



**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, 2023**  
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 2022–23 was set at 89.5%; the statewide rate was 86.5%, which did not meet this year’s state-level target. See below for the results from the 2022–23 school year by local education agency (LEA).

**Report of the 2022–23 School Year on 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates  
(Highlighted Cells Indicate the LEA Met or Exceeded the  
2022–23 State’s Goal of 89.5%)**

<b>LEA Number</b>	<b>LEA Name</b>	<b>4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate</b>
010	Alamance-Burlington Schools	85.3
020	Alexander County Schools	84.8
030	Alleghany County Schools	86.6
040	Anson County Schools	77.2
050	Ashe County Schools	88.3
060	Avery County Schools	87.2
070	Beaufort County Schools	85.1
080	Bertie County Schools	88.8
090	Bladen County Schools	90.7
100	Brunswick County Schools	83.6
110	Buncombe County Schools	91.0
111	Asheville City Schools	91.2
120	Burke County Schools	87.9
130	Cabarrus County Schools	88.9
132	Kannapolis City Schools	86.1
140	Caldwell County Schools	84.2
150	Camden County Schools	91.7
160	Carteret County Public Schools	84.1
170	Caswell County Schools	83.2
180	Catawba County Schools	86.7
181	Hickory City Schools	88.1
182	Newton Conover City Schools	92.0
190	Chatham County Schools	89.0
200	Cherokee County Schools	92.0
210	Edenton-Chowan Schools	84.4
220	Clay County Schools	88.4
230	Cleveland County Schools	83.6
240	Columbus County Schools	86.3
241	Whiteville City Schools	81.7
250	Craven County Schools	80.8
260	Cumberland County Schools	86.6
270	Currituck County Schools	87.1
280	Dare County Schools	92.6
290	Davidson County Schools	84.3
291	Lexington City Schools	83.2
292	Thomasville City Schools	75.7
300	Davie County Schools	88.1
310	Duplin County Schools	81.9
320	Durham Public Schools	84.3
330	Edgecombe County Public School	76.8

LEA Number	LEA Name	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
340	Forsyth County Schools	87.1
350	Franklin County Schools	83.3
360	Gaston County Schools	85.3
370	Gates County Schools	86.6
380	Graham County Schools	91.5
390	Granville County Schools	79.3
400	Greene County Schools	89.3
410	Guilford County Schools	90.9
420	Halifax County Schools	77.8
421	Roanoke Rapids City Schools	85.6
422	Weldon City Schools	75.7
430	Harnett County Schools	86.6
440	Haywood County Schools	90.7
450	Henderson County Schools	90.3
460	Hertford County Schools	82.0
470	Hoke County Schools	86.7
480	Hyde County Schools	91.3
490	Iredell-Statesville Schools	87.8
491	Mooresville City Schools	94.9
500	Jackson County Schools	87.8
510	Johnston County Schools	91.6
520	Jones County Schools	95.0
530	Lee County Schools	85.8
540	Lenoir County Public Schools	84.0
550	Lincoln County Schools	89.2
560	Macon County Schools	93.4
570	Madison County Schools	89.8
580	Martin County Schools	69.1
590	McDowell County Schools	83.9
600	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	82.6
610	Mitchell County Schools	83.8
620	Montgomery County Schools	94.5
630	Moore County Schools	91.8
640	Nash County Public Schools	84.7
650	New Hanover County Schools	88.4
660	Northampton County Schools	80.2
670	Onslow County Schools	91.1
680	Orange County Schools	87.8
681	Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools	94.8
690	Pamlico County Schools	92.4
700	Pasquotank County Schools	75.7
710	Pender County Schools	93.7
720	Perquimans County Schools	89.1
730	Person County Schools	82.9

LEA Number	LEA Name	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
740	Pitt County Schools	82.3
750	Polk County Schools	81.7
760	Randolph County Schools	88.1
761	Asheboro City Schools	84.3
770	Richmond County Schools	79.6
780	Robeson County Schools	79.2
790	Rockingham County Schools	84.3
800	Rowan-Salisbury Schools	88.4
810	Rutherford County Schools	89.0
820	Sampson County Schools	81.5
821	Clinton City Schools	78.4
830	Scotland County Schools	86.6
840	Stanly County Schools	85.4
850	Stokes County Schools	89.1
860	Surry County Schools	90.2
861	Elkin City Schools	92.7
862	Mount Airy City Schools	89.5
870	Swain County Schools	87.7
880	Transylvania County Schools	84.2
890	Tyrrell County Schools	96.2
900	Union County Public Schools	92.3
910	Vance County Schools	70.1
920	Wake County Schools	89.9
930	Warren County Schools	79.3
940	Washington County Schools	73.7
950	Watauga County Schools	91.1
960	Wayne County Public Schools	78.0
970	Wilkes County Schools	90.1
980	Wilson County Schools	83.0
990	Yadkin County Schools	88.5
995	Yancey County Schools	84.9
<b>31</b>	<b>Number Meeting or Exceeding State Goal of 89.5%</b>	
<b>84</b>	<b>Number Not Meeting State Goal of 89.5%</b>	

### **Concluding Remarks**

Approximately 27.0% of the LEAs have met or exceeded the State’s 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate goal of 89.5% 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).