New Hanover 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 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.

New Hanover County has 38 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 5 or 13% 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 New Hanover County traditional public schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, New Hanover County needs:
- 194 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 56%).
- 2,470 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 52%).
- 4,278 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 50%).

To meet state goals, New Hanover County needs:
- 157 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 88%).
- 521 more seniors to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80% vs. 52%).
- 982 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 15%).

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 New Hanover County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.

New Hanover County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 36:1.

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.

6.5% of teens ages 16-19 are not working and not in school versus 5.3% of peer counties.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2018-19:
- 254 individuals served in an Apprenticeship program.
- 1,943 Basic Skills enrollments at NC community colleges.
- 14,610 Continuing Education enrollments at NC community colleges.

There are 207,875 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) General and Operations Managers; 3) First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers.

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

FAFSA Completion
52% of New Hanover County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the urban county average of 59%.

AP Participation
20% of New Hanover County high school students took at least one Advanced Placement exam, below the urban county average of 25%.

Adult Learners
22% of New Hanover County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the urban county average of 19%.
New Hanover County 2020 Attainment Profile

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>35,429</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina Wilmington</td>
<td>16,604</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Fear Community College</td>
<td>12,293</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platt College-Miller-Motte-Wilmington</td>
<td>4,672</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunswick Community College</td>
<td>1,860</td>
<td>57%</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

Local Cross-Sector Promising Practice: Cape Fear Collective

Founded in 2019, the Cape Fear Collective (CFC) is a collective impact and data science nonprofit backbone organization based in Wilmington. CFC’s mission is to scale big data, fundraising, social innovation, and large-scale initiative management to a six-county region in Southeastern NC. CFC employs data scientists, strategists, journalists, and process improvement experts who partner with anchor institutions from across the region. Together, they create sustainable impact programs that address social progress across a variety of sectors including economic development, health and human services, climate change, and housing.

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

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.

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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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