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
Cabarrus County is in the Charlotte Prosperity Zone sub-region. It’s one of 16 suburban counties in NC. Overall, 11% of 25-44-year-olds in Cabarrus County have earned a master’s degree or higher as their highest degree; 25% have a bachelor’s degree; 11% have an associate degree; 24% have some college, no degree; 20% have a high school diploma; and 8% have less than a high school diploma.

How students in Cabarrus County traditional public schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, Cabarrus County needs:
• 317 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 42%).
• 4,183 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 50%).
• 7,000 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 47%).

To meet state goals, Cabarrus County needs:
• 208 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 88%).
• 689 more seniors to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80% vs. 54%).
• 498 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 12%).

Students in Cabarrus County completed 1,798 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2019. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Hospitality & Tourism.

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 Cabarrus County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.

Among Cabarrus County high school graduates:
• 64% of graduates enroll in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 62% of peer counties.
• 79% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 78% of peer counties.
• 54% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 54% of peer counties.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2018-19:
3,322 individuals served in an Apprenticeship program.
12,019 Basic Skills enrollments at NC community colleges.
64,398 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.

6.2% of teens ages 16-19 are not working and not in school versus 6.8% of peer counties.

79% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs. The top gaps are: Business Management & Administration (bachelor’s); Finance (bachelor’s); and Information Technology (bachelor’s).

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region:
Public postsecondary institutions graduate 12,162 students per year. After 5 years, 74% of 2013 graduates were employed in NC, earning an annual average wage of $43,374.

There are 1,361,336 job openings projected between 2017-2026. The top 3 in demand jobs with median wages of $50,000 or more are: 1) Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products; 2) General and Operations Managers; 3) Registered Nurses.

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

NC Pre-K Enrollment
42% of Cabarrus County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the suburban county average of 44%.

FAFSA Completion
54% of Cabarrus County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the suburban county average of 56%.

School Counselors
Cabarrus County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 404:1, above the suburban county average of 363:1.
### 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>107,538</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Piedmont Community College</td>
<td>29,552</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina at Charlotte</td>
<td>27,078</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowan-Cabarrus Community College</td>
<td>7,939</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaston College</td>
<td>7,333</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell Community College</td>
<td>4,188</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Piedmont Community College</td>
<td>3,935</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland Community College</td>
<td>3,883</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanly Community College</td>
<td>3,837</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wingate University</td>
<td>2,729</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardner-Webb University</td>
<td>2,454</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson &amp; Wales University-Charlotte</td>
<td>2,080</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queens University of Charlotte</td>
<td>2,010</td>
<td>91%</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: Go Bold

GO BOLD! Bold Women in Bold Careers exists to encourage women in Cabarrus County to learn about challenging and rewarding career opportunities that they may not have considered. Local employers have job openings and are looking for diversity in their workplace. They want to hire talented women in full-time roles, offering good wages and benefit packages with potential for advancement.

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.

ncdemography.org
demography@unc.edu
@ncdemography

### 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.

myfuturenc.org
facebook.com/myfuturenc
@myFutureNC