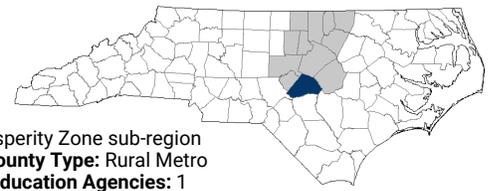


Harnett County

NC goal: 2 million by 2030
2020 County Attainment Profile



Updated: Aug 04 2021

INTRODUCTION

From birth to career, there are many opportunities to develop strategies and interventions to increase attainment and improve workforce alignment. Below are some key areas and indicators that highlight where interventions may be possible to improve overall educational attainment outcomes.

COUNTY OVERVIEW

Harnett County is in the **Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone** sub-region. It's one of 28 rural metro counties in NC. Overall, 8% of 25-44-year-olds in Harnett County have earned a master's degree or higher as their highest degree; 17% have a bachelor's degree; 11% have an associate degree; 27% have some college, no degree; 24% have a high school diploma; and 12% have less than a high school diploma.

2018 Population	133,172
2030 Population	158,563
K-12 Students (2019)	
Traditional Schools	20,097
Charter/Private/Home	3,581
Median Household Income	\$51,225
Child Poverty Rate	20%
Households with Broadband	76%

Building the Foundation: Pre-K to 8

High-quality early learning and strong academic progress in early years helps prepare children for future success.



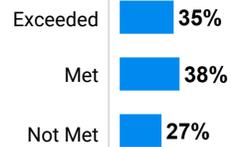
Harnett County has 25 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 6 or 24% were classified as low performing in 2019.

How students in Harnett County traditional public schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, Harnett County needs:

- **524 more eligible 4-year-olds** enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 28%).
- **3,223 more 3-8 graders** earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 39%).
- **5,013 more 3-8 graders** earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 34%).

Percent of Harnett County schools by academic growth status, 2019



Ready for College & Career

High school completion is a crucial step on the pathway to postsecondary success or the beginnings of a career. Activities that prepare students to navigate the transition to postsecondary include gaining experience in college-level coursework and applying for financial assistance.

To meet state goals, Harnett County needs:

- **132 more 9th graders** to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 87%).
- **362 more seniors** to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80% vs. 53%).
- **963 more students** to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 16%).



587 students took at least one AP course (10%) versus 10% of peer counties.



889 students participated in Career & College Promise programs (15%) versus 18% of peer counties.

Students in Harnett County completed **900 Career & Technical Education concentrations** in 2019. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; Architecture and Construction; and Health Science.

Postsecondary Access and Success

These metrics capture student progression and educational attainment from high school graduation to postsecondary completion. They indicate relative strengths and weaknesses of Harnett County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.



Harnett County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 372:1.

Among Harnett County high school graduates:

- **53% of graduates** enroll in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 57% of peer counties.
- **70% of students** who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% of peer counties.
- **46% of students** who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 50% of peer counties.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2018-19:

2,661	individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program.
12,867	Basic Skills enrollments at NC community colleges.
67,583	Continuing Education enrollments at NC community colleges.

Labor Market Outcomes

Lack of technical skills and lack of education are among the primary reasons why NC employers struggle to fill vacancies. These metrics capture labor market outcomes among recent graduates, the alignment between postsecondary degree production and labor market demand, and future job demands.



10.2% of teens ages 16-19 are not working and not in school versus 9.4% of peer counties.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region:

Public postsecondary institutions graduate **22,190 students per year**. After 5 years, 59% of 2013 graduates were employed in NC, earning an annual average wage of \$52,133.

80% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs. The top gaps are: **Information Technology** (bachelor's); **Marketing** (bachelor's); and **Finance** (bachelor's).

There are **1,166,888 job openings** projected between 2017-2026. The top 3 in demand jobs with median wages of \$50,000 or more are: 1) **Registered Nurses**; 2) **Software Developers, Applications**; 3) **General and Operations Managers**.

Opportunities for Growth

Compared to rural metro counties and the state, these three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Harnett County to improve future attainment outcomes.



NC Pre-K Enrollment

28% of Harnett County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural metro county average of 54%.



Low-Performing Schools

24% of Harnett County schools are low-performing, above the rural metro county average of 16%.



First-Year Persistence

70% of Harnett County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary persist to their second year, below the rural metro county average of 73%.

Largest postsecondary institutions in your Prosperity Zone sub-region		
Institution Name	Undergraduate Enrollments 2017-18	Graduate or Transfer in 8 Years
Total Enrollments	139,487	73%
Wake Technical Community College	29,480	56%
North Carolina State University at Raleigh	27,424	93%
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	19,773	96%
Durham Technical Community College	8,049	58%
Duke University	7,504	95%
North Carolina Central University	7,165	80%
Strayer University-North Carolina	6,998	53%
Central Carolina Community College	6,811	58%
Johnston Community College	5,343	55%
Campbell University	5,183	89%
Vance-Granville Community College	4,014	60%
Meredith College	1,900	92%

Notes:

Enrollments reflect degree- or credential-seeking undergraduate enrollments. The graduate or transfer rate is drawn from IPEDS and represents the share of students who either graduate with a degree or credential from the institution or transfer to another institution within 8 years. The 8-year outcome is the only measure that includes information on transfer out. Detailed data guidance is provided at <http://go.unc.edu/countydata>

Local Cross-Sector Promising Practice: Harnett County Promise

Central Carolina Community College’s Education Programs provide top-quality training for careers in the field of education. Students can earn an Associate in Science - Teacher Preparation degree or Associate in Arts - Teacher Preparation degree in only two years, and then transfer to a four-year institution and enter as a junior. These new degrees will help create a smooth transfer experience for graduates to become the new generation of teachers in Lee, Chatham, and Harnett counties

We identified this example of an emerging cross-sector promising practice in partnership with local leaders. If you have additional examples you’d like to share with myFutureNC, please respond to this short survey.

For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit:

dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/

ABOUT CAROLINA DEMOGRAPHY

Located within the Carolina Population Center at UNC-Chapel Hill, we use data and other available research to help you put a face or a story on the population-level changes facing your community. Our analysts provide a full array of demographic data and research services to inform decision making, evaluation, and policy across North Carolina, where we serve organizations and people in all 100 counties.

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ABOUT MYFUTURENC

MyFutureNC is a statewide nonprofit organization focused on educational attainment and is the result of cross-sector collaboration between North Carolina leaders in education, business, and government. Our mission is to prepare North Carolina for the future by empowering individuals, strengthening communities, and ensuring our economic viability in a global economy.

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