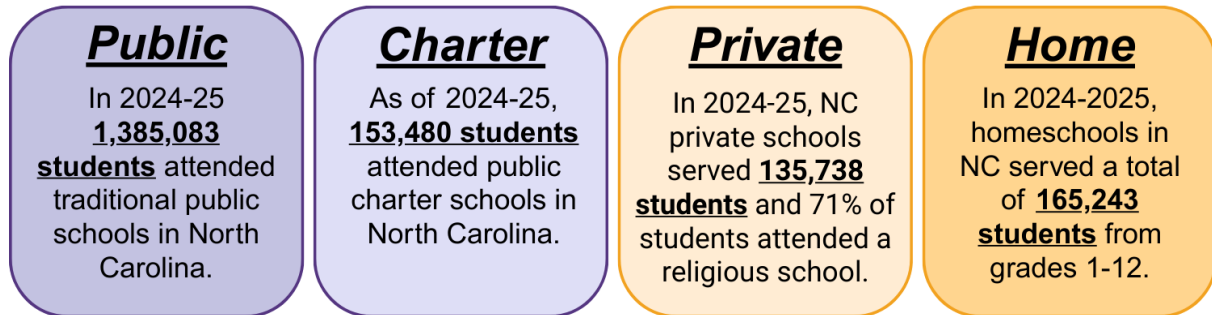
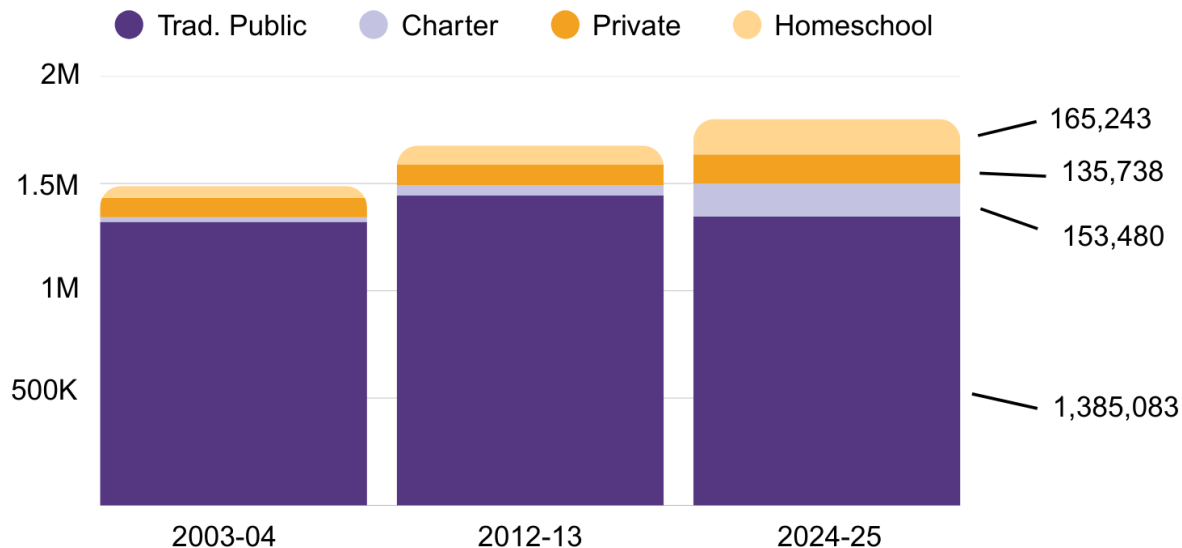


Student Status

School Enrollment: [Public](#), [Charter](#), [Private](#), [Homeschool](#)



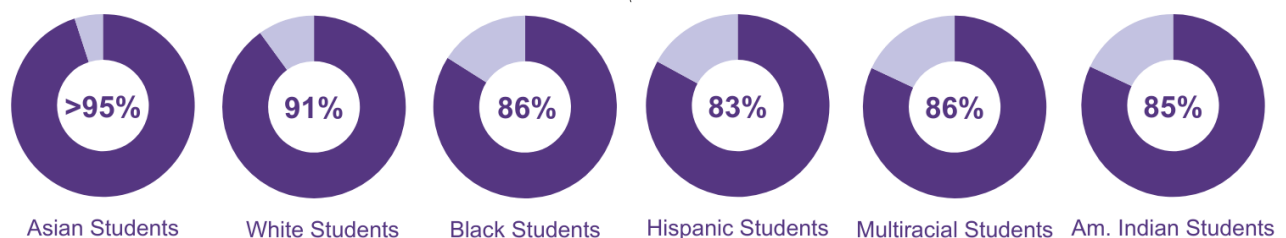
Change in Market Share from 2003-04 through 2024-25



Graduation Rate

- As of 2022 (the latest year state comparisons are available), North Carolina ranked **25th in national graduation rankings**.
- As of 2025, North Carolina's high school **graduation rate was 87.7%**.
 - Graduation Rates by Demographic Factors
 - Female students (90%), male students (86%)
 - Economically Disadvantaged (83%), not disadvantaged (91%)

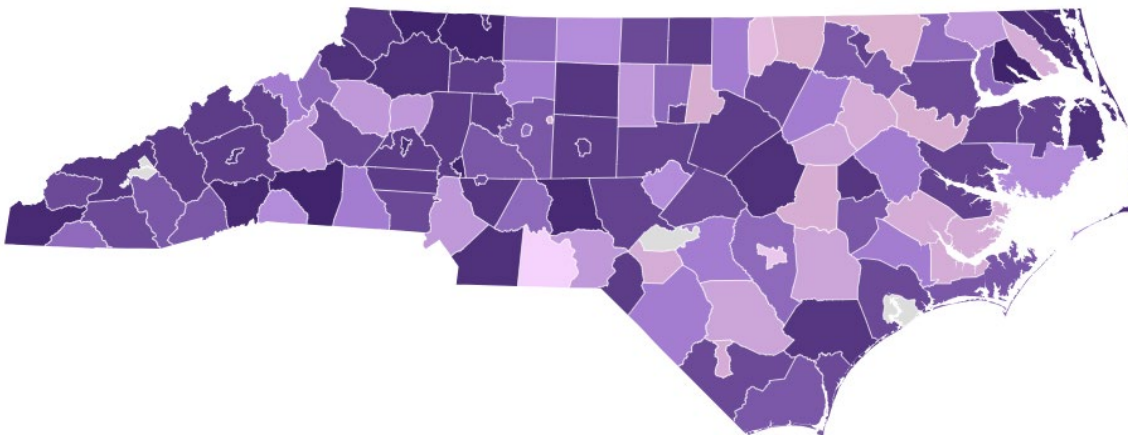
Graduation Rate by Race/Ethnicity



Public School Graduation Rate by County, 2025

Access the interactive map [here](#).

76.0% 95.0%



School and Student Performance

A-F School Performance Grades

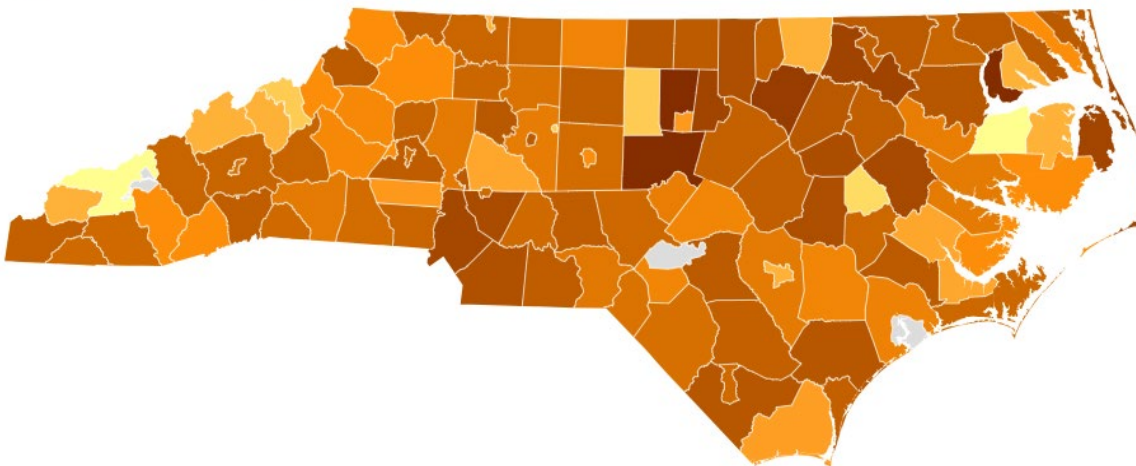
(Read the fact sheet [here](#).)

- In 2025, **72% of all schools met or exceeded growth** expectations.
 - More than a quarter of NC's over 2,300 public schools received a performance grade of A or B during the 2024 school year.
- As of the 2024-25 academic year, schools with 0-40% economically disadvantaged students have a much higher chance of receiving an *A grade* than an *F grade*, and the reverse is true for schools that have more than 40% economically disadvantaged students.

Percent of Traditional Public Schools that Met or Exceeded Growth, by District 2024-2025

Access the interactive map [here](#).

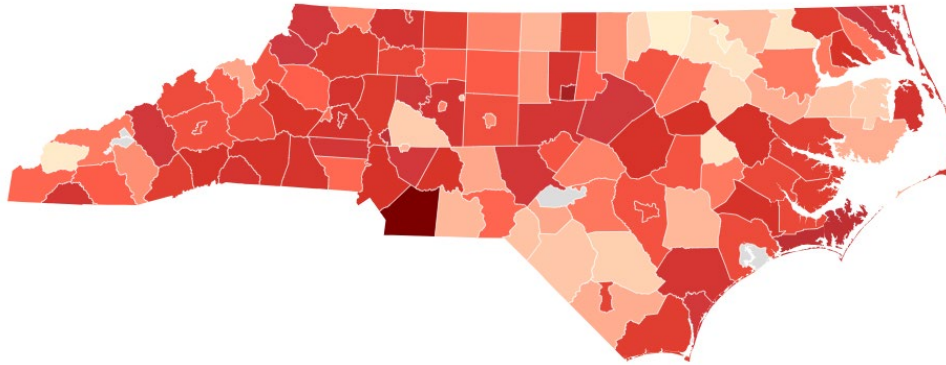
0.0% 100.0%



EOG Performance: Percentage of Students at/above Grade-Level Proficiency (3rd-8th Grade), 2024-25 by School District. Areas in grey are Eastern Cherokee Reservation Schools, Camp Lejeune Schools, and Fort Bragg Schools.

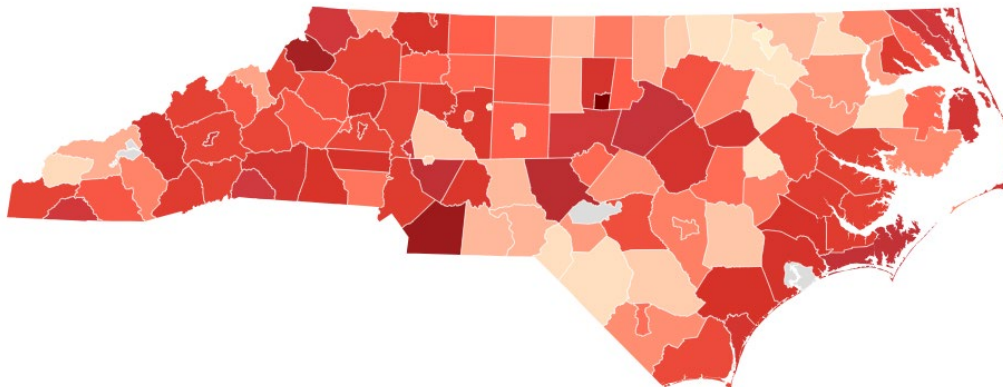
Math EOG: Access interactive map [here](#).

25.6% 75.8%



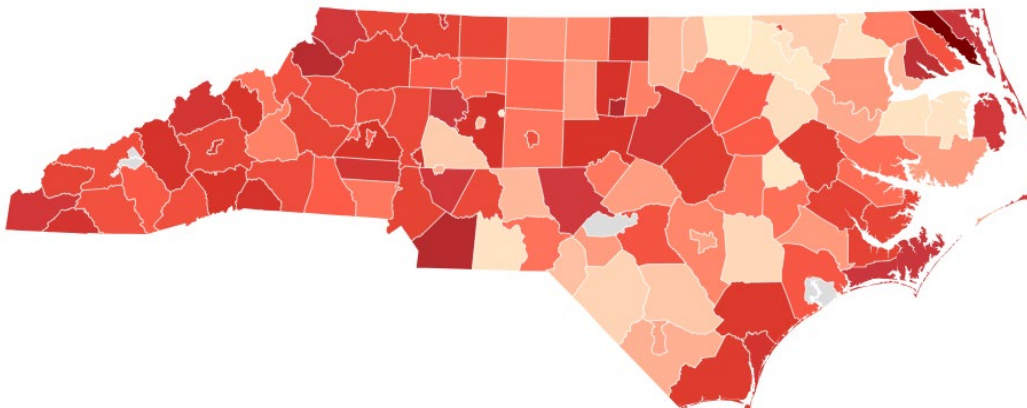
Reading EOG: Access interactive map [here](#).

26.2% 68.1%



Science EOG: Access interactive map [here](#).

32.0% 81.3%



School Funding and Teacher Pay

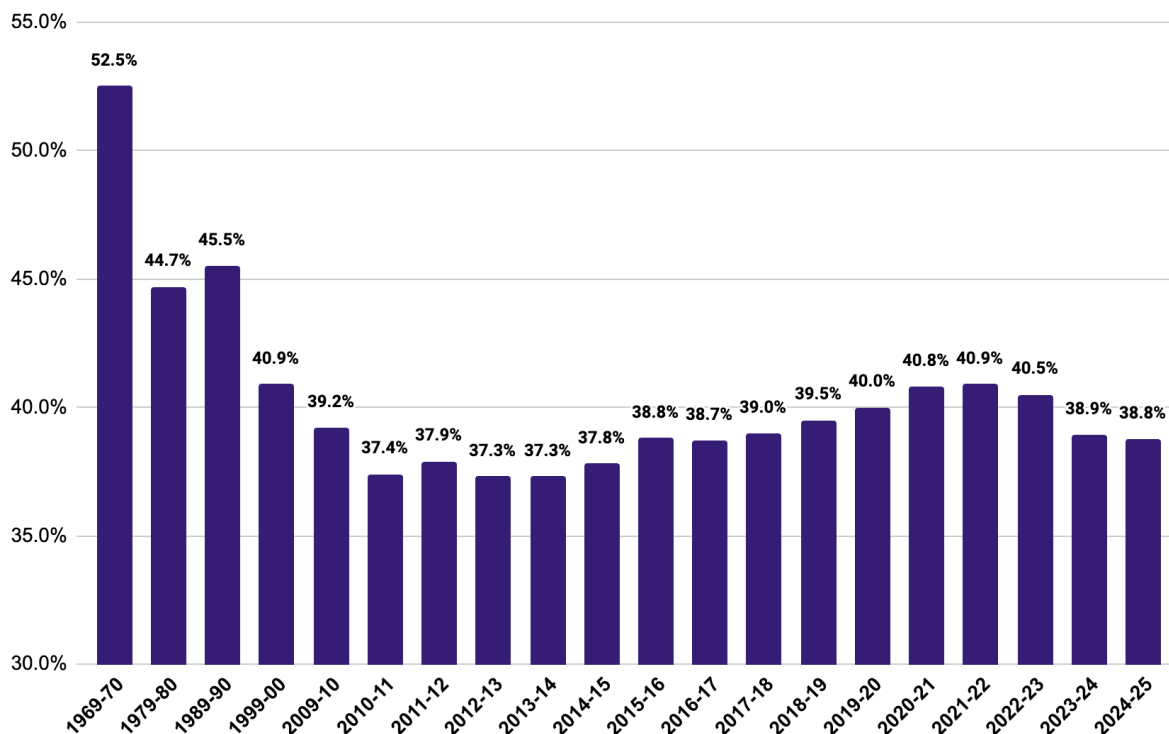
Education Law Center Funding [Rankings](#)

F

North Carolina ranks 48th in national funding rankings and 49th in funding effort.

[Budget Overview](#)

[% of the NC General Fund Public Schools Appropriations](#) since 1970 (selected years).



Leandro v. State of North Carolina (Read the fact sheet [here](#))

- [Leandro v. State of North Carolina](#) (1994) is a lawsuit filed by five school districts in low-income counties and families within those counties. The lawsuit argues that these districts are underfunded and cannot provide equal and adequate education.
 - The case has stretched over thirty years and has been re-litigated numerous times. As of September 2025, the NC Supreme Court has not ruled in the latest case.
 - At its core, the case is still about providing equitable education access to North Carolina students, though it is currently shrouded in a changing political landscape and arguments about overspending.
 - The [Leandro Comprehensive Remedial Plan](#) was submitted in 2021 to the legislature. It [outlined \\$5.5 billion](#) in expenditures through FY2028 (across eight fiscal years). The NCGA has so far refused to fund the plan despite a 2022 NC Supreme Court ruling to do so. New arguments were brought by the legislature in 2024 to avoid funding requirements.

Specialization and Alternative Programs

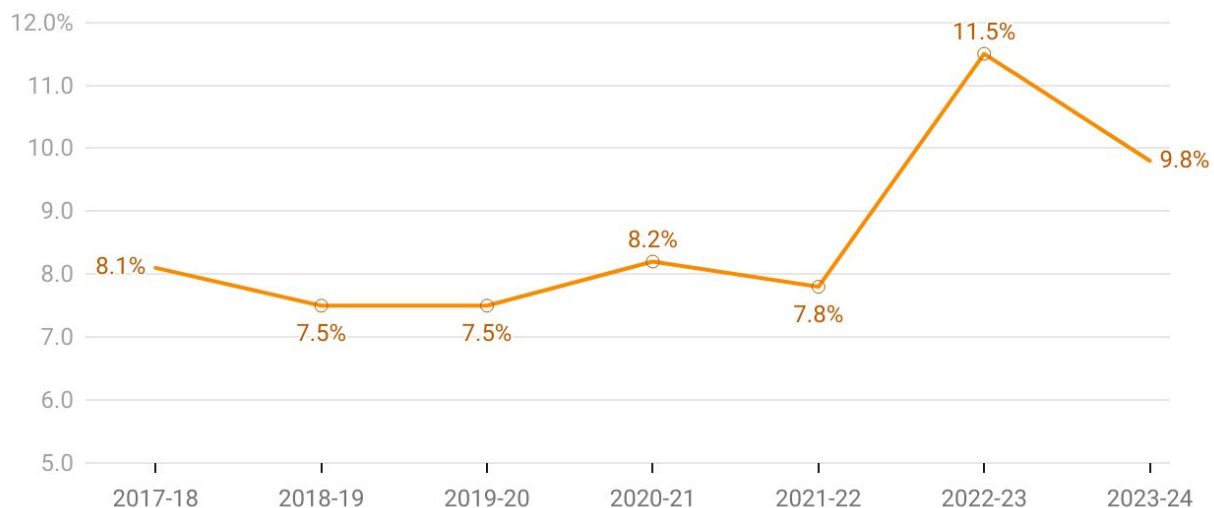
- [NC Virtual Public School](#) is the nation's second-largest state-supported virtual school, serving as a supplemental service to NC public schools. Students enroll through their local public school, grades are reported to their school, and their school awards credit.
 - In the 2023-24 school year, the NC Virtual Public School taught over 32,239 students and began offering 7th-8th grade core classes.
 - Charter schools are allowed to open virtual or remote programs as adjunct to their in person programs.
- NC Pre-K enrollment reached [27,304](#) in 2023-24, up by 1,620 from 2022-23.
 - Only [57% of eligible](#) children attend some form of NC Pre-K in NC.
- Disability and special education programs in NC receive additional funding on a per pupil basis [up to 13% of enrolled students](#). Students with disabilities made up [14.58% of the public school district student population and 11.74% of charter school](#) student population as of December 2024.
 - The limit on special education adds an unnecessary cap to the funding needed to fully support students with disabilities.
- The [National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\)](#) and [Community Eligibility Provision \(CEP\)](#) allow students to receive breakfast or lunch free or at a reduced price.
 - The Community Eligibility Provision offers meals to students regardless of household income.

The Teaching Profession

(Read the fact sheets on [teacher pay](#) and [teacher pipeline](#).)

- As of 2024, **North Carolina ranks [43rd in the nation](#) for average teacher pay**, dropping 5 slots from the 2022-2023 school year.
 - The average salary for NC teachers in 2023-2024 was \$58,292.
- North Carolina has the **lowest starting salary** of states in the southern region that publish a state minimum salary schedule at \$41,100.
- Enrollment in education bachelor's programs in the UNC system declined by nearly 50% between 2012-2024.

NC K-12 Public School Teacher Attrition Rate, [2017-2024](#).



Charter Schools

For in-depth information and history of charter schools in NC, [read the report](#).

For a brief overview, [read the fact sheet](#).

- Charter schools are “[public schools of choice operated by independent non-profit boards of directors selected by the school and not elected by voters](#).”
 - Charter schools are public but operate with more autonomy and flexibility in areas like calendars, staffing, and budgeting.
- Charter schools are allowed to expand one grade level annually without approval from the oversight board regardless of their student academic results.
- **Unlike traditional public schools, charter schools...**
 - Are not required to provide bus transportation
 - Do not have restrictions on calendar or class size
 - Do not require teacher workdays or professional development
 - Are not governed by a school board elected by the public
 - Are not barred from management by for profit companies
 - Are not required to make their finances public to taxpayers or elected officials
 - Do not have to abide by public bidding laws that protect how tax dollars are spent
 - Are not required to participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).
 - However, all charter schools are required to have a plan that ensures that every child who needs lunch provided will receive a meal.

50%

Only half of charter school teachers are required to hold teaching licenses. Core subject teachers must be college graduates. (NC General Statutes, Chapter 115C-281.90. Employment requirements.)

Non Public School Options

Outside of traditional public schools and charter schools, parents may choose from private schools and homeschools.

Private Schools and the Opportunity Scholarship School Voucher Program

(Read the [fact sheet](#), [curriculum report](#), and [discrimination report](#).)

Most private schools are religiously affiliated and integrate religious education and values into their curriculum and daily life.

Homeschools and private schools have full flexibility to choose curriculum and set calendars, following minimal state guidelines.

- **Unlike traditional public schools, [private schools](#):**
 - Do not require teachers to have a certification, license, or college degree
 - Do not have to perform background checks on their teachers
 - Can deny admission to students who do not meet their eligibility requirements
 - Have no requirements or standards for curriculum
 - Many schools use religious curricula, nature based learning, or other non-state approved curriculum
 - Do not have to accept children with special needs
 - Can discriminate based religion, LGBTQ+ identity, and disability status
 - Are not required to provide transportation for students
 - Do not have to share with the public how their tax dollars are spent

0%

Private school teachers are not required to hold teaching licenses or college degrees. Each individual school sets their own requirements. (NC Department of Administration)

- The [Opportunity Scholarship Voucher Program](#) was implemented in 2014 to help low-income public school students afford private school.
- In 2023, the income eligibility cap was lifted, allowing any family, regardless of income, to receive taxpayer money to fund private school tuition, starting in the 2024-25 school year. During the 2024-25 academic year alone, **over \$432 million in taxpayer dollars were spent on private school tuition through the voucher program**, which is NOT accountable to taxpayers.



In 2024-25, only 13% of new voucher recipients had come from a public school. The remaining 87% had never attended public school.

- Private schools, regardless of whether they receive tax dollars, can discriminate against different groups. Some Christian schools require a parent to attend a church or expel students that identify as LGBTQ+.

34% of Voucher Dollars

went to four NC counties in 2024-25 (Guilford, Mecklenburg, Cumberland, Wake).

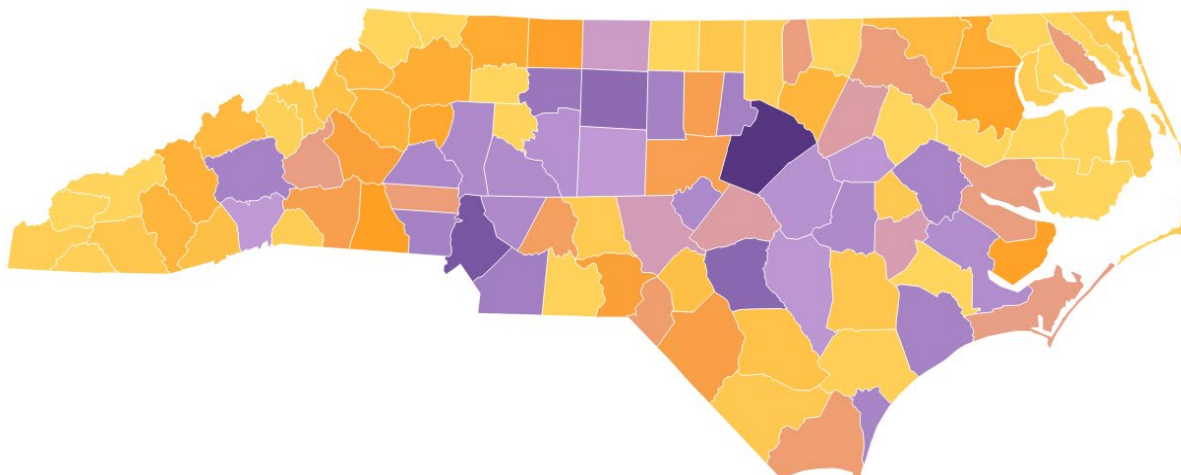
54% of Private Schools

that receive voucher dollars use Biblical Worldview curriculum, as of 2024-25.

Private School Voucher Dollars Received by County, 2024-2025.

Access the interactive map to see amounts by county [here](#).

Voucher Dollars Received

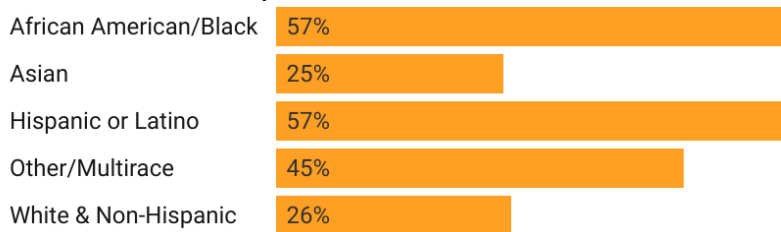


Poverty, Safety, and Mental Health

Income/Poverty

- North Carolina's **child poverty rate is the 14th highest in the nation**, according to recent estimates. The official poverty level for a family of two adults and two children is **\$32,150** for 2025.
- Approximately **39% of children live in poor or low-income homes** and 7% live in poverty as of 2023. The percentage of African American or Black children living in poverty is 8x higher than the rate of white children.
- In NC, 1,627,350 people are facing food insecurity, with **1 in 5** of them being children.
- From 2022 to 2023, homelessness in NC increased by 12%, affecting **1 in 500** people.

Percentage of NC Children in Low Income Households by Race (American Indian/Alaska Native not available).



School Shootings

- Since 2023, there have been **28 instances of gun violence** on school grounds in NC resulting in 5 deaths and 21 injuries.
 - As of 2025, NC ranks **24th nationally** in strength of gun legislation and **10th nationally** in the number of school shootings when looking at data since 1966.

Mental Health

- The NC Department of Health and Human Services released the **NC School Behavioral Health Action Plan** in 2023, which details the current mental health crises among youth aged people, and how the school can function as support for these students.
 - NC is in the bottom 10 states when it comes to youth mental health**, largely due to lack of access to care and minimal insurance coverage.

Current School **Support Personnel** Statistics in NC. (Each yellow figure is 10 students)

	National Recommendation	North Carolina
School Social Workers	1 to 250 	1 to 920 
School Psychologists	1 to 500 	1 to 1,863 
School Nurses	1 to 1 School 	1 to 930 
School Counselors	1 to 250 	1 to 333 

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