UNITED FOR YOUTH

RESOURCE GUIDE

Guiding Questions:

The dashboard serves as a starting point rather than the final word. It doesn't unravel the narrative behind the data curve, offer comprehensive analysis, or identify specific needs. However, it can guide our community discussions and organizational decision-making. Here are questions to consider as you navigate it.

- What do students need throughout their development to make pursuing their goals and dreams tangible?
- To what extent are we, as a community, on track?
- Why or why aren't we on track? What is supporting progress and what requires attention?
- What actions can we take to improve our work towards our collective vision and the **Bold Community Goal**?

Relevant Resources:

Below are resources relevant to the indicators displayed on the dashboard. Various organizations have crafted reports or dashboards offering more detailed insights into specific topics. These resources can serve as a toolkit for exploring indicators and investigating specific issues in greater depth.

- **P20 COVID-19 Pandemic-related Learning Loss and Academic Recovery by School District**
- **Trevor Project 2023 U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ Young People**
- **Dogwood Health Trust Early Childhood Education Study**
- **DPS School-Justice Partnership dashboard**
- **NCDPI School Report Cards**
- **MyFutureNC Buncombe County Attainment Profile**

Glossary:

TERM/PHRASE	DEFINITION
ACT test	The ACT is a standardized test administered to 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. It includes English, math, reading, and science sections, scored from 1 to 36. The composite score is the average of these sections. There's also an optional writing section, scored separately from 2 to 12. Colleges use ACT scores for admissions and scholarships.
Career and Technical students	Career and Technical Education *(CTE)* students are individuals who pursue education and training in specific career pathways or technical fields. These students typically engage in coursework and practical training designed to prepare them for careers in industries such as healthcare, information technology, manufacturing, agriculture, automotive technology, hospitality, and more. CTE programs often provide students with hands-on learning experiences, industry certifications, and opportunities for internships or apprenticeships.
College-and-Career ready	For standardized tests, college-and-career ready is level 4 (on a 1-5 scale). **Students at Level 4 demonstrate a thorough understanding of grade-level content standards and are on track for career and college.**
Early Learning Inventory	The Early Learning Inventory *(ELI)* is a tool used to assess and monitor the developmental progress of young children in various areas such as cognitive skills, language and literacy, social-emotional development, and physical development. Educators, childcare providers, and early intervention specialists often utilize it to identify areas where children may need additional support or intervention. The ELI typically consists of age-appropriate activities, observations, and assessments designed to gauge a child's readiness for school and to inform individualized instruction and interventions.
Educational Attainment	Educational attainment refers to the highest level of education that an individual has completed.
End-of-course exams	End-of-course exams in North Carolina *(NC)* refer to standardized

	assessments administered after specific high school courses. End-of-course exams typically cover core subjects such as English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. They are part of the state's accountability system and are used to measure student achievement, inform instructional practices, and assess school performance. EOCs are graded on 1-5 levels.
End of grade exams	End-of-grade exams *(EOGs)* are standardized tests given to elementary and middle school students at the end of the academic year. They assess students' proficiency in core subjects like math, English, science, and social studies. In North Carolina, EOGs are administered to students in grades 3 through 8 as part of the statewide testing program. Graded on 1-5 levels.
Enrollment	Enrollment refers to the process of officially Enrollment refers to the number of officially registered or admitted individuals, such as students, in an educational institution, program, course, or activity.
FAFSA	FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. It is a form used by current and prospective college students in the United States to apply for federal financial aid, including grants, work-study, and loans. The information provided on the FAFSA determines an individual's eligibility for various forms of financial assistance to help cover the costs of attending college or career school. The application process typically involves providing details about income, assets, household size, and other factors that affect financial needs.
Grade proficiency	For standardized tests, grade level proficiency is level 3 *(on a 1-5 scale)*. **Students at Level 3 demonstrate sufficient understanding of grade-level content standards though some support may be needed to engage with content at the next grade/course.**
Juvenile Complaints	A complaint is a written allegation that a juvenile is delinquent or undisciplined, which is submitted to a juvenile court counselor for evaluation.
NC Pre-K Programs	NC Pre-K programs are state-funded initiatives in North Carolina providing high-quality pre-kindergarten education to eligible four-year-old children. These programs aim to prepare children for school success through developmentally appropriate learning experiences. They operate in various settings and prioritize children from low-income families, those with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations.
Post-secondary enrollment	Post-secondary enrollment refers to the process of registering or enrolling in educational programs or institutions that come after high school. This includes colleges, universities, vocational schools, and other types of higher education institutions.
School growth	School growth in North Carolina generally refers to an increase in the number of students enrolled in schools across the state over a specific period. It can also encompass improvements in academic performance, graduation rates, or other measures of educational achievement and success. The school's Growth Score is generated by using EVAAS (Education Value Added Assessment System). EVAAS is a value-added growth model that uses end-of-grade and end-of-course assessment data to measure the amount of growth groups of students make in a year. EVAAS calculates a composite index of growth, which determines the growth designation for the school: exceeds expected growth, meets expected growth or does not meet expected growth.
School performance grades	As required by state legislation, the School Performance Grades are based **80 percent on the school's achievement score (calculated using a composite method based on the sum of points earned by a school on all of the indicators measured for that school), and 20 percent on students' academic growth (compares the actual performance of the school's students to their expected performance based on their prior testing performance).**

Second-year persistence	Second-year persistence refers to the continuation of enrollment by students in an educational program or institution into their second year of study. It measures the proportion of students who remain enrolled in the same program or institution after completing their first year.
Suspension	In North Carolina, school suspension refers to the temporary removal of a student from regular school activities due to behavior that violates school rules or policies. Suspensions are disciplinary measures employed by schools to address misconduct, maintain a safe and orderly learning environment, and promote positive behavior among students. The duration of a suspension can vary depending on the severity of the behavior and the school's disciplinary policies. During a suspension, students are typically not allowed to attend classes or participate in school-related activities.
Workkeys Assessment	The WorkKeys Assessment is a job skills assessment system developed by ACT, Inc., aimed at measuring foundational workplace skills required for success in various occupations. It evaluates individuals in key areas such as applied mathematics, reading for information, and locating information

Source Index:
Asheville City Point-in-Time Homeless Data
Buncombe County Strategic Plan Data Review
County Health Rankings
Data USA
Feeding America
MyFutureNC County Attainment Trends
National Center for Education Statistics
NC Department of Public Instruction Accountability Datasets
NC Department of Public Instruction School Report Card Datasets
NC Department of Public Instruction Statistical Profile
NC Judicial Branch School Justice Partnership Data
United States Census *(specific table are linked on dashboard indicator pages)*