



# **EXPANSION OF ADULT LEARNER PILOT PROGRAMS**

**REPORT TO JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT  
COMMITTEE, THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION/HIGHER EDUCATION, THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, AND THE FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION**  
AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 6.10 OF SESSION LAW 2021-180

North Carolina Community Colleges System Office  
5001 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-5001  
[NCCommunityColleges.edu](https://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agency Contact.....	3
Executive Summary .....	4
Background .....	5
Expanding the Adult Learner Pilot Programs: .....	5
Use of Funds: .....	7
Adult Learner Enrollment in NC Community Colleges: .....	9
Recommendations for Further Expansion: .....	12
Appendix A: Enrollment at Adult Learner Pilot Colleges .....	14
Appendix B: Characteristics of Adult Learners in Curriculum Programs .....	15
Appendix C: Adult Learner Completions Overall and at Adult Learner Pilot Colleges .....	16

# Agency Contact

Dr. Patrick Crane

Vice President, Strategic Initiatives

[cranep@ncccommunitycolleges.edu](mailto:cranep@ncccommunitycolleges.edu)

919-807-6957

## Executive Summary

In 2021, the General Assembly allocated \$2,000,000 to the North Carolina Community College System Office for the expansion of adult learner pilot programs with a specific focus on adults that are 25 years of age or older, with varying amounts of education including some college credits but no degree, and who may be attending part-time and balancing work and family responsibilities. The System Office made grants to 29 colleges for marketing, outreach, and other enrollment efforts. The System Office also partnered with InsideTrack, a national non-profit organization focused on student enrollment and retention, to provide reenrollment and retention services to students at 18 community colleges.

Between 2020 and 2022, the number of adult learners enrolled in North Carolina community colleges increased by 10%, growing from 171,759 to 189,004. The biggest enrollment growth took place in workforce and continuing education, increasing 19% from 94,608 in Fall 2020 to 112,510 in fall 2022 and adult basic skills increasing 37% from 13,510 to 18,455. In the same period, enrollment in curriculum programs (programs leading to associate degrees and transfer to universities) decreased 10%, dropping from 59,853 to 53,858. In fall 2022, 50% of the students at North Carolina's community colleges were 25 years of age or older and 58% of them were employed full-time.

The North Carolina Community College System Office recommends further expansion of the Adult Learner Pilot Programs by using several interrelated strategies. These include:

1. Invest in marketing to recruit adult learners into programs with high employer demand,
2. Shorten time to degree and increase enrollment by consistently awarding college credit to adults, especially military veterans, enrolling in community colleges,
3. Drive program improvement by improving the state's capacity to track labor market outcomes for workforce and continuing education students, and
4. Expand capacity at the North Carolina Community College System Office to support community colleges with adult learner recruitment and retention efforts,

Applied together, these strategies will help connect North Carolinians to educational programs leading to in-demand jobs, speed their time to completion and (re)entry to the labor market, improve the state's ability to evaluate and improve programs, and provide the state's community colleges with consistent, research-based support for their adult learner recruitment and retention efforts.

## Background

In 2021, the General Assembly allocated \$2,000,000 for the expansion of adult learner pilot programs. The funds were appropriated through [Session Law 2021-180](#) Section 6.10 with the direction to the System Office that it:

shall allocate funds to expand five pilot initiatives at community colleges targeting adult learners to return to higher education to gain new skills, advance in the workplace, and fulfill their goals of completing a degree or credential. The pilot programs include the NC Reconnect program and other programs that focus on at least the following categories of adult learners:

- (1) Students who are age 25 years or older.
- (2) Students with varying education levels, including no high school diploma or equivalent or some community college credentials or postsecondary degree.
- (3) Students who have started postsecondary programs but dropped out before completion in the last five years.
- (4) Nontraditional students, including part-time students, parents, or students with limited scheduling options due to work or other responsibilities. The funds may be used to expand the pilots to other community college campuses and at the existing community college pilot sites for marketing and outreach, as well as for enrollment of students into the programs, particularly for students who have dropped out of postsecondary degree or credential programs prior to completion.

Section 6.10.(b) of Session Law 2021-180 states that:

By March 1, 2023, the System Office shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, the House Appropriations Committee on Education, and the Fiscal Research Division on the results of the expansion of the pilot programs, including the number of students enrolled into degree and credential programs, the number of students completing a degree or credentialing program, and legislative recommendations for further expansion and the estimated cost of the programs.

This report provides details about the Adult Learner Pilot Programs in North Carolina, how they were supported by this legislative investment, enrollment and completion data on adult learners, and recommendations for further expansion.

## Expanding the Adult Learner Pilot Programs:

The use of this legislative investment was modelled after an existing adult learner pilot program, NC Reconnect. That program has been led and financially supported by the John M. Belk Endowment, and coordinated in partnership with myFutureNC, North Carolina State University's Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research, and the North Carolina Community College System Office. Key elements of that program were applied to other community colleges focused on adult learners. 29 community colleges in total were impacted by this investment.

### NC Reconnect

NC Reconnect's focus has been on increasing the enrollment of adult learners at North Carolina

community colleges, with a particular focus on returning adults that have some college credits, but no degree. Thus far, the pilot has consisted of four primary components: 1) identification of students that have completed a significant amount of credit but are not currently enrolled, 2) outreach to these previously enrolled students by InsideTrack (a national non-profit organization specializing in student recruitment and retention), 3) a coordinated marketing campaign utilizing the message “Better Skills, Better jobs”, and 4) mini-grants to each participating college to support targeted interventions for adults. NC Reconnect was started in Spring 2021 with five community colleges and expanded to include five more colleges in Spring 2022. A third cohort of five colleges was added in November 2022, bringing the total number to 15.

### **Adult Learner Pilot Programs**

The North Carolina Community College System expanded the Adult Learner Pilot Programs by using two key strategies from the NC Reconnect program: mini-grants and support for student recruitment and retention efforts. To ensure that funds could be quickly applied for their intended purpose of supporting marketing, outreach, and enrollment efforts, mini grants were made to colleges that were already actively participating in a cohort program to enroll adult learners. The initial legislation required funds to be spent by June 30, 2022, though the allowable use period was later extended to June 30, 2023. \$50,000 grants were made to the 10 colleges participating in NC Reconnect because they were already actively working on improving adult learner recruitment and retention. These institutions were able to integrate these funds into their NC Reconnect activities which included financial support from the John M. Belk Endowment, student recruitment services from the non-profit organization InsideTrack, and marketing support, including the ability to participate in a “Better Skills, Better Jobs” marketing campaign that each college could tailor for their own use.

18 additional colleges participating in a second grant program focused on adult learners, the REACH (Racial Equity for Adult Credentials in Higher Education) Collaborative, were awarded \$25,000 each. The REACH Collaborative is a grant-funded effort to increase the completion rates of adult learners from communities of color in high-value, short-term credential programs. 24 colleges in North Carolina are part of the REACH Collaborative, a group that contains more than 150 community colleges from California, Colorado, New York, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia. Participating North Carolina community colleges receive a variety of supports and professional development as part of their participation in the network in addition to small mini grants. Wake Tech was also included because of their ongoing activities to reenroll adult learners, including their development and use of a tool (Finish First NC) to help identify the shortest path to the completion of a credential for current and former students. In total, 29 colleges received mini-grants as part of the Adult Learner Pilot Program. Per the legislation, these funds could be used by colleges for marketing, outreach, and enrollment efforts for adult learners. REACH is supported financially by the Lumina Foundation and, in NC, also the John M. Belk Endowment. A list of colleges with enrollment changes is in Appendix A.

The second way these funds were invested was by providing student recruitment and retention services to colleges to help them identify and reenroll adult learners. The ten colleges participating in the first two cohorts of NC Reconnect, as well as Wake Tech, were already working with the non-profit organization InsideTrack. InsideTrack works on behalf of colleges and universities to reach out to students who have stopped out of college and provide them with information on how they can reenroll. The North Carolina Community College System Office entered into an agreement with InsideTrack in order to provide recruitment and student retention services to the 18 other colleges.

The System Office provided a list of more than 12,000 former students who had previously been enrolled at these 18 colleges but who had not enrolled since Spring 2020. InsideTrack reenrollment coaches emailed, texted, and called these former students, spoke with them to discuss their academic and career interests, talked them through how to reenroll, and connected them with contacts at the college where they were interested in returning.

## Use of Funds:

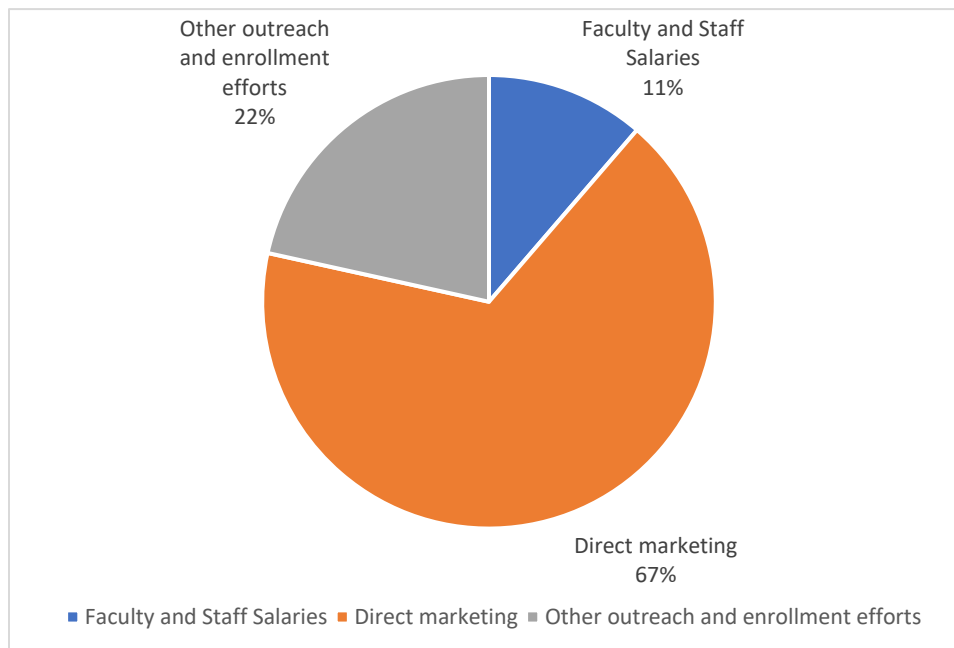
This section reports on how funds were used by community colleges.

### Mini grants

Colleges were allowed to use funds in three ways: faculty and staff salaries, direct marketing to students, and other outreach and enrollment efforts. The use of these funds was approved by the State Board of Community Colleges at their January 2022 meeting and the colleges' budget availability was increased on February 7, 2022. Colleges were surveyed in January 2023 about the use of funds, outcomes if this investment, impact of recruitment and retention coaching, and how the state and system can support colleges with adult recruitment and retention efforts.

Of the \$981,100 granted to colleges, \$888,957 had been spent by February 1, 2023. Chart 1 illustrates how colleges expended their funds across the three allowable used categories.

**Chart 1: Use of mini grants by category**



67% of mini grant funds were used on direct marketing efforts. This included social media campaigns, radio and tv advertisements, billboards, digital advertising, marketing videos, adult learner mailers, website updates, translation services, newspaper advertisements, brochures, media buys, and the creation of guidebooks and other materials for adult learners.

22% of mini grants went to other outreach and enrollment efforts. These activities include training and professional development for faculty and staff, software, materials to use at community events, translations services, developing of an advising handbook, job fairs and other outreach events.

11% of funds were used for faculty and staff salaries. These activities include supporting an Adult Learner Enrollment Assistant, community outreach stipends for staff, adult learner navigators, part-time support in advising, admissions, and student services, and part-time teaching assistants.

### Inside Track

The North Carolina Community College System Office entered into a contract with the national nonprofit organization InsideTrack to provide recruitment and retention services to the 18 colleges in the Adult Learner Pilot program not already working with Inside Track. This campaign consisted of two phases: an outreach phase and a coaching phase. In the outreach phase, Inside Track reached out to more than 12,000 students that had stopped out since the start of the pandemic. System Office staff provided them with available contact information (email addresses, phone numbers) and InsideTrack coaches reached out to the former students to assess their interest in returning to college and completing their credential and provided them with direct contact information for community college staff if they had questions about enrolling, financial aid, etc. Outreach to students ran from October through December 2022.

The second phase of the campaign is the coaching phase. The purpose here is to work with students that have reenrolled or shown strong interest in reenrolling but have not yet returned to college and to provide them with one-on-one meetings to help them clarify their academic and other goals, connect with their college, stay motivated, and identify and remove obstacles to completing their credential. These services began in January 2023 and will run through June 2023.

Table 1 below shows the results from two different campaigns with InsideTrack. The REACH campaign was funded out of the \$2,000,000 provided by the Legislature for adult learner pilot

**Table 1: Results of InsideTrack Campaigns with NC Community Colleges 2021 and 2022**

Campaign	Outreach	Students Contacted	Contact Rate	Enrolled	Enrollment Rate from Contact
REACH - 18 colleges (Fall 2022). State funded.	12,621	3,110	24.6%	194	6.2%
NC Reconnect – 10 colleges (Cohort 1 Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 and Cohort 2 Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 combined). Philanthropy funded.	23,477	7,209	30.7%	1,532	21.2%

programs. The 194 students enrolled only represent those that enrolled in Spring 2023. In addition to those students, approximately 570 other students that were contacted by InsideTrack in fall 2022 expressed interest in returning. InsideTrack is working with them during the coaching phase, and we anticipate that some portion of them will return in a future term. In contrast, the NC Reconnect campaign shows students from Cohort 1 colleges who were contacted and returned in Fall 2021 or



Spring 2022 as well as student from Cohort 2 colleges who returned in Fall 2022 and Spring 2023.

## Adult Learner Enrollment in NC Community Colleges:

The activities associated with the Adult Learner Pilot Program expansion and the specific impacts of the Inside Track enrollment campaign are described above. This section provides information about the number of students enrolled into degree and credential programs, some of the characteristics of those students, and the number of students completing a degree or credentialing program,

### Enrollment

Between 2020 and 2022, the number of adult learners enrolled in North Carolina community colleges increased by 10%, growing from 171,759 to 189,004. In fall 2022, 50% of the students at North Carolina's community colleges were 25 years of age or older. 58% of them were employed full-time, 16% employed part-time, and 26% were unemployed. 8% of them came to community college without a high school diploma, 55% had a high school diploma or equivalency, 16% had some college, and 21% had a bachelor's degree.

Of these 189,004 students, 62% are enrolled in workforce and continuing education programs, 28% in curriculum only programs, and 10% in basic skills programs. Table 2 shows the enrollment of adults in North Carolina community colleges by academic level, age, and sex. Adult (25+) enrollment in curriculum programs is down 10% over the period 2020 to 2022, but enrollment in both workforce and continuing education and basic skills have increased. Workforce and continuing education programs provide instructional opportunities for individuals seeking to gain new or upgrade current job-related skills. These may be delivered as a single course or as a series of courses leading to a

**Table 2: Characteristics of Adult Learners in NC Community Colleges 2020 - 2022**

Characteristics of Adult Learners	Fall Headcount			Change		Share of Adult Learners		
	2020	2021	2022	1-Year	2-Year	2020	2021	2022
<b>Academic Level (Unduplicated)</b>								
Curriculum Only	59,853	58,483	53,858	-8%	-10%	35%	31%	28%
Workforce CE Only	94,608	109,427	112,510	3%	19%	55%	58%	60%
Basic Skills Only	13,510	17,231	18,455	7%	37%	8%	9%	10%
Curriculum and Workforce CE	3,224	3,782	3,198	-15%	-1%	2%	2%	2%
Curriculum and Basic Skills	214	263	296	13%	38%	0%	0%	0%
Workforce CE and Basic Skills	335	546	637	17%	90%	0%	0%	0%
All three academic levels	15	29	50	72%	233%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Age Group</b>								
25-44	117,083	126,815	124,835	-2%	7%	68%	67%	66%
45-64	48,778	54,871	55,452	1%	14%	28%	29%	29%
65+	5,898	8,075	8,717	8%	48%	3%	4%	5%
<b>Sex</b>								
Female	88,046	99,606	96,594	-3%	10%	51%	52%	51%
Male	83,435	89,766	91,494	2%	10%	49%	47%	48%

recognized credential. Students enrolled in these programs are not degree-seeking students and are not eligible for federal financial aid (though they are eligible for some state aid). The highest enrolled

programs in workforce and continuing education include Criminal Justice, Emergency Medical Services, Fire & Rescue Services, and Health Occupations. Curriculum programs lead to diplomas, certificates and degrees, are financial aid eligible, must follow specific curriculum standards, and are approved by both college boards of trustees and the State Board of community colleges. NC community colleges offer 275 curriculum programs in 11 program areas, the most popular of which are Business technology, Health Sciences, College Transfer, and Public Service Technologies. Basic Skills, also known as Adult Basic Education, provides literacy and numeracy education for students that are not at the high school level or above. Details about the characteristics of adult learners in curriculum programs is contained in Appendix B.

When looking specifically at the 29 colleges that were part of the Adult Learner Pilot Program, similar patterns can be seen. Table 3 shows that these 29 colleges experienced a 9% growth in adult learners in the last two years. Following the statewide trend, workforce and basic skills enrollment has grown, while curriculum enrollment has declined.

**Table 3: Characteristics of Adult Learners in Adult Learner Pilot Program Colleges**

Adult Learner College Analysis		Fall Headcount			Change		Share of Total		
		2020	2021	2022	1-Year	2-Year	2020	2021	2022
All Students		250,989	264,708	271,185	2%	8%			
Adult Learners (25+)		124,401	138,343	136,144	-2%	9%	50%	52%	50%
Characteristics of Adult Learners		Fall Headcount			Change		Share of Adult Learners		
		2020	2021	2022	1-Year	2-Year	2020	2021	2022
<b>Academic Level (Unduplicated)</b>									
	Curriculum Only	46,124	44,711	41,023	-8%	-11%	37%	32%	30%
	Workforce CE Only	65,875	77,133	78,267	1%	19%	53%	56%	57%
	Basic Skills Only	9,894	13,560	14,187	5%	43%	8%	10%	10%
	Curriculum and Workforce CE	2,120	2,402	2,003	-17%	-6%	2%	2%	1%
	Curriculum and Basic Skills	128	165	199	21%	55%	0%	0%	0%
	Workforce CE and Basic Skills	252	349	428	23%	70%	0%	0%	0%
	All three academic levels	8	23	37	61%	363%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Age Group</b>									
	25-44	86,216	94,072	91,699	-3%	6%	69%	68%	67%
	45-64	34,354	38,923	38,748	0%	13%	28%	28%	28%
	65+	3,831	5,348	5,697	7%	49%	3%	4%	4%
<b>Sex</b>									
	Female	64,932	73,838	70,687	-4%	9%	52%	53%	52%
	Male	59,273	64,330	64,983	1%	10%	48%	47%	48%

Due to the complex array of factors influencing enrollment, including local economic variables, regional demographic patterns, and other institutional efforts to increase enrollment and retention to name a few key ones, it is very difficult to identify the specific impact that this investment had on

adult enrollment. Research from the Belk Center for Community College Research and Leadership on Cohort 1 of NC Reconnect found that adult learners face obstacles to completing a credential or degree at several key points: 1) deciding to return, 2) moving in (enrolling), 3) moving through (persisting at college), and 4) moving on (transitioning to career).<sup>1</sup> When deciding to return, adults may face apprehension about returning to college or about their likelihood of being successful. When they decide to enroll, they may face challenges with financial aid, enrolling, or registration. Once enrolled, adults need to be able to have a schedule that fits with their work and family responsibilities, gives them academic credit for their prior learning, as well as structural supports like childcare and transportation that make it possible to attend college. Finally, adults, like other students need supports from the college to help transition the skills and knowledge they acquired in college to meaningful work and career opportunities.

The investments from the Adult Learner Pilot Program focused primarily on enrollment and communicating to students about the opportunities at community colleges in North Carolina, with a secondary focus on supporting students through enrollment and persistence through the use of adult advisers and navigators and retention coaching services provided by InsideTrack. We anticipate that students who were made aware of community college opportunities may decide to enroll in a future term and the full impact of these investments may become more visible over time. Also, the investments in helping adult learners navigate college will help student better understand how to be successful and help organizations better serve the next cohort of adult learners.

## **Completions**

In 2022 Adult learners made up 42% of graduates overall, and 43% of graduates at adult learner pilot program colleges. The vast majority (83%) were between the ages of 25 and 44, and 67% were female statewide, 66% at the 29 pilot colleges. The number of students graduating in 2022 was 13% lower than in 2021 statewide, and 15% lower at pilot colleges. Important to note is that we only have data on graduates from Curriculum programs due to the fact that students may only enroll in individual courses in Workforce and Continuing Education and that the programs do not lead to the completion of certificates and degrees as in Curriculum programs. The declines in graduation numbers, the high proportion of female graduates, and the younger demographics (25-44) of these graduates is consistent with the enrollment patterns in curriculum programs. More detail on adult learner completions is in Appendix C

Due to the timing of this investment, with colleges receiving mini grants in February 2022, and the focus on recruitment and enrollment of adult learners, we would not expect an impact on completion from these investments to be measurable in this timeframe. Hopefully the recruitment and retention efforts that this legislative funding provided will lead to completions in the future.

---

<sup>1</sup> Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research. (2022). *Adult Learner Guidebook: A Guide to Recruit and Retain Adult Learners at North Carolina Community Colleges*. NC State College of Education, Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research. <https://tinyurl.com/38pvxz6w>

## Recommendations for Further Expansion:

The North Carolina Community College System Office recommends further expansion of the Adult Learner Pilot Programs by using several interrelated strategies. These include:

1. Invest in marketing to recruit adult learners into programs with high employer demand,
2. Shorten time to degree and increase enrollment by consistently awarding college credit to adults, especially military veterans, enrolling in community colleges,
3. Drive program improvement by improving the state's capacity to track labor market outcomes for workforce and continuing education students, and
4. Expand capacity at the North Carolina Community College System Office to support community colleges with adult learner recruitment and retention efforts,

Applied together, these strategies will help connect North Carolinians to educational programs leading to in-demand jobs, speed their time to completion and (re)entry to the labor market, improve the state's ability to evaluate and improve programs, and provide the state's community colleges with consistent, research-based support for their adult learner recruitment and retention efforts.

The System Office recommends investing in marketing for several reasons. First, the state is experiencing a period of record capital investment and job expansion. Community colleges are critical to training the state's workforce and additional funding is needed to make residents aware of the program offerings that will lead to good jobs in their communities that meet the needs of new and expanding businesses. Second, colleges identified a statewide marketing campaign as a critical need during the development of the NCCCS 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. The fact that 67% of mini grants were used for direct marketing efforts also speaks to the need that colleges have for funding for that purpose. The estimated cost for a statewide marketing campaign designed to promote programs meeting North Carolina's workforce need and recruiting adult learners is \$2 million, non-recurring.

Awarding students college credit for prior education, work, and military experience has been shown to increase enrollment and college completion while saving students money.<sup>2</sup> Several community colleges in North Carolina, particularly those with large populations of military and veteran students, have excellent policies and practices in place for awarding college credit for students based on their military service. There is significant opportunity to expand those best practices to other community colleges across the state and to ensure that credits are awarded and transferred consistently, regardless of where a student enrolls. Creating a student friendly website that shows how military credits transfer into high demand programs of study, providing training to college faculty and staff on using the system, and marketing this potential students could significantly increase completion, while shortening time to degree for students and saving them money. The estimated cost to develop a statewide framework for awarding military credit, developing a student friendly website, and training faculty and staff at all 58 colleges is \$800,000.

---

<sup>2</sup> Klein-Collins, Taylor, Bishop, Bransberger, Lane, and Leibrandt (2020). *The PLA Boost: Results from a 72-Institution Targeted Study of Prior Learning Assessment and Adult Student Outcomes*. The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL). <https://tinyurl.com/29wnnm3>

More than 60% of adult learners at North Carolina community colleges are enrolled in workforce and continuing education programs. In our current system, we are able to track quarterly earnings of graduates employed in North Carolina (with some limitations) through the Common Follow-Up System. What North Carolina does not currently collect is hours worked. As a result, we are not able to tell whether wages earned are based on full-time or part-time employment. Without information on industry credentials earned, we are unable to track critical progress towards the state's educational attainment goal, 2 million by 2030. Without being able to tell whether workers are employed full time or part time, we are unable to evaluate the impact of workforce and continuing education programs on the true labor market outcomes of graduates. This information would provide a critical piece in the feedback loop for program improvement. The System Office would work with the Department of Commerce and the Government Data Analytics Center (GDAC) to track student outcomes in these programs. Data on hours worked would need to be provided by employers and would require legislative change to create that reporting requirement.

Finally, additional capacity is needed at the North Carolina Community College System Office to support adult learner recruitment and retention efforts. While the System Office has a unit focused on adult basic education that is largely federally funded, there is only one position focused on supporting colleges with their adult learner efforts more broadly. This position, an Adult Learner Specialist, is a time-limited, grant-funded position. Having a dedicated, state-funded position, would provide colleges with a resource that can assist them with adult recruitment and retention efforts and assist the System Office and the colleges with bringing in additional non-state funds to support their efforts. The cost for a Director of Adult Learning and Engagement, including salary, benefits, and travel, would be \$150,000 per year recurring.

## Appendix A: Enrollment at Adult Learner Pilot Colleges

Community College	Adult Learner Pilot Program	Fall Headcount (All Students)			Fall Headcount (Age 25+)			Change in Adult Enrollment	
		2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	1-Year	2-Year
Alamance CC	REACH	7436	7374	7593	3831	3948	4018	2%	5%
Asheville-Buncombe TCC	REACH	10461	10913	11694	5572	6074	6472	7%	16%
Blue Ridge CC	Both	5008	5743	6463	2768	3339	3826	15%	38%
Caldwell CC and TI	NC Reconnect	6237	6188	6003	2619	2766	2493	-10%	-5%
Cape Fear CC	RECH	13418	14030	14353	5873	6243	6127	-2%	4%
Carteret CC	REACH	2729	3466	3270	1502	2118	1851	-13%	23%
Central Carolina CC	Both	8236	8796	9399	3341	4087	4214	3%	26%
Central Piedmont CC	REACH	24607	27087	27389	11255	12988	12385	-5%	10%
College of The Albemarle	Both	4472	4350	4589	2177	2153	2342	9%	8%
Davidson-Davie CC	Both	6529	6243	7336	3289	3006	3632	21%	10%
Durham TCC	NC Reconnect	8202	9053	10092	4677	5569	6091	9%	30%
Fayetteville TCC	Both	16962	17200	17476	9960	10475	10331	-1%	4%
Forsyth TCC	Both	11594	12022	12482	6002	6249	6115	-2%	2%
Gaston College	REACH	9135	10240	10602	4596	5496	5286	-4%	15%
Guilford TCC	REACH	16448	17216	17500	8441	9499	9374	-1%	11%
Isothermal CC	REACH	3682	3284	3562	1798	1540	1806	17%	0%
Lenoir CC	Both	5602	5931	5348	3069	3458	2930	-15%	-5%
McDowell TCC	REACH	1928	2617	2676	916	1543	1557	1%	70%
Nash CC	REACH	4794	5127	5149	2525	2762	2737	-1%	8%
Pitt CC	NC Reconnect	10766	10497	10700	4440	4455	4552	2%	3%
Roanoke-Chowan CC	REACH	1048	1315	1215	554	770	645	-16%	16%
Robeson CC	REACH	4382	5263	5228	2394	3236	3214	-1%	34%
Rowan-Cabarrus CC	REACH	12223	12466	13261	6120	6708	7093	6%	16%
Sandhills CC	REACH	6598	6930	6942	3053	3445	3528	2%	16%
South Piedmont CC	REACH	5812	5721	6290	2905	2780	2870	3%	-1%
Vance-Granville CC	Both	4866	5152	5010	2429	2798	2618	-6%	8%
Wake TCC		35116	38672	37853	18589	21836	19258	-12%	4%
Wilkes CC	Both	4507	4653	4890	2055	2299	2354	2%	15%
Wilson CC	REACH	3482	3516	3445	1787	1898	1703	-10%	-5%

## Appendix B: Characteristics of Adult Learners in Curriculum Programs

Overall Analysis - Curriculum		Fall Headcount			Change	
		2020	2021	2022	1-Year	2-Year
All Curriculum Students		217,057	211,902	215,670	2%	-1%
Curriculum Adult Learners		63,306	62,557	57,402	-8%	-9%
Characteristics of Adult Learners - Curriculum Detail		Fall Headcount			Change	
		2020	2021	2022	1-Year	2-Year
<b>New/Return Status</b>						
	New in system during year	12,189	12,945	11,234	-13%	-8%
	Returning from previous year	40,508	38,035	35,389	-7%	-13%
	Returning, not in previous year	10,609	11,577	10,779	-7%	2%
<b>Course Load</b>						
	FT >16 Hrs	1,884	1,734	1,690	-3%	-10%
	FT 12-16 Hrs	18,026	17,247	15,943	-8%	-12%
	PT 6-11 Hrs	29,849	29,889	27,250	-9%	-9%
	PT <6 Hrs	13,547	13,687	12,519	-9%	-8%
<b>Pell Status</b>						
	Not Pell Recipient	35,688	35,308	31,843	-10%	-11%
	Pell Recipient	27,618	27,249	25,559	-6%	-7%
<b>Program Area</b>						
	College Transfer	11,450	11,302	9,856	-13%	-14%
	HS Transfer Pathway	1	2	1		
	Associate in General Education	8,762	8,500	7,099	-16%	-19%
	Agricultural and Natural Resources Technologies	437	470	491	4%	12%
	Biological and Chemical Technologies	168	162	138	-15%	-18%
	Business Technologies	14,823	15,208	14,326	-6%	-3%
	Commercial and Artistic Production Technologies	829	803	804	0%	-3%
	Construction Technologies	1,232	1,337	1,250	-7%	1%
	Engineering Technologies	1,156	1,087	986	-9%	-15%
	Health Sciences	10,552	10,214	9,587	-6%	-9%
	Industrial Technologies	1,174	1,155	1,023	-11%	-13%
	Public Service Technologies	7,068	7,252	7,279	0%	3%
	Transportation Systems Technologies	790	783	729	-7%	-8%
	General Occupational Technology	1,692	1,476	1,404	-5%	-17%
	Special Credit	3,172	2,806	2,429	-13%	-23%

## Appendix C: Adult Learner Completions Overall and at Adult Learner Pilot Colleges

		Overall					Adult Learner Pilot Colleges				
Overall Analysis -Graduates		Year		Change			Year		Change		
		2021	2022	1-Year	2021	2022	2021	2022	1-Year	2021	2022
All Graduates		50,686	47,245	-7%			36,507	33,250	-9%		
Adult Learners (25+)		22,644	19,781	-13%	45%	42%	17,028	14,458	-15%	47%	43%
Characteristics of Adult Learners -Graduates				Change					Change		
		2021	2022	1-Year	2021	2022	2021	2022	1-Year	2021	2022
Age Group											
	25-44	18,654	16,395	-12%	82%	83%	14,022	11,999	-14%	82%	83%
	45-64	3,844	3,262	-15%	17%	16%	2,889	2,373	-18%	17%	16%
	65+	146	124	-15%	1%	1%	117	86	-26%	1%	1%
Sex											
	Female	14,766	13,191	-11%	65%	67%	10,893	9,471	-13%	64%	66%
	Male	7,878	6,590	-16%	35%	33%	6,135	4,987	-19%	36%	34%



# NC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

---

CREATING SUCCESS

North Carolina Community Colleges System Office  
5001 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-5001  
[NCCommunityColleges.edu](http://NCCommunityColleges.edu)