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.

COUNTY OVERVIEW
Surry County is in the Winston-Salem Prosperity Zone sub-region. It’s one of 50 rural non-metro counties in NC. Overall, 6% of 25-44-year-olds in Surry County have earned a master’s degree or higher as their highest degree; 14% have a bachelor’s degree; 15% have an associate degree; 21% have some college, no degree; 26% have a high school diploma; and 18% have less than a high school diploma.

Building the Foundation: Pre-K to 8
High-quality early learning and strong academic progress in early years helps prepare children for future success.

Surry County has 25 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 1 or 4% 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 Surry County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.

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.

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

NC Pre-K Enrollment
54% of Surry County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural non-metro county average of 64%.

School Counselors
Surry County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 383:1, above the rural non-metro county average of 338:1.

Disconnected Youth
10% of Surry County youth ages 16-19 are not working and not in school, above the rural non-metro county average of 9%.

Labor Market Outcomes
Among Surry County high school graduates:
• 56% of students who earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 49% of peer counties.

How students in Surry County traditional public schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, Surry County needs:
• 103 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 54%).
• 1,086 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 51%).
• 1,957 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 46%).

To meet state goals, Surry County needs:
• 44 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 90%).
• 160 more seniors to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80% vs. 50%).
• 270 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 14%).

Students in Surry County completed 646 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2019. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; Health Science; and Hospitality & Tourism.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2018-19:
974 individuals served in an Apprenticeship program.
4,264 Basic Skills enrollments at NC community colleges.
24,064 Continuing Education enrollments at NC community colleges.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2017-18:
324,711 job openings projected between 2017-2026. The top 3 in demand jobs with median wages of $50,000 or more are: 1) Registered Nurses; 2) General and Operations Managers; 3) Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products.
### 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>33,211</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forsyth Technical Community College</td>
<td>11,306</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winston-Salem State University</td>
<td>5,408</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wake Forest University</td>
<td>5,244</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davidson County Community College</td>
<td>5,013</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surry Community College</td>
<td>4,040</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina School of the Arts</td>
<td>889</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salem College</td>
<td>869</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piedmont International University</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolina Christian College</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>100%</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: Next Generation Career Academy

Next Generation Career Academy, funded by the Golden Leaf Foundation, allows students to complete an internship in a local business, gain valuable real-world experience, and earn high school credit, college credit, and/or industry-recognized credentials. Students also receive a financial stipend and get paid for travel. 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](http://go.unc.edu/countydata).

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

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