BEST NC (Business for Educational Success and Transformation) is a non-profit organization created by business leaders who believe the future of our state’s economy is inseparable from the quality of our education. North Carolina’s public education system must keep pace with the rapidly changing economic landscape of the 21st century. BEST NC supports the creation of the boldest education success story in America, one that nurtures the talents of every student, from early learning to post-graduate, by investing in students, teachers, school leaders, innovation, and establishing high standards of success for all.

info@BEST-NC.org
919.531.3385

BEST NC’s Vision:

Every student graduates with the knowledge, skills and behaviors to succeed in a competitive global economy.

This handy guide is designed to give you quick and easy access to key data that will support you in your work to improve North Carolina’s education system.

Students
Who goes to school in North Carolina? Where do they go to school? How are students divided across the state?

Talent
Who is teaching in K-12 schools in North Carolina? How do K-12 teachers enter the profession? How are K-12 teachers compensated?

Schools & Programs
How many schools are in North Carolina? Where do students in North Carolina go to school from Pre-K to Post-Secondary? What schooling options do students have in North Carolina?

School Finance in NC
How is education paid for in North Carolina? How is funding distributed? Where are there funding inequities?

Achievement
How are students performing on state and national assessments? At what rate do North Carolina students graduate from high school and post-secondary programs? How prepared are our students for careers and life? How are students performing in higher education?
K-12 Average Daily Student Membership

Traditional Public \( ^a \): 1,435,617 (85%)
Charter Students \( ^a \): 58,464 (3.5%)
Private Students \( ^a \): 95,768 (5.7%)
  - Independent Private: 28,867
  - Religious Private: 66,901
Home School Students \( ^b \): 98,172 (5.8%)

Total K-12 Students: 1,688,201

---

K-12 Public School Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>#</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male ( ^a )</td>
<td>774,475</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female ( ^a )</td>
<td>733,389</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academically Gifted (AIG) ( ^b )</td>
<td>172,947</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Learners ( ^b )</td>
<td>99,150</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceptional Children (IEP) ( ^a )</td>
<td>193,036</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\( ^a 2012-13, \ ^b 2011-12 \)

Source: NC Dept. of Public Instruction

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Student Population by Race (%)

Since 2004, the Hispanic population in K-12 schools in North Carolina has grown rapidly. In 2004, Hispanic students accounted for 7.5% of K-12 public school enrollment. In ten years, that number increased to 14.5%.

“For the first time ever, U.S. public schools are projected this fall to have more minority students than non-Hispanic whites enrolled.”

- The Washington Post, August 2014

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Students by Schooling Type

85% Traditional Public
6% Charter
6% Private
3% Home School

Source: NC Dept. of Public Instruction; NC Dept. of Administration; NC Division of Non-Public Instruction

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Hispanic K-12 Public School Enrollment (2013-14)

Source: NC Dept. of Public Instruction
Percent of K-12 Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% of ADM Applied for FRL North Carolina</th>
<th>% of ADM Applied for FRL National Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NC Dept. of Public Instruction, National Center for Education Statistics

North Carolina Poverty Rate

- Percentage of State Population (two-year average)


56%: The percentage of all K-12 students who were eligible to receive free or reduced price lunch in 2012-13.

Source: NC Dept. of Public Instruction
Districts with the Highest # of Students Enrolled (2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte-Mecklenburg</td>
<td>10,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wake</td>
<td>6,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durham</td>
<td>4,776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilford</td>
<td>3,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forsyth</td>
<td>2,386</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Districts with the Highest % of Enrollment (Charter Enrollment/Total LEA Enrollment) (2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Person</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamlico</td>
<td>16.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halifax</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>13.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durham</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NC Dept. of Public Instruction

%: Overall enrollment in public charter schools in 2014 (compared to 3.0 in 2012).

Source: NC Dept. of Public Instruction
The drop in teachers with 2-4 years of experience correlates with a steep decrease in ADM in 2009-10. There were fewer new teachers hired for the 2009-2010 school year compared to surrounding years.
The UNC System collects information about the credentials of students in Schools of Education versus all other majors. The charts below summarize data on UNC System graduates from 2013.

**Average SAT Scores, UNC System**

**HS GPA, UNC System**

*Source: UNC General Administration*
Section 2: Talent

In 2013, North Carolina had 14.1 employees in the education system per 100 students, down from 16.1 in 2008.

*Source: Economic Policy Institute*

North Carolina has the **3rd highest rate** of teachers working a second job outside of the school system.

- **24%** have second jobs outside of the school system
- **28%** have second jobs within the school system
- **48%** teachers only work one job

*In total, 52% of teachers in North Carolina have a second job.*

Board Certification

- **20%** NC has more board certified teachers than any other state in the nation, with 20,122 (20%) teachers in the state identified as being certified in 2013.

*Source: National Board for Professional Teaching Standards*

The number of hours teachers in North Carolina work on average per week (**43 hours/week** if you adjust across a regular work year including 2 weeks vacation without seasonal breaks).

*Source: Schools and Staffing Survey, 2011-12*
Teacher Turnover 2008-13

Teacher turnover: 14.33% (2012-13)

*Includes intrastate transfers: teachers who transfer from one district to another or from traditional public schools to public charter schools

Source: NC Dept. of Public Instruction

Teacher Turnover by County

*14.33% State Average Turnover

62.8% of teachers believe that non-instructional time provided for teachers in their schools is sufficient.

66% of teachers agree that they have sufficient instructional time to meet the needs of all students.

Source: 2014 Teacher Working Conditions Survey

42% of early education teachers received public assistance within the last three years.

Source: Child Care Services Association, 2013 Workforce Study
Teacher Compensation and Benefits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>$42,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* This is Schedule “A” for teachers without a Master’s degree or National Board Certification; includes longevity pay.

**Source:** NC Dept. of Public Instruction, North Carolina General Assembly

Prior to the passage of the 2014-2015 state budget that included a new teacher salary schedule, North Carolina was ranked 47th in the nation for teacher compensation.

Teacher Benefits

Teachers receive an additional 15% of their base pay for retirement, retirement health, disability and life insurance. In addition, teachers receive $4179-$5377 in health insurance benefits annually.

**Source:** NC Dept. of State Treasurer

Teacher Evaluation Based on Educator Effectiveness Data (2012-13)

North Carolina teachers are evaluated based on a set of six professional standards. They are as follows:

- Standard 1. Teachers demonstrate leadership.
- Standard 2. Teachers establish a respectful environment for a diverse population of students.
- Standard 3. Teachers know the content they teach.
- Standard 4. Teachers facilitate learning for their students.
- Standard 5. Teachers reflect on their practice.
- Standard 6. Teachers contribute to the academic success of students.

Standards 1-5: 97% of teachers are rated proficient or above.
Standard 6: Nearly 80% of teachers meet or exceed expected student growth.

**Source:** NC Dept. of Public Instruction
K-12 Public Schools by Level (2012-13)
Elementary (Grades K-8): 1,834
Secondary (Grades 9-12): 413
Secondary (Grades 9-13 Early College): 73
Combined: 98

K-12 Schools by Type (2013-2014)
Traditional Public: 2,436
Charter: 127
Private: 715
Regional: 1
Total Schools: 3,279

NC has 115 school districts.
(Otherwise known as Local Education Agencies or LEAs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distric Size (Students)</th>
<th># of Districts</th>
<th>Average # of Students</th>
<th>Total # of Students</th>
<th>% of All Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100,000+</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>147,712</td>
<td>295,423</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75,000-99,999</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000-74,999</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>58,855</td>
<td>176,564</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000-49,999</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>30,513</td>
<td>244,103</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000-24,999</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>16,483</td>
<td>362,635</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000-9,999</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>7,332</td>
<td>227,288</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000-4,999</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>2,733</td>
<td>128,467</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500-999</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>569</td>
<td>1,137</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NC Dept. of Public Instruction; NC Dept. of Administration

33% of the state’s students are served by the largest five out of 115 school districts in North Carolina.

Source: NC Dept. of Public Instruction
### Five Largest and Five Smallest Districts by Student Population (2013)

#### Five Largest by Student Population:
- Wake County Schools: 153,217 students
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools: 142,206 students
- Guilford County Schools: 71,897 students
- Winston Salem/Forsyth County Schools: 53,316 students
- Cumberland County Schools: 51,351 students

#### Five Smallest by Student Population:
- Graham County Schools: 1,183 students
- Jones County Schools: 1,123 students
- Weldon City Schools: 1,036 students
- Hyde County Schools: 593 students
- Tyrrell County Schools: 544 students

Average LEA Size: **12,484** students

*Source: NC Dept. of Public Instruction*

### How Many Higher Education Institutions are in North Carolina?

- **Community Colleges (2014)**
  - 58 Public Colleges

- **UNC System (2014)**
  - 17 Public Campuses

- **North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities**
  - 36 Indep Colleges and Universities

*Source: NCICU*

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“The General Assembly shall provide that the benefits of The University of North Carolina and other public institutions of higher education, as far as practicable, be extended to the people of the State free of expense.”

– Article IX, Section 9, North Carolina Constitution
$8,514

K-12 Average Per Pupil Spending (2013-14)

Average State: $5,361
Average Federal: $1,182
Average Local: $1,893

(averages by source are 2011-12 numbers)

Source: NC Dept. of Public Instruction

Trends in Per Pupil Spending (Includes Federal, Local and State):

NC District Spending

Top spending counties in North Carolina spent $2,878 more in local funding per student than the state average, while bottom-spending counties added an average of $598 to state support. Top spending counties provided an average of $2,280 more per pupil in local funding than bottom spending counties.

Source: Public School Forum of North Carolina

NC Ranked 48th in the Country for Total Per-Pupil Funding in 2012

Source: US Census Bureau

How NC Finances Education Compared to National Average (2013)

State: 66.1
Local: 25.3
Federal: 8.6

State: 44.1
Local: 43.4
Federal: 12.5

North Carolina ranks eighth in the country for the portion of state education funding, due to the state’s historical commitment to finance equity. In actual dollars contributed, North Carolina ranks 28th in the country for state contribution, 16th for federal and 42nd for local.

“NC earned an ‘A’ for Academic Return on Financial Investment in 2014.”

2013-2014 North Carolina State General Fund Appropriations (*in Millions)

Elementary and Secondary Education: $7,905 (38.5%)
Community Colleges: $1,012 (4.9%)
UNC System: $2,560 (12.5%)
Health and Human Services: $5,020 (24.4%)
  Child care subsidy: $41 (0.2%)
  NC Pre-K General Fund: $65 (0.33%)
  Smart Start: $143 (0.7%)
Natural and Economic Resources: $355 (1.7%)
Justice and Public Safety: $2,353 (11.5%)
General Government: $403 (2%)
Other: $930.5 (4.5%)

Source: North Carolina Legislature

SECTION 4: School Finance in NC

Percentage of Total State Income Spent on K-12 Students

Source: Ed Source
SECTION 4: School Finance in NC

Finance Equity

In 2009, North Carolina tied for 4th place in school finance equity with an inequity index of 9%. This means that variations in state per pupil spending across districts were, on average, 9% above or below the state average. In comparison, Virginia had an inequity index of 17%.

Source: Federal Education Budget Project

Where Inequities Still Exist

In 2012, the gap between the highest and lowest spending counties was $2,280 per child, which was an increase of $1,039 since 1997. This means that the highest spending county spent $57,000 more on a classroom of 25 students than the lowest spending county.

Source: Public School Forum of North Carolina

Access to Technology

Classrooms connected to the internet: 99.8%
Average Number of students per internet-connected digital learning device: 1.79

Source: NC Dept. of Public Instruction

“The reliability and speed of Internet connections in this school are sufficient to support instructional practices.”

Source: Friday Institute for Educational Innovation analysis of 2014 NC Teacher Working Conditions Survey data. Maps show proportion of teachers in each LEA who Agree or Strongly Agree with each statement.
Early Education in North Carolina

Licensed Early Education Programs* (2013-14)

North Carolina uses a range of one to five stars to rate early learning programs. Programs that meet minimum standards receive one star, while programs exceeding these basic requirements may volunteer to apply to receive up to five stars.

*Licensed early education programs include licensed child care centers and licensed family child care homes.

Pre-K in North Carolina

North Carolina has distinguished itself as a national leader in pre-K quality. During the 2012-2013 school year, NC Pre-K met all 10 quality standard benchmarks from the National Institute of Early Education Research.

Source: National Institute for Early Education Research

Since it was initiated in 2001, the North Carolina Pre-K program has served more than 255,000 children. Students enrolled in North Carolina Pre-K attend school for 6.5 hours per day, 180 days per year.

Source: UNC Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute

% of NC 4 Year-Olds Enrolled in Pre-K

Early Education – 2013-2014 (Includes Pre-K)

Enrollment: 179,620
Sites (Center and Homes): 7,150
Quality: 71% of children attend 4 or 5-star programs
Number of Children Receiving Subsidy: 80,457

Pre-K – 2012-2013 School Year

Enrollment: 32,142
Sites: 1,218
Quality: 80.2% of sites received a 4 or 5-star rating
Average class size: 16 students
Eligible for free or reduced-price lunch: 91%
State cost per child: $4,960 (2013)
All reported spending per child (State + Local + Other): $7,086

Source: Child Care Services Association Data Repository
23% of all 4-year-olds in North Carolina are enrolled in Pre-K.

*Source: UNC Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute; National Institute for Early Education Research*

**Standards and Assessments**

Prior to the implementation of NC-developed assessments in 2013 aligned to higher standards, North Carolina’s state End of Grade (EOG) assessments were misaligned with national benchmarks. Demonstrated here, while it appeared that 81% and 69% of our students were proficient in math and reading, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores indicated that North Carolina students were in fact only 43 and 32 percent proficient, respectively in math and reading.

**2009 National vs State Results – Before Common Core**

North Carolina adopted the Common Core State Standards in 2010 and statewide assessments changed to reflect the new standards. Proficiency ratings are now more closely aligned with national benchmarks. In fourth grade reading, data show fewer than 50 percent of NC students achieving proficiency on state or national assessments.

**2013 National vs State Results – After Common Core**

End of third grade reading proficiency is the single greatest predictor of high school graduation and later success.

*Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation*
When comparing 2003 to 2013 NAEP score improvements, here is how North Carolina ranks in comparison with other states:

**Crisis of Mediocrity**

**NAEP 4th Grade Math – National Trends**

When comparing 2003 to 2013 NAEP score improvements, here is how North Carolina ranks in comparison with other states:

**2013 NAEP Scores**

**Source:** National Center for Education Statistics

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**NAEP Racial and Income Breakdown (2013)**

**Percentage of Students Scoring Proficient or Above: 4th Grade**

**Percentage of Students Scoring Proficient or Above: 8th Grade**

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**Source:** National Center for Education Statistics
NC and International Achievement Comparisons

North Carolina participates in two international exams, the PISA (Program for International Student Assessment, given to 15-year-olds in reading, math and science) and TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study, taken by fourth and eighth grade students in math and science).

This graph shows where students in the United States rank against their peers in 34 OECD countries on PISA. In math, the United States ranks 26th out of 34 countries. In reading, we’re 17th, and in science, US students rank 21st out of 34 OECD nations.

2012 PISA Comparisons
US vs 34 OECD Countries
On TIMSS, North Carolina students in 4th and 8th grade rank above the international average and the average of participating US states in both science and math. However, because of the limited number of participating countries and US states, we find these data inconclusive about NC’s international competitiveness.

**2011 TIMSS Scores**

![Graph showing TIMSS scores for Grade 4, Grade 8, Grade 4, and Grade 8.]

**High School**

19.3% of the 2013 North Carolina High School Graduating Class passed an Advanced Placement Exam.

National Average: 20.1%
College Preparedness

The ACT and the SAT are both used to measure college preparedness among high school students. In North Carolina, all high school juniors are required to take the ACT. Students are not required to take the SAT, but many opt to do so.

The ACT

Percentage of 2014 ACT-Tested HS Students Who Met College Readiness Benchmarks

- In 2014, 47% of NC high school graduates met none of the four ACT college readiness benchmarks

Percent of 2009-2013 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting Three or More Benchmarks by Race/Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percent Meeting Three or More Benchmarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pac. Islander</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ACT
SECTION 5: Achievement

ACT Composite Score Comparisons*

*North Carolina compared with the other 11 states that had comparable (100%) participation in the ACT exams.

Source: ACT 2014
The SAT

Percentage of Students Who Took The SAT (2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NC</th>
<th>National</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ACT (on a 36-pt. scale)

18.9: NC’s Average Composite Score on the ACT in 2014.

Source: ACT (on a 36-pt. scale)
Remedial Education

| % of UNC Freshman Enrolled in Remedial Courses (Fall 2011) |
|----------------|----------|
| Math           | 6.3      |
| English        | 2.5      |
| Taking both remedial courses | 7.3      |

UNC Remedial Enrollment and Expenditures

- $1,821,321
  - 2011 expenditures for remedial/developmental activities

UNC System

Enrollment

- More than 220,000 students enrolled
  - In-State: 188,353
  - Out-of-State: 32,657

Source: UNC

Graduation Rates (2010)

- 71% of students who go to UNC after receiving their associate’s from the NCCCS graduate within 4-years.

Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Employment

- 77% of graduates* were employed in NC within 1 year of graduation
- 63% of graduates* were employed in NC within 5 years of graduation

*all subjects, all colleges, 2007-2008
Source: NC Tower
 SECTION 5: Achievement

North Carolina Community College System

Enrollment

More than 850,000 students served annually

2012-2013 Full Time Equivalent Enrollment: 241,513
2012-2013 Diploma Program FTE: 13,021

Source: NC Community Colleges

Employment

- 83% of graduates* were employed in NC within 1 year of graduation
- 76% of graduates* were employed in NC within 5 years of graduation

* all subjects, all colleges, 2007-2008

Source: NC Tower

North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities

Enrollment

More than 89,000 students enrolled

- 69,000 Undergraduate
- 20,000 Graduate
- Of the 89K, 54K from NC

Source: NCICU

North Carolina High School Graduation Rates by Subgroups (2011-12)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subgroup</th>
<th>Graduates #</th>
<th>Graduates %</th>
<th>Dropouts #</th>
<th>Dropouts %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>53,343</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>5,098</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>25,855</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>3,679</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>9,180</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>1,753</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>7,063</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>2,999</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am. Indian</td>
<td>1,307</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pac. Islander</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>99,833</td>
<td></td>
<td>11,217</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NC Dept. of Public Instruction

%: of NC Residents with a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher (persons 25+, 2008-2012)

National Average: 28.5%

Black, Hispanic, and economically disadvantaged students in North Carolina graduate at a ten percentage point lower rate than their white and higher-income peers.

North Carolina High School Graduation Rates by Subgroup (2012-13)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subgroup</th>
<th>4-Year Rate</th>
<th>5-Year Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>82.5</td>
<td>83.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>78.6</td>
<td>79.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>86.6</td>
<td>86.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>77.3</td>
<td>76.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>89.9</td>
<td>90.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>77.5</td>
<td>78.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>75.2</td>
<td>77.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>81.5</td>
<td>83.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>86.2</td>
<td>86.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economically Disadvantaged</td>
<td>76.1</td>
<td>78.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited English Proficient</td>
<td>48.8</td>
<td>58.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students With Disabilities</td>
<td>62.3</td>
<td>65.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NC Dept. of Public Instruction

Achievement Gap

In North Carolina, academic performance varies widely by demographic subgroup and results in significant differences in achievement that is pronounced for Black and Hispanic Students.
SECTION 5: Achievement

NC Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity (2008)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Less than HS Graduate</th>
<th>Some College</th>
<th>HS Graduate</th>
<th>Associate’s Degree or Higher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am. Indian</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Governors Association

Putting it All Together

In North Carolina, **8 out of 10** students graduate from high school.

2013 4-Year NC High School Graduation Rate: 82.4%

Based on ACT data, approximately **6 of those 8** students are prepared for college.

Of those 6 students who enter college, **59% or approximately 3 students** will graduate from a UNC campus within 6 years.

2008 4-Year Graduation Rate (All UNC Campuses): **40.4%**
SECTION 5: Achievement

2012 NC Median Earnings and Unemployment Rate by Education Level

Skills Gap

In 2020...

67% of North Carolina jobs will require some postsecondary education

58% of North Carolina adults in 2013 have that level of education

34% of adults age 25 and older in North Carolina have an associate’s degree or higher

Source: Center for Education in the Workforce (Georgetown University)

Source: BLS and American Community Survey
BEST NC’s mission is to unite an engaged and informed business perspective to dramatically transform and improve North Carolina’s public education system.

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Thanks to Katie Hagan, LEE Summer Fellow, for her tenacity and attention to detail in the creation of this report.

“The General Assembly shall provide by taxation and otherwise for a general and uniform system of free public schools… wherein equal opportunities shall be provided for all students.”

– Article IX, Section 2(1), North Carolina Constitution

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