Gates County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)  
2030 Proposed Gates County Attainment Goal: 1,710 (51%)

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 12,197  
2020 Census: 10,478  
Change: -1,719

-14.1% vs. 9.5% 
County vs. State

$57,680  
Median Household Income (2020)
16.9%  
Child Poverty Rate (2020)
76%  
Households with Broadband (2020)
80%  
Home Owners (2020)
72%  
Voter Registration Rate (2021)
4.3%  
Unemployment Rate (2021)

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

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

Educational Attainment
Gates County residents ages 25-44, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Have Degree or Credential</th>
<th>25.8%</th>
<th>554</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Degree</td>
<td>74.2%</td>
<td>1,598</td>
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Note: Numbers may add to more than 100% due to rounding.

Math Performance
23% of Gates County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the rural metro county average of 28%.

Reading Performance
20% of Gates County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Reading, below the rural metro county average of 25%.

FAFSA Completion
50% of Gates County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural metro county average of 54%.

Impact of Covid-19 on K-12 Enrollment (district schools)
-9.7%  
2021-22 vs. 2019-20
Postsecondary Enrollment
0.7%  
2021 vs. 2020
FAFSA Completion
-9.5%  
2021-22 vs. 2018-19
Postsecondary Intentions
-9.3%  
2020-21 vs. 2018-19

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

How students in Gates County traditional schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, each year Gates County needs:
• 50% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022; 28 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%.  
https://www.myfuturenc.org/ourwork/first-in-fafsa/
• 64% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 69% in peer counties.  
• 50% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 49% in peer counties.
• 57% of Gates County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 58% in peer counties.

Career and College Preparation
43 graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs (43%) versus 43% in peer counties (2021).
Students in Gates County completed 65 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Human Services; Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics; and Health Science.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Gates County, 2021
Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.
**Gates County 2022 Attainment Profile**

**Success of Gates County High School Graduates**

**Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020**

- 35% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 15% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 47% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- 45% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 83% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 77% of students who enroll **persist to their second year** versus 73% in peer counties. 2021
- 60% of students who enroll **earn a degree or credential** within 6 years versus 57% in peer counties. 2021

**Adult Learners**

**Gates County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021**

- 6 Basic Skills
- 85 Continuing Education
- 152 Curriculum

14% of Gates County residents have **student loan debt**: 18% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

**In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:**

| 70.0% | of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs. |

13 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

**UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:**

- 632 graduates in 2020
- 62% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $33,554 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

**In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:**

- 3,785 in Basic Services
- 2,643 in Career Services
- 293 in Education Services

- 12.6% of young adults ages 16-24 in Gates County were **not working and not in school** versus 15.2% 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 Gates County has been meeting local needs:

https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Gates

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

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