Wake County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Wake County Attainment Goal: 300,739 (82%)

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 900,993
2020 Census: 1,129,410
Change: 228,417

Population Growth
2010 Census: 900,993
2020 Census: 1,129,410
Change: 228,417
25.4% County
9.5% State

Wake County residents ages 25-44, 2020

Educational Attainment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Degree</th>
<th>Have Degree or Credential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26.9%</td>
<td>73.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87,487</td>
<td>237,170</td>
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</tbody>
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Note: Numbers may add to more than 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 347:1, above the urban county average of 294:1.

NC Pre-K Enrollment
37% of Wake County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the urban county average of 40%.

Math Performance
43% of Wake County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the state goal of 86%.

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

K-12 Enrollment (district schools)
-2.0% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20

Postsecondary Enrollment
-4.7% 2021 vs. 2020

FAFSA Completion
6.7% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19

Postsecondary Intentions
-0.8% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

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

How students in Wake County traditional schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, each year Wake County needs:
• 1,559 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 37%). 2022
• 23,428 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 40%). 2022
• 31,274 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 43%). 2022
• 607 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 90%). 2021
• 14,922 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 21%). 2021

Wake County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 347:1 versus 294:1 in peer counties.

Career and College Preparation
14,776 high school students took at least one AP course (30%) versus 25% in peer counties (2021).
1,564 graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs (13%) versus 17% in peer counties (2021).

Career and College Preparation
Students in Wake County completed 6,011 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; Human Services; and Health Science.

School Choice
210,961 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Wake County in the 2021-22 school year.

Note: This profile focuses on outcomes of students enrolled in district schools.

Charter (8%)
District (75%)
Home (7%)
Private (10%)

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Wake County, 2021

Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.

29% of Wake County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 40% in peer counties.

College & Career Access
69% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022. (1,227 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%).
https://www.myfuturenc.org/ourwork/first-in-fafsa/
89% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 81% in peer counties. 2021
70% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 62% in peer counties. 2021

2022-2023 Wake County Attraction Goal: 300,739 (82%)

Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Urban
Local Education Agencies: 1
Charter Schools: 30

Updated: Dec 08 2022
Wake County 2022 Attainment Profile

Success of Wake County High School Graduates

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020
- 55% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 12% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 32% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 88% of college-goers attended an in-state college
- 86% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 81% in peer counties. 2021
- 70% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 62% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners

Wake County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021
- 3,119 Basic Skills
- 8,846 Continuing Education
- 19,407 Curriculum
- 20% of Wake County residents have student loan debt; 8% 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:
- 20,813 in Basic Services
- 10,595 in Career Services
- 857 in Education Services
- 6.9% of young adults ages 16-24 in Wake County were not working and not in school versus 9.2% 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 Wake County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Wake

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