



Public Schools of 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

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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. In September 2006, 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 mission that *every public school student will graduate from high school, globally competitive for work and postsecondary education, and prepared for life in the 21st century*.

The first report to the General Assembly in response to this legislation was submitted in November 2010. In that report, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) described the State Board of Education's approach to improving student outcomes and the cohort graduation rate. Included in the report were descriptions of the Accountability and Curriculum Reform Effort (ACRE) which called for new academic content standards, new assessments and a new accountability model to be implemented in the 2012-13 school year. The new accountability model will include improvement in **cohort graduation rates** as one of the indicators in the model.

In the North Carolina RttT application, the goals for education reform and innovation focus on the following:

- Increasing overall student achievement;
- **Raising the four-year cohort graduation rate;** and
- Ensuring that students **graduate** from high school college ready.

In order to receive the RttT funds, the NCDPI was required to complete a detailed Scope of Work specifying how the initiatives described in the RttT application will be implemented. The Scope of Work templates describe what the state and each local education agency (LEA) will do in order to improve the targets established in the goals. As part of the NC Scope of Work, the SBE **established Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate targets**, working from a baseline of 74.2% in 2009-10 and **increasing to 76% in 2010-11**; 79% in 2011-12; 82% in 2010-13; and 85% in 2013-14 – **therefore exceeding the targets outlined in Senate Bill 1246/Session Law 2010-111**. By 2014 the State Board of Education will have refined its target dates to address the 90% and 100% cohort graduation expectation outlined in Senate Bill 1246/Session Law 2010-111. See below for the results from the 2010-11 school year by LEA.

**Report of the 2010-11 School Year on 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates
(Highlighted Cells Indicate the LEA Met or Exceeded the 2010-11 State's Goal of 76%)**

LEA Number	LEA Name	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
010	Alamance-Burlington Schools	75.5
020	Alexander County Schools	76.6
030	Alleghany County Schools	80.6
040	Anson County Schools	75.9
050	Ashe County Schools	80.6
060	Avery County Schools	85.1
070	Beaufort County Schools	75.7
080	Bertie County Schools	78.6
090	Bladen County Schools	74.9
100	Brunswick County Schools	79.2
110	Buncombe County Schools	77.9
111	Asheville City Schools	80.7
120	Burke County Schools	85.0
130	Cabarrus County Schools	84.1
132	Kannapolis City Schools	85.1
140	Caldwell County Schools	81.4
150	Camden County Schools	90.7
160	Carteret County Public Schools	83.0
170	Caswell County Schools	76.3
180	Catawba County Schools	86.2
181	Hickory City Schools	76.5
182	Newton Conover City Schools	83.0
190	Chatham County Schools	74.3
200	Cherokee County Schools	86.1
210	Edenton-Chowan Schools	78.0
220	Clay County Schools	85.0
230	Cleveland County Schools	73.2
240	Columbus County Schools	81.6
241	Whiteville City Schools	78.1
250	Craven County Schools	80.9
260	Cumberland County Schools	78.1
270	Currituck County Schools	80.3
280	Dare County Schools	90.1
290	Davidson County Schools	80.6
291	Lexington City Schools	73.3
292	Thomasville City Schools	67.8
300	Davie County Schools	76.6
310	Duplin County Schools	69.1
320	Durham Public Schools	73.9
330	Edgecombe County Public School	75.0

LEA Number	LEA Name	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
340	Forsyth County Schools	78.8
350	Franklin County Schools	78.9
360	Gaston County Schools	75.4
370	Gates County Schools	82.0
380	Graham County Schools	85.6
390	Granville County Schools	67.3
400	Greene County Schools	76.3
410	Guilford County Schools	83.1
420	Halifax County Schools	71.9
421	Roanoke Rapids City Schools	75.4
422	Weldon City Schools	77.1
430	Harnett County Schools	72.8
440	Haywood County Schools	79.3
450	Henderson County Schools	82.9
460	Hertford County Schools	83.9
470	Hoke County Schools	69.9
480	Hyde County Schools	83.0
490	Iredell-Statesville Schools	85.1
491	Mooresville City Schools	91.1
500	Jackson County Schools	77.2
510	Johnston County Schools	78.7
520	Jones County Schools	77.0
530	Lee County Schools	80.4
540	Lenoir County Public Schools	71.9
550	Lincoln County Schools	81.6
560	Macon County Schools	84.8
570	Madison County Schools	81.8
580	Martin County Schools	75.6
590	McDowell County Schools	75.2
600	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	73.5
610	Mitchell County Schools	80.0
620	Montgomery County Schools	77.9
630	Moore County Schools	72.3
640	Nash-Rocky Mount Schools	74.7
650	New Hanover County Schools	73.9
660	Northampton County Schools	76.0
670	Onslow County Schools	81.7
680	Orange County Schools	82.8
681	Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools	88.3
690	Pamlico County Schools	80.9
700	Pasquotank County Schools	77.2
710	Pender County Schools	81.9
720	Perquimans County Schools	85.3

LEA Number	LEA Name	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
730	Person County Schools	72.7
740	Pitt County Schools	70.0
750	Polk County Schools	87.2
760	Randolph County Schools	82.5
761	Asheboro City Schools	83.7
770	Richmond County Schools	73.6
780	Robeson County Schools	78.8
790	Rockingham County Schools	72.4
800	Rowan-Salisbury Schools	76.9
810	Rutherford County Schools	69.0
820	Sampson County Schools	73.4
821	Clinton City Schools	78.1
830	Scotland County Schools	65.6
840	Stanly County Schools	77.9
850	Stokes County Schools	81.1
860	Surry County Schools	78.4
861	Elkin City Schools	91.7
862	Mount Airy City Schools	85.0
870	Swain County Schools	73.3
880	Transylvania County Schools	78.0
890	Tyrrell County Schools	80.8
900	Union County Public Schools	89.1
910	Vance County Schools	67.5
920	Wake County Schools	80.9
930	Warren County Schools	79.5
940	Washington County Schools	82.6
950	Watauga County Schools	87.4
960	Wayne County Public Schools	74.6
970	Wilkes County Schools	80.7
980	Wilson County Schools	69.1
990	Yadkin County Schools	82.6
995	Yancey County Schools	78.2

80	# Meeting State Goal of 76%
35	# Not Meeting State Goal of 76%

Concluding Remarks

Approximately 70% of the LEAs have met or exceeded the 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate goal of 76% established by the SBE under the RttT initiative. The NCDPI currently is working on creating a website where each LEA's actual performance is monitored with respect to each LEA's local objectives established under RttT. The site will include measures of Student Achievement, Graduation Rates, College Readiness and College Enrollment. It is anticipated that this new site will be operational by January, 2012.

For further information, please contact Dr. Rebecca Garland, Chief Academic Officer, NCDPI, at Rebecca.Garland@dpi.nc.gov.

Other Pertinent Website References

Accountability and Curriculum Reform Effort: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/>

Cohort Graduation Rates:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/reporting/cohortgradrate>

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/graduate/statistics/>

District and School Transformation:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/schooltransformation/>

Educator Effectiveness: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/recruitment/effectiveness/>

Race to the Top: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/rttt/>