



Request for Proposals:

College in High School Alliance Customized State Support, Peer Learning Network & National Virtual Convening

Thanks to the generous support of the ECMC Foundation & Joyce Foundation, the College in High School Alliance, in partnership with the National Governors Association (NGA), is releasing a Request for Proposal for three engagement opportunities for state policymakers to advance their policies for college in high school programs like dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, and early college high school.

CHSA has also issued a **Frequently Asked Questions** document that serves as a companion to this RFP. [Click here to access](#). All the documents, including links for the application form and the interested applicants webinar, are available on the CHSA website [here](#).

What is the College in High School Alliance?

The [College in High School Alliance](#) is a collaborative partnership between [Achieving the Dream](#), [Advance CTE](#), [Bard College](#), [Foresight Law + Policy](#), [JFF](#), [KnowledgeWorks](#), the [Middle College National Consortium](#), and the [National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships](#).

Working together under the banner of the College in High School Alliance, these organizations have dedicated staff, capacity, and resources towards their shared mission of working with policymakers, programs, and other stakeholders to advance equity, quality, and student success for college in high school programs. In addition to the core collaborative, CHSA connects [80 other national and state organizations](#) as partners in its work. Several of those organizations, including the [National Governors Association](#), will also play a role in this project.

What are College in High School Programs?

“College in high school” in this context applies to any opportunity for K-12 students to enroll in college courses that lead to transcribed credits and involve partnerships between school districts and institutions of higher education in some form.

These programs go by many names, but are typically referred to as **dual enrollment**, **concurrent enrollment**, or **early college high school**. Included in our understanding of this term are also programs with a career and technical education focus, such as **P-TECH**.

The Opportunities

The College in High School Alliance is excited to launch three engagement opportunities this summer, described below: providing five states with **Customized State Support**, launching a **Peer Learning Network** for state policymakers, and hosting a **National Virtual Convening** on the role of college in high school programs in the COVID-19 recovery:

1) Customized State Support

Launching July 2, 2021

CHSA is looking to partner with **five** states to provide those states with 12 months of technical assistance to advance policies designed to expand access to low-income and underrepresented students in higher education. CHSA has assembled a team of national experts to work with selected states to conduct a needs assessment based on the state's existing policies, work with state teams to develop an action plan for measurable progress towards expanding program access and success, and support implementation of an action plan over the remainder of the 12 month period.

To support this work, CHSA will be able to provide a \$25,000 grant to each participating state to support the goals of the project. Funding may be used to cover staff time, consultants, or to advance existing or new projects in the state related to the scope of work. For more information, see [FAQ Question 7](#).

In addition to the \$25,000 to build state capacity, selected states will receive:

- Support from a team of experts drawn from the CHSA's core eight organizations whose expertise matches the state's specific needs and contexts.
- A set of services and tools, including a needs assessment and action plan that will allow the state to holistically assess its current policy environment and chart a path towards achieving expanded student access and improved learner outcomes.
- Participation in a **Peer Learning Network** consisting of state teams from across the nation seeking to advance equitable, high-quality college in high school programs. More on the **Peer Learning Network** can be found in the section below.

See [FAQ Question 5, 6 & 7](#) for more information on Customized State Supports.

2) Peer Learning Network

Launching July 2, 2021

CHSA will launch a peer learning network for state policymakers interested in college in high school programs to provide an ongoing forum for state policymaker collaboration and peer

learning. States selected for **Customized State Support** will automatically be included in the peer learning network, but it is not exclusive to those states. The network will meet monthly.

States will receive:

- Monthly opportunities to engage with state policymakers from other states around timely and relevant topics impacting college in high school programs and policy, determined by the network's participating members.
- The ability to collaborate and showcase your state's experiences and learn from others as we collectively work towards improving equity of access and program quality.
- A forum to bring your specific challenges for discussion and receive input from peers and national experts about possible solutions.
- Engagement opportunities with other organizations connected to the CHSA, including around reports, proposals, or new concepts of interest.

See [FAQ Question 8](#) for more information on the Peer Learning Network.

Both the **Customized State Support** and the **Peer Learning Network** projects will launch with a:

3) National Virtual Convening

June 29 - July 1, 2021 (each day from 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM ET)

To launch both of these engagements, CHSA is partnering with the National Governors Association to host a virtual cross-state workshop focused on the role of college in high school programs in the COVID-19 recovery. The convening will provide teams of state leaders the opportunity to engage with national experts and each other on timely topics designed to elevate the role that college in high school programs can play in expanding access for students and improving postsecondary outcomes and opportunities amid the COVID-19 recovery.

States will receive:

- Collaborative sessions focused on expanding student access to college in high school programs amid the COVID-19 recovery, particularly for those who have been hardest hit by the pandemic, setting equity goals for these programs, and optimizing governance structures.
- The opportunity to engage with national experts on these topics, as well as policymakers from other states engaged in addressing the same questions around how to use college in high school programs to serve learners who will benefit the most from such programs.
- The opportunity to work with CHSA's team to develop specific action items for each participating state to spur progress immediately coming out of the convening.

See [FAQ Question 9 & 10](#) for more information on the National Virtual Convening.

Eligibility

- These opportunities are open to all interested states, plus the District of Columbia and U.S. territories.
- Cross-agency participation in these engagements is strongly encouraged, as well as partnerships with non-state intermediaries or non-profits, where appropriate.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate decision-making authority for policies impacting college in high school programs in their state.
 - This can include, but is not limited to, the governor's office, state education agency, higher education governing authority, public system of higher education (two or four year,) or career and technical education office. Priority consideration will be provided to applicants who can secure support from or participation by the governor's office.

How to Apply

Interested states may apply using this [online application form](#) for one of two packages:

Either:

- **Full State Support Package**: This includes the **Customized State Support**, admission to the **Peer Learning Network**, and access to the **National Virtual Convening**

Or:

- **Cross-State Networking Package**: This includes admission to the **Peer Learning Network** and access to the **National Virtual Convening ONLY**. This package does **NOT** include the **Customized State Support**.

See [FAQ Question 11](#) for the questions that are included in the application form for each package.

Successful applicants will be those who:

- Can provide a commitment to working across sectors (K-12, higher education - including two- and four-year, workforce etc.) to advance success for students participating in college in high school programs.
- Can articulate how support from the CHSA and its partners will ignite or enhance progress in the state to expand access to and success in college in high school programs for populations of students who are currently underrepresented, such as low-income students, students of color, and students with disabilities.
- Can demonstrate how grant funds will be used to advance the objectives of this work.

Priority consideration will be provided to applicants who:

- Secure a letter from the governor supporting the application; and/or confirm the participation of a representative of the governor's office or equivalent political appointee (e.g., chief state school officer if appointed in the state). Please identify this individual in the application if applicable.

Application Deadline

All applications must be received through the [online application form](#) by **WEDNESDAY, MAY 19 at 5:00 PM Pacific** in order to be considered. Applicants for **Customized State Support** may be asked to meet with the selection team for a short interview.

Selection Announcements

CHSA will inform selected states on **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2**. A public announcement will follow.

Interested Applicants Webinar

CHSA will hold a webinar for interested applicants to learn more and ask questions about any element of this RFP on **WEDNESDAY, MAY 5 at 3:00 PM Eastern**. [Click HERE to register.](#)

For Questions, Please Contact

We have developed a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) resource with more information about this project and the opportunities. For additional questions about any of these opportunities or submission requirements, please contact:

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