Pender County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Pender County Attainment Goal: 12,441 (65%)

Wilmington
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Rural Metro
Local Education Agencies: 1
Charter Schools: 0

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 52,217
2020 Census: 60,203
Change: 7,986

Growth Rate
15.3% vs. **9.5%**
County   **State**

$59,812 Median Household Income (2020)

16.0% Child Poverty Rate (2020)

87% Households with Broadband (2020)

80% Home Owners (2020)
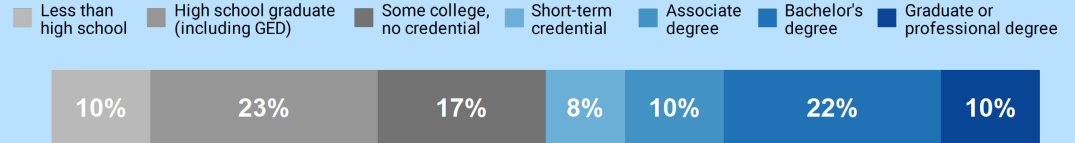
79% Voter Registration Rate (2021)

4.2% Unemployment Rate (2021)

Educational Attainment
Pender County residents ages 25-44, 2021

Less than high school	High school graduate (including GED)	Some college, no credential	Short-term credential	Associate degree	Bachelor's degree	Graduate or professional degree

No Degree 49.9% 7,118   **Have Degree or Credential 50.1%** 7,153

10%	23%	17%	8%	10%	22%	10%

Note: Numbers may add to more than 100% due to rounding

Top Opportunities for Growth
These three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Pender County to improve future attainment outcomes.

School Counselors
Pender County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 426:1, above the rural metro county average of 362:1.

Postsecondary Completion
55% of Pender County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary earn a degree or credential within 6 years, below the rural metro county average of 57%.
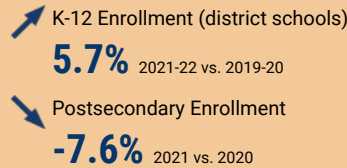
Transition to Postsecondary
52% of Pender County seniors enroll in postsecondary within 12 months of graduation, below the state average of 55%.

Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline
Covid-19 has affected critical transition points along the education continuum.

K-12 Enrollment (district schools)
5.7% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20

Postsecondary Enrollment
-7.6% 2021 vs. 2020

FAFSA Completion
-3.6% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19

Postsecondary Intentions
-3.3% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

Data Disruptions
• College-and-Career-Ready in Reading
• College-and-Career-Ready in Math
• Chronic Absenteeism

ncdemography.org

ACADEMIC READINESS

How students in Pender County traditional schools are currently doing:
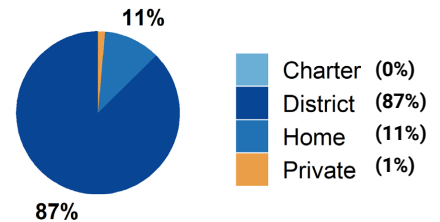To meet state goals, each year Pender County needs:

• Pender County has met the goal for **Pre-K enrollment**. (Goal: **75%**). 2022

• **31%** of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **reading**; 1,955 more needed to meet state goal of **73%**. 2022

• **36%** of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **math**; 2,340 more needed to meet state goal of **86%**. 2022

• **93%** of 9th graders **graduate within four years**; 15 more needed to meet state goal of **95%**. 2021

• **25%** of students are **chronically absent from school**; 1,334 less needed to meet state goal of **11%**. 2021

Pender County has a **student-to-school counselor ratio** of 426:1 versus 362:1 in peer counties. 2021

School Choice
11,563 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Pender County in the 2021-22 school year.

Note: This profile focuses on outcomes of students enrolled in district schools.

Charter	(0%)
District	(87%)
Home	(11%)
Private	(1%)

11%
87%

Career and College Preparation
339 high school students took at least one **AP course (12%)** versus **9%** in peer counties (2021).

370 graduates participated in **Career & College Promise programs (46%)** versus **43%** in peer counties (2021).
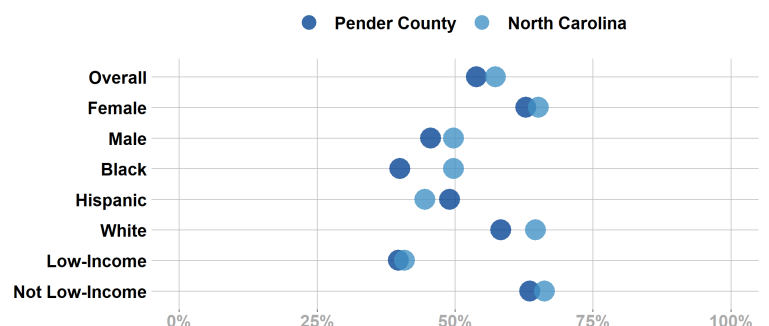
Students in Pender County completed **448 Career & Technical Education concentrations** in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Architecture and Construction.

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

• **55%** of seniors **completed the FAFSA** in 2022; 159 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of **80%**. 2022
https://www.myfuturenc.org/ourwork/first-in-fafsa/

• **77%** of graduates reported **intentions to enroll** in a postsecondary institution versus 69% in peer counties. 2021

• **52%** of graduates **enrolled in a postsecondary institution** within 12 months versus 49% in peer counties. 2021

43% of Pender County students have **parents with no college degree** (either 2- or 4-year) versus 58% in peer counties.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Pender County, 2021

● **Pender County**   ● **North Carolina**

Overall
Female
Male
Black
Hispanic
White
Low-Income
Not Low-Income

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Success of Pender County High School Graduates

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020

- **39%** of college-goers attended a **public 4-year college**
- **9%** of college-goers attended a **private 4-year college**
- **51%** of college-goers attended a **public 2-year college**
- **<5%** of college-goers attended a **private 2-year college**
- **93%** of college-goers attended an **in-state college**

- **76%** of students who enroll **persist to their second year** versus 73% in peer counties. 2021
- **55%** of students who enroll **earn a degree or credential** within 6 years versus 57% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners

Pender County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021

- **102** Basic Skills
- **895** Continuing Education
- **1,600** Curriculum

14% of Pender County residents have **student loan debt**; **8%** of debt holders had **student loans in default.** 2020

Postsecondary assets in Wilmington Prosperity Zone sub-region

- ▲ 4-year public
- ■ 2-year public
- ● 4-year private
- ✖ 2-year or less private

0 — 45mi

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2021

1,154 certificate | **1,686** associate | **3,936** bachelor's

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

85.4% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are **aligned with labor market needs.**

Top areas of misalignment:

Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (below bachelor's)
Health Science (below bachelor's)
Finance (bachelor's)

273 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

- **5,768** graduates in 2020
- **66%** of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- **$44,807** annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)
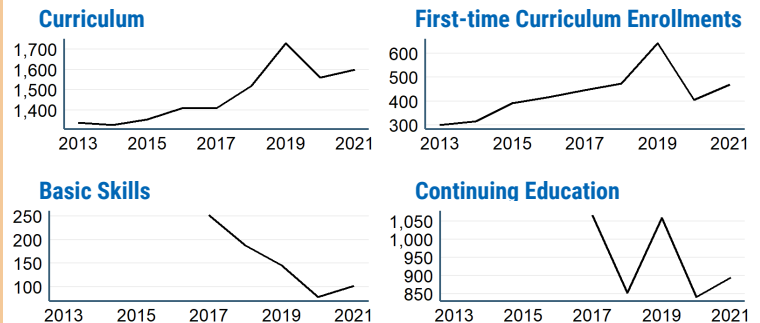
In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:

- **8,319** in Basic Services
- **4,329** in Career Services
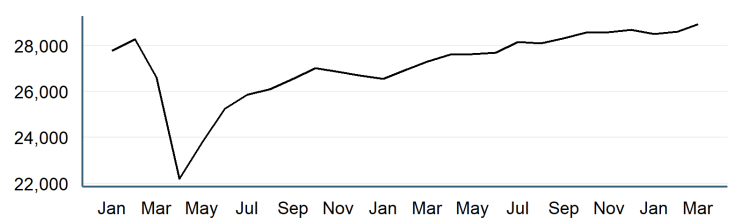- **501** in Education Services

12.1% of young adults ages 16-24 in Pender County were **not working and not in school** versus **15.2%** in peer counties. 2019

Impact of Covid-19 on NC Community College Enrollment

Curriculum

First-time Curriculum Enrollments

Basic Skills

Continuing Education

Number of Pender County residents employed, January 2020 to March 2022

Promising Attainment Practices

The new **Promising Attainment Practices Database** is a curated, searchable, and filterable collection of about 250 county, region, and state-level initiatives and programs that directly address various components of the state's attainment challenge. The Database allows local and regional initiative leaders and other stakeholders to identify groups across the state who are developing or operating initiatives designed to boost attainment.

Follow link to discover how Pender County has been meeting local needs:

https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Pender

For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit:

dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/

CAROLINA DEMOGRAPHY

myFUTURENC 2 million by 2030

John M Belk Endowment ELEVATE THROUGH EDUCATION

UNC CAROLINA POPULATION CENTER