

Lee County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Raleigh-Durham
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Rural - Non-Metro

Educational Attainment

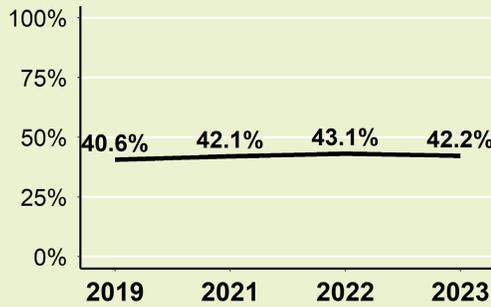
Lee County residents ages 25-44, 2023

Have Degree or Credential
6,954
42.2%

No Degree
9,515
57.8%

Residents Ages 25-44
16,469

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 Lee County Attainment Goal: 10,102 (Stretch Goal: 10,229)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 63,280
2023 Estimate: 67,059
Change: 3,779

Growth Rate

6.0% County vs. 3.8% State

Race/Ethnicity

Amer. Indian 0.1%
Asian/Pac. Isl. 1.1%
Black 17.5%
Hispanic 21%
Multiracial 3.8%
White 56.4%



\$62,680
Median Household Income (2023)
State: \$70,838



66.0%
Home Owners (2023)
State: 66.3%



67.1%
Households with Broadband (2023)
State: 77.1%



23.9%
Child Poverty Rate (2023)
State: 17.6%



22.3%
Single Parent Households (2023)
State: 17.0%



9.6%
Foreign Born (2023)
State: 9.2%

Top Opportunities for Growth



Family Sustaining Wage

42% of Lee County adults 25-44 earn a family sustaining wage, below the state average of 58%.

In Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

75.8%

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

Top Misalignments

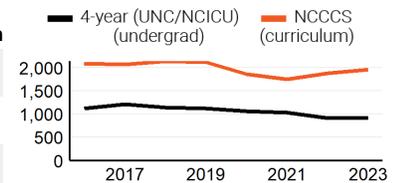
Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

- Health Science Jobs > Creds
- Business Management & Administration Jobs > Creds
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Jobs < Creds

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	4.09%
Data Scientists	3.79%
Statisticians	3.71%

Postsecondary Enrollment for Lee County Residents



130 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

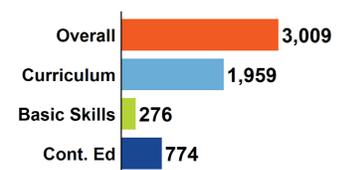
UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

19,047 graduates in 2020
64.9% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
\$50,028 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs), 2021

Top 3 Employers in Lee County

Employer	Employment Range
Caterpillar Inc	1000+
Wyeth Holdings LLC	1000+
Lee County Schools	1000+

Lee County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023



LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

42.2% of adults (ages 25-44) in Lee County earned a family sustaining wage. Peer: 40.5% | State: 57.6%, 2023

11.4% of youth (ages 16-24) in Lee County were Opportunity Youth. Peer: 13.8% | State: 10.3%, 2023

82.5% of adults (ages 25-44) in Lee County participated in the labor force. Peer: 78.3% | State: 84.2%, 2023

Top 3 industries in Lee County

Industry	Jobs Percent
Manufacturing	8,556 31.0%
Retail Trade	3,285 11.9%
Health Care and Social Assistance	2,547 9.2%

Lee County is served by:

- Capital Area Workforce Development Board
- Central Pines Council of Governments

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



Adult Learners

21% of Lee County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the rural - non-metro county average of 16%.

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023

4,998 certificate | 5,648 associate | 16,524 bachelor's

Adult Learners

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

- 169 Basic Skills
- 628 Continuing Education
- 430 Curriculum

21.5% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 15.9% | State: 11.7%, 2023



13.0% of Lee County residents have student loan debt, 1.2% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2024

Success of Lee County High School Graduates

81.3% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 79.6% | State: 83.8%, 2023

91.8% UNC | 76.2% NCCCS | 66.7% NCICU

58.3% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 55.5% | State: 60.0%, 2023

30.4% UNC | 17.7% NCCCS | 6.7% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 2,360 of all college-goers attended Central Carolina CC
- 156 of all college-goers attended Wake TCC
- 156 of all college-goers attended Sandhills CC

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

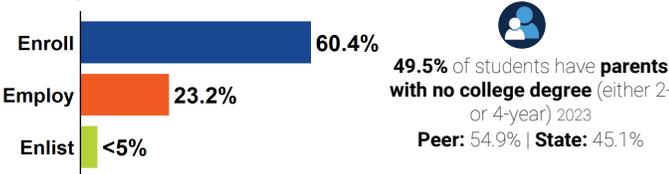


FAFSA Completion

53% of Lee County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural - non-metro county average of 54%.

53.3% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 154 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 54.0% | State: 55.0%

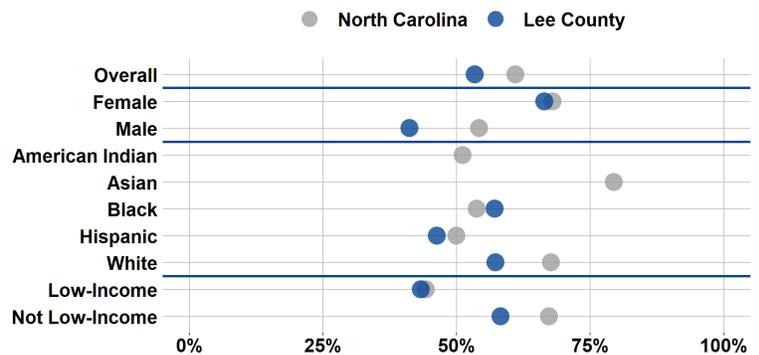
Post High School Graduation Intentions



85.6% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 74 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 85.7% | State: 87.3% 2024

51.7% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 52.6% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Lee County, 2023



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

ACADEMIC READINESS

Top Opportunities for Growth



Earning College Credit in High School

46% of Lee County graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs, below the rural - non-metro county average of 51%. Also, 6% of high school students took at least one AP exam, below the peer county average of 10%.

68.2% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 30 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. Peer: 71.0% | 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.

Lee County Traditional Public Schools students:

24.5% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 1,953 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 24.5% | State: 29.8%

32.4% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 2,153 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 30.3% | State: 36.5%

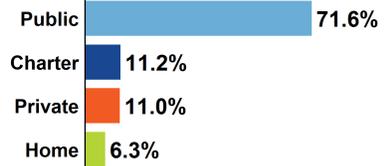
23.2% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 1,173 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 27.7% | State: 25.7%

Lee County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 333:1 compared to 332:1 in peer counties. 2024

0.2% of students drop out of high school (5 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 1
 Traditional Public School(s): 16
 Charter School(s): 3
 Private School(s): 4
 Home School(s): 466



12,525 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.

Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 2,178 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 450 concentrations. 312 (14.3%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Architecture and Construction; Hospitality & Tourism; and Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics.

257 (8.9%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

336 (48.3%) 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/