Jackson 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 improve 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.

Jackson County has 8 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 3 or 38% 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.

How students in Jackson County traditional public schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, Jackson County needs:
- 36 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 53%).
- 542 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 40%).
- 904 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 32%).

To meet state goals, Jackson County needs:
- 19 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 89%).
- 71 more seniors to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80% vs. 54%).
- 449 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 24%).

Among Jackson County high school graduates:
- 56% of graduates enroll in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 57% of peer counties.
- 69% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% of peer counties.
- 57% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 49% of peer counties.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2018-19:
18 individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program.
1,489 Basic Skills enrollments at NC community colleges.
10,302 Continuing Education enrollments at NC community colleges.

Opportunities for Growth
Compared to rural non-metro counties and the state, these three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Jackson County to improve future attainment outcomes.

Low-Performing Schools
38% of Jackson County schools are low-performing, above the rural non-metro county average of 19%.

NC Pre-K Enrollment
53% of Jackson County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural non-metro county average of 64%.

Chronic Absenteeism
24% of Jackson County students are chronically absent from school, above the rural non-metro county average of 17%.
### 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>17,345</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Carolina University</td>
<td>10,449</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwestern Community College</td>
<td>3,262</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haywood Community College</td>
<td>2,223</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-County Community College</td>
<td>1,411</td>
<td>56%</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](http://go.unc.edu/countydata)

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**Local Cross-Sector Promising Practice: WCU’s Corporation for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEI)**

WCU’s Corporation for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEI) provides faculty, staff and university services to assist your business with problem solving, testing, consulting services, and training. In the past year, we assisted regional businesses with strategic planning, acquisition integration, DNA testing, chemical analysis, quality training, lean manufacturing training, leadership coaching, economic impact studies, marketing solutions, patent commercialization, financial analyses, and a host of other services.

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.

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

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**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](http://ncdemography.org)
- [demography@unc.edu](mailto:demography@unc.edu)
- [@ncdemography](https://twitter.com/ncdemography)

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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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