### Wake County

**2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal:** 2 million (67%)

**2030 Proposed Wake County Attainment Goal:** 300,739 (82%)

#### Population Spotlight
- **2020 Census:** 900,993
- **2022 Census:** 1,129,410
- **Change:** 228,417

#### Growth Rate
- **25.4%** vs. **9.5%**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$88,763</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95%</td>
<td>Households with Broadband (2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64%</td>
<td>Home Owners (2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88%</td>
<td>Voter Registration Rate (2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>Unemployment Rate (2021)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Educational Attainment

| No Degree | 26.1% | 85,949 |
| Have Degree or Credential | 73.9% | 243,271 |

Note: Numbers may add to more than 100% due to rounding.

#### Top Opportunities for Growth
- **Wake County Transition Points Along the Education Pipeline**
- **Covid-19 has affected critical 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

- **K-12 Enrollment (district schools)**
  - **-2.0%** 2021-22 vs. 2019-20
  - **Postsecondary Enrollment**
  - **-4.7%** 2021 vs. 2020

#### Data Disruptions
- **FAFSA Completion**
  - **6.7%** 2021-22 vs. 2018-19
  - **Postsecondary Intentions**
  - **-0.8%** 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

#### How students in Wake County traditional schools are currently doing:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>2020-21 vs. 2018-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AP course (30%)</td>
<td>14,776 high school students participated in AP courses (30%) vs. 25% in peer counties (2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career &amp; College Promise programs (13%)</td>
<td>1,564 graduates participated in Career &amp; College Promise programs (13%) vs. 17% in peer counties (2021)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Career and College Preparation

- **14,776 high school students** took at least one AP course (30%) versus 25% in peer counties (2021).

#### Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Wake County, 2021

- **Wake County**
- **North Carolina**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Wake County</th>
<th>North Carolina</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Low-Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Skills</th>
<th>Continuing Education</th>
<th>Curriculum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3,119</td>
<td>8,846</td>
<td>19,407</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:
- 5,347 in 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:
- 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

Impact of Covid-19 on NC Community College Enrollment

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2021
- 8,066 certificate
- 5,938 associate
- 16,203 bachelor’s

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)

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

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