is our top priority. As the state's education leaders, we and our staff are constantly thinking about how to maintain that safety while still working to meet the state's educational attainment goals.

One of the most innovative and successful partnerships we have in this state is our dual enrollment programs. From early and middle college high schools to Career and College Promise dual enrollment courses, our state's high school students have significant opportunities to gain college credit, credentials and degrees while working towards their high school diploma. However, we know that families with students currently enrolled in these programs are concerned right now about what will happen with their child's education.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges, we are fully committed to working together to find solutions for students to continue and complete their college classes. Therefore, we have each appointed a key member of our respective staffs to work together, and with their local counterparts, to resolve any issues that may arise. These staff are already collaborating, and their first order of business is to focus on those high school seniors who need to complete their college courses in order to fulfill their high school graduation requirements.

We commit to keeping our students and their families updated as we move forward together.