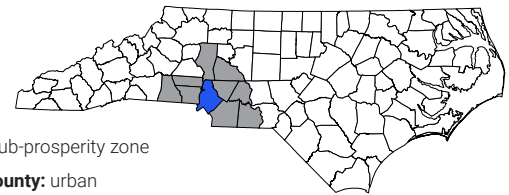


Mecklenburg County

NC goal: 2 million by 2030

Overview of postsecondary attainment pipeline



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 helps prepare children for future success while academic progress in early school years often predicts later academic challenges.

Mecklenburg County has 166 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 42 or 25% were classified as low performing in 2019.

COUNTY OVERVIEW

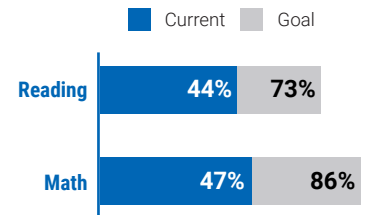
Mecklenburg County is in the Charlotte sub-prosperity zone. It's one of 6 urban counties in NC. Overall, 57% of 25-44-year-olds in Mecklenburg County have earned an associate degree or higher, 19% have some college, no degree, and 24% have a high school diploma or less.

2018 Population	1,088,350
2030 Projected Population	1,348,822
K-13 Students (2019)	
Traditional Schools	146,661
Charter/Private/Home	45,318
Median Household Income	\$64,509

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

To meet state goals, Mecklenburg County needs:

- **2,870 more eligible 4-year-olds** enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% enrollment).
- **20,292 more 3-8 graders** earning college-and-career ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73%).
- **26,988 more 3-8 graders** earning college-and-career ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86%).



Ready for Postsecondary

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, Mecklenburg County needs:

- **1,075 more 9th graders** to graduate within four years (goal: 95%).
- **2,373 more seniors** to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80%).
- **5,875 more students** to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism).



9,595 students took at least one AP exam.



1,460 students participated in NC Community College dual enrollment programs.

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 Mecklenburg County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.

Among Mecklenburg County high school graduates:

- **63% enroll** in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 66% of peer counties.
- **79% of students** who enroll persist to their second year versus 81% of peer counties.
- **58% of students** who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 58% of peer counties.

Largest Postsecondary Institutions in Your Sub-Prosperity Zone, 2018

Rank	School Name	Total Enrollments	Graduate or Transfer in 8 Years
	All Institutions	119,193	64%
1	University of North Carolina at Charlotte	33,673	85%
2	Central Piedmont Community College	29,552	47%
3	Rowan-Cabarrus Community College	7,939	28%

Note: Detailed data guidance is provided at <http://go.unc.edu/countydata>

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.

In your sub-prosperity zone:

Public postsecondary institutions graduate roughly **12,200 students per year**. After 5 years, 74% of 2013 graduates were employed in NC, earning an annual average wage of \$43,374.

79% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs. The top gaps are: **Business Management & Administration** (bachelor's); **Finance** (bachelor's); and **Information Technology** (bachelor's).

There are 1.4 million job openings projected in the next 10 years. The top 3 in demand jobs with average wages of \$50,000 or more are: 1) **Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products**; 2) **General and Operations Managers**; and 3) **Registered Nurses**.

HIGH IMPACT STRATEGIES

Compared to urban counties, these three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Mecklenburg County to improve future attainment outcomes.



Pre-K Enrollments

27% of Mecklenburg County eligible 4-year-olds are currently enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the urban county average of 38%.



Transition to Postsecondary

63% of Mecklenburg County seniors enroll in postsecondary within 12 months of graduation, below the urban county average (66%).



FAFSA Completions

56% of Mecklenburg County seniors completed the FAFSA vs. 59% in peer counties.

WE NEED TO CLOSE THE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT GAP IN NORTH CAROLINA.






**That starts with an ambitious goal: ensuring that by 2030,
2 million North Carolinians ages 25-44 have a high-quality
postsecondary degree or credential.**

**For more information about each indicator,
including data sources and methodology, visit
dashboard.myfuturenc.org**




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.

 ncdemography.org
 demography@unc.edu
 [@ncdemography](https://twitter.com/ncdemography)

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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