

COOPERATIVE INNOVATIVE HIGH SCHOOLS INCREASE CUMULATIVE EARNINGS



NC Career & College
Promise Dual Enrollment
Program Pathways

Career and Technical
Education Pathway

College Transfer
Pathway

Cooperative Innovative
High Schools Pathway

At Cooperative Innovative High Schools, one of the pathways in North Carolina's Career and College Promise program, students can earn an associate degree or two years of college credit while attending an approved high school partnered with a college or university (e.g., an early college). In 2022, North Carolina had 134 of these partnerships.

Key Findings

1. There was no statistically significant difference in annual wages or the percentage of CIHS and comparison students employed in a job that reported to the NC Unemployment Insurance system.
2. CIHS students had higher cumulative earnings than comparison students.
3. There were positive impacts on cumulative earnings for all subgroups (all racial and ethnic groups, females, all economic levels) except males.
4. There was a statistically significant positive impact on annual wages for economically disadvantaged students and for students who were members of racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in college.

Outcome From NC Unemployment Insurance System	Difference between Treatment and Comparison Groups	Context
% employed 7 years post 12 th grade	+0.6 pp	71.8% (CIHS) and 71.2% (comparison) of total sample were employed in an organization that reported to the NC UI System.
Average annual wages 7 years post 12 th grade	\$465	The average annual wages were \$25,408 (CIHS) and \$24,944 (comparison), including 0's for individuals without wage records. Among all individuals with wage records, the average annual wages for the full group were \$35,031.
Cumulative earnings since 9 th grade through 7 years post 9 th grade	\$6,133***	Cumulative earnings were \$112,094 (CIHS) and \$105,961 (comparison), including only wages found in NC UI data.

***p≤.001

Important Caveats: These findings reflect results only for individuals who were employed in jobs that reported to the North Carolina Unemployment Insurance System. The NC UI System does not include data for self-employed workers, those employed by the federal government or out-of-state workers; as a result, the employment rates and wages reported above do not reflect all possible types of jobs and sources of income. It is unknown if CIHS students were more or less likely to be employed in sectors that do not report to the NC UI System, which may affect the impact estimates. Additionally, individuals who did not have a wage record were considered to not be employed and received a "0" for their wages.



The sample includes approximately 266,000 students who entered 9th grade from 2010–2012 including students who participated in a CIHS and students who did not. The study team used statistical approaches to construct a comparison group of non-participants with similar observable characteristics to CIHS Pathway participants and then compared outcomes for the two groups. The employment and earnings data come from the North Carolina Unemployment Insurance System housed at the North Carolina Department of Commerce and the analyses were completed by the Data Division at the NC Department of Information Technology. Thank you to both agencies for their assistance in this project.

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For more information on the Cooperative Innovative High Schools Pathway, see this website (bit.ly/3dm2i9T) from the NC Department of Public Instruction. To learn more about the study's findings about the other CCP pathways, see the other infographics in this series at earlycollegeresearch.uncg.edu.