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.

Robeson County has 39 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 22 or 56% 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.

Robeson County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 321:1.

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 Robeson County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.

Robeson County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 321:1.

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.

12.4% of teens ages 16-19 are not working and not in school versus 8.9% of peer counties.

Opportunities for Growth
Compared to rural non-metro counties and the state, these three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Robeson County to improve future attainment outcomes.

Low-Performing Schools
56% of Robeson County schools are low-performing, above the rural non-metro county average of 19%.

Reading Performance
25% of Robeson County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Reading, below the rural non-metro county average of 41%.

Math Performance
22% of Robeson County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the rural non-metro county average of 36%.

How students in Robeson County traditional public schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, Robeson County needs:

- 54 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 70%).
- 4,918 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 25%).
- 6,573 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 22%).

To meet state goals, Robeson County needs:

- 197 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 84%).
- 489 more seniors to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80% vs. 46%).
- 3,311 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 26%).

Students in Robeson County completed 1,122 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2019. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; Health Science; and Business Management & Administration.

2018 Population: 131,600
2030 Population: 125,259
K-12 Students (2019):
- Traditional Schools: 21,487
- Charter/Private/Home: 2,050
- Median Household Income: $35,407
- Child Poverty Rate: 36%
- Households with Broadband: 54%

Counties:
- Rural Non-Metro
- Prosperity Zone sub-region

Local Education Agencies:
- 1

Peer County Type: Rural Non-Metro
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>52,924</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayetteville Technical Community College</td>
<td>18,684</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayetteville State University</td>
<td>6,522</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina at Pembroke</td>
<td>6,252</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandhills Community College</td>
<td>5,329</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond Community College</td>
<td>3,107</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robeson Community College</td>
<td>2,631</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodist University</td>
<td>2,149</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sampson Community College</td>
<td>2,049</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeastern Community College</td>
<td>1,887</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bladen Community College</td>
<td>1,643</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platt College-Miller-Motte-Fayetteville</td>
<td>1,504</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Andrews University</td>
<td>756</td>
<td>68%</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

Local Cross-Sector Promising Practice: Small Business Center of Robeson Community College

The Small Business Center of Robeson Community College is located in the Charles V. Chrestman Workforce Development Center (Building 18) and it offers approximately 60-75 free seminars each year designed to assist aspiring and existing entrepreneurs. The NC Community Colleges Small Business Center Network offers no-fee confidential counseling, free seminars that are open to the public, and a Small Business Center Resource Center with computers, Internet access, books, and periodicals.

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/

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.

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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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