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
Davidson County is in the Winston-Salem Prosperity Zone sub-region. It’s one of 16 suburban counties in NC. Overall, 5% of 25-44-year-olds in Davidson County have earned a master’s degree or higher as their highest degree; 16% have a bachelor’s degree; 13% have an associate degree; 24% have some college, no degree; 29% have a high school diploma; and 13% have less than a high school diploma.

Opportunities for Growth
Compared to suburban counties and the state, these three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Davidson 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.

Davidson County has 43 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 3 or 7% 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 Davidson 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.

How students in Davidson County traditional public schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, Davidson County needs:
• 336 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 39%).
• 3,366 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 43%).
• 4,932 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 42%).

To meet state goals, Davidson County needs:
• 187 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 86%).
• 385 more seniors to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80% vs. 56%).
• Davidson County has met the goal for students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 10%).

Students in Davidson County completed 1,545 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2019. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; Health Science; and Hospitality & Tourism.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2018-19:
974 individuals served in an Apprenticeship program.
4,264 Basic Skills enrollments at NC community colleges.
24,064 Continuing Education enrollments at NC community colleges.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region:
Public postsecondary institutions graduate 3,894 students per year. After 5 years, 75% of 2013 graduates were employed in NC, earning an average annual wage of $40,459.
81% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs. The top gaps are: Finance (bachelor’s); Business Management & Administration (bachelor’s); and Marketing (bachelor’s).

There are 324,711 job openings projected between 2017-2026. The top 3 in demand jobs with median wages of $50,000 or more are: 1) Registered Nurses; 2) General and Operations Managers; 3) Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products.

NC Pre-K Enrollment
39% of Davidson County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the suburban county average of 44%.

AP Participation
13% of Davidson County high school students took at least one Advanced Placement exam, below the suburban county average of 17%.

First-Year Persistence
75% of Davidson County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary persist to their second year, below the suburban county average of 78%.

COUNTY OVERVIEW
2018 Population
168,093
2030 Population
184,987
K-12 Students (2019)
Traditional Schools
23,847
Charter/Private/Home
4,630
Median Household Income
$47,758
Child Poverty Rate
23%
Households with Broadband
76%
### 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>33,211</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forsyth Technical Community College</td>
<td>11,306</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winston-Salem State University</td>
<td>5,408</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wake Forest University</td>
<td>5,244</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davidson County Community College</td>
<td>5,013</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surry Community College</td>
<td>4,040</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina School of the Arts</td>
<td>889</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salem College</td>
<td>869</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piedmont International University</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolina Christian College</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>100%</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)

### Local Cross-Sector Promising Practice: Zoo and Aquarium Science Program 2+2 Davidson CC and WSSU

2+2 agreements provide opportunities for Davidson County Community College (DCCC) graduates to pursue a bachelor’s degree from Winston-Salem State University (WSSU). Graduates of DCCC’s Zoo & Aquarium Science program enter WSSU with junior status.