Chatham County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Chatham County Attainment Goal: 13,830 (71%)

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 63,505
2020 Census: 76,285
Change: 12,780

Growth Rate
20.1% vs. 9.5% County vs. State

$74,747 Median Household Income (2020)
16.7% Child Poverty Rate (2020)
84% Households with Broadband (2020)
77% Home Owners (2020)
88% Voter Registration Rate (2021)
3.6% Unemployment Rate (2021)

Updated: Dec 08 2022

Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Rural Metro
Local Education Agencies: 1
Charter Schools: 3

Educational Attainment
Chatham County residents ages 25-44, 2020

No Degree
43.4%
6,504

Have Degree or Credential
56.6%
8,481

Less than high school
21%

High school graduate (including GED)
24%

Some college, no credential
8%

Short-term credential
7%

Associate degree
24%

Bachelor's degree
18%

Graduate or professional degree

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

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 371:1, above the rural metro county average of 362:1.

First-Year Persistence
73% of Chatham County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary persist to their second year, below the state average of 77%.

Math Performance
39% of Chatham County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the state goal of 86%.

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

K-12 Enrollment (district schools)
-1.7% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20

Postsecondary Enrollment
-11.0% 2021 vs. 2020

FAFSA Completion
-17.4% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19

Postsecondary Intentions
-10.3% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

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

How students in Chatham County traditional schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, each year Chatham County needs:

• Chatham County has met the goal for Pre-K enrollment (goal: 75% vs. 107%). 2022

• 1,510 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 35%). 2022

• 1,868 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 39%). 2022

• 49 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 88%). 2021

• 1,099 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 24%). 2021

Chatham County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 371:1 versus 362:1 in peer counties. 2021

Career and College Preparation
413 high school students took at least one AP course (15%) versus 9% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Chatham County completed 324 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Human Services.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Chatham County, 2021

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

51% of Chatham County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 58% in peer counties.

58% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022. (135 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%).
https://www.myfuturenc.org/ourwork/first-in-fafsa/

76% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 69% in peer counties. 2021

63% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 49% in peer counties. 2021

12% Charter (12%)
76% District (76%)
11% Home (11%)
2% Private (2%)

Chatham County
North Carolina

Overall
Female
Male
Black
Hispanic
White
Low-Income
Not Low-Income

Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.
### Success of Chatham County High School Graduates

**Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020**

- 46% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 11% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 42% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 93% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 73% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% in peer counties. 2021
- 65% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 57% in peer counties. 2021

### Adult Learners

**Chatham County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021**

- 110 Basic Skills
- 515 Continuing Education
- 1,483 Curriculum

- 13% of Chatham County residents have student loan debt; 8% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

### Postsecondary assets in Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone sub-region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Credentials Awarded, 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8,066 certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,938 associate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16,203 bachelor's</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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78.8% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

#### Top areas of misalignment:

- Health Science (below bachelor's)
- Business Management & Administration (bachelor's)
- Information Technology (bachelor's)

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)

#### In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:

- 5,511 in Basic Services
- 3,019 in Career Services
- 273 in Education Services

9.6% of young adults ages 16-24 in Chatham County were not working and not in school versus 15.2% 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 Chatham County has been meeting local needs:

https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Chatham

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

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