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
Dare County is in the Elizabeth City Prosperity Zone sub-region. It’s one of 50 rural non-metro counties in NC. Overall, 9% of 25-44-year-olds in Dare County have earned a master’s degree or higher as their highest degree; 19% have a bachelor’s degree; 11% have an associate degree; 29% have some college, no degree; 23% have a high school diploma; and 9% have less than a high school diploma.

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

Dare County has 10 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 Dare County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.

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.

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

How students in Dare County traditional public schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, Dare County needs:
• 30 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 60%).
• 448 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 55%).
• 953 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 47%).

To meet state goals, Dare County needs:
• 18 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 91%).
• 21 more seniors to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80% vs. 74%).
• 456 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 20%).

Students in Dare County completed 90 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2019. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Architecture and Construction; Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; and Health Science.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2018-19:
• 8 individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC 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.

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

Adult Learners
29% of Dare County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the rural non-metro county average of 25%.

NC Pre-K Enrollment
60% of Dare County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural non-metro county average of 64%.

How Dare County compared to peer counties:
Dare County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 319:1.

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.

2.4% of teens ages 16-19 are not working and not in school versus 8.9% of peer counties.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region:
Public postsecondary institutions graduate 580 students per year. After 5 years, 64% of 2013 graduates were employed in NC, earning an annual average wage of $30,932.

60% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs. The top gaps are: Health Science (all levels); Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (below bachelor’s); and Finance (bachelor’s).

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, Peer County Type: Rural Non-Metro Local Education Agencies: 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: Dare Education Foundation Teacher Housing Project

Dare County, located on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, is a popular tourist location and the home of several national historic attractions. Living costs within the county are extremely high compared to many neighboring counties, and new teachers struggle to find affordable housing. To attract new teachers to the area, the Dare Education Foundation’s Board of Directors voted unanimously to accept the terms of a $2.25 million interest-free loan from the State Employees Credit Union Foundation to build 24 affordable apartment units for teachers.

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.

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

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### 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.

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### 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.

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