



NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

Report to the North Carolina General Assembly

Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
SL 2010-111, SB 1246

Date Due: November 15, 2021
DPI Chronological Schedule, 2021-2022

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Catherine Truitt, State Superintendent / 301 N. Wilmington Street / Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2825

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**An Act to Direct the State Board of Education to Develop a Growth Model
for Establishing Short-Term Annual Goals for Improving the Four-Year Cohort
Graduation Rate and to Establish a Long-Term Goal of Increasing
the Statewide Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate**

Introduction

Senate Bill 1246, Session Law 2010-111 directed the State Board of Education to develop a growth model for establishing short-term annual goals for improving the four-year cohort graduation rate and to establish a long-term goal of increasing the statewide four-year cohort graduation rate to one hundred percent. The State Board of Education is also required to report annually on progress toward graduation benchmarks and include strategies and recommendations for achieving those benchmarks. The State Board of Education established the expectation that one hundred percent of the students in North Carolina should graduate from high school when the Board adopted its vision that *every public school student in North Carolina will be empowered to accept academic challenges, prepared to pursue their chosen path after graduating high school, and encouraged to become lifelong learners with the capacity to engage in a globally-collaborative society.*

In the North Carolina Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) describes the approach to improving student outcomes and the cohort graduation rate. The theory of action describes how North Carolina will work toward meeting student achievement goals by following a plan of continuous innovation and improvement. This plan includes following best practices through a path of emerging initiatives to promising practices resulting in proven programs shown to improve student outcomes.

As required, the State Board of Education sets yearly goals for increasing the Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate. The State Board of Education goals were adjusted in 2017–18 to align with the NC ESSA long-term goal for the Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate. The 10-year long-term goal has been set to achieve a 95% graduation rate by the 2026–27 school year. This goal was created to be ambitious but attainable as required by the ESSA. To reach this goal, each year the state is expected to reach a measure of interim progress that if met will result in the long-term goal being met in 10 years. The goal for 2020–21 was set at 89.5%; the statewide rate was 87.0%, which did not meet this year’s state-level target. See below for the results from the 2020–21 school year by local education agency (LEA).

**Report of the 2020–21 School Year on 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates
(Highlighted Cells Indicate the LEA Met or Exceeded the
2020–21 State’s Goal of 89.5%)**

LEA Number	LEA Name	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
010	Alamance-Burlington Schools	87.0
020	Alexander County Schools	86.9
030	Alleghany County Schools	87.6
040	Anson County Schools	88.2
050	Ashe County Schools	84.7
060	Avery County Schools	89.8
070	Beaufort County Schools	86.4
080	Bertie County Schools	83.1
090	Bladen County Schools	91.5
100	Brunswick County Schools	83.8
110	Buncombe County Schools	90.7
111	Asheville City Schools	90.2
120	Burke County Schools	91.3
130	Cabarrus County Schools	91.1
132	Kannapolis City Schools	87.5
140	Caldwell County Schools	87.0
150	Camden County Schools	89.5
160	Carteret County Public Schools	84.5
170	Caswell County Schools	85.4
180	Catawba County Schools	87.1
181	Hickory City Schools	88.4
182	Newton Conover City Schools	88.5
190	Chatham County Schools	87.8
200	Cherokee County Schools	86.9
210	Edenton-Chowan Schools	90.2
220	Clay County Schools	89.1
230	Cleveland County Schools	86.4
240	Columbus County Schools	82.3
241	Whiteville City Schools	86.1
250	Craven County Schools	85.4
260	Cumberland County Schools	84.2
270	Currituck County Schools	83.5
280	Dare County Schools	93.4
290	Davidson County Schools	84.3
291	Lexington City Schools	87.4
292	Thomasville City Schools	85.6
300	Davie County Schools	88.4
310	Duplin County Schools	86.1
320	Durham Public Schools	87.1
330	Edgecombe County Public School	85.1

LEA Number	LEA Name	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
340	Forsyth County Schools	85.5
350	Franklin County Schools	81.6
360	Gaston County Schools	86.6
370	Gates County Schools	89.3
380	Graham County Schools	92.1
390	Granville County Schools	83.8
400	Greene County Schools	94.5
410	Guilford County Schools	91.5
420	Halifax County Schools	83.7
421	Roanoke Rapids City Schools	80.2
422	Weldon City Schools	80.9
430	Harnett County Schools	85.9
440	Haywood County Schools	89.6
450	Henderson County Schools	92.7
460	Hertford County Schools	85.1
470	Hoke County Schools	82.6
480	Hyde County Schools	100.0
490	Iredell-Statesville Schools	87.1
491	Mooresville City Schools	95.7
500	Jackson County Schools	92.9
510	Johnston County Schools	91.1
520	Jones County Schools	89.3
530	Lee County Schools	87.3
540	Lenoir County Public Schools	87.2
550	Lincoln County Schools	89.6
560	Macon County Schools	81.7
570	Madison County Schools	91.4
580	Martin County Schools	72.1
590	McDowell County Schools	85.0
600	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	84.1
610	Mitchell County Schools	75.9
620	Montgomery County Schools	94.9
630	Moore County Schools	92.3
640	Nash-Rocky Mount Schools	89.1
650	New Hanover County Schools	88.5
660	Northampton County Schools	70.2
670	Onslow County Schools	89.5
680	Orange County Schools	84.2
681	Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools	92.8
690	Pamlico County Schools	91.6
700	Pasquotank County Schools	75.8
710	Pender County Schools	93.2
720	Perquimans County Schools	86.1
730	Person County Schools	83.9

LEA Number	LEA Name	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
740	Pitt County Schools	84.6
750	Polk County Schools	92.4
760	Randolph County Schools	87.4
761	Asheboro City Schools	85.9
770	Richmond County Schools	83.3
780	Robeson County Schools	87.0
790	Rockingham County Schools	87.6
800	Rowan-Salisbury Schools	85.5
810	Rutherford County Schools	88.2
820	Sampson County Schools	82.3
821	Clinton City Schools	75.7
830	Scotland County Schools	86.0
840	Stanly County Schools	89.5
850	Stokes County Schools	87.5
860	Surry County Schools	89.9
861	Elkin City Schools	95.9
862	Mount Airy City Schools	88.6
870	Swain County Schools	76.8
880	Transylvania County Schools	84.0
890	Tyrrell County Schools	87.8
900	Union County Public Schools	92.7
910	Vance County Schools	84.9
920	Wake County Schools	90.5
930	Warren County Schools	71.8
940	Washington County Schools	81.6
950	Watauga County Schools	92.1
960	Wayne County Public Schools	81.6
970	Wilkes County Schools	88.7
980	Wilson County Schools	78.9
990	Yadkin County Schools	89.2
995	Yancey County Schools	87.7
33	Number Meeting or Exceeding State Goal of 89.5%	
82	Number Not Meeting State Goal of 89.5%	

Concluding Remarks

Approximately 28.7% of the LEAs have met or exceeded the 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate goal of 89.5% established by the SBE under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

For further information, please contact Dr. Catherine Edmonds, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Educational Equity, NCDPI, at catherine.edmonds@dpi.nc.gov.