



**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, 2024**  
DPI Chronological Schedule, 2023–2025

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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 2023–24 was set at 90.5%; the statewide rate was 87.0%, which did not meet this year’s state-level target. See below for the results from the 2023–24 school year by local education agency (LEA).

**Report of the 2023–24 School Year on 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates  
(Highlighted Cells Indicate the LEA Met or Exceeded the  
2023–24 State’s Goal of 90.5%)**

<b>LEA Number</b>	<b>LEA Name</b>	<b>4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate</b>
010	Alamance-Burlington Schools	86.2
020	Alexander County Schools	83.0
030	Alleghany County Schools	94.4
040	Anson County Schools	82.9
050	Ashe County Schools	88.8
060	Avery County Schools	88.8
070	Beaufort County Schools	86.0
080	Bertie County Schools	89.2
090	Bladen County Schools	90.3
100	Brunswick County Schools	85.2
110	Buncombe County Schools	91.5
111	Asheville City Schools	89.9
120	Burke County Schools	88.3
130	Cabarrus County Schools	90.6
132	Kannapolis City Schools	80.9
140	Caldwell County Schools	85.3
150	Camden County Schools	87.7
160	Carteret County Public Schools	82.1
170	Caswell County Schools	84.6
180	Catawba County Schools	89.1
181	Hickory City Schools	85.4
182	Newton Conover City Schools	91.6
190	Chatham County Schools	89.7
200	Cherokee County Schools	92.5
210	Edenton-Chowan Schools	89.7
220	Clay County Schools	87.9
230	Cleveland County Schools	83.9
240	Columbus County Schools	85.4
241	Whiteville City Schools	89.3
250	Craven County Board of Education	80.8
260	Cumberland County Schools	85.3
270	Currituck County Schools	90.4
280	Dare County Schools	94.5
290	Davidson County Schools	85.8
291	Lexington City Schools	83.0
292	Thomasville City Schools	71.9
300	Davie County Schools	88.7
310	Duplin County Schools	86.1
320	Durham Public Schools	83.4
330	Edgecombe County Public Schools	78.8

LEA Number	LEA Name	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
340	Winston Salem / Forsyth County Schools	85.4
350	Franklin County Schools	85.1
360	Gaston County Schools	86.7
370	Gates County Schools	89.1
380	Graham County Schools	93.5
390	Granville County Schools	80.2
400	Greene County Schools	86.5
410	Guilford County Schools	92.2
420	Halifax County Schools	77.9
421	Roanoke Rapids City Schools	84.7
422	Weldon City Schools	83.8
430	Harnett County Schools	85.8
440	Haywood County Schools	91.5
450	Henderson County Schools	93.1
460	Hertford County Schools	81.5
470	Hoke County Schools	83.8
480	Hyde County Schools	86.5
490	Iredell-Statesville Schools	86.5
491	Mooresville Graded School District	95.3
500	Jackson County Public Schools	84.0
510	Johnston County Public Schools	91.3
520	Jones County Schools	87.5
530	Lee County Schools	85.8
540	Lenoir County Public Schools	90.3
550	Lincoln County Schools	87.2
560	Macon County Schools	90.6
570	Madison County Schools	90.9
580	Martin County Schools	68.9
590	McDowell County Schools	85.2
600	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	84.4
610	Mitchell County Schools	77.8
620	Montgomery County Schools	92.8
630	Moore County Schools	89.8
640	Nash County Public Schools	83.3
650	New Hanover County Schools	87.9
660	Northampton County Schools	80.8
670	Onslow County Schools	88.9
680	Orange County Schools	79.7
681	Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools	93.9
690	Pamlico County Schools	94.4
700	Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools	75.1
710	Pender County Schools	92.7
720	Perquimans County Schools	81.7
730	Person County Schools	83.1

LEA Number	LEA Name	4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate
740	Pitt County Schools	83.9
750	Polk County Schools	86.8
760	Randolph County School System	88.5
761	Asheboro City Schools	90.2
770	Richmond County Schools	79.4
780	Public Schools of Robeson County	83.5
790	Rockingham County Schools	86.6
800	Rowan-Salisbury Schools	88.2
810	Rutherford County Schools	88.8
820	Sampson County Schools	82.5
821	Clinton City Schools	77.5
830	Scotland County Schools	87.8
840	Stanly County Schools	87.8
850	Stokes County Schools	87.1
860	Surry County Schools	89.4
861	Elkin City Schools	85.6
862	Mount Airy City Schools	90.2
870	Swain County Schools	84.5
880	Transylvania County Schools	92.1
890	Tyrrell County Schools	84.9
900	Union County Public Schools	93.3
910	Vance County Schools	77.1
920	Wake County Schools	91.4
930	Warren County Schools	77.0
940	Washington County Schools	84.7
950	Watauga County Schools	90.3
960	Wayne County Public Schools	79.2
970	Wilkes County Schools	91.4
980	Wilson County Schools	80.4
990	Yadkin County Schools	87.3
995	Yancey County Schools	87.2
<b>22</b>	<b>Number Meeting or Exceeding State Goal of 90.5%</b>	
<b>93</b>	<b>Number Not Meeting State Goal of 90.5%</b>	

### **Concluding Remarks**

Approximately 19% of the LEAs have met or exceeded the State’s 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate goal of 90.5% established by the SBE under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

For further information, please contact Dr. Michael Maher (Deputy State Superintendent, Division of Standards, Accountability, and Research) at [Michael.maher@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Michael.maher@dpi.nc.gov).