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.

Onslow County has 36 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 4 or 11% 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 training and coursework include gaining experience in college-level coursework and applying for financial assistance.

How students in Onslow County traditional public schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, Onslow County needs:
- 1,039 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 31%).
- 3,689 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 43%).
- 6,442 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 34%).

To meet state goals, Onslow County needs:
- 114 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 89%).
- 528 more seniors to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80% vs. 48%).
- 1,167 more students to enroll in a postsecondary program (goal: 75% vs. 31%).

Students in Onslow County completed 1,562 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2019. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; Hospitality & Tourism; and Health Science.

Postsecondary Access and Success
These metrics capture student progress and educational attainment from high school graduation to postsecondary completion. They indicate relative strengths and weaknesses of Onslow County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.

Onslow County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 539:1.

Among Onslow County high school graduates:
- 57% of graduates enroll in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 62% of peer counties.
- 75% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 78% of peer counties.
- 51% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 54% of peer counties.

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.

- 7.6% of teens ages 16-19 are not working and not in school versus 6.8% of peer counties.

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

NC Pre-K Enrollment
31% of Onslow County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the suburban county average of 44%.

Adult Learners
35% of Onslow County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the suburban county average of 26%.

School Counselors
Onslow County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 539:1, above the suburban county average of 363:1.
### 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>18,513</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Carolina Community College</td>
<td>6,255</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craven Community College</td>
<td>4,599</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lenoir Community College</td>
<td>3,843</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carteret Community College</td>
<td>2,077</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platt College-Miller-Motte-Jacksonville</td>
<td>1,046</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamlico Community College</td>
<td>693</td>
<td>52%</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: Eastern NC Regional Skills Center

High school students in Onslow County, Duplin County, Jones County and Lejeune High School can receive advanced training opportunities in a new, state-of-the-art building. Focus areas include automotive technology, collision refinishing and repair technology, culinary arts, cyber literacy, cyber security, digital design and animation, game art design, nursing fundamentals, and welding technology.

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/](dashbaord.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](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.

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