**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**
Montgomery County is in the Pinehurst-Rockingham Prosperity Zone sub-region. It’s one of 50 rural non-metro counties in NC. Overall, 3% of 25-44-year-olds in Montgomery County have earned a master’s degree or higher as their highest degree; 8% have a bachelor’s degree; 11% have an associate degree; 22% have some college, no degree; 37% have a high school diploma; and 19% 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.

Montgomery County has 10 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 1 or 10% 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 Montgomery County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.

Montgomery County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 421:1.

**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.

14.4% of teens ages 16-19 are not working and not in school versus 8.9% of peer counties.

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

**Transition to Postsecondary**
48% of Montgomery County seniors enroll in postsecondary within 12 months of graduation, below the rural non-metro county average of 57%.

**AP Participation**
3% of Montgomery County high school students took at least one Advanced Placement exam, below the rural non-metro county average of 9%.

**Postsecondary Completion**
43% of Montgomery County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary earn a degree or credential within 6 years, below the rural non-metro county average of 49%.

**How students in Montgomery County traditional public schools are currently doing:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Percent of Montgomery County schools by academic growth status, 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exceeded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To meet state goals, Montgomery County needs:
• 14 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 91%).
• 76 more seniors to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80% vs. 53%).
• 250 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 17%).

Students in Montgomery County completed 173 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2019.
The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics.

**In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2018-19:**
24 individuals served in an Apprenticeship program.
1,920 Basic Skills enrollments at NC community colleges.
14,381 Continuing Education enrollments at NC community colleges.

**In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2020 Population:**
27,621
2030 Population: 28,158
K-12 Students (2019): 3,786
Charter/Private/Home: 548
Median Household Income: $47,757
Child Poverty Rate: 26%
Households with Broadband: 67%

**Median Household Income:**
Montgomery County is in the Pinehurst-Rockingham Prosperity Zone sub-region. It’s one of 50 rural non-metro counties in NC.

**2020 County Attainment Profile**
NC goal: 2 million by 2030
2020 County Attainment Profile

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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>9,578</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandhills Community College</td>
<td>5,329</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond Community College</td>
<td>3,107</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery Community College</td>
<td>1,142</td>
<td>66%</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).

## Local Cross-Sector Promising Practice: Apprenticeship Montgomery

Montgomery Community College is partnering with Montgomery County Schools, Montgomery Economic Development Corporation (EDC), Montgomery Career Center, NC Dept. of Commerce (Apprenticeship and Training) and local employers to build an apprenticeship program that will meet the workforce needs in the county. Apprenticeship Montgomery targets high school students in their junior and senior years, who are enrolled in Career and Technical Education pathways, and places them in college level courses while they complete their high school requirements.

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:

## 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.

- myfuturenc.org
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