

Mathematics Education in North Carolina

North Carolina has made major gains in mathematics proficiency, but it is still too low to support the transition to a knowledge-based economy.

- In 2003, only 32% of 8th grade students in North Carolina were proficient in mathematics, and only 7% were on an advanced level.*
- Among NC 4th graders, only 41% were proficient in mathematics, while 6% were on an advanced level.
- In 2002, nearly every student in North Carolina took a math course, but only 59% took a higher level math course.*

Students taking higher-level mathematics courses in North Carolina

- Trigonometry 68%
- Algebra 2 73%
- Geometry 95%

Advanced Placement Courses

- 9% of NC 12th grade students took an AP exam in mathematics in 2002.*
- 67% of NC students taking an AP exam in mathematics passed the exam in 2002.*

Course	NC Students Taking Exam	% of Grade 12 Students	National % of Grade 12 Students
Calculus	5,932	9	7

**Source: State Indicators of Science and Mathematics Education 2003; The Council of Chief State School Officers.*



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