

Dare County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Elizabeth City
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Rural - Non-Metro

Educational Attainment

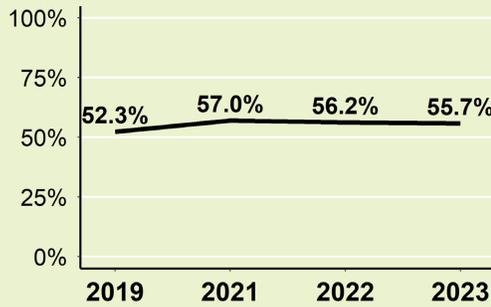
Dare County residents ages 25-44, 2023

Have Degree or Credential
4,403
55.7%

No Degree
3,495
44.3%

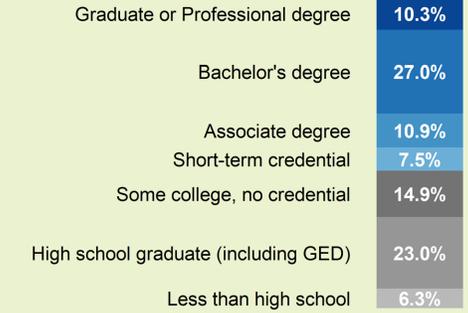
Residents Ages 25-44
7,898

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 Dare County Attainment Goal: 5,359 (Stretch Goal: 5,429)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 36,913
2023 Estimate: 38,110
Change: 1,197

Growth Rate

3.2% County vs. 3.8% State

Race/Ethnicity

Amer. Indian 0.1%
Asian/Pac. Isl. 0.5%
Black 2.8%
Hispanic 7.1%
Multiracial 2.8%
White 86%



\$79,646
Median Household Income (2023)
State: \$70,838



77.8%
Home Owners (2023)
State: 66.3%



85.1%
Households with Broadband (2023)
State: 77.1%



12.2%
Child Poverty Rate (2023)
State: 17.6%



16.0%
Single Parent Households (2023)
State: 17.0%



4.9%
Foreign Born (2023)
State: 9.2%

Top Opportunities for Growth



Opportunity Youth

18% of Dare County youth ages 16-24 are not working and not in school, above the rural - non-metro county average of 14%.

In Elizabeth City Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

70.4%

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

Top Misalignments

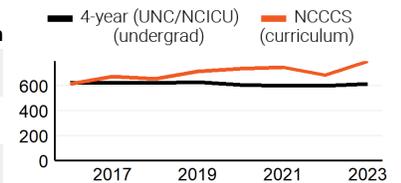
Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

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

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Elizabeth City Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	3.80%
Medical and Health Services Managers	2.77%
Logisticians	2.54%

Postsecondary Enrollment for Dare County Residents



7 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

632 graduates in 2020
61.5% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
\$33,554 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs), 2021

48.2% of adults (ages 25-44) in Dare County earned a family sustaining wage. Peer: 40.5% | State: 57.6%, 2023

17.7% of youth (ages 16-24) in Dare County were Opportunity Youth. Peer: 13.8% | State: 10.3%, 2023

89.1% of adults (ages 25-44) in Dare County participated in the labor force. Peer: 78.3% | State: 84.2%, 2023

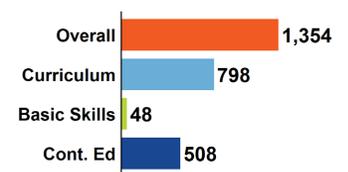
Top 3 Employers in Dare County

Employer	Employment Range
Dare County Board of Education	500-999
County of Dare	500-999
Pitt County Memorial Hospital	250-499

Top 3 industries in Dare County

Industry	Jobs Percent
Accommodation and Food Services	5,536 25.6%
Retail Trade	4,080 18.9%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	2,103 9.7%

Dare County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023



Dare County is served by:

- Northeastern Workforce Development Board
- Albemarle Commission

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



First-Year Persistence

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

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023

285 certificate | 367 associate | 397 bachelor's

Adult Learners

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

30 Basic Skills
447 Continuing Education
149 Curriculum

14.9% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 15.9% | State: 11.7%, 2023



9.7% of Dare County residents have student loan debt. 0.7% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2024

Success of Dare County High School Graduates

77.4% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 79.6% | State: 83.8%, 2023

88.5% UNC | 63.4% NCCCS | 92.9% NCICU

64.4% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 55.5% | State: 60.0%, 2023

37.9% UNC | 12.3% NCCCS | <5% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 1,164 of all college-goers attended College of The Albemarle
- 122 of all college-goers attended East Carolina University
- 105 of all college-goers attended NC State

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

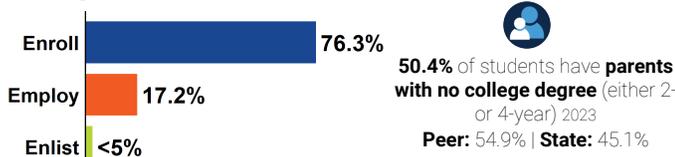


FAFSA Completion

66% of Dare County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the state goal of 80%.

66.5% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 50 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 54.0% | State: 55.0%

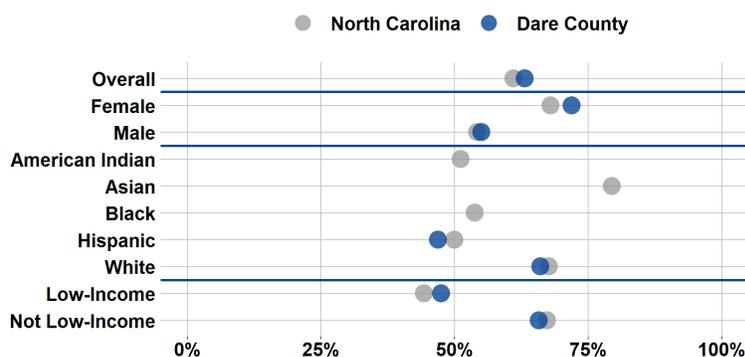
Post High School Graduation Intentions



94.5% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 2 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 85.7% | State: 87.3% 2024

61.4% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 52.6% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Dare County, 2023



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

ACADEMIC READINESS

Top Opportunities for Growth



Chronic Absenteeism

29% of Dare County students are chronically absent from school, above the rural - non-metro county average of 28%.

Dare 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.

Dare County Traditional Public Schools students:

33.0% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 911 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 24.5% | State: 29.8%

37.3% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 1,109 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 30.3% | State: 36.5%

28.5% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 895 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 27.7% | State: 25.7%

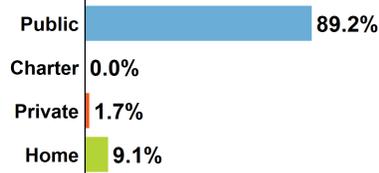
Dare County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 325:1 compared to 332:1 in peer counties. 2024

1.3% of students drop out of high school (23 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 1
Traditional Public School(s): 11
Charter School(s): 0
Private School(s): 3
Home School(s): 305

5,515 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 2,581 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 218 concentrations. 537 (20.8%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; Architecture and Construction; and Health Science.

317 (19.3%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

192 (45.0%) 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/