Forsyth 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. Forsyth County has 70 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 21 or 30% 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 Forsyth County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.
Forsyth County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 364:1.

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.
6.3% of teens ages 16-19 are not working and not in school versus 5.3% of peer counties.

How students in Forsyth County traditional public schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, Forsyth County needs:
• 1,320 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 26%).
• 7,562 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 43%).
• 11,995 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 38%).

Among Forsyth County high school graduates:
• 62% of graduates enroll in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 66% of peer counties.
• 78% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 81% of peer counties.
• 55% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 58% of peer counties.

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:
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.

Opportunities for Growth
Compared to urban counties and the state, these three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Forsyth County to improve future attainment outcomes.

NC Pre-K Enrollment
26% of Forsyth County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the urban county average of 38%.

Low-Performing Schools
30% of Forsyth County schools are low-performing, above the urban county average of 23%.

Math Performance
38% of Forsyth County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the urban county average of 44%.
Local Cross-Sector Promising Practice: Forsyth Academy of Continuing Education

Forsyth Academy of Continuing Education is an evening high school opportunity for students who may otherwise not be able to access or continue a traditional secondary school environment. This program allows for students to take classes in the evening at the career center and is a more individualized and focused program to help students earn their diploma.

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.

For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit:

dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/

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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