NC goal: 2 million by 2030

2020 State 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.

North Carolina has 2,306 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 439 or 19% 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 North Carolina at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.

North Carolina has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 356:1.

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.

82% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs. The top gaps are: Information Technology (bachelor’s), Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (below bachelor’s), and Finance (bachelor’s).

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

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 45 counties.

Low-Performing Schools
Decreasing the number of low-performing schools is one of the three biggest opportunity areas for 33 counties.

FAFSA Completion
Increasing the number of high school seniors completing the FAFSA is one of the three biggest opportunity areas for 27 counties.

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### North Carolina 2020 Attainment Profile

### Largest postsecondary institutions North Carolina

<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>613,711</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Piedmont Community College</td>
<td>29,552</td>
<td>47%</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 Charlotte</td>
<td>27,078</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Carolina University</td>
<td>25,427</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</td>
<td>19,773</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayetteville Technical Community College</td>
<td>18,684</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina at Greensboro</td>
<td>18,374</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appalachian State University</td>
<td>18,135</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina Wilmington</td>
<td>16,604</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilford Technical Community College</td>
<td>14,735</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Fear Community College</td>
<td>12,293</td>
<td>62%</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

### WE NEED TO CLOSE THE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT GAP IN NORTH CAROLINA.

That starts with an ambitious goal: ensuring that by 2030, 2 million North Carolinians ages 25-44 have a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential.

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.

- [ncdemography.org](http://ncdemography.org)
- [demography@unc.edu](mailto:demography@unc.edu)
- [@ncdemography](https://twitter.com/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](http://myfuturenc.org)
- [facebook.com/myfuturenc](https://facebook.com/myfuturenc)
- [@myFutureNC](https://twitter.com/myFutureNC)