Cabarrus County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Cabarrus County Attainment Goal: 49,862 (73%)

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 178,011
2020 Census: 225,804
Change: 47,793

Growth Rate
26.9% vs. 9.5% County vs. State

American Community Survey 2020
$79,736 Median Household Income (2020)
13.9% Child Poverty Rate (2020)
91% Households with Broadband (2020)
73% Home Owners (2020)
83% Voter Registration Rate (2021)
4.4% Unemployment Rate (2021)

Updated: Dec 08 2022

Charlotte Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Suburban
Local Education Agencies: 2
Charter Schools: 4

Educational Attainment
Cabarrus County residents ages 25-44, 2020
No Degree 43.6% Have Degree or Credential 56.4%
24,864 32,114

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

8% 22% 13% 8% 10% 25% 14%

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

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

NC Pre-K Enrollment
38% of Cabarrus County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the suburban county average of 45%.

School Counselors
Cabarrus County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 386:1, above the suburban county average of 336:1.

First-Year Persistence
75% of Cabarrus County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary persist to their second year, below the suburban county average of 77%.

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

K-12 Enrollment (district schools)
-0.3% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20
Postsecondary Enrollment
-7.9% 2021 vs. 2020

FAFSA Completion
0.3% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19
Postsecondary Intentions
-4.1% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

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

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

• 355 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 38%). 2022
• 6,828 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 34%). 2022
• 8,033 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 41%). 2022
• 133 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 91%). 2021
• 3,558 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 21%). 2021

Cabarrus County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 386:1 versus 336:1 in peer counties. 2021

Career and College Preparation
1,703 high school students took at least one AP course (14%) versus 15% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Cabarrus County completed 1,517 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed included Health Science; Human Services; and Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Cabarrus County, 2021

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

College & Career Access
60% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022. (521 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%).
https://www.myfuturenc.org/ourwork/first-in-fafsa/

74% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 75% in peer counties. 2021

54% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 55% in peer counties. 2021

44% of Cabarrus County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 49% in peer counties.
Success of Cabarrus County High School Graduates

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020

- 47% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 15% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 37% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 89% of college-goers attended an in-state college

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

Adult Learners

Cabarrus County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021

- 194 Basic Skills
- 1,897 Continuing Education
- 4,660 Curriculum
- 17% of Cabarrus County residents have student loan debt; 9% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

82.2% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

Top areas of misalignment:
- Business Management & Administration (bachelor’s)
- Information Technology (bachelor’s)
- Finance (bachelor’s)

4,230 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

- 12,495 graduates in 2020
- 74% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $45,387 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:

- 16,131 in Basic Services
- 7,386 in Career Services
- 506 in Education Services
- 12.9% of young adults ages 16-24 in Cabarrus County were not working and not in school versus 11.2% 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 Cabarrus County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search= Cabarrus

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