



Public Schools of 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, 2020  
DPI Chronological Schedule, 2020–21

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## NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**Mark Johnson, 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 2019–20 was set at 88.6%; the statewide rate was 87.6%, which did not meet this year’s state-level target. See below for the results from the 2019–20 school year by local education agency (LEA).

**Report of the 2019–20 School Year on 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates  
(Highlighted Cells Indicate the LEA Met or Exceeded the  
2019–20 State’s Goal of 88.6%)**

LEA Number	LEA Name	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
010	Alamance-Burlington Schools	84.5
020	Alexander County Schools	87.2
030	Alleghany County Schools	94.2
040	Anson County Schools	86.4
050	Ashe County Schools	84.9
060	Avery County Schools	89.1
070	Beaufort County Schools	88.5
080	Bertie County Schools	83.6
090	Bladen County Schools	91.9
100	Brunswick County Schools	84.5
110	Buncombe County Schools	90.6
111	Asheville City Schools	91.5
120	Burke County Schools	91.7
130	Cabarrus County Schools	91.4
132	Kannapolis City Schools	85.6
140	Caldwell County Schools	88.6
150	Camden County Schools	85.7
160	Carteret County Public Schools	86.0
170	Caswell County Schools	85.4
180	Catawba County Schools	89.1
181	Hickory City Schools	87.5
182	Newton Conover City Schools	94.8
190	Chatham County Schools	87.3
200	Cherokee County Schools	76.2
210	Edenton-Chowan Schools	91.5
220	Clay County Schools	93.4
230	Cleveland County Schools	88.0
240	Columbus County Schools	87.0
241	Whiteville City Schools	91.8
250	Craven County Schools	86.7
260	Cumberland County Schools	84.7
270	Currituck County Schools	94.6
280	Dare County Schools	94.9
290	Davidson County Schools	88.3
291	Lexington City Schools	82.5
292	Thomasville City Schools	88.0
300	Davie County Schools	87.5
310	Duplin County Schools	84.2
320	Durham Public Schools	83.5
330	Edgecombe County Public School	82.7

LEA Number	LEA Name	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
340	Forsyth County Schools	85.8
350	Franklin County Schools	85.2
360	Gaston County Schools	88.0
370	Gates County Schools	94.1
380	Graham County Schools	87.7
390	Granville County Schools	83.1
400	Greene County Schools	90.9
410	Guilford County Schools	89.1
420	Halifax County Schools	84.0
421	Roanoke Rapids City Schools	87.0
422	Weldon City Schools	85.6
430	Harnett County Schools	87.1
440	Haywood County Schools	89.0
450	Henderson County Schools	91.5
460	Hertford County Schools	85.7
470	Hoke County Schools	87.6
480	Hyde County Schools	90.9
490	Iredell-Statesville Schools	89.1
491	Mooreville City Schools	>95
500	Jackson County Schools	93.1
510	Johnston County Schools	91.7
520	Jones County Schools	>95
530	Lee County Schools	87.4
540	Lenoir County Public Schools	85.4
550	Lincoln County Schools	89.2
560	Macon County Schools	>95
570	Madison County Schools	90.7
580	Martin County Schools	77.3
590	McDowell County Schools	86.9
600	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	85.5
610	Mitchell County Schools	89.9
620	Montgomery County Schools	92.3
630	Moore County Schools	93.5
640	Nash-Rocky Mount Schools	87.0
650	New Hanover County Schools	88.2
660	Northampton County Schools	79.0
670	Onslow County Schools	91.2
680	Orange County Schools	90.9
681	Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools	92.8
690	Pamlico County Schools	>95
700	Pasquotank County Schools	77.6
710	Pender County Schools	92.9
720	Perquimans County Schools	92.9
730	Person County Schools	80.9

LEA Number	LEA Name	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
740	Pitt County Schools	86.2
750	Polk County Schools	88.2
760	Randolph County Schools	90.6
761	Asheboro City Schools	84.8
770	Richmond County Schools	84.1
780	Robeson County Schools	87.0
790	Rockingham County Schools	89.2
800	Rowan-Salisbury Schools	89.1
810	Rutherford County Schools	87.8
820	Sampson County Schools	79.8
821	Clinton City Schools	83.6
830	Scotland County Schools	91.0
840	Stanly County Schools	89.4
850	Stokes County Schools	87.4
860	Surry County Schools	93.8
861	Elkin City Schools	>95
862	Mount Airy City Schools	90.4
870	Swain County Schools	87.8
880	Transylvania County Schools	83.2
890	Tyrrell County Schools	92.3
900	Union County Public Schools	93.0
910	Vance County Schools	90.3
920	Wake County Schools	90.8
930	Warren County Schools	79.0
940	Washington County Schools	81.6
950	Watauga County Schools	92.7
960	Wayne County Public Schools	81.3
970	Wilkes County Schools	87.1
980	Wilson County Schools	78.8
990	Yadkin County Schools	88.2
995	Yancey County Schools	92.2
<b>52</b>	<b>Number Meeting or Exceeding State Goal of 88.6%</b>	
<b>63</b>	<b>Number Not Meeting State Goal of 88.6%</b>	

### **Concluding Remarks**

Approximately 45.2% of the LEAs have met or exceeded the 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate goal of 88.6% established by the SBE under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

For further information, please contact Dr. David Stegall, Deputy Superintendent of Innovation, NCDPI, at [david.stegall@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:david.stegall@dpi.nc.gov).