

Bladen County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Fayetteville-Lumberton Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Rural - Non-Metro

Educational Attainment

Bladen County residents ages 25-44, 2023

Have Degree or Credential
2,503
39.3%

No Degree
3,862
60.7%

Residents Ages 25-44
6,365

Educational Attainment Trend



Note: 2020 data not shown due to inconsistency

Educational Level Breakdown, 2023



Note: Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding

2030 Proposed Bladen County Attainment Goal: 4,501 (Stretch Goal: 4,578)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

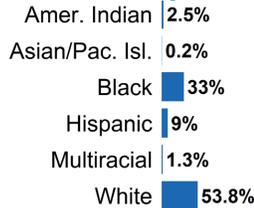
Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 29,619
2023 Estimate: 29,484
Change: -135

Growth Rate

-0.5% vs. 3.8%
County State

Race/Ethnicity



\$49,661
Median Household Income (2023)
State: \$70,838



69.8%
Home Owners (2023)
State: 66.3%



62.5%
Households with Broadband (2023)
State: 77.1%



35.3%
Child Poverty Rate (2023)
State: 17.6%



17.8%
Single Parent Households (2023)
State: 17.0%



2.8%
Foreign Born (2023)
State: 9.2%

Top Opportunities for Growth



Opportunity Youth

21% of Bladen County youth ages 16-24 are not working and not in school, above the rural - non-metro county average of 14%.

In Fayetteville-Lumberton Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

79.1%

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

Top Misalignments

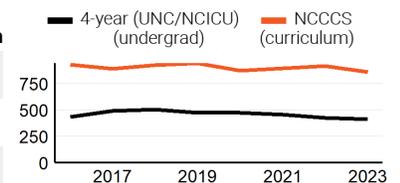
Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

- **Education & Training** Jobs < Creds
- **Health Science** Jobs > Creds
- **Transportation, Distribution & Logistics** Jobs > Creds

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Fayetteville-Lumberton Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	3.67%
Data Scientists	3.11%
Medical and Health Services Managers	2.49%

Postsecondary Enrollment for Bladen County Residents



35 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

5,664 graduates in 2020
56.2% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
\$38,415 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs), 2021

42.9% of adults (ages 25-44) in Bladen County earned a **family sustaining wage**. Peer: 40.5% | State: 57.6%, 2023

21.4% of youth (ages 16-24) in Bladen County were **Opportunity Youth**. Peer: 13.8% | State: 10.3%, 2023

72.9% of adults (ages 25-44) in Bladen County **participated in the labor force**. Peer: 78.3% | State: 84.2%, 2023

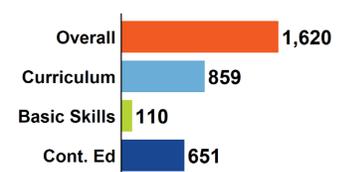
Top 3 Employers in Bladen County

Employer	Employment Range
Smithfield Foods Inc	1000+
Gildan Yarns LLC	500-999
Bladen County Schools	500-999

Top 3 industries in Bladen County

Industry	Jobs Percent
Manufacturing	6,590 48.0%
Educational Services	878 6.4%
Public Administration	859 6.3%

Bladen County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023



Bladen County is served by:

- Lumber River Workforce Development Board
- Lumber River Council of Governments

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



Postsecondary Completion

43% of Bladen County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary education earn a degree or credential within 6 years, below the rural - non-metro county average of 55%.

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023

1,729 certificate | 2,490 associate | 2,900 bachelor's

Adult Learners

Bladen County Residents Aged 25+ enrolled in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2023

- 54 Basic Skills
- 575 Continuing Education
- 209 Curriculum

16.9% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 15.9% | State: 11.7%, 2023



13.5% of Bladen County residents have student loan debt, 1.6% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2024

Success of Bladen County High School Graduates

78.8% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 79.6% | State: 83.8%, 2023

88.1% UNC | 72.3% NCCCS | NA NCICU

42.7% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 55.5% | State: 60.0%, 2023

20.8% UNC | 16.1% NCCCS | <5% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 994 of all college-goers attended Bladen CC
- 149 of all college-goers attended Southeastern CC
- 131 of all college-goers attended Robeson CC

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

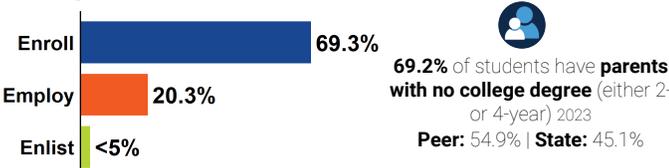


Postsecondary Enrollment

49% of Bladen County seniors enroll in postsecondary education within 12 months of graduation, below the rural - non-metro county average of 52%.

51.9% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 81 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 54.0% | State: 55.0%

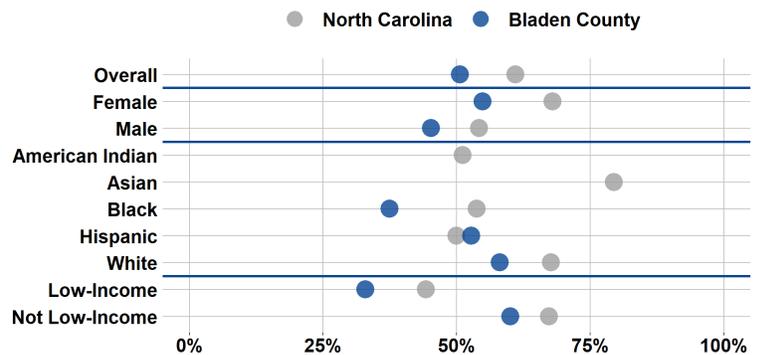
Post High School Graduation Intentions



90.3% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 16 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 85.7% | State: 87.3% 2024

48.9% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 52.6% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Bladen County, 2023



Note: Outcomes for groups with less than 10 students, <5% or >95% are not displayed.

ACADEMIC READINESS

Top Opportunities for Growth



Math Performance

18% of Bladen County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the rural - non-metro county average of 30%.

Bladen County has met the goal for Pre-K enrollment. (Goal: 75%). Peer: 71.0% | State: 57.2% 2024

Note: Enrollment numbers only include students served by the NC Pre-K Program and may not represent all Pre-K offerings available.

Bladen County Traditional Public Schools students:

15.1% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 938 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 24.5% | State: 29.8%

17.6% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 1,106 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 30.3% | State: 36.5%

27.1% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 660 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 27.7% | State: 25.7%

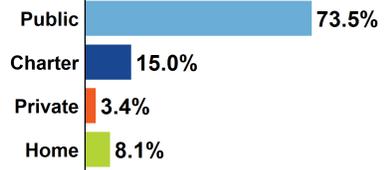
Bladen County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 292:1 compared to 332:1 in peer counties. 2024

1.1% of students drop out of high school (15 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 1
Traditional Public School(s): 12
Charter School(s): 2
Private School(s): 2
Home School(s): 256

5,164 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 2,025 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 342 concentrations. 256 (12.6%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Human Services; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Health Science.

33 (<5%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

160 (52.8%) high school graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs. State: 36.0% (2024).

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

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