Chatham County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 76,270
2022 Estimate: 79,864
Change: 3,594

Growth Rate
4.7% vs. 2.5%
County State

$84,516 80%
Median Household Income (2022) Home Owners (2022)
State: $67,516 State: 67%

14.7%
Child Poverty Rate (2022)
State: 17.2%

11.7%
Opportunity Youth Rate (2021)
State: 12.1%

71%
Households with Broadband (2022)
State: 77%

3.1%
Unemployment Rate (2022)
State: 3.7%

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Educational Attainment
Chatham County residents ages 25-44, 2022

No Degree
6,076 38.7%

Have Degree or Credential
9,628 61.3%

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

School Counselors
Chatham County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 368:1, above the rural - metro county average of 362:1.

Math Performance
41% of Chatham County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the state goal of 86%.

Reading Performance
36% of Chatham County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Reading, below the state goal of 73%

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

In Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:
76.5%
of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

5,347 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
19,047 graduates in 2020
65% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
$50,028 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

52% of adults (ages 25-44) in Chatham County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Chatham County is served by:
Capital Area Workforce Development Board
Central Pines Council of Governments
Adult Learners
Chatham County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022
114 Basic Skills
1,106 Continuing Education
1,590 Curriculum
12% of Chatham County residents have student loan debt. 5% of debt holders had student loans in default.
Success of Chatham County High School Graduates
• 88% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 79% in peer counties. 2022
• 65% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 56% in peer counties. 2022
Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023
• 1,602 of all college-goers attended Central Carolina CC
• 148 of all college-goers attended Wake TCC
• 116 of all college-goers attended Randolph CC
• 74% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 35 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023
• 80% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 68% in peer counties. 2022
• 65% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 51% in peer counties. 2022
52% of Chatham County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 57% in peer counties.

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022
5,278 certificate 5,596 associate 16,200 bachelor's
Postsecondary assets in Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone sub-region
Public, 4-year or above
North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University at Raleigh, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Public, 2-year
Central Carolina Community College, Durham Technical Community College, Johnston Community College, Piedmont Community College, Vance-Granville Community College, Wake Technical Community College
Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above
Campbell University, Duke University, Heritage Bible College, Meredith College, Saint Augustine's University, Shaw University, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Southeastern Free Will Baptist Bible College, Watts School of Nursing, William Peace University
Private not-for-profit, 2-year
Louisburg College
Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Chatham County, 2022

How students in Chatham County traditional schools are doing:
• 68% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 21 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2023
• 36% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 1,986 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
• 41% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide, 1,778 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
• 89% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 48 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
• 26% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide, 1,353 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022
Chatham County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 368:1 versus 362:1 in peer counties. 2022
2% of students drop out of high school (58 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2022

School Choice
11,361 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Chatham County in the 2022-23 school year.

Access to Postsecondary Credits
Students in Chatham County completed 2,727 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 370 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed included Health Science, Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources, and Human Services.

418 high school students took at least one AP course (14%) versus 7% in peer counties (2022).
613 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (49%) versus 31% in peer counties (2022).

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