

Resources for myFutureNC Local Educational Attainment Collaboratives launched by nclIMPACT Initiative

Pre-K Education and Early Childhood Learning

- [Puzzling it out: The current state of scientific knowledge on pre-kindergarten effects](#) – Brookings Institution (2017)
A study to discover what features of pre-K programs put children on a positive developmental trajectory, the best way to scale up small pre-K programs to a school-district or state-wide level, and how to use evaluations of an earlier generation of programs to guide the development of today's pre-K programs.
 - [Full consensus statement](#)
 - [Full report](#)
- [The Current State of Scientific Knowledge on Pre-Kindergarten Effects: A North Carolina Perspective](#) – Brookings Institution (2017)
Summarizes North Carolina Pre-K research, such as cost, quality, participation, enrollment, and educational outcomes.
- [2020 State of Preschool Report on North Carolina](#) – National Institute for Early Education Research (2020)
Highlights the state of Pre-Kindergarten education in NC, including spending, access, quality standards, and resources.

Improving Public Education

- [Improving College and Career Outcomes of Low-Performing High School Students](#) – The Hamilton Project (2017)
Proposal that “aims to increase low-performing students’ completion of career-enhancing postsecondary programs by raising their college readiness and motivation” and providing information they need to identify career pathways aligned with their interests.
- [Facts and Figures: Education in North Carolina](#) – BEST NC (2021)
“Key data that will support you in your work to improve North Carolina’s education system,” such as information on student demographics and achievement, educators, finance, and school programs.
- [College and Career Readiness of K-12 Traditional Public School Students, by District \(2018-2019\)](#) – BEST NC (2020)
Interactive map that showcases the college and career readiness percentages for each school district.
- [Data tools for North Carolina](#) – The Nation’s Report Card
Provides a variety of performance metrics and demographics to gauge the quality of NC education and identify gaps.

Value of Increasing Post-Secondary Education Attainment

- [The Overlooked Value of Certificates and Associate Degrees](#) – Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce (2020)
Examines the labor-market value of associate degrees and certificate programs.
 - [Full Report](#)
- [Equitable Value: Promoting Economic Mobility and Social Justice through Postsecondary Education](#) – Postsecondary Value Commission (2021)
“Offers three equity-centered tools to identify, measure, and address inequalities in access, completion, and post-college outcomes”: 1) a definition of postsecondary value, 2) the Postsecondary Value Framework, and 3) an action agenda.
 - [Executive summary](#)
 - [Full report](#)
- [The Monetary Value of Economic and Racial Justice in Postsecondary Education: Quantifying The Potential for Public Good](#) – Postsecondary Value Commission (2021)
Estimates “the potential costs and benefits to society of achieving equality in educational attainment and related workforce outcomes by race/ethnicity, class, and gender.”
 - [Full report](#)
- [Understanding Credentials](#) – Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce (2016)
Infographic that visualizes the differences between degrees, certificates, and licenses and outcomes for those who obtain them.
- [Certificates: Gateway to Gainful Employment and College Degrees](#) – Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce (2012)
Discusses the benefits of certificates, as well as how they are different from degrees and general education programs.

Determining Career Paths

- [NC in Focus: Top Employer by State and County, 2019](#) – Carolina Demography (2019)
Highlights counties where public schools, manufacturers, medical establishments, public administrations, universities, the Department of Defense, and other industries are the top employers.
- [25 Largest Employers by County](#) – NC Department of Commerce (2020)
Database in which one can search for the top employers by county and by annual and quarterly fiscal period.
- [Counties at Work: Transylvania County, North Carolina Case Study](#) – NaCo Counties Futures Lab (2021)
Describes how Transylvania County collaborates with Blue Ridge Community College, non-profit organizations, and local and regional stakeholders to develop career development pathways.
- [Counties at Work: Wilson County, North Carolina Case Study](#) – NaCo Counties Futures Lab (2021)
Discusses the ways Wilson County utilizes collaborations between post-secondary education institutions and American Jobs Center to strengthen skillsets needed for the local workforce.

Determining Career Paths Continued

- [Counties at Work: Wake County, North Carolina Case Study](#) – NaCo Counties Futures Lab (2021)
Highlights how Wake County leverages its community college and land grant university and implements cross-sector collaborations to “remove educational barriers and create pathways for residents in obtaining well-compensated jobs in high-demand industries.”
- [Three Educational Pathways to Good Jobs](#) – Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce (2018)
Video that discusses the differences between three pathways to attain good jobs: the high school pathway, middle skills (certifications, licenses, associate degrees), and bachelor’s degree.

Racial and Gender Equity in Postsecondary Attainment

- [Male- and Female-Dominated Occupations, 2013](#) – Carolina Demography (2015)
A series of graphs that showcase the five largest jobs by sex, the male-dominated NC jobs with 10,000+ full-time workers, and the female-dominated NC jobs with 10,000+ full-time workers.
- [The Equitable Outcomes Imperative: Strategies for Advancing Racial Equity in Postsecondary Attainment](#) – Education Strategy Group (2020)
“Lays out key strategies for states and communities to put racial equity at the forefront of their postsecondary education efforts.”
- [Advancing Racial Equity through Career Pathways](#) – The Center for Law and Social Policy (2018)
Defines and discusses career pathways, the education and training needs of communities of color, and how career pathways can serve incarcerated, immigrant, and disabled communities.
- [Racial and Ethnic Equity Gaps in Postsecondary Career and Technical Education](#) – Urban Institute (2021)
“Describes equity gaps for students of color in CTE programs and offers a framework for improving outcomes at the course, program, and institutional levels.”
 - [Full report](#)
- [The Cost of Economic and Racial Injustice in Postsecondary Education](#) – Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce (2021)
Highlights three main findings: America’s education system has persistent racial and economic injustice; equalizing postsecondary outcomes would involve gains in postsecondary attainment, equitable educational attainment would have monetary and nonmonetary benefits to society.

Cost of Post-Secondary Enrollment and Attainment

- [Students cover most noncredit workforce education costs](#) – Community College Daily (2021)
Highlights the findings of an ongoing survey by Opportunity America and Lumina Foundation on how community colleges help Americans get to work.
 - [Early data from the study](#)
- [Michigan wants to increase residents' college enrollment, but student debt is holding them back](#) – Brookings Institution (2021)
Discusses how student debt is a barrier that curbs college degree attainment among disenfranchised and marginalized groups. Provides solutions used in Detroit to increase degree attainment, such as [Detroit Promise](#) and [Detroit Reconnect](#).

Proposals and Actions to Increase Post-Secondary Education Attainment

- [Ensuring Equitable Postsecondary Value: An Action Agenda](#) – Postsecondary Value Commission (2021)
“Outlines policies and practices that institutional leaders, federal policymakers, and state policymakers should implement to address systemic barriers that prevent Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and AAPI students, students from low-income backgrounds, and women from reaping equitable returns from postsecondary education.”
- [Addressing Students' Basic Needs to Boost Postsecondary Attainment](#) – EdNC (2019)
Outlines a few barriers to higher education, such as housing and food insecurity, and spotlights the success of Single Stop USA's programs on community college campuses.
- [Counties at Work: Counties Support Post-Secondary Education and Workforce Opportunities for Residents](#) – National Association of Counties (2021)
Provides key considerations for county leaders seeking to partner with post-secondary education institutions, describes the county role in post-secondary education decision making, and discusses types of county coordination and collaboration for improved workforce outcomes.
- [Accelerating Recovery through Credentials: Rapid Response Toolkit](#) – Education Strategy Group (2021)
Resources designed to guide leaders through prioritizing and committing to strategies for immediately reskilling adult learners, especially those displaced by the pandemic.
- [Skills Employers Want](#) – Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce (2016)
Frequently requested specialized, software, and foundational skills by employers from online job postings.