Lee 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.

Building the Foundation: Pre-K to 8
High-quality early learning and strong academic progress in early years helps prepare children for future success.

Lee County has 13 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 2 or 15% 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 Lee County traditional public schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, Lee County needs:
- 55 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 88%).
- 124 more seniors to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80% vs. 68%).
- 87 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 12%).

Students in Lee County completed 444 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2019. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Hospitality & Tourism; Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; and Business Management & Administration.

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 Lee County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.

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.

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

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2018-19:
- 2,661 individuals served in an Apprenticeship 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.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region:
- 56% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 57% of peer counties.
- 74% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% of peer counties.
- 53% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 49% of peer counties.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region:
- Behavioral Health Counselor; 2) Marketing (bachelor's); 3) Finance (bachelor's).

Public postsecondary institutions graduate 22,190 students per year. After 5 years, 59% of 2013 graduates were employed in NC, earning an annual average wage of $52,133.

80% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs. The top gaps are: Information Technology (bachelor's); Marketing (bachelor's); and Finance (bachelor's).

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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](http://go.unc.edu/countydata)

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**Local Cross-Sector Promising Practice: Innovation Center of Central Carolina Community College (CCCC)**

At the Innovation Center’s Industry Training Center, students are immersed in hands-on learning experiences provided by state-of-the-art facilities mirroring the modern manufacturing floor. Some of the state’s best welders learn here, honing skills in a fully equipped welding shop that includes eight bays, a virtual welder and a portable robotic welding training center.

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:**
dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/

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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.

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