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

Median Household Income (2020)
$82,732
9.9% Child Poverty Rate (2020)
91% 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, 2020
No Degree
22.6%
7,831
Have Degree or Credential
77.4%
26,868

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

Math Performance
46% of Orange County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the state goal of 86%.

Reading Performance
44% of Orange County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Reading, below the state goal of 73%.

FAFSA Completion
63% of Orange County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the state goal of 80%.

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

K-12 Enrollment (district schools)
-5.9% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20
Postsecondary Enrollment
-7.8% 2021 vs. 2020
FAFSA Completion
-2.7% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19
Postsecondary Intentions
-5.3% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

Data Disruptions
- College-and-Career-Ready in Reading
- College-and-Career-Ready in Math
- Chronic Absenteeism

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% vs. 89%). 2022
• 2,422 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 44%). 2022
• 3,378 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 46%). 2022
• 93 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 89%). 2021
• 178 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 12%). 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.

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)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:
- 5,347 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020
- 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/