Burke 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.

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

Burke County has 23 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 1 or 4% 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.

How students in Burke County traditional public schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, Burke County needs:
- 46 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 67%).
- 1,522 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 46%).
- 2,456 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 42%).

Among Burke County high school graduates:
- 53% of graduates enroll in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 57% of peer counties.
- 73% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% of peer counties.
- 54% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 50% of peer counties.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2018-19:
- 300 individuals served in an Apprenticeship program.
- 3,422 Basic Skills enrollments at NC community colleges.
- 22,503 Continuing Education enrollments at NC community colleges.

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.

- 14.7% of teens ages 16-19 are not working and not in school versus 9.4% of peer counties.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region:
Public postsecondary institutions graduate 2,073 students per year. After 5 years, 82% of 2013 graduates were employed in NC, earning an average annual wage of $33,373.

64% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs. The top gaps are: Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (below bachelor’s); Health Science (above and below bachelor’s); and Business Management & Administration (bachelor’s).

There are 188,511 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) First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers; 3) Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products.

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

Disconnected Youth
15% of Burke County youth ages 16-19 are not working and not in school, above the rural metro county average of 9%.

FAFSA Completion
49% of Burke County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural metro county average of 54%.

CCP Enrollment
14% of Burke County high school students participated in the Career & College Promise program, below the rural metro county average of 18%.
Updated: Aug 04 2021

Institution Name Undergraduate Enrollments Graduate or Transfer in 8 Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution Name</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
<th>8 Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Enrollments</td>
<td>16,315</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catawba Valley Community College</td>
<td>6,125</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute</td>
<td>4,636</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Piedmont Community College</td>
<td>2,306</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lenoir-Rhyne University</td>
<td>1,830</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDowell Technical Community College</td>
<td>1,418</td>
<td>44%</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

Local Cross-Sector Promising Practice: Work in Burke

Work in Burke educates students and their parents about the job opportunities available in Burke County and the training required to pursue a career in those fields. We identified this example of an emerging cross-sector promising practice in partnership with local leaders. If you have additional examples you’d like to share with myFutureNC, please respond to this short survey.

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

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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