



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, 2019  
Report # 37  
DPI Chronological Schedule, 2019–20

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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 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 2018–19 was set at 87.7%; the statewide rate was 86.5%, which did not meet this year's state-level target. See below for the results from the 2018–19 school year by local education agency (LEA).

**Report of the 2018–19 School Year on 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates  
(Highlighted Cells Indicate the LEA Met or Exceeded the  
2018–19 State’s Goal of 87.7%)**

LEA Number	LEA Name	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
010	Alamance-Burlington Schools	82.6
020	Alexander County Schools	83.5
030	Alleghany County Schools	89.3
040	Anson County Schools	83.0
050	Ashe County Schools	86.0
060	Avery County Schools	89.5
070	Beaufort County Schools	83.2
080	Bertie County Schools	78.3
090	Bladen County Schools	91.6
100	Brunswick County Schools	84.7
110	Buncombe County Schools	86.9
111	Asheville City Schools	90.7
120	Burke County Schools	89.7
130	Cabarrus County Schools	88.9
132	Kannapolis City Schools	81.6
140	Caldwell County Schools	88.0
150	Camden County Schools	90.9
160	Carteret County Public Schools	84.2
170	Caswell County Schools	79.1
180	Catawba County Schools	89.0
181	Hickory City Schools	87.0
182	Newton Conover City Schools	94.4
190	Chatham County Schools	88.5
200	Cherokee County Schools	92.5
210	Edenton-Chowan Schools	91.6
220	Clay County Schools	93.6
230	Cleveland County Schools	87.5
240	Columbus County Schools	85.4
241	Whiteville City Schools	86.5
250	Craven County Schools	87.1
260	Cumberland County Schools	83.8
270	Currituck County Schools	86.7
280	Dare County Schools	90.5
290	Davidson County Schools	85.5
291	Lexington City Schools	89.1
292	Thomasville City Schools	86.9
300	Davie County Schools	85.7
310	Duplin County Schools	83.8
320	Durham Public Schools	82.9
330	Edgecombe County Public School	79.2

LEA Number	LEA Name	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
340	Forsyth County Schools	86.2
350	Franklin County Schools	84.5
360	Gaston County Schools	84.9
370	Gates County Schools	82.5
380	Graham County Schools	84.0
390	Granville County Schools	82.5
400	Greene County Schools	>95
410	Guilford County Schools	89.2
420	Halifax County Schools	77.4
421	Roanoke Rapids City Schools	87.6
422	Weldon City Schools	81.7
430	Harnett County Schools	87.0
440	Haywood County Schools	85.2
450	Henderson County Schools	91.7
460	Hertford County Schools	79.0
470	Hoke County Schools	80.4
480	Hyde County Schools	76.9
490	Iredell-Statesville Schools	87.7
491	Mooresville City Schools	94.5
500	Jackson County Schools	89.4
510	Johnston County Schools	93.5
520	Jones County Schools	94.1
530	Lee County Schools	87.8
540	Lenoir County Public Schools	84.7
550	Lincoln County Schools	90.7
560	Macon County Schools	93.5
570	Madison County Schools	87.6
580	Martin County Schools	71.8
590	McDowell County Schools	83.2
600	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	85.5
610	Mitchell County Schools	87.6
620	Montgomery County Schools	90.9
630	Moore County Schools	90.9
640	Nash-Rocky Mount Schools	82.4
650	New Hanover County Schools	87.6
660	Northampton County Schools	72.4
670	Onslow County Schools	89.2
680	Orange County Schools	89.0
681	Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools	90.9
690	Pamlico County Schools	94.9
700	Pasquotank County Schools	80.7
710	Pender County Schools	92.9
720	Perquimans County Schools	88.7
730	Person County Schools	82.2

LEA Number	LEA Name	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
740	Pitt County Schools	83.3
750	Polk County Schools	90.5
760	Randolph County Schools	89.6
761	Asheboro City Schools	88.3
770	Richmond County Schools	80.9
780	Robeson County Schools	84.0
790	Rockingham County Schools	86.5
800	Rowan-Salisbury Schools	85.4
810	Rutherford County Schools	84.2
820	Sampson County Schools	82.1
821	Clinton City Schools	77.6
830	Scotland County Schools	81.2
840	Stanly County Schools	91.5
850	Stokes County Schools	83.1
860	Surry County Schools	93.0
861	Elkin City Schools	75.7
862	Mount Airy City Schools	88.6
870	Swain County Schools	77.6
880	Transylvania County Schools	85.0
890	Tyrrell County Schools	>95
900	Union County Public Schools	93.0
910	Vance County Schools	86.7
920	Wake County Schools	89.9
930	Warren County Schools	80.4
940	Washington County Schools	78.8
950	Watauga County Schools	90.4
960	Wayne County Public Schools	82.6
970	Wilkes County Schools	88.2
980	Wilson County Schools	77.0
990	Yadkin County Schools	88.4
995	Yancey County Schools	90.2
<b>48</b>	<b>Number Meeting or Exceeding State Goal of 87.7%</b>	
<b>67</b>	<b>Number Not Meeting State Goal of 87.7%</b>	

### **Concluding Remarks**

Approximately 41.7% of the LEAs have met or exceeded the 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate goal of 87.7% 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).