Wayne 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.

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

Wayne County has 29 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 8 or 28% 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 Wayne County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.

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.

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

How students in Wayne County traditional public schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, Wayne County needs:

- 243 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 53%).
- 3,276 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 33%).
- 4,548 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 31%).

To meet state goals, Wayne County needs:

- 191 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 83%).
- 370 more seniors to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80% vs. 48%).
- 1,407 more students to enroll in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 57% of peer counties.

Among Wayne County high school graduates:

- 56% of graduates enroll in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 57% of peer counties.
- 72% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% of peer counties.
- 49% of students who earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 50% of peer counties.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2018-19:

- 96 individuals served in an Apprenticeship program.
- 3,446 Basic Skills enrollments at NC community colleges.
- 17,300 Continuing Education enrollments at NC community colleges.

There are 102,508 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) General and Operations Managers; 3) Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products.

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Wayne County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 430:1.

Low-Performing Schools
28% of Wayne County schools are low-performing, above the rural metro county average of 16%.

Reading Performance
33% of Wayne County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Reading, below the rural metro county average of 41%.

FAFSA Completion
48% of Wayne County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural metro county average of 54%.

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COUNTY OVERVIEW
Wayne County is in the Goldsboro-Kinston Prosperity Zone sub-region. It’s one of 28 rural metro counties in NC. Overall, 6% of 25-44-year-olds in Wayne County have earned a master’s degree or higher as their highest degree; 17% have a bachelor’s degree; 12% have an associate degree; 25% have some college, no degree; 23% have a high school diploma; and 16% have less than a high school diploma.

2018 Population
124,703
2030 Population
134,419
K-12 Students (2019)
Traditional Schools
18,039
Charter/Private/Home
3,738
Median Household Income
$41,572
Child Poverty Rate
32%
Households with Broadband
76%

Updated: Aug 04 2021

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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>Total Enrollments</td>
<td>14,028</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne Community College</td>
<td>4,392</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Mount Olive</td>
<td>4,197</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lenoir Community College</td>
<td>3,843</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Sprunt Community College</td>
<td>1,596</td>
<td>58%</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: Small Farm Unit, Center for Environmental Farming Systems

CEFS' Small Farm Unit (SFU) brings together the resources of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, North Carolina State University, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and other community partners to deliver research and demonstration of sustainable production and marketing practices to diverse audiences.

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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