



First in Talent

Moving forward together on the state economic development plan

Goal 1: Prepare North Carolina's **workforce** for career and entrepreneurial success.

Goal 2: Prepare North Carolina's **businesses** for success by growing and attracting a talented workforce.

Goal 3: Prepare **communities** across North Carolina to be more competitive in growing and attracting a talented workforce and businesses.

First in Talent Workforce Strategies

Table 1

Strategy (1-4)	Commerce's Role (Advocate, Partner, Convene, or Lead)	Partners	Commerce's Key Progress
1. Increase access to high-quality early childhood education and decrease childcare expenses for working families.	Advocate	Legislature, NC DHHS, CCSA, EDPNC	Initiated new strategies to increase community engagement in economic development
2. Lead the nation in work-based learning engagement.	Partner	DPI, DWS, EDPNC, Independent Colleges and Universities, myFutureNC, NCBCE, NCCCS, NC Chamber, NCWorks Commission, UNC System, State Board of Ed.	The NCWorks Commission is studying the arrangement of the state's 23 local workforce development boards to increase partnership between workforce development and economic development. New businesses are connected to the Navigator when the project is announced
3. Increase attainment of high-quality credentials to ensure that by 2030, two million North Carolinians have a high-quality postsecondary credential.	Partner		To inform prospective students and school administrators, LEAD partners with the NCWorks Commission to identify the non-degree credentials with the highest market value to employers.
4. Increase labor force participation through workforce system enhancements to better support populations with barriers to employment.	Lead	NCWorks Commission, DWS, NCDPS, NCCCS, DPI, DMVA, DHHS,	DWS received funding in the FY21-23 budget to connect job seekers, particularly justice-involved individuals, with transportation, outreach materials, advocacy services, resources, and training to increase access to employment

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First in Talent Workforce Metrics (Draft)

Table 2

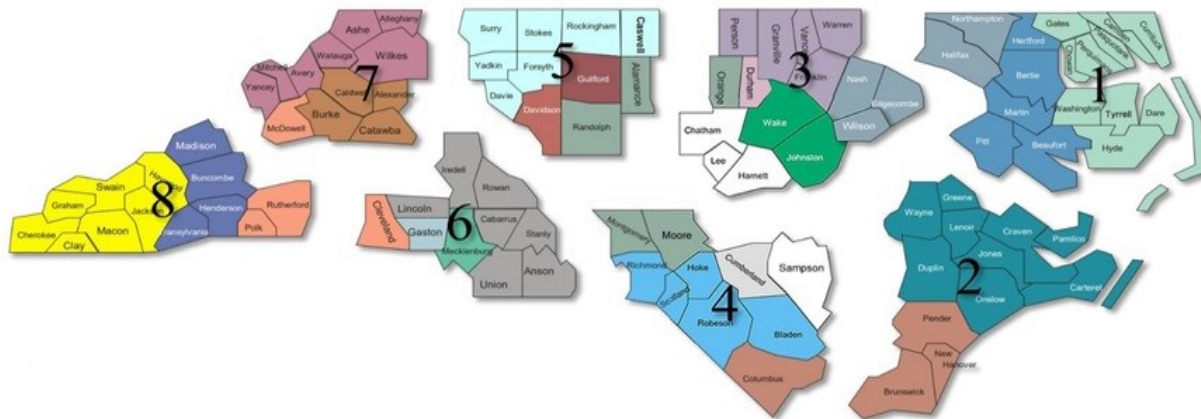
Strategy	Draft Annual Metric
1. Increase access to high quality early childhood education	% of workers with childcare costs below x% of income
2. Lead the nation in work-based learning	% of NC students engaged in WBL % of NC businesses engaged in WBL
3. NC attainment goal	# of credentials conferred
4. Increase labor force participation through workforce system enhancements to better support populations with barriers to employment.	# of veterans served and employed # of justice involved served and employed # of differently abled individuals served and employed

*Please send your feedback and/or commitment to Emily.roach@nccommerce.com

Aligning Workforce and Economic Development in North Carolina

The **NCWorks Commission** Governance & System Alignment Committee is conducting a study to understand the opportunities to realign the workforce development system to better support economic development in the state.

NC currently has 23 Workforce Development Boards & 8 Prosperity Zones



* The NCWorks Commission is scheduled to meet on March 30, 2022 to consider guiding principles for realignment.