Orange County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Orange County Attainment Goal: 34,134 (80%)

Raleigh-Durham
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Suburban
Local Education Agencies: 2
Charter Schools: 2

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 133,801
2020 Census: 148,696
Change: 14,895

Growth Rate
11.1% vs. **9.5%**
County   **State**

$82,732 Median Household Income (2020)

10.2% Child Poverty Rate (2020)

93% Households with Broadband (2020)

64% Home Owners (2020)

80% Voter Registration Rate (2021)

3.5% Unemployment Rate (2021)

Educational Attainment
Orange County residents ages 25-44, 2021

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

No Degree **21.1%** 7,283

Have Degree or Credential **78.9%** 27,233

| 5% | 10% | 6% | 8% | 7% | 32% | 33% |

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

Top Opportunities for Growth
These three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Orange County to improve future attainment outcomes.

Math Performance
46% of Orange County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the state goal of 86%.

Reading Performance
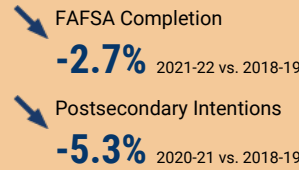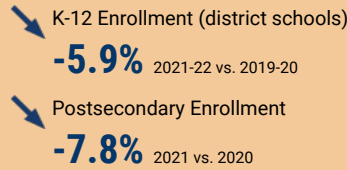44% of Orange County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Reading, below the state goal of 73%.

FAFSA Completion
63% of Orange County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the state goal of 80%.

Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline
Covid-19 has affected critical transition points along the education continuum.

K-12 Enrollment (district schools)
-5.9% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20

Postsecondary Enrollment
-7.8% 2021 vs. 2020

FAFSA Completion
-2.7% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19

Postsecondary Intentions
-5.3% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

Data Disruptions
• College-and-Career-Ready in Reading
• College-and-Career-Ready in Math
• Chronic Absenteeism

ncdemography.org

ACADEMIC READINESS

How students in Orange County traditional schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, each year Orange County needs:

• Orange County has met the goal for **Pre-K enrollment**. (Goal: **75%**). 2022

• **44%** of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **reading**; 2,422 more needed to meet state goal of **73%**. 2022

• **46%** of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **math**; 3,378 more needed to meet state goal of **86%**. 2022

• **89%** of 9th graders **graduate within four years**; 93 more needed to meet state goal of **95%**. 2021

• **12%** of students are **chronically absent from school**; 178 less needed to meet state goal of **11%**. 2021

Orange County has a **student-to-school counselor ratio** of 291:1 versus 336:1 in peer counties. 2021

School Choice
22,474 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Orange County in the 2021-22 school year.

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

Charter	(5%)
District	(82%)
Home	(7%)
Private	(5%)

5% 5% 7%
82%
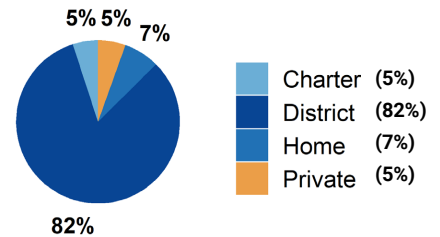
Career and College Preparation
2,190 high school students took at least one **AP course (35%)** versus **15%** in peer counties (2021).

356 graduates participated in **Career & College Promise programs (24%)** versus **33%** in peer counties (2021).

Students in Orange County completed **666 Career & Technical Education concentrations** in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; Health Science; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.
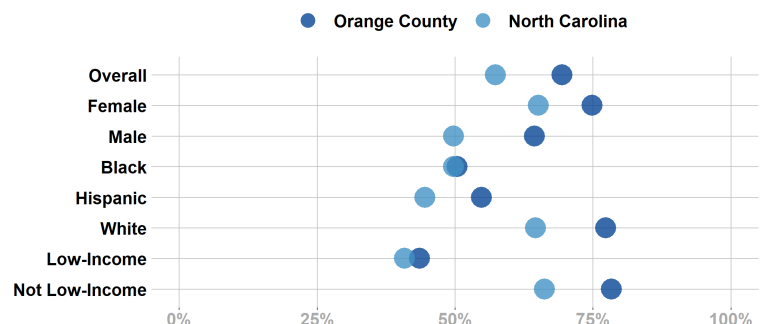
COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

• **63%** of seniors **completed the FAFSA** in 2022; 248 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of **80%**. 2022
https://www.myfuturenc.org/ourwork/first-in-fafsa/

• **81%** of graduates reported **intentions to enroll** in a postsecondary institution versus 75% in peer counties. 2021

• **67%** of graduates **enrolled in a postsecondary institution** within 12 months versus 55% in peer counties. 2021

23% of Orange County students have **parents with no college degree** (either 2- or 4-year) versus 49% in peer counties.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Orange County, 2021

● Orange County   ● North Carolina

Overall
Female
Male
Black
Hispanic
White
Low-Income
Not Low-Income

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

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

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Success of Orange County High School Graduates

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020

- **56%** of college-goers attended a **public 4-year college**
- **22%** of college-goers attended a **private 4-year college**
- **22%** of college-goers attended a **public 2-year college**
- **<5%** of college-goers attended a **private 2-year college**
- **76%** of college-goers attended an **in-state college**

- **85%** of students who enroll **persist to their second year** versus 77% in peer counties. 2021
- **75%** of students who enroll **earn a degree or credential** within 6 years versus 60% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners

Orange County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021

130	Basic Skills
846	Continuing Education
1,896	Curriculum

16% of Orange County residents have **student loan debt**; **6%** of debt holders had **student loans in default.** 2020

Postsecondary assets in Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone sub-region

- ▲ 4-year public
- ■ 2-year public
- ● 4-year private
- ✕ 2-year or less private

0 ———— 45mi
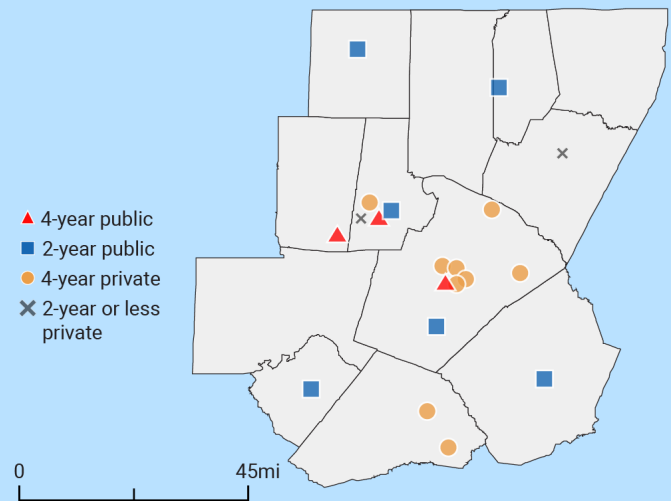
Degree Credentials Awarded, 2021

8,066	certificate	**5,938**	associate	**16,203**	bachelor's

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

78.8%
of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are **aligned with labor market needs.**

Top areas of misalignment:
Health Science (below bachelor's)
Business Management & Administration (bachelor's)
Information Technology (bachelor's)

5,347 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

19,047 graduates in 2020
65% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
**$50,028** annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:

10,802 in Basic Services
5,263 in Career Services
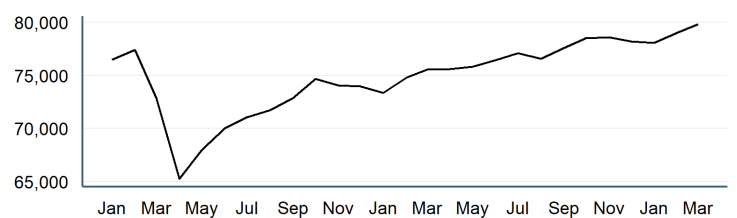**467** in Education Services

4.2% of young adults ages 16-24 in Orange County were **not working and not in school** versus **11.2%** in peer counties. 2019

Impact of Covid-19 on NC Community College Enrollment

Curriculum

First-time Curriculum Enrollments

Basic Skills

Continuing Education
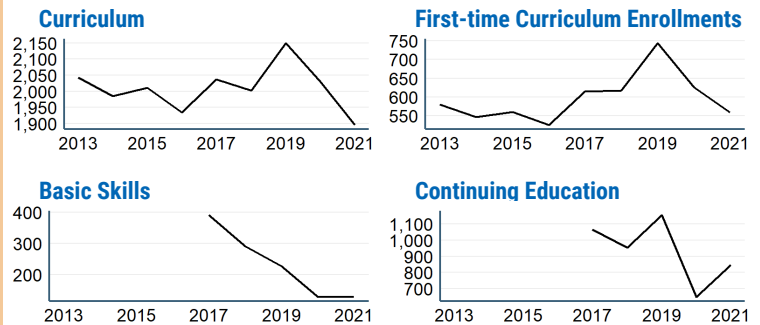
Number of Orange County residents employed, January 2020 to March 2022

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 Orange County has been meeting local needs:

https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Orange

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

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

CAROLINA **DEMOGRAPHY**　　myFUTURENC 2 million by 2030　　John M Belk Endowment ELEVATE THROUGH EDUCATION　　UNC | CAROLINA POPULATION CENTER