Burke County

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

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

Growth Rate
-3.7% County vs. 9.5% State

Median Household Income (2020)
$48,729

Child Poverty Rate (2020)
29.3%

Households with Broadband (2020)
80%

Home Owners (2020)
75%

Voter Registration Rate (2021)
70%

Unemployment Rate (2021)
4.5%

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

Educational Attainment
Burke County residents ages 25-44, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Have Degree or Credential</th>
<th>37.4%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than high school</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate (including GED)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no credential</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short-term credential</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate degree</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or professional degree</td>
<td>4%</td>
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Note: Numbers may add to more than 100% due to rounding

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%.

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

K-12 Enrollment (district schools)
-5.1% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20

Postsecondary Enrollment
-7.1% 2021 vs. 2020

FAFSA Completion
-2.6% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19

Postsecondary Intentions
-5.8% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

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

How students in Burke County traditional schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, each year Burke County needs:

- 69 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 64%). 2022
- 2,344 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 28%). 2022
- 2,698 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 34%). 2022
- 36 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 91%). 2021
- 1,716 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 26%). 2021

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

Notes:
- 51% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022. (222 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%).
  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

447 high school students took at least one AP course (12%) versus 9% in peer counties (2021).
429 graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs (49%) versus 43% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Burke County completed 358 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Human Services; Health Science; and Architecture and Construction.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Burke County, 2021

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

Top areas of misalignment:

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

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

Impact of Covid-19 on NC Community College Enrollment

Curriculum

First-time Curriculum Enrollments

Basic Skills

Continuing Education

Number of Burke County residents employed, January 2020 to March 2022

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

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

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