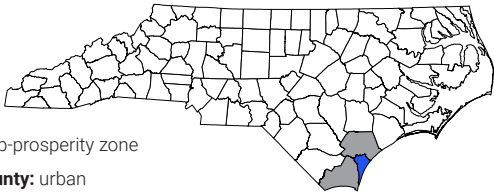


New Hanover County

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

COUNTY OVERVIEW

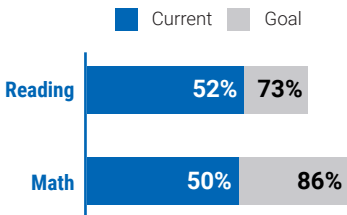
New Hanover County is in the Wilmington sub-prosperity zone. It's one of 6 urban counties in NC. Overall, 53% of 25-44-year-olds in New Hanover County have earned an associate degree or higher, 22% have some college, no degree, and 25% have a high school diploma or less.

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% enrollment).
- **2,470 more 3-8 graders** earning college-and-career ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73%).
- **4,277 more 3-8 graders** earning college-and-career ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86%).

2018 Population	232,248
2030 Projected Population	276,409
K-13 Students (2019)	
Traditional Schools	25,512
Charter/Private/Home	7,023
Median Household Income	\$53,419



To meet state goals, New Hanover County needs:

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



1,359 students took at least one AP exam.



967 students participated in NC Community College dual enrollment programs.

Among New Hanover County high school graduates:

- **68%** 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.

Largest Postsecondary Institutions in Your Sub-Prosperity Zone, 2018

Rank	School Name	Total Enrollments	Graduate or Transfer in 8 Years
All Institutions		37,822	69%
1	University of North Carolina Wilmington	18,997	93%
2	Cape Fear Community College	12,293	62%
3	Platt College-Miller-Motte-Wilmington	4,672	35%

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

In your sub-prosperity zone:

Public postsecondary institutions graduate roughly **6,300 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 208,000 job openings projected in the next 10 years. The top 3 in demand high-quality jobs are: 1) **Registered Nurses**; 2) **General and Operations Managers**; and 3) **First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers**.

HIGH IMPACT STRATEGIES

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



FAFSA Completions

52% of New Hanover County seniors completed the FAFSA vs. 59% in peer counties.



AP Participation

17% of New Hanover County high school students took at least one AP exam, below the urban county average of 24%.



Adult Learners

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

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.

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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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