Harnett 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.

County Overview
Harnett County is in the Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone sub-region. It’s one of 28 rural metro counties in NC.
Overall, 8% of 25-44-year-olds in Harnett County have earned a master’s degree or higher as their highest degree; 17% have a bachelor’s degree; 11% have an associate degree; 27% have some college, no degree; 24% have a high school diploma; and 12% have less than a high school diploma.

Building the Foundation: Pre-K to 8
High-quality early learning and strong academic progress in early years helps prepare children for future success.
Harnett County has 25 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 6 or 24% 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 Harnett County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.
Harnett County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 372:1.

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.
10.2% 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 Harnett County to improve future attainment outcomes.

NC Pre-K Enrollment
28% of Harnett County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural metro county average of 54%.

Low-Performing Schools
24% of Harnett County schools are low-performing, above the rural metro county average of 16%.

First-Year Persistence
70% of Harnett County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary persist to their second year, below the rural metro county average of 73%.

How students in Harnett County traditional public schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, Harnett County needs:
• 524 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 28%).
• 3,223 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 39%).
• 5,013 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 34%).

Among Harnett County high school graduates:
• 53% of graduates enroll in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 57% of peer counties.
• 70% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% of peer counties.
• 46% of students who earn an associate degree or credential within 6 years versus 50% of peer counties.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2018-19:
2,661 individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program.
12,867 Basic Skills enrollments at NC community colleges.
67,583 Continuing Education enrollments at NC community colleges.
There are 1,166,888 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) Software Developers, Applications; 3) General and Operations Managers.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution Name</th>
<th>Undergraduate Enrollments 2017-18</th>
<th>Graduate or Transfer in 8 Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Enrollments</td>
<td>139,487</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wake Technical Community College</td>
<td>29,480</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina State University at Raleigh</td>
<td>27,424</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</td>
<td>19,773</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durham Technical Community College</td>
<td>8,049</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke University</td>
<td>7,504</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina Central University</td>
<td>7,165</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strayer University-North Carolina</td>
<td>6,998</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Carolina Community College</td>
<td>6,811</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnston Community College</td>
<td>5,343</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell University</td>
<td>5,183</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vance-Granville Community College</td>
<td>4,014</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meredith College</td>
<td>1,900</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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: Harnett County Promise

Central Carolina Community College's Education Programs provide top-quality training for careers in the field of education. Students can earn an Associate in Science - Teacher Preparation degree or Associate in Arts - Teacher Preparation degree in only two years, and then transfer to a four-year institution and enter as a junior. These new degrees will help create a smooth transfer experience for graduates to become the new generation of teachers in Lee, Chatham, and Harnett counties.

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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