Wake County
myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 1,129,393
2022 Estimate: 1,175,021
Change: 45,628

Growth Rate
4.0% County
64% Home Owners (2022)
9.6% Child Poverty Rate (2022)
8.1% Opportunity Youth Rate (2022)
85% Households with Broadband (2022)
3.1% Unemployment Rate (2022)

Charter Schools: 26 (2023)
Local Education Agencies: 1 (2023)
Peer County Type: Urban

2030 Proposed Wake County Attainment Goal: 300,739 (Stretch Goal: 301,916)
2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Educational Attainment
Wake County residents ages 25-44, 2022

Population Highlight
No Degree
84,139
25.1%
Have Degree or Credential
250,929
74.9%

Growth Rate
4.0% County
4% vs. 2.5% State

$97,099 Median Household Income (2022)
$76,516 State
64% Home Owners (2022)
67% State
9.6% Child Poverty Rate (2022)
17.2% State
8.1% Opportunity Youth Rate (2022)
10.0% State
85% Households with Broadband (2022)
77% State
3.1% Unemployment Rate (2022)
3.7% State

Note: Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding

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

School Counselors
Wake County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 329:1, above the urban county average of 286:1.

NC Pre-K Enrollment
40% of Wake County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the urban county average of 41%.

Math Performance
47% of Wake County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the state goal of 86%.

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

In Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:
76.5% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

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)

69% of adults (ages 25-44) in Wake County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Wake County is served by:
Capital Area Workforce Development Board
Central Pines Council of Governments
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Updated: Jul 22 2024

Adult Learners

Raleigh-Durham Sub-Prosperity Zone post-secondary enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022

- 3,247 Basic Skills
- 29,217 Continuing Education
- 9,377 Curriculum

19% of Wake County residents have student loan debt. 7% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2022

Success of Wake County High School Graduates

- 89% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 86% in peer counties. 2022
- 70% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 62% in peer counties. 2022

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- 24,536 of all college-goers attended Wake TCC
- 1,507 of all college-goers attended Durham TCC
- 1,394 of all college-goers attended NC State

- 66% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 1,660 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023
- 89% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 81% in peer counties. 2022
- 71% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 64% in peer counties. 2022

27% of Wake County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 37% in peer counties.

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