



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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**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. These were implemented in the 2012-13 school year, and the new accountability model includes improvement in cohort graduation rates as one of its indicators.

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 2012-13; 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 2013-14 school year by LEA.

**Report of the 2013-14 School Year on 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates  
(Highlighted Cells Indicate the LEA Met or Exceeded the 2013-14 State's Goal of 85%)**

<b>LEA Number</b>	<b>LEA Name</b>	<b>4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate</b>
010	Alamance-Burlington Schools	79.0
020	Alexander County Schools	84.9
030	Alleghany County Schools	92.2
040	Anson County Schools	79.0
050	Ashe County Schools	86.6
060	Avery County Schools	95.0
070	Beaufort County Schools	80.1
080	Bertie County Schools	84.2
090	Bladen County Schools	76.0
100	Brunswick County Schools	82.1
110	Buncombe County Schools	83.2
111	Asheville City Schools	86.5
120	Burke County Schools	90.8
130	Cabarrus County Schools	88.1
132	Kannapolis City Schools	83.3
140	Caldwell County Schools	90.9
150	Camden County Schools	80.3
160	Carteret County Public Schools	87.9
170	Caswell County Schools	77.2
180	Catawba County Schools	90.8
181	Hickory City Schools	83.9
182	Newton Conover City Schools	92.5
190	Chatham County Schools	82.2
200	Cherokee County Schools	91.0
210	Edenton-Chowan Schools	78.9
220	Clay County Schools	90.7
230	Cleveland County Schools	85.0
240	Columbus County Schools	82.7
241	Whiteville City Schools	76.9
250	Craven County Schools	85.5
260	Cumberland County Schools	81.2
270	Currituck County Schools	86.2
280	Dare County Schools	93.3
290	Davidson County Schools	85.1
291	Lexington City Schools	81.4
292	Thomasville City Schools	73.0
300	Davie County Schools	87.6
310	Duplin County Schools	78.1

LEA Number	LEA Name	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
320	Durham Public Schools	81.5
330	Edgecombe County Public School	77.6
340	Forsyth County Schools	83.5
350	Franklin County Schools	84.5
360	Gaston County Schools	83.5
370	Gates County Schools	82.9
380	Graham County Schools	81.6
390	Granville County Schools	79.0
400	Greene County Schools	87.3
410	Guilford County Schools	88.5
420	Halifax County Schools	74.6
421	Roanoke Rapids City Schools	78.7
422	Weldon City Schools	78.3
430	Harnett County Schools	79.3
440	Haywood County Schools	84.0
450	Henderson County Schools	89.5
460	Hertford County Schools	76.0
470	Hoke County Schools	70.8
480	Hyde County Schools	81.8
490	Iredell-Statesville Schools	89.3
491	Mooresville City Schools	89.6
500	Jackson County Schools	88.0
510	Johnston County Schools	85.4
520	Jones County Schools	83.1
530	Lee County Schools	87.5
540	Lenoir County Public Schools	77.3
550	Lincoln County Schools	87.9
560	Macon County Schools	88.2
570	Madison County Schools	80.4
580	Martin County Schools	77.4
590	McDowell County Schools	77.0
600	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	85.1
610	Mitchell County Schools	78.9
620	Montgomery County Schools	86.4
630	Moore County Schools	88.1
640	Nash-Rocky Mount Schools	77.4
650	New Hanover County Schools	81.4
660	Northampton County Schools	70.7
670	Onslow County Schools	89.2
680	Orange County Schools	86.3

LEA Number	LEA Name	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
681	Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools	90.8
690	Pamlico County Schools	87.2
700	Pasquotank County Schools	84.9
710	Pender County Schools	88.3
720	Perquimans County Schools	92.1
730	Person County Schools	76.0
740	Pitt County Schools	82.7
750	Polk County Schools	82.9
760	Randolph County Schools	87.4
761	Asheboro City Schools	86.4
770	Richmond County Schools	79.2
780	Robeson County Schools	85.0
790	Rockingham County Schools	75.5
800	Rowan-Salisbury Schools	80.9
810	Rutherford County Schools	78.6
820	Sampson County Schools	80.2
821	Clinton City Schools	84.7
830	Scotland County Schools	78.3
840	Stanly County Schools	81.2
850	Stokes County Schools	86.2
860	Surry County Schools	87.2
861	Elkin City Schools	88.9
862	Mount Airy City Schools	90.0
870	Swain County Schools	84.2
880	Transylvania County Schools	79.9
890	Tyrrell County Schools	88.2
900	Union County Public Schools	92.6
910	Vance County Schools	73.2
920	Wake County Schools	82.9
930	Warren County Schools	71.7
940	Washington County Schools	83.0
950	Watauga County Schools	87.4
960	Wayne County Public Schools	79.5
970	Wilkes County Schools	88.7
980	Wilson County Schools	77.8
990	Yadkin County Schools	86.6
995	Yancey County Schools	92.1
<b>50</b>	<b>Number Meeting State Goal of 85%</b>	
<b>65</b>	<b>Number Not Meeting State Goal of 85%</b>	

### **Concluding Remarks**

Approximately 43% of the LEAs have met or exceeded the 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate goal of 85% established by the SBE under the RttT initiative.

For further information, please contact Dr. Rebecca Garland, Chief Academic Officer, NCDPI, at [Rebecca.Garland@dpi.nc.gov](mailto: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/effectiveness-model/>

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