



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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M1018

**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 will graduate ready for post-secondary education and work, prepared to be a globally engaged and productive citizen through access to needed resources and rigor.*

In the North Carolina Every Student Succeeds Act 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 in Senate Bill 1246/Session Law, the State Board of Education sets yearly goals for increasing the Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate. The State Board of Education goals have been 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 2024–25 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 2017–18 was set at 86.8%; the statewide rate was 86.3%, which did not meet this year’s target. See below for the results from the 2017–18 school year by LEA.

**Report of the 2017–18 School Year on 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates  
(Highlighted Cells Indicate the LEA Met or Exceeded the  
2017–18 State’s Goal of 86.8%)**

LEA Number	LEA Name	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
010	Alamance-Burlington Schools	81.3
020	Alexander County Schools	85.1
030	Alleghany County Schools	92.0
040	Anson County Schools	84.0
050	Ashe County Schools	86.8
060	Avery County Schools	94.0
070	Beaufort County Schools	82.9
080	Bertie County Schools	84.1
090	Bladen County Schools	89.5
100	Brunswick County Schools	84.3
110	Buncombe County Schools	87.8
111	Asheville City Schools	89.4
120	Burke County Schools	88.5
130	Cabarrus County Schools	89.2
132	Kannapolis City Schools	86.5
140	Caldwell County Schools	88.5
150	Camden County Schools	83.4
160	Carteret County Public Schools	85.2
170	Caswell County Schools	84.3
180	Catawba County Schools	91.9
181	Hickory City Schools	90.6
182	Newton Conover City Schools	91.3
190	Chatham County Schools	85.9
200	Cherokee County Schools	92.4
210	Edenton-Chowan Schools	89.2
220	Clay County Schools	86.3
230	Cleveland County Schools	88.0
240	Columbus County Schools	81.3
241	Whiteville City Schools	91.3
250	Craven County Schools	86.2
260	Cumberland County Schools	82.0
270	Currituck County Schools	86.7
280	Dare County Schools	91.4
290	Davidson County Schools	87.6
291	Lexington City Schools	89.7
292	Thomasville City Schools	80.0
300	Davie County Schools	87.3
310	Duplin County Schools	81.3
320	Durham Public Schools	81.5

LEA Number	LEA Name	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
330	Edgecombe County Public School	77.3
340	Forsyth County Schools	84.5
350	Franklin County Schools	86.0
360	Gaston County Schools	85.5
370	Gates County Schools	93.0
380	Graham County Schools	85.4
390	Granville County Schools	81.1
400	Greene County Schools	94.9
410	Guilford County Schools	89.3
420	Halifax County Schools	69.7
421	Roanoke Rapids City Schools	80.5
422	Weldon City Schools	75.0
430	Harnett County Schools	86.2
440	Haywood County Schools	85.3
450	Henderson County Schools	91.4
460	Hertford County Schools	85.5
470	Hoke County Schools	81.7
480	Hyde County Schools	90.9
490	Iredell-Statesville Schools	88.8
491	Mooresville City Schools	91.3
500	Jackson County Schools	92.0
510	Johnston County Schools	91.8
520	Jones County Schools	>95
530	Lee County Schools	89.3
540	Lenoir County Public Schools	84.6
550	Lincoln County Schools	90.0
560	Macon County Schools	91.2
570	Madison County Schools	86.6
580	Martin County Schools	69.5
590	McDowell County Schools	85.2
600	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	85.4
610	Mitchell County Schools	84.9
620	Montgomery County Schools	89.6
630	Moore County Schools	89.4
640	Nash-Rocky Mount Schools	82.8
650	New Hanover County Schools	86.0
660	Northampton County Schools	63.4
670	Onslow County Schools	88.9
680	Orange County Schools	85.8
681	Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools	90.3
690	Pamlico County Schools	87.4
700	Pasquotank County Schools	82.7

LEA Number	LEA Name	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
710	Pender County Schools	89.5
720	Perquimans County Schools	89.9
730	Person County Schools	87.3
740	Pitt County Schools	84.7
750	Polk County Schools	92.0
760	Randolph County Schools	89.5
761	Asheboro City Schools	92.7
770	Richmond County Schools	81.0
780	Robeson County Schools	86.1
790	Rockingham County Schools	85.7
800	Rowan-Salisbury Schools	84.5
810	Rutherford County Schools	84.1
820	Sampson County Schools	83.3
821	Clinton City Schools	84.0
830	Scotland County Schools	87.1
840	Stanly County Schools	88.7
850	Stokes County Schools	83.3
860	Surry County Schools	91.7
861	Elkin City Schools	92.9
862	Mount Airy City Schools	88.0
870	Swain County Schools	79.3
880	Transylvania County Schools	85.7
890	Tyrrell County Schools	89.4
900	Union County Public Schools	92.6
910	Vance County Schools	82.1
920	Wake County Schools	89.1
930	Warren County Schools	71.3
940	Washington County Schools	72.5
950	Watauga County Schools	89.6
960	Wayne County Public Schools	82.5
970	Wilkes County Schools	87.9
980	Wilson County Schools	78.5
990	Yadkin County Schools	87.6
995	Yancey County Schools	92.0
56	Number Meeting or Exceeding State Goal of 86.8%	
59	Number Not Meeting State Goal of 86.8%	

### **Concluding Remarks**

Approximately 48.7% of the LEAs have met or exceeded the 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate goal of 86.8% established by the SBE under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

For further information, please contact Dr. Eric Hall, Deputy Superintendent of Innovation, NCDPI, at [eric.hall@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:eric.hall@dpi.nc.gov).

### **Other Pertinent Website References**

**NC Every Student Succeeds Act Plan:**

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/succeeds/nc-essa-state-plan-final.pdf>

**Cohort Graduation Rates:**

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

**District and School Transformation:**

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

**Educator Effectiveness:** <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/effectiveness-model/>