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.

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

Washington County has 5 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 2 or 40% 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.

Among Washington County high school graduates:
• 45% of graduates enroll in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 57% of peer counties.
• 68% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% of peer counties.
• 37% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 49% of peer counties.

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 Washington County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.

Washington County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 253:1.

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.

17.3% of teens ages 16-19 are not working and not in school versus 8.9% of peer counties.

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

Low-Performing Schools
40% of Washington County schools are low-performing, above the rural non-metro county average of 19%.

Math Performance
20% of Washington County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the rural non-metro county average of 36%.

Reading Performance
27% of Washington County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Reading, below the rural non-metro county average of 41%.

COUNTY OVERVIEW
Washington County is in the Elizabeth City Prosperity Zone sub-region. It’s one of 50 rural non-metro counties in NC.

Overall, 4% of 25-44-year-olds in Washington County have earned a master’s degree or higher as their highest degree; 7% have a bachelor’s degree; 14% have an associate degree; 27% have some college, no degree; 24% have a high school diploma; and 24% have less than a high school diploma.

How students in Washington County traditional public schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, Washington County needs:
• Washington County has met the goal for eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 99%).
• 281 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 27%).
• 400 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 20%).

To meet state goals, Washington County needs:
• 16 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 79%).
• 15 more seniors to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80% vs. 62%).
• 70 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 16%).

Students in Washington County completed 50 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2019. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; Information Technology; and Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2018-19:
8 individuals served in an Apprenticeship program.
603 Basic Skills enrollments at NC community colleges.
4,933 Continuing Education enrollments at NC community colleges.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2019:
65 students participated in Career & College Promise programs (19%) versus 22% of peer counties.
603 Households with Broadband.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2018-19:
0 students took at least one AP course (0%) versus 9% of peer counties.
4,933 Households with Broadband.

281 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores in reading (goal: 73% vs. 27%).

Peer County Type: Rural Non-Metro
Local Education Agencies: 1

Prosperity Zone sub-region
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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>College of the Albemarle</td>
<td>3,263</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaufort County Community College</td>
<td>1,994</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth City State University</td>
<td>1,538</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Atlantic Christian University</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Enrollments</td>
<td>7,009</td>
<td>52%</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

Local Cross-Sector Promising Practice: Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience

The Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience is an early college high school serving as a statewide model for STEM education in agriscience and biotechnology by providing all scholars with exceptional learning experiences through powerful teach and personalization within a professional setting surrounded by a shared leadership and educational partnerships. Priority is given to students whose parents did not attend college and would be first-generation college students.

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/

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.

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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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