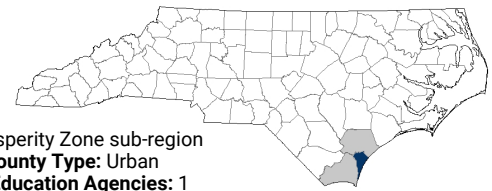


New Hanover County

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.

Building the Foundation: Pre-K to 8

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



New Hanover County has 38 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 5 or 13% were classified as low performing in 2019.

COUNTY OVERVIEW

New Hanover County is in the **Wilmington Prosperity Zone** sub-region. It's one of 6 urban counties in NC.

Overall, 12% of 25-44-year-olds in New Hanover County have earned a master's degree or higher as their highest degree; 31% have a bachelor's degree; 11% have an associate degree; 22% have some college, no degree; 18% have a high school diploma; and 6% have less than a high school diploma.

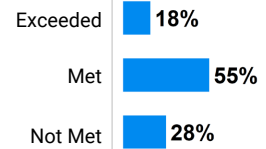
2018 Population	232,248
2030 Population	276,409
K-12 Students (2019)	
Traditional Schools	25,512
Charter/Private/Home	7,023
Median Household Income	\$53,419
Child Poverty Rate	19%
Households with Broadband	84%

How students in New Hanover County traditional public schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, New Hanover County needs:

- **194 more eligible 4-year-olds** enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 56%).
- **2,470 more 3-8 graders** earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 52%).
- **4,278 more 3-8 graders** earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 50%).

Percent of New Hanover 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, New Hanover County needs:

- **157 more 9th graders** to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 88%).
- **521 more seniors** to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80% vs. 52%).
- **982 more students** to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 15%).



1,614 students took at least one AP course (20%) versus 25% of peer counties.



883 students participated in Career & College Promise programs (11%) versus 5% of peer counties.

Students in New Hanover County completed **608 Career & Technical Education concentrations** in 2019. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Hospitality & Tourism; Information Technology; and Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications.

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 New Hanover County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.



New Hanover County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 364:1.

Among New Hanover County high school graduates:

- **68% of graduates** enroll in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 66% of peer counties.
- **80% of students** who enroll persist to their second year versus 81% of peer counties.
- **57% of students** who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 58% of peer counties.

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

254	individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program.
1,943	Basic Skills enrollments at NC community colleges.
14,610	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.



6.5% of teens ages 16-19 are not working and not in school versus 5.3% of peer counties.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region:

Public postsecondary institutions graduate **6,301 students per year**. After 5 years, 66% of 2013 graduates were employed in NC, earning an annual average wage of \$40,372.

80% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs. The top gaps are: **Finance** (bachelor's); **Health Science** (above bachelor's); and **Transportation, Distribution & Logistics** (below bachelor's).

There are **207,875 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) **General and Operations Managers**; 3) **First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers**.

Opportunities for Growth

Compared to urban counties and the state, these three areas represent the biggest opportunities for New Hanover County to improve future attainment outcomes.



FAFSA Completion

52% of New Hanover County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the urban county average of 59%.



AP Participation

20% of New Hanover County high school students took at least one Advanced Placement exam, below the urban county average of 25%.



Adult Learners

22% of New Hanover County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the urban county average of 19%.

Largest postsecondary institutions in your Prosperity Zone sub-region		
Institution Name	Undergraduate Enrollments 2017-18	Graduate or Transfer in 8 Years
Total Enrollments	35,429	69%
University of North Carolina Wilmington	16,604	93%
Cape Fear Community College	12,293	62%
Platt College-Miller-Motte-Wilmington	4,672	35%
Brunswick Community College	1,860	57%

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: Cape Fear Collective

Founded in 2019, the Cape Fear Collective (CFC) is a collective impact and data science nonprofit backbone organization based in Wilmington. CFC’s mission is to scale big data, fundraising, social innovation, and large-scale initiative management to a six-county region in Southeastern NC. CFC employs data scientists, strategists, journalists, and process improvement experts who partner with anchor institutions from across the region. Together, they create sustainable impact programs that address social progress across a variety of sectors including economic development, health and human services, climate change, and housing.




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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