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.

Johnston County has 45 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 14 or 31% 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 Johnston County traditional public schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, Johnston County needs:
- 495 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 32%).
- 5,928 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 39%).
- 9,281 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 33%).

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 Johnston County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.

Johnston County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 458:1.

Labor Market Outcomes
Lack of technical skills and lack of education 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.

8.6% of teens ages 16-19 are not working and not in school versus 6.8% of peer counties.

Opportunities for Growth
Compared to suburban counties and the state, these three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Johnston County to improve future attainment outcomes.

Low-Performing Schools
31% of Johnston County schools are low-performing, above the suburban county average of 17%.

NC Pre-K Enrollment
32% of Johnston County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the suburban county average of 44%.

Math Performance
33% of Johnston County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the suburban county average of 42%.

COUNTY OVERVIEW
Johnston County is in the Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone sub-region. It’s one of 16 suburban counties in NC. Overall, 7% of 25-44-year-olds in Johnston County have earned a master’s degree or higher as their highest degree; 17% have a bachelor’s degree; 13% have an associate degree; 26% have some college, no degree; 24% have a high school diploma; and 13% have less than a high school diploma.

1,838 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2019.
The top three CTE concentrations completed include Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; Health Science; and Business Management & Administration.

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.

2019.}

Updated: Aug 04 2021
### 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](http://go.unc.edu/countydata)

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**Local Cross-Sector Promising Practice: JOCO WORKS**

JOCO WORKS is an industry-led collaborative supported by education, business, civic, and government partners, and was created to meet the Johnston County, North Carolina (JOCO) workforce needs of the future. Their career exposition showcases available career options to the county's 8th grade students.

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
- @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.

- [myfuturenc.org](http://myfuturenc.org)
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