Burke County

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 90,912
2020 Census: 87,570
Change: -3,342

Growth Rate
-3.7% vs. 9.5%
County vs. State

2030 Proposed Burke County Attainment Goal: 9,970 (43%)
2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)

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Education continuum.
Transition points along the Covid-19 has affected critical attainment outcomes.

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

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

Opportunity Youth
22% of Burke County youth ages 16-24 are not working and not in school, above the rural metro county average of 15%.

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

Transition to Postsecondary
50% of Burke County seniors enroll in postsecondary within 12 months of graduation, below the state average of 55%.

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

• 64% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, 69 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2022
• 28% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading; 2,344 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2022
• 34% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math; 2,698 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2022
• 91% of 9th graders graduate within four years; 36 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2021
• 26% of students are chronically absent from school; 1,716 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2021

Burke County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 352:1 versus 362:1 in peer counties. 2021

• 51% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022; 222 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%. 2022
https://www.myfuturenc.org/ourwork/first-in-fafsa/
• 72% 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

62% of Burke 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 Burke County, 2021

Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.
Updated: Jun 16 2023

Success of Burke County High School Graduates

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020
- 34% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 14% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 52% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 94% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 77% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% in peer counties. 2021
- 59% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 57% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners

Burke County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021
- 318 Basic Skills
- 1,255 Continuing Education
- 1,865 Curriculum

11% of Burke County residents have student loan debt; 10% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

70.2% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

- 359 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
- 2,139 graduates in 2020
- 80% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $37,952 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:
- 7,184 in Basic Services
- 2,684 in Career Services
- 378 in Education Services

22.2% of young adults ages 16-24 in Burke County were not working and not in school versus 15.2% in peer counties. 2019

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 Burke County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Burke

For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit:
dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/