



**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, 2022**  
DPI Chronological Schedule, 2022–2023

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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. Given the impact of COVID, the U.S. Department of Education approved North Carolina’s addendum to ESSA in April 2022. The addendum included shifting the state’s long-term goals by two years: from the 2026–27 school year to the 2028–29 school year. The long-term goals were 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 initially in 10 years and now in 12 years based on the addendum. The goal for 2021–22 was set at 88.6%; the statewide rate was 86.4%, which did not meet this year’s state-level target. See below for the results from the 2021–22 school year by local education agency (LEA). The timeline for long-term goals and measurement of interim progress has been revised as specified in the 2021–22 addendum to the North Carolina ESSA state plan.

**Report of the 2021–22 School Year on 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates  
(Highlighted Cells Indicate the LEA Met or Exceeded the  
2021–22 State’s Goal of 88.6%)**

<b>LEA Number</b>	<b>LEA Name</b>	<b>4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate</b>
010	Alamance-Burlington Schools	86.0
020	Alexander County Schools	83.8
030	Alleghany County Schools	87.5
040	Anson County Schools	88.5
050	Ashe County Schools	84.0
060	Avery County Schools	85.5
070	Beaufort County Schools	81.5
080	Bertie County Schools	92.3
090	Bladen County Schools	89.3
100	Brunswick County Schools	85.3
110	Buncombe County Schools	89.8
111	Asheville City Schools	93.5
120	Burke County Schools	88.1
130	Cabarrus County Schools	88.8
132	Kannapolis City Schools	86.5
140	Caldwell County Schools	86.2
150	Camden County Schools	89.9
160	Carteret County Public Schools	86.5
170	Caswell County Schools	83.1
180	Catawba County Schools	86.2
181	Hickory City Schools	85.2
182	Newton Conover City Schools	87.2
190	Chatham County Schools	86.0
200	Cherokee County Schools	91.4
210	Edenton-Chowan Schools	90.3
220	Clay County Schools	77.5
230	Cleveland County Schools	85.8
240	Columbus County Schools	85.4
241	Whiteville City Schools	84.7
250	Craven County Schools	83.2
260	Cumberland County Schools	82.7
270	Currituck County Schools	90.1
280	Dare County Schools	93.4
290	Davidson County Schools	85.0
291	Lexington City Schools	82.0
292	Thomasville City Schools	84.2
300	Davie County Schools	86.7
310	Duplin County Schools	85.0
320	Durham Public Schools	84.0
330	Edgecombe County Public School	77.4

<b>LEA Number</b>	<b>LEA Name</b>	<b>4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate</b>
340	Forsyth County Schools	85.4
350	Franklin County Schools	81.0
360	Gaston County Schools	85.2
370	Gates County Schools	87.9
380	Graham County Schools	92.9
390	Granville County Schools	82.9
400	Greene County Schools	89.2
410	Guilford County Schools	91.8
420	Halifax County Schools	85.3
421	Roanoke Rapids City Schools	82.4
422	Weldon City Schools	78.3
430	Harnett County Schools	85.8
440	Haywood County Schools	89.1
450	Henderson County Schools	90.8
460	Hertford County Schools	76.5
470	Hoke County Schools	84.8
480	Hyde County Schools	91.9
490	Iredell-Statesville Schools	88.1
491	Mooresville City Schools	95.8
500	Jackson County Schools	90.2
510	Johnston County Schools	91.8
520	Jones County Schools	85.1
530	Lee County Schools	87.7
540	Lenoir County Public Schools	84.3
550	Lincoln County Schools	88.6
560	Macon County Schools	89.4
570	Madison County Schools	95.6
580	Martin County Schools	75.4
590	McDowell County Schools	79.9
600	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	83.3
610	Mitchell County Schools	86.6
620	Montgomery County Schools	95.1
630	Moore County Schools	92.2
640	Nash County Public Schools	82.6
650	New Hanover County Schools	89.1
660	Northampton County Schools	80.8
670	Onslow County Schools	88.5
680	Orange County Schools	90.8
681	Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools	94.5
690	Pamlico County Schools	86.4
700	Pasquotank County Schools	65.4
710	Pender County Schools	94.2
720	Perquimans County Schools	91.3
730	Person County Schools	81.4

LEA Number	LEA Name	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
740	Pitt County Schools	81.9
750	Polk County Schools	86.9
760	Randolph County Schools	87.9
761	Asheboro City Schools	86.2
770	Richmond County Schools	81.4
780	Robeson County Schools	84.6
790	Rockingham County Schools	85.7
800	Rowan-Salisbury Schools	84.5
810	Rutherford County Schools	87.2
820	Sampson County Schools	79.2
821	Clinton City Schools	78.4
830	Scotland County Schools	90.2
840	Stanly County Schools	91.0
850	Stokes County Schools	88.2
860	Surry County Schools	89.1
861	Elkin City Schools	85.9
862	Mount Airy City Schools	89.5
870	Swain County Schools	86.5
880	Transylvania County Schools	89.0
890	Tyrrell County Schools	95.3
900	Union County Public Schools	92.3
910	Vance County Schools	76.2
920	Wake County Schools	89.6
930	Warren County Schools	66.7
940	Washington County Schools	83.9
950	Watauga County Schools	89.2
960	Wayne County Public Schools	77.6
970	Wilkes County Schools	88.1
980	Wilson County Schools	79.2
990	Yadkin County Schools	87.0
995	Yancey County Schools	88.0
38	Number Meeting or Exceeding State Goal of 88.6%	
77	Number Not Meeting State Goal of 88.6%	

### **Concluding Remarks**

Approximately 33.0% 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. Michael Maher (Deputy Superintendent, Division of Standards, Accountability, and Research) at [Michael.maher@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Michael.maher@dpi.nc.gov).