

The background is a complex, abstract pattern of overlapping, semi-transparent purple polygons and lines, creating a sense of depth and movement. A solid purple rounded rectangle is centered in the upper half of the image, serving as a container for the text.

HAYWOOD EARLY COLLEGE



Haywood Early College was established in 2006 by Haywood County Schools, Haywood Community College, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as another public high school option for Haywood County students. Today, Haywood Early College is known for its innovative teaching and learning, ambitious student body, and passionate faculty and staff. As a National Blue Ribbon School and Apple Distinguished School, HEC is committed to an exceptional and unique educational experience for our students. A positive learning environment, small class size, individualized attention, and a highly qualified faculty are the pillars of our success.

Our students aren't of a single mold and bring many narratives, strengths, and areas that need growth. HEC wants each student to become a better version of themselves through their time here; a better student, friend, and human being. We are rooted in our commitment to shape our students into people of principle and character. Our school culture is steeped in high expectations of self and kindness to others. Pursuing a passion or new-found interest outside of the classroom allows students to engage not only in the practical application of knowledge but also to venture into new settings. Whether taking advantage of midday club and leadership opportunities, gaining a larger understanding of college life and fit through campus visits, or participating in service activities, students at HEC are encouraged to approach their education as an exciting opportunity to learn and explore in and beyond our campus.

Our hope is that you use this book as a glimpse into Haywood Early College. We look forward to working with you. Please contact us with any questions.

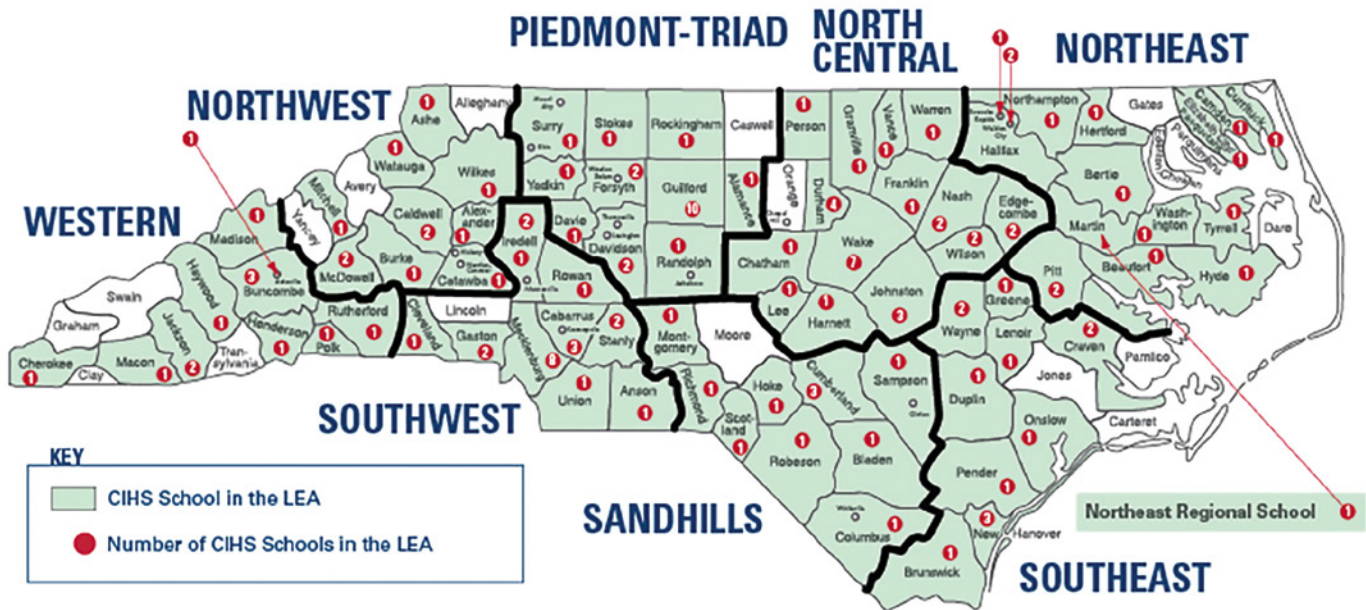
Lori Fox

Lori Fox, Principal



NC Cooperative Innovative High Schools

AS OF SEPTEMBER 2023



OVERVIEW

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), in collaboration with the North Carolina Community Colleges System, and the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, established Cooperative Innovative High Schools (CIHS) in 2004 in response to legislation from the NC General Assembly. Originally called the Learn and Earn Initiatives Act and most recently as part of the Career and College Promise Program, this legislation establishes guidelines for the creation and operation of CIHS in North Carolina.

The Appropriations Act of 2011 established the Career and College Promise (CCP) program. The purpose of CCP is to offer structured opportunities for qualified high school students to dually enroll in community college courses that provide pathways leading to a certificate, diploma, or degree, as well as providing entry-level job skills. The three structured pathways include:

1. Cooperative Innovative High School (CIHS) programs;
2. College Transfer (CT) Pathways

leading to the completion of an associate degree or two years of transferable credit, and 3. Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathways leading to a certificate, diploma, or industry recognized credential aligned with a high school career cluster. The full legislation governing CIHS is available on the NCDPI CIHS webpage. The North Carolina Department of Public instruction (NCDPI), in collaboration with the North Carolina Community Colleges System, and the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, established Cooperative Innovative High Schools (CIHS) in 2004 in response to legislation from the NC General Assembly. Originally called the Learn and Earn Initiatives Act and most recently as part of the Career and College Promise Program, this legislation establishes guidelines for the creation and operation of CIHS in North Carolina.

CIHS are innovative models determined locally based on regional needs, including early college high schools, STEM-themed high schools, and career academies. Some schools offer both career and college programs of study. All CIHS partner with an institution of higher education (IHE) and most are located on the campus of their IHE partner. CIHS are small schools, serving no more than 100 students per grade.

CIHS programs focus of students who would be the first in their families to graduate from college, students who are at risk of dropping out of high school, and students who would benefit from accelerated academic instruction. CIHS programs provide innovative public school opportunities for students and families.

North Carolina is a national leader in expanding this innovative high school model, with 133 CIHS programs in Fall 2021. 117 CIHS partner with community colleges, 11 with UNC institutions, and five with independent colleges or universities. Most school districts in North Carolina offer one or more CIHS. Students in CIHS outperform state-wide averages in NC Math I, Biology, English II and NC Math III. CIHS students receive better grades, on average, than college age students in core academic college courses. A growing number of students are benefiting from new opportunities, leading to stronger outcomes, with higher rates of academic achievement, graduation and post secondary enrollment and completion. Together, these high schools and their college partners are transforming teaching and learning for their students, while also promoting the growth of innovative practices in many schools and districts.



186
STUDENTS

21st
CENTURY

Students learn
21st-century, timeless skills
- critical thinking, problem
solving, communication, and
collaboration.

HEC supports
numerous student
clubs - from Tech
Club and Debate
to Drama and
Games Club



college acceptance rate is

100%


HEC QUICK *Facts*

Haywood Early College Top Ranked School

SchoolDigger.com recently ranked Haywood Early College the top high school in North Carolina based on the student/teacher ratio, per pupil expenditures, and testing scores. These rankings were updated on September 1, 2021 based on the most recent test scores available and includes statistics from the National Center for Education Statistics, US Department of Education, and NC Dept of Public Instruction.

11 + 61 in four years
**high school honors + college transferable
credits**

ACADEMIC
ENRICHMENT
OPPORTUNITIES



13:1
student:teacher ratio

9th
**UNIQUE
ONBOARDING
EXPERIENCE**



2021 NASSP NC PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

**STUDENT
APPOINTED
AS A
NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF
EDUCATION
ADVISOR**

Tied for 1st for academic
performance composite
amongst all North Carolina
K-12 schools

2022-2023

2021-2022

2020-2021

2019-2020

2018-2019



2018 National Blue
Ribbon School for
Exemplary High
Performing Schools

(1 of 40 high schools to receive
this distinction since 1982)

\$ Scholarship Money

Class of 2020: \$1,248,747

Class of 2021: \$1,350,149

Class of 2022: \$2,489,758

Class of 2023: \$3,146,482

Haywood County Schools Recognitions:

2022-2023

High School Teacher
of the Year

2022-2023

School Nutrition Worker
of the Year

BRAGGING Rights

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE SNAPSHOT:

UNC - Chapel Hill

NC State University

UNC - Greensboro

UNC - Charlotte

University of Alabama

College of Charleston

Elon University

University of Michigan

Clemson University

Campbell University

Furman University

Harvard University



**Distinguished School
2021-2024**

**ACT Ranking - 1 of only 7 high schools in NC
with a 100% in ACT proficiency**

Haywood Early College Composite Average: **25.35**

Haywood County Schools Composite Average: **19.3**

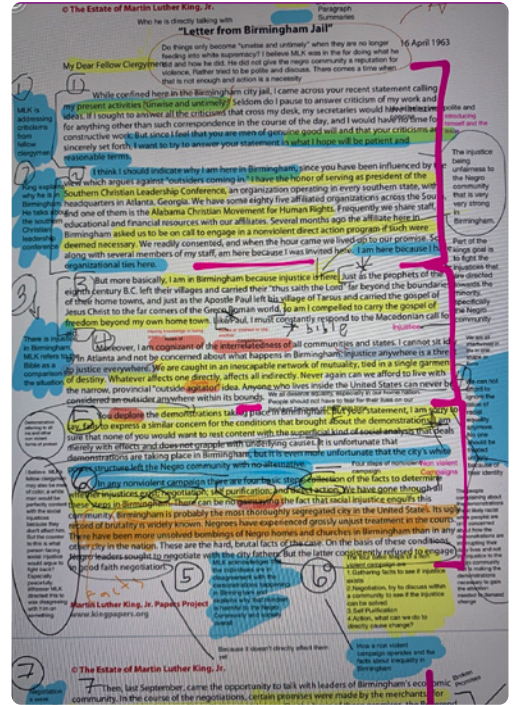
NC Composite Average: **18.2**

ACADEMICS

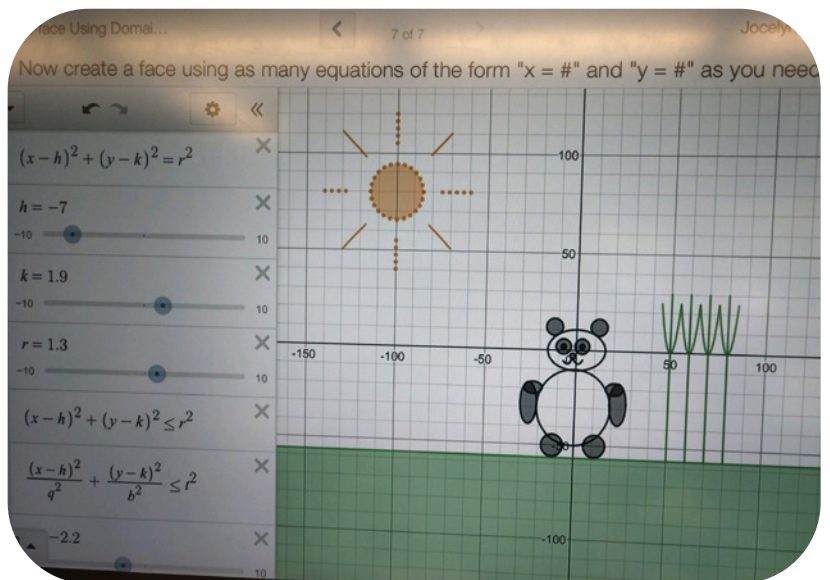
Students are expected to be active participants in every class, even taking part in the decisions about what the class covers and how it does so within the standard course of study. With small class sizes, prospective students need to understand that their involvement is expected and required. We are all in this together.

So what does that mean exactly?

It means that students can expect to have some control over what happens in class, whether that's suggesting and voting on what to read in English, or choosing a written, oral, or digital format to complete work in social studies.



It means that students need to understand that they are a vital role in each class. Participation matters. A math lesson about parabolic motion involves groups of students tossing tennis balls around outdoors. A stoichiometric lab in chemistry requires groups to mix reagents to calculate products. Everyone plays a role.





TECHNOLOGY

We envisioned and implemented an *Apple technology initiative* that *revolutionized learning* for our teachers and students. To nurture *innovative world-changers*, our students must be fully invested and engaged in learning. This level of engagement requires outlets for *creativity and the freedom* to explore classroom content in unconventional ways. The array of applications and technologies available to our students and faculty has allowed us to create *student-driven learning environments* that promote *student investment* through choice and creativity.

We believe we are preparing our students to be *thinkers, designers, and communicators* on the world stage. Students build traditional reading, writing, and problem-solving skills in fresh ways for topics that they choose using whatever tools work best for their needs, in the style of *true innovators*.

17 YEARS OF HEC



Edited excerpt from National Blue Ribbon School Award recognition By Doug Hanson, English teacher

Haywood Early College is almost old enough to vote. What started as a revolutionary partnership between Haywood County Public Schools and Haywood Community College has matured into a program with a long history of academic success.

To be sure, there have been changes over the years. The 400-building, renamed in the last few years as the Dogwood Building, has been updated with paint and new signs and matching furniture over the last few years, and has never looked or felt better. The outside of the building proudly announces the school as both a Blue Ribbon school and as an Apple Distinguished School.

The changes have been good. Each senior class seems a bit better than the last. The class of 2023 earned a combined \$3.1 million in scholarships and grants, the best ever. At least until the class of 2024 has its say. Each new freshman class gets a nicer iPad than the class before. We're offering more core classes on the high school side, as well as a seminar class designed to help juniors prepare for the college application process and college entrance exams.

But if you were a former graduate of HEC coming back, you would find, under the hood, not much has really changed.

There is still nowhere else the faculty and staff would want to be. Staff turnover simply does not exist at HEC.

It is still the students that keep everyone here. In many ways they resemble this Appalachian county in North Carolina as a whole, yet these students have chosen an untraditional path by choosing Haywood Early College, and they are united by that choice. The students have, of their own volition, volunteered to lead study groups to help others and founded a mentor program to guide the younger students. Students advocated for the creation of our various clubs and organizations. In a world so often marked by strife, their kindness to each other and acceptance of each other is humbling. There has not been a fight in the history of the school. They could teach adults a thing or two.

In a time of increased choices in education, Haywood Early College remains a safe bet. A long history of accolades and top rankings attest to that. We have had numerous state-level recognitions over the years: as a school of distinction and as a school of excellence, a school report card of an A and a school that has exceeded expected growth. If winning the national Blue Ribbon award in 2018 was a cherry on top of all that, then earning distinction as an Apple Distinguished School in 2021 was

the sprinkles. Last year, one of our graduating seniors earned admission to Harvard University, a first for our school, but hopefully not the last as we have plans for a trip in April 2024 to take students to tour Ivy League campuses.

We have much to offer: small class sizes that offer instruction tailored to each student, teachers who eschew standard lesson templates in favor of innovation, layered support for each student ranging from peer study groups to one-on-one teacher-student sessions to institutional support from the community college.

We have a close partnership with Haywood Community College that allows our students greater flexibility in picking among rigorous classes that speak to them. From classes on art appreciation to statistical methods, from environmental biology to psychology, our students can choose from a wide range of options fitting each student's future aspirations. In a time where such flexibility usually comes at the price of online classes, we are pleased we can offer classes where they can meet their teachers face-to-face, and develop strong and meaningful partnerships with them.

There is one thing that has not changed - and we hope never will. Our students feel valued, by their teachers, by each other, in ways that are hard to explain. How else to

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explain why students gifted Mr. Allison with his very own lifesize cardboard cutout. Or why, at lunchtime and after school, students linger in Ms. Hooper's classroom to chat. Our counselor's office buzzes with omnipresent students who find pleasure in a sympathetic ear, a comfortable chair, and good advice.

So this is Haywood Early College: rigorous and innovative instruction, an experienced and committed staff, an appreciative and enthusiastic community, kind and united students.



WHERE WE'VE BEEN

2021-2022

University Visits

- ✓ Appalachian State University
- ✓ Clemson University
- ✓ UNC-Charlotte
- ✓ Duke University
- ✓ Wake Forest University
- ✓ NC State University
- ✓ UNC-Chapel Hill

2022-2023

University Visits

- ✓ Western Carolina University
- ✓ Berea College
- ✓ Vanderbilt University
- ✓ UT-Knoxville
- ✓ East Tennessee State University
- ✓ Furman University
- ✓ University of South Carolina
- ✓ College of Charleston
- ✓ Brevard University



Where We're Going

2023-2024 University Visits



DEGREES

All Haywood Early College students are provided the incredible opportunity to earn their high school diploma and an associate degree (college transfer credits earned are equivalent to first two years at a university). Most students complete both credentials in four years, but a fifth year is available. Requirements for a student's high school diploma and associate degree receive priority with scheduling, while opportunities for career and technical education certificates and workforce continuing education credentials are available and are explored with students during individual advising appointments.

College Transfer

All courses in the degree programs are designed to give students a solid, well-rounded foundation in the arts and the sciences before going on to four-year institutions where they will take the remainder of their course work to complete their bachelor's degree.

Associate In Arts

The Associate in Arts (AA) degree is designed for students who want to pursue a four-year degree in one of the liberal arts disciplines or training at a professional school that requires a strong liberal arts background.

Associate In Science

The Associate in Science (AS) degree is designed for students who want to pursue a four-year degree in areas of study such as computer science, engineering, mathematics, and the sciences or professional programs that require strong mathematics and science backgrounds.

Associate In Engineering

The Associate in Engineering (AE) degree plan includes required general education and prerequisite courses that are acceptable to all state-funded Bachelor of Engineering programs. Students who follow the degree progression plan will meet the entrance requirements at all of the North Carolina public Bachelor of Science Engineering programs. Admission to Engineering programs is highly competitive and admission is not guaranteed.

Associate In Arts In Teacher Preparation

This transfer degree (AATP) was established specifically for students looking for a liberal arts discipline with a strong liberal arts background looking to become a teacher.

Associate In Science In Teacher Preparation

This transfer degree (ASTP) was established specifically for students looking for an area of study focusing on computer science, engineering, mathematics, and the sciences continuing their path to become a teacher.

Haywood Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award certificates, diplomas and associate degrees.

What can you do to be a competitive applicant?

- ✓ **Finish 8th grade on a positive note.**
(9th grade applications are accepted but limited)
- ✓ **Great attendance throughout a solid academic year is crucial.**

Are you ready to join the Pack?

Stay informed about the application timeline and HEC happenings by joining Remind text messaging for our Prospective Students and Families:

Message to: **81010**

Message: **@applyhec24**

Here's how to apply:

- ✓ **Complete an online application.**
- ✓ **Homeschool students:** After completing your application, please bring by transcript and all necessary documentation of coursework completed.

For more information:
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HAYWOOD
E A R L Y
COLLEGE
ONE PACK • ONE GOAL