

# Gates County



Elizabeth City  
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region  
Peer County Type: Rural Metro  
Local Education Agencies: 1  
Charter Schools: 0

**2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)**  
**2030 Proposed Gates County Attainment Goal: 1,710 (51%)**

## Population Spotlight

2010 Census: 12,197  
2020 Census: 10,478  
Change: -1,719

## Growth Rate

**-14.1%** vs. **9.5%**  
County State

**\$57,680**  
Median Household Income (2020)

**16.9%**  
Child Poverty Rate (2020)

**76%**  
Households with Broadband (2020)

**80%**  
Home Owners (2020)

**72%**  
Voter Registration Rate (2021)

**4.3%**  
Unemployment Rate (2021)

## Educational Attainment

Gates County residents ages 25-44, 2021

**No Degree**  
**74.2%**  
1,598

**Have Degree or Credential**  
**25.8%**  
554

Less than high school High school graduate (including GED) Some college, no credential Short-term credential Associate degree Bachelor's degree Graduate or professional degree



Note: Numbers may add to more than 100% due to rounding

## Top Opportunities for Growth

These three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Gates County to improve future attainment outcomes.



### Math Performance

23% of Gates County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the rural metro county average of 28%.



### Reading Performance

20% of Gates County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Reading, below the rural metro county average of 25%.

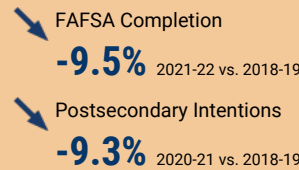
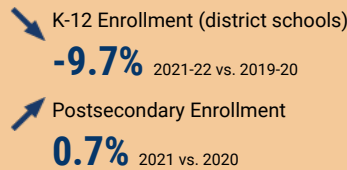


### FAFSA Completion

50% of Gates County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural metro county average of 54%.

## Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline

Covid-19 has affected critical transition points along the education continuum.



## Data Disruptions

- College-and-Career-Ready in Reading
- College-and-Career-Ready in Math
- Chronic Absenteeism



[ncdemography.org](http://ncdemography.org)

## ACADEMIC READINESS

### How students in Gates County traditional schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, each year Gates County needs:

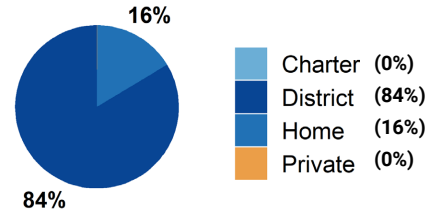
- Gates County has met the goal for **Pre-K enrollment**. (Goal: **75%**). 2022
- 20%** of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **reading**; 363 more needed to meet state goal of **73%**. 2022
- 23%** of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **math**; 430 more needed to meet state goal of **86%**. 2022
- 89%** of 9th graders **graduate within four years**; 6 more needed to meet state goal of **95%**. 2021
- 15%** of students are **chronically absent from school**; 58 less needed to meet state goal of **11%**. 2021

Gates County has a **student-to-school counselor ratio** of 236:1 versus 362:1 in peer counties. 2021

### School Choice

1,718 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Gates County in the 2021-22 school year.

Note: This profile focuses on outcomes of students enrolled in district schools.



### Career and College Preparation

**Fewer than 10 high school students** took at least one **AP course (<5%)** versus **9%** in peer counties (2021).

**43 graduates** participated in **Career & College Promise programs (43%)** versus 43% in peer counties (2021).

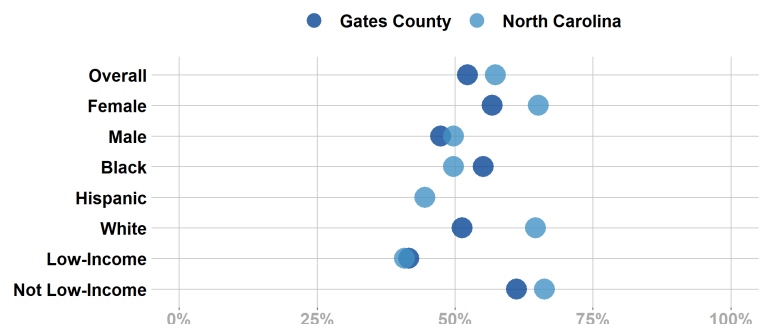
Students in Gates County completed **65 Career & Technical Education concentrations** in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Human Services; Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics; and Health Science.

## COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

- 50%** of seniors **completed the FAFSA** in 2022; 28 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of **80%**. 2022  
<https://www.myfuturenc.org/ourwork/first-in-fafsa/>
- 64%** of graduates reported **intentions to enroll** in a postsecondary institution versus 69% in peer counties. 2021
- 50%** of graduates **enrolled in a postsecondary institution** within 12 months versus 49% in peer counties. 2021

**57%** of Gates County students have **parents with no college degree** (either 2- or 4-year) versus 58% in peer counties.

### Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Gates County, 2021



Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

## Success of Gates County High School Graduates

### Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020

- **35%** of college-goers attended a **public 4-year college**
  - **15%** of college-goers attended a **private 4-year college**
  - **47%** of college-goers attended a **public 2-year college**
  - **<5%** of college-goers attended a **private 2-year college**
  - **83%** of college-goers attended an **in-state college**
- **77%** of students who enroll **persist to their second year** versus 73% in peer counties. 2021
  - **60%** of students who enroll **earn a degree or credential** within 6 years versus 57% in peer counties. 2021

## Adult Learners

### Gates County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021

- 6** Basic Skills
- 85** Continuing Education
- 152** Curriculum



**14%** of Gates County residents have **student loan debt**; **18%** of debt holders had **student loans in default**. 2020

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

## In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

**70.0%**

of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are **aligned with labor market needs**.

### Top areas of misalignment:

- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics** (below bachelor's)
- Health Science** (bachelor's)
- Business Management & Administration** (bachelor's)

- 13** Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

### UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

- 632** graduates in 2020
- 62%** of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- \$33,554** annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

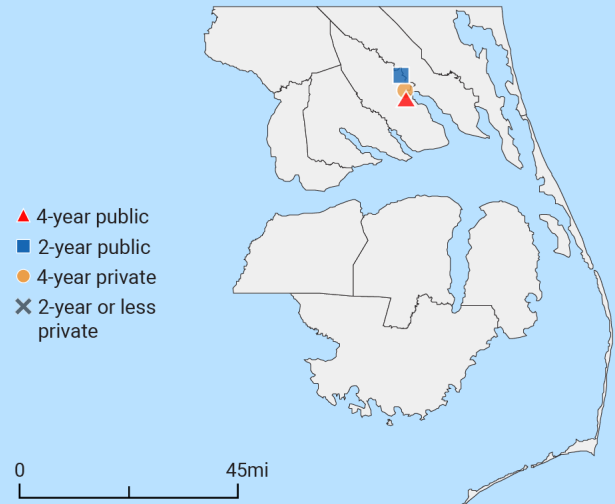
### In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:

- 3,785** in Basic Services
- 2,643** in Career Services
- 293** in Education Services



**12.6%** of young adults ages 16-24 in Gates County were **not working and not in school** versus **15.2%** in peer counties. 2019

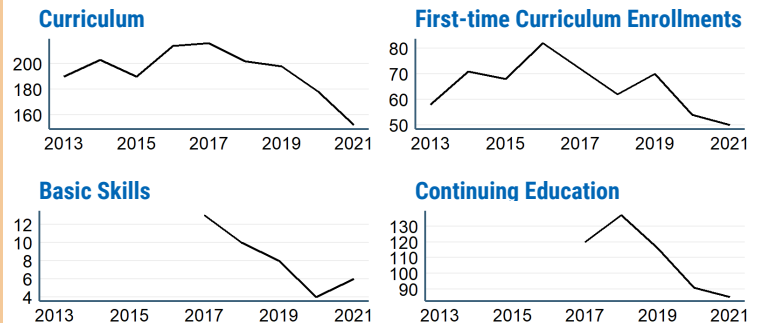
## Postsecondary assets in Elizabeth City Prosperity Zone sub-region



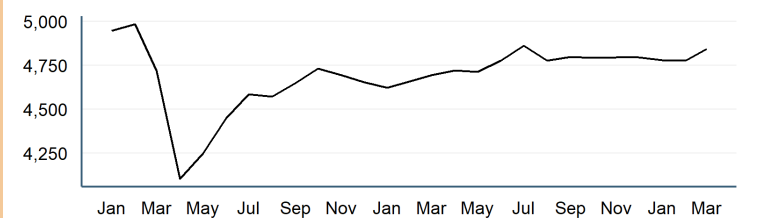
### Degree Credentials Awarded, 2021

**238** certificate | **386** associate | **345** bachelor's

## Impact of Covid-19 on NC Community College Enrollment



## Number of Gates County residents employed, January 2020 to March 2022



## Promising Attainment Practices

The new **Promising Attainment Practices Database** is a curated, searchable, and filterable collection of about 250 county, region, and state-level initiatives and programs that directly address various components of the state's attainment challenge. The Database allows local and regional initiative leaders and other stakeholders to identify groups across the state who are developing or operating initiatives designed to boost attainment.

Follow link to discover how Gates County has been meeting local needs:

[https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt\\_search=Gates](https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Gates)

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

[dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/](https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/)