Orange County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Orange County Attainment Goal: 34,134 (80%)

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 133,801
2020 Census: 148,696
Change: 14,895

Growth Rate
11.1% vs. 9.5%
County State

Population Census
$82,732 Median Household Income (2020)
10.2% Child Poverty Rate (2020)
93% Households with Broadband (2020)
64% Home Owners (2020)
80% Voter Registration Rate (2021)
3.5% Unemployment Rate (2021)

Educational Attainment
Orange County residents ages 25-44, 2021
- No Degree
  21.1% 7,283
- Have Degree or Credential
  78.9% 27,233

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

Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline
Covid-19 has affected critical transition points along the education continuum.

How students in Orange County traditional schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, each year Orange County needs:

- Orange County has met the goal for Pre-K enrollment. (Goal: 75%). 2022
- 44% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading; 2,422 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2022
- 46% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math; 3,378 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2022
- 89% of 9th graders graduate within four years; 93 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2021
- 12% of students are chronically absent from school; 178 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2021

Orange County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 291:1 versus 336:1 in peer counties. 2021

23% of Orange County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 49% in peer counties.

Career and College Preparation
356 graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs (24%) versus 33% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Orange County completed 666 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; Health Science; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Orange County, 2021
Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.
Orange County 2022 Attainment Profile

Success of Orange County High School Graduates

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020
- 56% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 22% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 22% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 76% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 85% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 77% in peer counties. 2021
- 75% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 60% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners

Orange County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021
- 130 Basic Skills
- 846 Continuing Education
- 1,896 Curriculum

16% of Orange County residents have student loan debt; 6% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

78.8% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

Top areas of misalignment:
- Health Science (below bachelor’s)
- Business Management & Administration (bachelor’s)
- Information Technology (bachelor’s)

5,347 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
- 19,047 graduates in 2020
- 65% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $50,028 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:
- 10,802 in Basic Services
- 5,263 in Career Services
- 467 in Education Services

4.2% of young adults ages 16-24 in Orange County were not working and not in school versus 11.2% in peer counties. 2019

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 Orange County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Orange

For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit:
dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/