Brunswick County

NC goal: 2 million by 2030
2020 County Attainment Profile

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.

COUNTY OVERVIEW
Brunswick County is in the Wilmington Prosperity Zone sub-region. It’s one of 28 rural metro counties in NC. Overall, 6% of 25-44-year-olds in Brunswick County have earned a master’s degree or higher as their highest degree; 16% have a bachelor’s degree; 14% have an associate degree; 26% have some college, no degree; 25% have a high school diploma; and 13% have less than a high school diploma.

2018 Population 137,103
2030 Population 179,854
K-12 Students (2019) 12,383
Traditional Schools 12,383
Charter/Private/Home 3,500
Median Household Income $60,163
Child Poverty Rate 20%
Households with Broadband 81%

Building the Foundation: Pre-K to 8
High-quality early learning and strong academic progress in early years helps prepare children for future success.

Brunswick County has 18 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 2 or 11% were classified as low performing in 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.

Brunswick County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 399:1.

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 Brunswick County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.

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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.

6.2% of teens ages 16-19 are not working and not in school versus 9.4% of peer counties.

Opportunities for Growth
Compared to rural metro counties and the state, these three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Brunswick County to improve future attainment outcomes.

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

To meet state goals, Brunswick County needs:

• 247 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 38%).
• 1,857 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 41%).
• 2,760 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 39%).

Percent of Brunswick County schools by academic growth status, 2019
Exceeded 33%
Met 44%
Not Met 22%

To meet state goals, Brunswick County needs:

• 115 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 85%).
• 256 more seniors to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80% vs. 51%).
• 931 more students ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 41%).

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2018-19:
• 254 individuals served in an Apprenticeship program.
• 1,943 Basic Skills enrollments at NC community colleges.
• 14,610 Continuing Education enrollments at NC community colleges.

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.

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).

NC Pre-K Enrollment 38% of Brunswick County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural metro county average of 54%.

CCP Enrollment 13% of Brunswick County high school students participated in the Career & College Promise program programs, below the rural metro county average of 18%.

FAFSA Completion 51% of Brunswick County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural metro county average of 54%.

NC Pre-K Enrollment 38% of Brunswick County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural metro county average of 54%.
Largest postsecondary institutions in your Prosperity Zone sub-region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution Name</th>
<th>Undergraduate Enrollments 2017-18</th>
<th>Graduate or Transfer in 8 Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Enrollments</td>
<td>35,429</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina Wilmington</td>
<td>16,604</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Fear Community College</td>
<td>12,293</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platt College-Miller-Motte-Wilmington</td>
<td>4,672</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunswick Community College</td>
<td>1,860</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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](http://go.unc.edu/countydata)