Wake County
NC goal: 2 million by 2030
2020 County Attainment Profile

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
Wake County is in the Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone sub-region. It's one of 6 urban counties in NC. Overall, 20% of 25-44-year-olds in Wake County have earned a master's degree or higher as their highest degree; 36% have a bachelor's degree; 8% have an associate degree; 16% have some college, no degree; 13% have a high school diploma; and 7% 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.
Wake County has 181 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 28 or 15% 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 Wake County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.
Wake County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 409:1.

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.
4% of teens ages 16-19 are not working and not in school versus 5.3% of peer counties.

Opportunities for Growth
Compared to urban counties and the state, these three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Wake County to improve future attainment outcomes.

How students in Wake County traditional public schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, Wake County needs:
- 1,585 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 38%).
- 13,575 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 55%).
- 27,659 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 49%).

To meet state goals, Wake County needs:
- 655 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 90%).
- 1,987 more seniors to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80% vs. 62%).
- 1,248 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 12%).

Students in Wake County completed 5,017 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2019. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Hospitality & Tourism; Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; and Business Management & Administration.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2018-19:
- 1,166,888 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) Software Developers, Applications; 3) General and Operations Managers.
- 38% of Wake County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the state average of 48%.
- 3% of Wake County high school students participated in the Career & College Promise program programs, below the urban county average of 5%.
- 1,583 students participated in Career & College Promise programs (3%) versus 5% of peer counties.
- 15,629 students took at least one AP course (32%) versus 25% of peer counties.
- 67,583 Continuing Education enrollments at NC community colleges.
- 12,867 Basic Skills enrollments at NC community colleges.
- 2,661 individuals served in an Apprenticeship program.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region:
- 90% of Wake County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K.
- 72% of graduates enroll in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 66% of peer counties.
- 88% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 81% of peer counties.
- 64% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 58% of peer counties.
- 27,659 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 49%).
- 1,248 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 12%).
- 1,987 more seniors to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80% vs. 62%).
- 655 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 90%).
- 1,585 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 38%).
- 3,057 more NC Pre-K students participate (goal: 90% vs. 70%).
- 1,328,336 K-12 students served.
- 1,583 more students participated in Career & College Promise programs (3%) versus 5% of peer counties.
- 15,629 students took at least one AP course (32%) versus 25% of peer counties.
- 22% of Wake County schools by academic growth status, 2019

Updated: Aug 04 2021
Updated: Aug 04 2021

Institution Name | Undergraduate Enrollments 2017-18 | Graduate or Transfer in 8 Years
---|---|---
Total Enrollments | 139,487 | 73%
Wake Technical Community College | 29,480 | 56%
North Carolina State University at Raleigh | 27,424 | 93%
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | 19,773 | 96%
Durham Technical Community College | 8,049 | 58%
Duke University | 7,504 | 95%
North Carolina Central University | 7,165 | 80%
Strayer University-North Carolina | 6,998 | 53%
Central Carolina Community College | 6,811 | 58%
Johnston Community College | 5,343 | 55%
Campbell University | 5,183 | 89%
Vance-Granville Community College | 4,014 | 60%
Meredith College | 1,900 | 92%

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: Work in the Triangle
Work in the Triangle showcases the Triangle nationally and internationally as one of the top destinations for talented professionals over the next five years. The program is an initiative of the Wake County Economic Development, in partnership with other regional economic development organizations, including the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce, Orange County Economic Development, Chapel Hill - Carrboro Chamber of Commerce, Research Triangle Foundation and the Research Triangle Regional Partnership.

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/](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
demography@unc.edu
@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.

myfuturenc.org
facebook.com/myfuturenc
@myFutureNC