Durham 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.

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

Durham County has 49 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 11 or 22% were classified as low performing in 2019.

How students in Durham County traditional public schools are currently doing:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Met</th>
<th>Not Met</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,155 students took at least one AP course (2%) versus 25% of peer counties</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>886 students participated in Career &amp; College Promise programs (9%) versus 5% of peer counties</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To meet state goals, Durham County needs:

- 916 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 29%)
- 5,370 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 36%)
- 7,935 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 31%)

Students in Durham County completed 699 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2019. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.

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.

How students in Durham County high school graduates are currently doing:

- 340 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 83%)
- 472 more seniors to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80% vs. 59%)
- 2,552 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 19%)

To meet state goals, Durham County needs:

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- 7,935 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 31%)

Students in Durham County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the urban county average of 44%.

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 Durham County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.

How students in Durham County community college students are currently doing:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Met</th>
<th>Not Met</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,166,888 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) Software Developers, Applications; 3) General and Operations Managers.</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

County Overview
Durham County is in the Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone sub-region. It’s one of 6 urban counties in NC. Overall, 24% of 25-44-year-olds in Durham County have earned a master’s degree or higher as their highest degree; 28% have a bachelor’s degree; 6% have an associate degree; 16% have some college, no degree; 14% have a high school diploma; and 12% have less than a high school diploma.

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.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2018-19:

- 2,661 individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program.
- 12,867 Basic Skills enrollments at NC community colleges.
- 67,583 Continuing Education enrollments at NC community colleges.

How students in Durham County transitioning to postsecondary are currently doing:

- 58% of graduates enroll in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 66% of peer counties.
- 76% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 81% of peer counties.
- 55% of students who earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 58% of peer counties.

In your Prosperity Zone transition sub-region, 2018-19:

- 916 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 29%)
- 5,370 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 36%)
- 7,935 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 31%)

How students in Durham County transitioning to postsecondary are currently doing:

- 58% of Durham County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the urban county average of 44%.
- 36% of Durham County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Reading, below the urban county average of 47%.
- 58% of Durham County seniors enroll in postsecondary within 12 months of graduation, below the urban county average of 66%.
## 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>139,487</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wake Technical Community College</td>
<td>29,480</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina State University at Raleigh</td>
<td>27,424</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</td>
<td>19,773</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durham Technical Community College</td>
<td>8,049</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke University</td>
<td>7,504</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina Central University</td>
<td>7,165</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strayer University-North Carolina</td>
<td>6,998</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Carolina Community College</td>
<td>6,811</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnston Community College</td>
<td>5,343</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell University</td>
<td>5,183</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vance-Granville Community College</td>
<td>4,014</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meredith College</td>
<td>1,900</td>
<td>92%</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: Made in Durham

Made in Durham is a community partnership of educators, business, government, youth-serving nonprofits and young people mobilized around a shared vision that all of Durham’s youth will complete high school and a post-secondary credential and begin a rewarding career by the age of 25.

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](http://go.unc.edu/countydata).

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.

- [ncdemography.org](http://ncdemography.org)
- [demography@unc.edu](mailto:demography@unc.edu)
- [@ncdemography](https://twitter.com/@ncdemography)

### 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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