



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
State Board of Education  
Department of Public Instruction

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# Report to the North Carolina General Assembly

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

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**Date Due: November 15, 2025**  
DPI Chronological Schedule, 2023–2025

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION VISION

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.

### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MISSION

The mission of the North Carolina State Board of Education and the North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction is to use their constitutional authority to guard and maintain the right to a public education for every student in North Carolina and to support public school units in providing every student an excellent education that prepares them for success in their next phase of life.

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**Maurice "Mo" Green, State Superintendent / 301 N. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601**

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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. Given the impact of COVID, the U.S. Department of Education approved North Carolina's addendum to ESSA in April 2022. The addendum included shifting the state's long-term goals by two years: from the 2026–27 school year to the 2028–29 school year. The long-term goals were 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 initially in 10 years and now in 12 years based on the addendum. The goal for 2024–25 was set at 91.4%; the statewide rate was 87.8%, which did not meet this year's state-level target. See below for the results from the 2024–25 school year by local education agency (LEA).

**Report of the 2024–25 School Year on 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates  
(Highlighted Cells Indicate the LEA Met or Exceeded the  
2024–25 State’s Goal of 91.4%)**

<b>LEA Number</b>	<b>LEA Name</b>	<b>4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate</b>
010	Alamance-Burlington Schools	84.4
020	Alexander County Schools	83.5
030	Alleghany County Schools	97.3
040	Anson County Schools	76.2
050	Ashe County Schools	92.0
060	Avery County Schools	86.8
070	Beaufort County Schools	90.3
080	Bertie County Schools	89.2
090	Bladen County Schools	82.8
100	Brunswick County Schools	87.6
110	Buncombe County Schools	91.4
111	Asheville City Schools	93.2
120	Burke County Schools	89.2
130	Cabarrus County Schools	91.7
132	Kannapolis City Schools	89.3
140	Caldwell County Schools	84.1
150	Camden County Schools	93.2
160	Carteret County Public Schools	87.5
170	Caswell County Schools	88.5
180	Catawba County Schools	90.9
181	Hickory City Schools	89.6
182	Newton Conover City Schools	93.8
190	Chatham County Schools	90.4
200	Cherokee County Schools	94.4
210	Edenton-Chowan Schools	87.4
220	Clay County Schools	86.8
230	Cleveland County Schools	86.1
240	Columbus County Schools	88.5
241	Whiteville City Schools	90.3
250	Craven County Board of Education	81.5
260	Cumberland County Schools	86.3
270	Currituck County Schools	93.5
280	Dare County Schools	93.1
290	Davidson County Schools	88.0
291	Lexington City Schools	87.6
292	Thomasville City Schools	79.8
300	Davie County Schools	91.2
310	Duplin County Schools	82.9
320	Durham Public Schools	80.4
330	Edgecombe County Public Schools	81.6

<b>LEA Number</b>	<b>LEA Name</b>	<b>4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate</b>
340	Winston Salem / Forsyth County Schools	86.0
350	Franklin County Schools	88.9
360	Gaston County Schools	88.9
370	Gates County Schools	83.7
380	Graham County Schools	88.5
390	Granville County Schools	85.6
400	Greene County Schools	91.6
410	Guilford County Schools	92.1
420	Halifax County Schools	87.5
421	Roanoke Rapids City Schools	86.6
422	Weldon City Schools	89.7
430	Harnett County Schools	89.4
440	Haywood County Schools	90.9
450	Henderson County Schools	93.6
460	Hertford County Schools	86.8
470	Hoke County Schools	81.5
480	Hyde County Schools	85.1
490	Iredell-Statesville Schools	91.1
491	Mooreville Graded School District	96.8
500	Jackson County Public Schools	87.6
510	Johnston County Public Schools	92.5
520	Jones County Schools	86.4
530	Lee County Schools	85.9
540	Lenoir County Public Schools	88.2
550	Lincoln County Schools	90.6
560	Macon County Schools	89.1
570	Madison County Schools	91.0
580	Martin County Schools	80.3
590	McDowell County Schools	84.5
600	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	84.6
610	Mitchell County Schools	86.0
620	Montgomery County Schools	94.4
630	Moore County Schools	89.6
640	Nash County Public Schools	85.8
650	New Hanover County Schools	88.7
660	Northampton County Schools	77.7
670	Onslow County Schools	89.3
680	Orange County Schools	87.7
681	Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools	91.1
690	Pamlico County Schools	82.2
700	Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools	81.7
710	Pender County Schools	91.8
720	Perquimans County Schools	94.8
730	Person County Schools	91.3

<b>LEA Number</b>	<b>LEA Name</b>	<b>4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate</b>
740	Pitt County Schools	85.5
750	Polk County Schools	87.0
760	Randolph County School System	90.8
761	Asheboro City Schools	90.9
770	Richmond County Schools	83.6
780	Public Schools of Robeson County	85.6
790	Rockingham County Schools	84.8
800	Rowan-Salisbury Schools	88.1
810	Rutherford County Schools	95.1
820	Sampson County Schools	87.0
821	Clinton City Schools	77.0
830	Scotland County Schools	90.7
840	Stanly County Schools	86.6
850	Stokes County Schools	86.9
860	Surry County Schools	94.6
861	Elkin City Schools	90.5
862	Mount Airy City Schools	92.7
870	Swain County Schools	92.2
880	Transylvania County Schools	88.0
890	Tyrrell County Schools	90.4
900	Union County Public Schools	93.2
910	Vance County Schools	78.2
920	Wake County Schools	90.7
930	Warren County Schools	78.5
940	Washington County Schools	90.1
950	Watauga County Schools	92.9
960	Wayne County Public Schools	81.3
970	Wilkes County Schools	93.2
980	Wilson County Schools	83.0
990	Yadkin County Schools	91.4
995	Yancey County Schools	90.2
<b>26</b>	<b>Number Meeting or Exceeding State Goal of 91.4%</b>	
<b>89</b>	<b>Number Not Meeting State Goal of 91.4%</b>	

### **Concluding Remarks**

Approximately 23% of the LEAs have met or exceeded the State's 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate goal of 91.4% established by the SBE under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

For further information, please contact Dr. Michael Maher (Chief Accountability Officer, Division of Accountability and Research) at [Michael.maher@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Michael.maher@dpi.nc.gov).