**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.

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 Population</th>
<th>12,094</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2030 Population</td>
<td>12,254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-12 Students (2019)</td>
<td>1,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Schools</td>
<td>244</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charter/Private/Home</td>
<td>$51,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Poverty Rate</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with Broadband</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 as of 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%. |
Institution Name | Undergraduate Enrollments 2017-18 | Graduate or Transfer in 8 Years |
--- | --- | --- |
Total Enrollments | 7,009 | 52% |
College of the Albemarle | 3,263 | 57% |
Beaufort County Community College | 1,994 | 41% |
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/

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
demography@unc.edu
@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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