

Brunswick County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Wilmington
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Rural - Metro

Educational Attainment

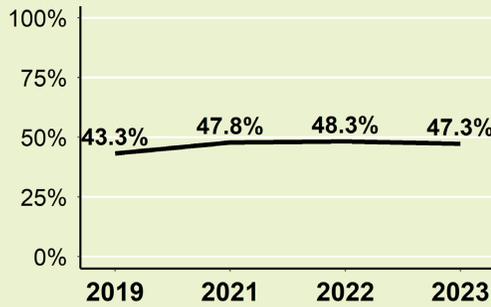
Brunswick County residents ages 25-44, 2023

Have Degree or Credential
12,910
47.3%

No Degree
14,403
52.7%

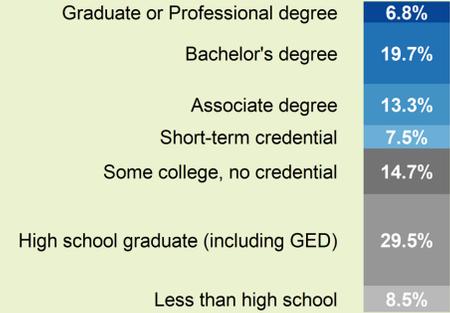
Residents Ages 25-44
27,313

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 Brunswick County Attainment Goal: 22,373 (Stretch Goal: 22,613)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 136,695
2023 Estimate: 159,964
Change: 23,269

Growth Rate

17.0% vs. 3.8%
County State

Race/Ethnicity

Amer. Indian 0.2%
Asian/Pac. Isl. 0.7%
Black 8%
Hispanic 5.5%
Multiracial 4.2%
White 81.1%



\$76,797
Median Household Income (2023)
State: \$70,838



83.8%
Home Owners (2023)
State: 66.3%



81.1%
Households with Broadband (2023)
State: 77.1%



13.1%
Child Poverty Rate (2023)
State: 17.6%



12.1%
Single Parent Households (2023)
State: 17.0%



3.4%
Foreign Born (2023)
State: 9.2%

Top Opportunities for Growth



Family Sustaining Wage

48% of Brunswick County adults 25-44 earn a family sustaining wage, below the state average of 58%.

In Wilmington Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

81.9%

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

Top Misalignments

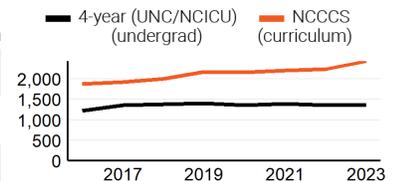
Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

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

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Wilmington Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	4.34%
Data Scientists	3.89%
Logisticians	3.52%

Postsecondary Enrollment for Brunswick County Residents



61 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

5,768 graduates in 2020
65.9% 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), 2021

47.8% of adults (ages 25-44) in Brunswick County earned a family sustaining wage. Peer: 46.7% | State: 57.6%, 2023

13.5% of youth (ages 16-24) in Brunswick County were Opportunity Youth. Peer: 14.8% | State: 10.3%, 2023

83.7% of adults (ages 25-44) in Brunswick County participated in the labor force. Peer: 80.7% | State: 84.2%, 2023

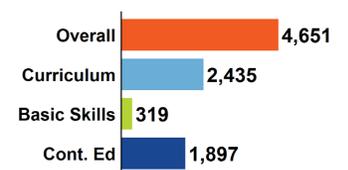
Top 3 Employers in Brunswick County

Employer	Employment Range
Brunswick County Board of Education	1000+
County of Brunswick	1000+
Wal-Mart Associates Inc	500-999

Top 3 industries in Brunswick County

Industry	Jobs Percent
Retail Trade	6,773 16.3%
Accommodation and Food Services	6,627 15.9%
Health Care and Social Assistance	5,093 12.2%

Brunswick County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023



Brunswick County is served by:

- Cape Fear Workforce Development Board
- Cape Fear Council of Governments

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



First-Year Persistence

77% of Brunswick County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary education persist to their second year, below the rural - metro county average of 80%.

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023

1,138 certificate | 1,723 associate | 3,764 bachelor's

Adult Learners

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

171 Basic Skills
1,775 Continuing Education
591 Curriculum

14.7% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 16.0% | State: 11.7%, 2023



10.7% of Brunswick County residents have student loan debt. 0.4% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2024

Success of Brunswick County High School Graduates

76.8% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 80.1% | State: 83.8%, 2023

91.1% UNC | 66.3% NCCCS | 82.8% NCICU

59.1% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 57.5% | State: 60.0%, 2023

28.7% UNC | 19.1% NCCCS | 5.7% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 2,928 of all college-goers attended Brunswick CC
- 1,355 of all college-goers attended Cape Fear CC
- 387 of all college-goers attended UNC Wilmington

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

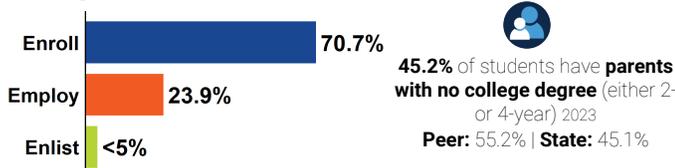


FAFSA Completion

51% of Brunswick County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural - metro county average of 52%.

50.8% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 270 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 52.0% | State: 55.0%

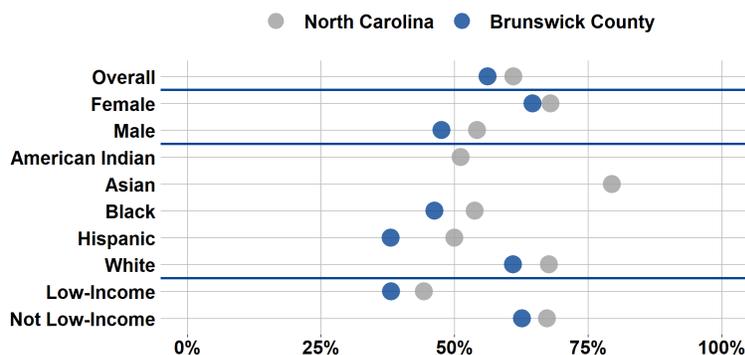
Post High School Graduation Intentions



85.2% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 114 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 85.7% | State: 87.3% 2024

54.5% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 52.0% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Brunswick County, 2023



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

ACADEMIC READINESS

Top Opportunities for Growth



NC Pre-K Enrollment

52% of Brunswick County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural - metro county average of 62%.

52.4% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 113 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. Peer: 61.7% | State: 57.2%

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

Brunswick County Traditional Public Schools students:

29.1% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 2,578 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 25.3% | State: 29.8%

38.8% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 2,769 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 32.3% | State: 36.5%

31.8% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 2,906 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 27.4% | State: 25.7%

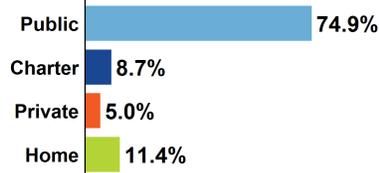
Brunswick County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 373:1 compared to 352:1 in peer counties. 2024

1.7% of students drop out of high school (80 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 1
Traditional Public School(s): 20
Charter School(s): 2
Private School(s): 8
Home School(s): 1,234

17,440 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 4,585 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 475 concentrations. 350 (7.6%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Human Services; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Health Science.

426 (10%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

390 (37.2%) 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/