



North Carolina
Aviation Career Education

(ACE) ACADEMY PROGRAM

2025 Report

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF AVIATION TALENT

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Talent fuels North Carolina's aviation sector. North Carolina's public airports helped inspire the next generation of talent to pursue careers in aviation during summer 2025 by hosting aviation-focused Aviation Career Education (ACE) Academies for elementary, middle and high school students.

The N.C. Department of Transportation Division of Aviation supports these summer academies with technical assistance, presentations and funding of up to \$5,000 per academy.

The 11 public airports hosting academies in 2025 exposed a diverse mix of more than 370 students from across the state to career opportunities in the rapidly changing world of air transportation.

Students got back-stage passes to their local airports and the companies that operate on them. They learned about aviation careers from local pilots, air traffic controllers, civil air patrol members, manufacturers and military and civilian aircraft mechanics. They sat inside aircraft cockpits and took the controls of aircraft simulators. They learned flight theory and how to interpret weather.

NCDOT Aviation staff showcased aviation career and education opportunities in North Carolina for students at each academy and offered hands-on drone demonstrations.

NCDOT Aviation extends its deep appreciation to North Carolina State University's Institute for Transportation Research and Education for providing career education and drone demonstration support for the 2025 ACE Academy Program.

2025 ACE ACADEMIES

370 Students



Charlotte-Monroe Executive Airport
ACE Academy

Serves Elementary and Middle School Students

PARTNERS

Charlotte Police
City of Monroe Parks and Recreation
Monroe Police and Fire Department
Stanley County Air Force Base
Stanley County Airport
Sullenberger Museum



Fayetteville Regional Airport
ACE Academy

Serves Middle and High School Students

PARTNERS

All American Aviation Services
Cape Fear Aviation Flight School
Civil Air Patrol
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

NASA
Piedmont Airlines
Raleigh Professional Flight School
Signature Aviation
USDA - Wildlife



Henderson-Oxford Airport
Vance-Granville Community College

Serves Elementary and Middle School Students

PARTNERS

Elizabeth City State University
Civil Air Patrol (National Office)
Federal Aviation Administration
HNZ
NCDOT Division of Aviation

US Coast Guard Air Station
Elizabeth City
Vance-Granville Community College
Vance-Warren Ministers Wives and Widows



Kinston Regional Jetport At NC Global TransPark ACE Academy

Serves Middle and High School Students

PARTNERS

Custom Building Company	Kinston Aero-Modelers Association	LIB Graphic Solutions
Draken International		Midwest ATC
FlyExclusive	Lenoir Community College	NC State Institute for Transportation Research and Education
Greene County Manufacturing Association	Lenoir County Public Schools	NCDOT Division of Aviation
Greene County Public Schools	Lenoir County Manufacturers Association	



Laurinburg-Maxton Airport ACE Academy

Serves Middle and High School Students

PARTNERS

Cape Fear Valley Mobile Integrated Healthcare	Fayetteville Regional Airport	Scotland County
City of Laurinburg	Lumberton Regional Airport	Scotland County Parks & Recreation
City of Laurinburg Fire Department	NC State Institute for Transportation Research and Education	Scotland County Schools
Civil Air Patrol	NCDOT Division of Aviation	Southeast Regional Airport Authority
Departure Aviation Services	Ron Gibson	Sky High Aerospace Expo
		U.S. Army Parachute Team



Northeastern Regional Airport ACE Academy

Serves High School Students

PARTNERS

Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce
John A. Holmes High School CTE
Mainstreet Edenton



Smith Reynolds Airport Jim Shaw ACE Academy

Serves Middle and High School Students

PARTNERS

Delta Airlines	The Wright Stuff
Federal Aviation Administration	Twin City Development Foundation
Forsyth Tech Aviation	Winston Net
HAECO	Winston Salem Foundation
Mojo Grip	
Piedmont Advantage Credit Union	
Reynolds American	
Samaritan's Purse	
Signature Aviation	
Smith Reynolds Airport	



Statesville Regional Airport Drones2Jets Aviation ACE Academy

Serves Middle and High School Students

PARTNERS

Civil Air Patrol
Iredell County Sheriff's Department
Iredell-Statesville School District
Statesville Fire Department
Statesville Regional Airport
Victory Air



Triangle North Executive Airport Vance-Granville Community College

Serves Elementary and Middle School Students

PARTNERS

Advanced Systems & Integration	Total Flight Solutions
AircraftMerchants	Triangle Avionics
Civil Air Patrol - Squadron 145	Triangle North Executive Airport
East Coast Drilling & Blasting	U.S. Coast Guard Air Station - Elizabeth City
Elizabeth City State University	Vance-Granville Community College
Federal Aviation Administration	Vance-Granville Community College Foundation
NCDOT Division of Aviation	
Palziv North America	
Plane Design	



Washington-Warren Field Airport IBX STEM Ace Drone Camp at Beaufort County Community College

Serves Middle and High School Students

PARTNERS

Beaufort County Community College Foundation
Belhaven Public Library
Boys & Girls Club - Washington, NC
Washington-Warren Airport
IBX STEM Center



Wilmington International Airport Wings of Opportunity

Serves Middle School Students

PARTNERS

AeroCenter
Cape Fear Community College
Federal Aviation Administration
ILM Aerospace Foundation
Modern Aviation
NCDOT Division of Aviation
TSA



The N.C. Department of Transportation Division of Aviation promotes the economic well-being of North Carolina by developing a safe and robust air transportation system. Its Aviation Career Education (ACE) Academy Program seeks to inspire the next generation of talent to pursue aviation careers.



DIVISION OF **AVIATION**

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