North Carolina

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 10,439,414
2022 Estimate: 10,698,973
Change: 259,559

Growth Rate
2.5%
State

$67,516
Median Household Income (2022)

67%
Home Owners (2022)

17.2%
Child Poverty Rate (2022)

10.9%
Opportunity Youth Rate (2022)

77%
Households with Broadband (2022)

3.7%
Unemployment Rate (2022)

Educational Attainment
North Carolina residents ages 25-44, 2022

No Degree
1,193,945
42.6%

Have Degree or Credential
1,608,100
57.4%

Less than high school
8%

High school graduate (including GED)
22%

Some college, no credential
12%

Short-term credential
8%

Associate degree
10%

Bachelor’s degree
26%

Graduate or professional degree
13%

Note: Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Top Opportunities for Growth
These three areas represent the biggest opportunities for North Carolina to improve future attainment outcomes.

Math Performance
Increasing the number of 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores in Math is one of the three biggest opportunity areas for 42 counties.

NC Pre-K Enrollment
Increasing the number of 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K is one of the three biggest opportunity areas for 38 counties.

FAFSA Completion
Increasing the number of high school seniors completing the FAFSA is one of the three biggest opportunity areas for 37 counties.

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 North Carolina has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices

In North Carolina:
82.3% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

15,898 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
84,346 graduates in 2020
69% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
$43,833 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

54% of adults (ages 25-44) in North Carolina earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Top areas of misalignment:
Business Management & Administration bachelor’s
Health Science below bachelor’s
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics below bachelor’s

Top Five-Star Jobs
Job Title
Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners
4%
Statisticians
4%
Data Scientists
4%

Top Employers in North Carolina
Employer
Employment Range
Wal-Mart Associates Inc.
1000+
Duke University
1000+
Food Lion
1000+

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Local Education Agencies: 115 (2023)
Charter Schools: 206 (2023)
Home Schools: 94,154 (2023)
Private Schools: 884 (2023)
Adult Learners

North Carolina post-secondary enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022
- 13,928 Basic Skills
- 143,957 Continuing Education
- 47,719 Curriculum

15% of North Carolina residents have student loan debt; 8% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2022

Success of North Carolina High School Graduates

- 83% of students who enroll persist to their second year. 2022
- 59% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. 2022

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- 32,533 of all college-goers attended Wake TCC
- 25,810 of all college-goers attended Central Piedmont CC
- 16,044 of all college-goers attended Fayetteville TCC

- 62% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023; 17,391 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023
- 74% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution. 2022
- 58% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. 2022

- 45% of North Carolina students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year).

How students in North Carolina traditional schools are doing:

- 53% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program; 10,914 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2023
- 30% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading; 348,284 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 35% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math; 319,895 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 87% of 9th graders graduate within four years; 9,285 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 27% of students are chronically absent from school; 238,382 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2023

North Carolina has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 316:1. 2023

2% of students drop out of high school (9,531 total students). 2023