Durham County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Durham County Attainment Goal: 73,098 (75%)

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 267,587
2020 Census: 324,833
Change: 57,246

Growth Rate
21.4% vs. 9.5% State

$65,619 Median Household Income (2020)
19.9% Child Poverty Rate (2020)
90% Households with Broadband (2020)
55% Home Owners (2020)
88% Voter Registration Rate (2021)
4.1% Unemployment Rate (2021)

Updated: Dec 08 2022

Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Urban
Local Education Agencies: 1
Charter Schools: 18

Educational Attainment
Durham County residents ages 25-44, 2020

No Degree
31.7%
32,417

Have Degree or Credential
68.3%
69,997

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

Top Opportunities for Growth
These three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Durham County to improve future attainment outcomes.

Transition to Postsecondary
51% of Durham County seniors enroll in postsecondary within 12 months of graduation, below the urban county average of 62%.

Math Performance
25% of Durham County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the urban county average of 35%.

NC Pre-K Enrollment
32% of Durham County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the urban county average of 40%.

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

K-12 Enrollment (district schools)
-4.8% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20

Postsecondary Enrollment
-9.9% 2021 vs. 2020

FAFSA Completion
-5.5% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19

Postsecondary Intentions
-10.8% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

Data Disruptions
- College-and-Career-Ready in Reading
- College-and-Career-Ready in Math
- Chronic Absenteeism

How students in Durham County traditional schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, each year Durham County needs:

- 863 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 32%). 2022
- 6,467 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 25%). 2022
- 8,340 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 25%). 2022
- 220 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 87%). 2021
- 7,086 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 34%). 2021

Durham County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 255:1 versus 294:1 in peer counties. 2021

48% of Durham County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 40% in peer counties.

School Choice
52,983 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Durham County in the 2021-22 school year.

Note: This profile focuses on outcomes of students enrolled in district schools.

Career and College Preparation
1,866 high school students took at least one AP course (19%) versus 25% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Durham County completed 765 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Durham County, 2021

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

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020

- 49% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 16% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 33% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 89% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 75% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 81% in peer counties. 2021
- 58% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 62% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners

Durham County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021

- 712 Basic Skills
- 2,125 Continuing Education
- 3,939 Curriculum

- 22% of Durham County residents have student loan debt; 9% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

78.8% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

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:

- 6,170 in Basic Services
- 2,370 in Career Services
- 135 in Education Services

- 7.8% of young adults ages 16-24 in Durham County were not working and not in school versus 9.2% 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 Durham County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Durham

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