(a) The State Board shall encourage individuals to complete high school before seeking admission to a college.

(b) A minor, 16 years old or older, may be considered a student with special needs and may be admitted to an appropriate program at a college if the local public or private educational agency determines that admission to the program is the best educational option for the student and the admission of the student to the program is approved by the college. This requirement may be waived if the student has been out of school at least six months and the application is supported by a notarized petition of the student's parent, legal guardian, or other person or agency having legal custody and control. The petition shall certify the student's residence, date of birth, date of leaving school, and the petitioner's legal relationship to the student.

(c) A high school student, 16 years old or older, based upon policies approved by the local public or private board of education and board of trustees, may be admitted to any curriculum course one hundred level and above or any continuing education course, except adult basic skills, concurrently under the following conditions:
(1) Upon recommendation of the chief administrative school officer and approval of the president of the college;
(2) Upon approval of the student's program by the chief administrative school officer and the president of the college; and
(3) Upon certification by the Chief Administrative School Officer that the student is taking the equivalent of one-half of a full-time schedule and is making progress toward graduation.

(d) High school students, taking courses pursuant to Paragraphs (b) and (c) of this Rule, shall not displace adults but may be admitted any term on a space-available basis to any curriculum course one hundred level and above or any continuing education course, except adult basic skills. Once admitted, they shall be treated the same as all other students.

(e) Local boards of trustees and local school boards may establish cooperative programs in areas they serve in order to provide college courses to high school students. College credits shall be awarded to those high school students upon successful completion of the courses. Cooperative programs shall be approved, prior to implementation, by the State Board or its designee.

(f) Students less than 16 years old who are mature enough to function well in an adult education setting and are intellectually gifted as evidenced by a score in the range from the 92nd percentile to the 99th percentile on an aptitude and an achievement test selected from a list of tests approved by the System Office may be admitted to community colleges. Tests included on the System Office approved list shall be selected from the Mental Measurements Year Book published by the Burds Institute of Mental Measurements. The student shall be ranked by an official of the student’s school in the top 10 percent on the following behavioral characteristics: mature, observant, inquisitive, persistent, innovative, analytical, adaptable, leadership, desire to achieve, self-confidence and communications skills. Students less than 16 years old shall not displace adults but may be admitted any term on a space-available basis to any curriculum course one hundred level and above. Students admitted to community colleges under this Paragraph shall pay the same tuition and fees as other curriculum students.
(g) Except as authorized by G.S. 115D-20(4), colleges shall not start classes, offer summer school courses, or offer regular high school courses for high school students.

(h) A college may make available to persons of any age non-credit, non-remedial, enrichment courses during the summer period. These courses shall be self-supporting and shall not earn credit toward a diploma, certificate, or degree at the college or high school.

(i) At the request of the director of a youth development center having custody of juveniles committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, a college may make available to these juveniles any course offered by that college if they meet the course admission requirements. The director's request shall include the director's approval for each juvenile to enroll in the course.