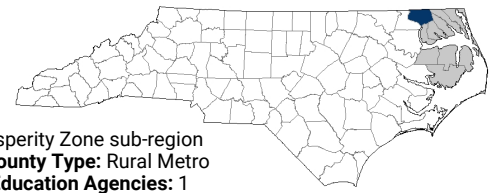


# Gates County

NC goal: 2 million by 2030  
2020 County Attainment Profile



Updated: Aug 12 2020

## 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.



Gates County has 5 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 1 or 20% 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 Gates County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.



Gates County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 270:1.

## 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.



6.8% of teens ages 16-19 are not working and not in school versus 9.4% of peer counties.

## Opportunities for Growth

Compared to rural metro counties and the state, these three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Gates County to improve future attainment outcomes.



### AP Participation

0% of Gates County high school students took at least one Advanced Placement exam, below the rural metro county average of 10%.



### Chronic Absenteeism

21% of Gates County students are chronically absent from school, above the rural metro county average of 16%.



### Adult Learners

29% of Gates County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the rural metro county average of 25%.

## COUNTY OVERVIEW

Gates County is in the **Elizabeth City** Prosperity Zone sub-region. It's one of 28 rural metro counties in NC.

Overall, 5% of 25-44-year-olds in Gates County have earned a master's degree or higher as their highest degree; 8% have a bachelor's degree; 17% have an associate degree; 29% have some college, no degree; 35% have a high school diploma; and 6% have less than a high school diploma.

<b>2018 Population</b>	12,094
<b>2030 Population</b>	12,254
<b>K-12 Students (2019)</b>	
Traditional Schools	1,618
Charter/Private/Home	244
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$51,746
<b>Child Poverty Rate</b>	21%
<b>Households with Broadband</b>	67%

## How students in Gates County traditional public schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, Gates County needs:

- **Gates County has met the goal for eligible 4-year-olds** enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 94%).
- **269 more 3-8 graders** earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 38%).
- **376 more 3-8 graders** earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 38%).

## Percent of Gates County schools by academic growth status, 2019

Exceeded	0%
Met	60%
Not Met	40%

To meet state goals, Gates County needs:

- **17 more 9th graders** to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 82%).
- **29 more seniors** to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80% vs. 52%).
- **161 more students** to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 21%).

Students in Gates County completed **61 Career & Technical Education concentrations** in 2019. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; Health Science; and Hospitality & Tourism.



**1 students** took at least one AP course (0%) versus 10% of peer counties.



**93 students** participated in Career & College Promise programs (20%) versus 18% of peer counties.

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

**8** individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program.

**603** Basic Skills enrollments at NC community colleges.

**4,933** Continuing Education enrollments at NC community colleges.

Among Gates County high school graduates:

- **56% of graduates** enroll in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 57% of peer counties.
- **76% of students** who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% of peer counties.
- **50% of students** who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 50% of peer counties.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region:

Public postsecondary institutions graduate **580 students per year**. After 5 years, 64% of 2013 graduates were employed in NC, earning an annual average wage of \$30,932.

60% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs. The top gaps are: **Health Science** (all levels); **Transportation, Distribution & Logistics** (below bachelor's); and **Finance** (bachelor's).

There are **67,624 job openings** projected between 2017-2026. The top 3 in demand jobs with median wages of \$50,000 or more are: 1) **General and Operations Managers**; 2) **First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers**; 3) **Accountants and Auditors**.

### Largest postsecondary institutions in your Prosperity Zone sub-region

Institution Name	Undergraduate Enrollments 2017-18	Graduate or Transfer in 8 Years
<b>Total Enrollments</b>	<b>5,015</b>	<b>63%</b>
College of the Albemarle	3,263	57%
Elizabeth City State University	1,538	74%
Mid-Atlantic Christian University	214	35%

**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>

### Local Cross-Sector Promising Practice: "ASPIRE" (ACT Supplemental Preparation in Rural Education)

Gates County and Pasquotank County are joining forces to offer ACT Preparatory training to high school sophomores and juniors by collaborating on ACT Prep through 4-H. The program, which is offered by North Carolina State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, bridges deficits in rural high school students' performance on the ACT College Entrance Examination to increase the number of students pursuing higher education.




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/](https://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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