

# CUMINED RAILINGS<sup>SM</sup>

## CORPORATE SURVEY

Site Selection Factors	2023	2022
Ranking		
1. Labor costs	92.5	89.1 (1)**
2. Availability of skilled labor	87.2	85.8 (3)
3. Environmental regulations	81.5	79.0 (9)
4. Tax exemptions	79.5	73.0 (13T)
5. ICT/broadband	79.0	80.7 (6)
6. Right-to-work state	78.4	66.7 (18)
7I. Quality-of-life	78.3	87.1 (2)
7I. Energy costs	78.3	79.4 (8)
9I. Corporate tax rate	76.9	79.7 (7)
9I. Highway accessibility	76.9	77.8 (11)
11. State and local incentives	76.3	73.0 (13T)
12. Low union profile	73.6	66.2 (19)
13. Construction costs	71.1	81.2 (5)
14. Energy availability	69.4	82.3 (4)
15. Responsive state & local government	69.2	N/A
16. Raw materials availability	67.5	61.3 (22)
17. Expedited or "fast-track" permitting	65.8	70.3 (16)
18. Proximity to major market	65.0	74.6 (12)
19. Technical schools	64.8	67.2 (17)
20. Training programs	63.2	63.4 (21)
21. Available land	61.8	78.1 (10)
22. Weather hazards	57.9	54.8 (24)
23. Available buildings	56.7	71.9 (15)
24. Proximity to suppliers	55.6	64.5 (20)
25I. Accessibility to major airport	43.2	54.0 (25)
25I. Water availability	43.2	49.2 (27)
27. ESG initiatives	42.2	42.0 (29)
28. Shovel-ready/certified sites	41.7	55.7 (23)
29. Waterway or ocean port	34.2	27.0 (30)
30. Railroad service	24.3	23.8 (31)

\* All figures are percentages and are the total of the "very important" and "important" ratings of the Area Development Corporate Survey, and are rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent.

\*\* 2022 ranking

Mike Hawkins

## NC Business Summit on Public Education

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### Purpose

To establish a coalition of NC business leaders that cares about the future of public education and is committed to working with education leaders and policymakers to take action to improve student outcomes.

### Approach

NC business leaders are hosting the NC Business Summit on Public Education on **November 8, 2023**, to kick-off an effort to learn about the state of public education in NC, consider what is working well and critical areas for action, and work together to begin to develop solutions to address the challenges. Key policymakers and education leaders will be invited, but the majority of attendees will be business leaders. The Summit is not intended to be the full effort, but rather the launching point for very efficient working groups and ongoing discussions with and recommendations for policymakers. The business leaders are working with the Public School Forum of NC to coordinate the event and synthesize research.

### State of Education in NC: Facts to Consider

The Summit will provide space to address issues related to the following data points:

#### *Many students still need help mastering the basics.*

- 68% of NC's 4th graders and 74% of 8th graders were not proficient in grade-level reading (NAEP).
- New science-of-reading-based training is showing great promise, but it takes 2 years and 160 hours of training per teacher. When teachers leave, that investment goes with them.

#### *Graduation rates are not sufficient.*

- In 2019, NC ranked 25th in the nation in graduation rates at 88%. In 2022, it was 86%.

#### *Students are experiencing an unprecedented mental health crisis.*

- NC students are facing a mental health crisis that was made worse by the pandemic.
- NC lacks the staff to effectively support student needs. On average, schools have:
  - 1 school social worker for every 1,025 students; recommended ratio - 1:250
  - 1 school psychologist for every 1,815 students; recommended ratio - 1:500

#### *Teacher vacancies are a major problem.*

- Teachers are the #1 school-related factor that affects student outcomes.
- There were 5,000+ teacher vacancies in NC in 2023 and growing.
- Enrollment in UNC System teacher prep programs decreased by 44% between 2010 and 2020.
- NC beginning pay is second from the bottom in the Southeast and 17% below Alabama.
- Average teacher pay in NC is over \$11,000 below the national average.

#### *There is a lack of financial efficiency and efficacy*

- NC's 90+ year old school funding formula is outdated and inefficient and an outlier among states.
- The General Ledger has over 12,000 accounts that increase each year with regulations.
- More than 30 LEAs have no School Finance Officer and training is insufficient.

### Get Involved:

As business leaders with a vested interest in NC, we ask you to:

- Commit to participate in the NC Business Summit on Public Education on November 8, 2023, in RTP and the corresponding working groups to identify and support solutions needed for public education.
- Commit to contribute \$1,500 to the effort for the Summit and corresponding activities (\$500 for companies with fewer than 50 employees).

*To confirm your engagement, please complete the [this participation form](#) or email Mary Ann Wolf at [mawolf@ncforum.org](mailto:mawolf@ncforum.org) by September 8, 2023.*