Chowan County
NC goal: 2 million by 2030
2020 County Attainment Profile

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
Chowan County is in the Elizabeth City Prosperity Zone sub-region. It’s one of 50 rural non-metro counties in NC.

2018 Population: 14,173
2030 Population: 13,592
K-12 Students (2019):
Traditional Schools: 1,935
Charter/Private/Home: 173
Median Household Income: $42,618
Child Poverty Rate: 30%
Households with Broadband: 67%

Opportunities for Growth
Compared to rural non-metro counties and the state, these three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Chowan County to improve future attainment outcomes.

Building the Foundation: Pre-K to 8
High-quality early learning and strong academic progress in early years helps prepare children for future success.

Chowan County has 3 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, none were classified as low performing in 2019.

Ready for College & Career
High school completion is a crucial step on the pathway to postsecondary success or the beginnings of a career. Activities that prepare students to navigate the transition to postsecondary include gaining experience in college-level coursework and applying for financial assistance.

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 Chowan County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.

Chowan County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 387:1.

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.

6.5% of teens ages 16-19 are not working and not in school versus 8.9% of peer counties.

How students in Chowan County traditional public schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, Chowan County needs:

- 7 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 69%).
- 307 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 40%).
- 419 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 41%).

To meet state goals, Chowan County needs:

- 5 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 92%).
- 28 more seniors to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80% vs. 59%).
- 57 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 14%).

Students in Chowan County completed 134 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2019. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; and Health Science.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2018-19:
8 individuals served in an Apprenticeship program.
603 Basic Skills enrollments at NC community colleges.
4,933 Continuing Education enrollments at NC community colleges.

There are 67,624 job openings projected between 2017-2026. The top 3 in demand jobs with median wages of $50,000 or more are: 1) General and Operations Managers; 2) First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers; 3) Accountants and Auditors.

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CCP Enrollment
14% of Chowan County high school students participated in the Career & College Promise program programs, below the rural non-metro county average of 22%.

Transition to Postsecondary
52% of Chowan County seniors enroll in postsecondary within 12 months of graduation, below the rural non-metro county average of 57%.

School Counselors
Chowan County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 387:1, above the rural non-metro county average of 338:1.
### 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>7,009</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of the Albemarle</td>
<td>3,263</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaufort County Community College</td>
<td>1,994</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth City State University</td>
<td>1,538</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Atlantic Christian University</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>35%</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](http://go.unc.edu/countydata)

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**Local Cross-Sector Promising Practice: Chowan Sea Grant**

Support from North Carolina Sea Grant will provide field equipment and instrumentation for biological researchers, allowing their teams to conduct research useful for resource management activities. Students will be involved in the project through class activities, work-study, and capstone research projects that assume responsibility for a portion of the overall study.