Johnston County

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 168,878  
2020 Census: 215,999  
Change: 47,121

2030 Proposed Johnston County Attainment Goal: 40,244 (56%)

Growth Rate
27.9% vs. 9.5%  
County  
State

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)

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How students in Johnston County traditional schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, each year Johnston County needs:

- 30% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program; 554 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2022
- 29% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading; 7,614 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2022
- 30% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math; 9,607 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2022
- 91% of 9th graders graduate within four years; 118 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2021
- 29% of students are chronically absent from school; 6,551 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2021

Johnston County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 420:1 versus 336:1 in peer counties. 2021

- 55% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022; 641 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%. 2022
https://www.myfuturenc.org/ourwork/first-in-fafsa/
- 77% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 75% in peer counties. 2021
- 52% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 55% in peer counties. 2021

50% of Johnston County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 49% in peer counties.

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

NC Pre-K Enrollment
30% of Johnston County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the suburban county average of 45%.

Earning College Credit in High School
8% of Johnston County high school students took at least one AP exam, below the suburban county average of 15%. Also, 29% of graduates participated in the Career & College Promise programs, below the peer county average of 33%.

School Counselors
Johnston County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 420:1, above the suburban county average of 336:1.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Johnston County, 2021

Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.
Success of Johnston County High School Graduates

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020
- 38% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 14% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 48% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 94% of college-goers attended an in-state college

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

Adult Learners

Johnston County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021
- 394 Basic Skills
- 1,953 Continuing Education
- 4,959 Curriculum

16% of Johnston County residents have student loan debt; 9% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

78.8% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

Top areas of misalignment:
- Health Science (below bachelor’s)
- Business Management & Administration (bachelor’s)
- Information Technology (bachelor’s)

5,347 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
- 19,047 graduates in 2020
- 65% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $50,028 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:
- 20,813 in Basic Services
- 10,595 in Career Services
- 857 in Education Services

12.9% of young adults ages 16-24 in Johnston County were not working and not in school versus 11.2% 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 Johnston County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Johnston

For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit:
dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/