

Article 18.

Tarheel Challenge Academy.

§ 127A-220. Purpose; establishment.

The purpose of this Article is to authorize the North Carolina National Guard's Tarheel Challenge Academy to operate independently of existing schools. The Tarheel Challenge Academy is established as a Division of the North Carolina National Guard. The Tarheel Challenge Academy shall satisfy all of the following:

- (1) Exist as a cost-free program.
- (2) Be housed for administrative purposes within the North Carolina National Guard.
- (3) Be a community-based school that leads, trains, and mentors at-risk youth.
- (4) Be designated as an approved alternative learning program, as defined in this Article, and an innovative school option.
- (5) Create at least a 22-week residential program that requires a 12-month post-residential mentoring period.
- (6) Improve life skills and employment potential of participants by providing quasi-military based training and supervised work experience.
- (7) Teach the "8 Core Components" of academic excellence, job skills, health and hygiene, physical fitness, life coping skills, responsible citizenship, leadership, and service to community.
- (8) Increase opportunity for participants to receive a high school diploma or its equivalent.
- (9) Enjoy the full cooperation of other State and local agencies in carrying out its program. (2021-180, s. 19E.2(a).)