

# Lenoir County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Goldsboro-Kinston  
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region  
Peer County Type: Rural - Non-Metro

## Educational Attainment

Lenoir County residents ages 25-44, 2023

**Have Degree or Credential**  
4,480  
36.7%

**No Degree**  
7,743  
63.3%

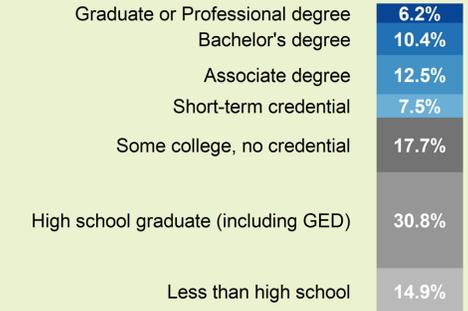
**Residents Ages 25-44**  
12,223

## 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 Lenoir County Attainment Goal: 5,994 (Stretch Goal: 6,107)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

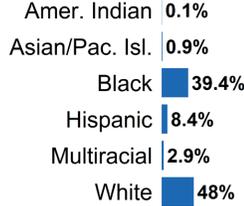
## Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 55,123  
2023 Estimate: 54,895  
Change: -228

## Growth Rate

-0.4% vs. 3.8%  
County State

## Race/Ethnicity



**\$51,601**  
Median Household Income (2023)  
State: \$70,838



**59.3%**  
Home Owners (2023)  
State: 66.3%



**54.0%**  
Households with Broadband (2023)  
State: 77.1%



**32.4%**  
Child Poverty Rate (2023)  
State: 17.6%



**23.0%**  
Single Parent Households (2023)  
State: 17.0%



**4.2%**  
Foreign Born (2023)  
State: 9.2%

## Top Opportunities for Growth



### Family Sustaining Wage

35% of Lenoir County adults 25-44 earn a family sustaining wage, below the rural - non-metro county average of 40%.

## In Goldsboro-Kinston Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

**70.2%**

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

## Top Misalignments

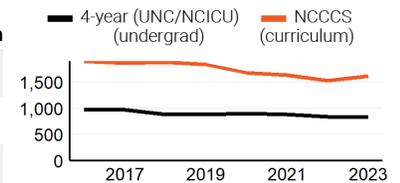
### Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

- **Education & Training** Jobs < Creds
- **Health Science** Jobs > Creds
- **Manufacturing** Jobs < Creds

## Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Goldsboro-Kinston Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	3.57%
Logisticians	2.70%
Medical and Health Services Managers	2.22%

## Postsecondary Enrollment for Lenoir County Residents



**103** Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

## UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

**1,646** graduates in 2020  
**75.1%** of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021  
**\$38,627** annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs), 2021

**35.1%** of adults (ages 25-44) in Lenoir County earned a **family sustaining wage**. Peer: 40.5% | State: 57.6%, 2023

**12.5%** of youth (ages 16-24) in Lenoir County were **Opportunity Youth**. Peer: 13.8% | State: 10.3%, 2023

**81.1%** of adults (ages 25-44) in Lenoir County **participated in the labor force**. Peer: 78.3% | State: 84.2%, 2023

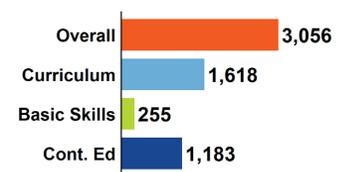
## Top 3 Employers in Lenoir County

Employer	Employment Range
Sanderson Farms Inc	1000+
Lenoir County Schools	1000+
NC Dept of Health & Human Services	1000+

## Top 3 industries in Lenoir County

Industry	Jobs   Percent
Manufacturing	8,291   28.2%
Health Care and Social Assistance	4,827   16.4%
Retail Trade	2,525   8.6%

## Lenoir County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023



## Lenoir County is served by:

- Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board
- Eastern Carolina Council of Governments

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



First-Year Persistence

74% of Lenoir 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

1,205 certificate | 1,135 associate | 466 bachelor's

Adult Learners

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

111 Basic Skills  
991 Continuing Education  
430 Curriculum

17.7% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 15.9% | State: 11.7%, 2023



12.3% of Lenoir County residents have student loan debt. 1.9% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2024

Success of Lenoir County High School Graduates

74.1% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 79.6% | State: 83.8%, 2023

88.0% UNC | 61.7% NCCCS | 86.2% NCICU

56.1% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 55.5% | State: 60.0%, 2023

25.9% UNC | 22.0% NCCCS | 7.4% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 2,195 of all college-goers attended Lenoir CC
- 296 of all college-goers attended Wayne CC
- 277 of all college-goers attended East Carolina University

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

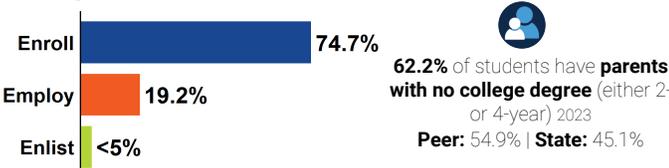


Postsecondary Enrollment

56% of Lenoir County seniors enroll in postsecondary education within 12 months of graduation, below the state average of 59%.

56.0% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 147 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 54.0% | State: 55.0%

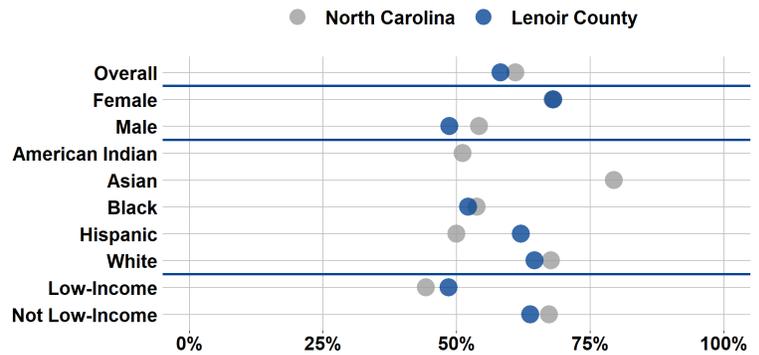
Post High School Graduation Intentions



90.3% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 34 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 85.7% | State: 87.3% 2024

56.5% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 52.6% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Lenoir 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

43% of Lenoir County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural - non-metro county average of 71%.

43.3% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 111 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.

Lenoir County Traditional Public Schools students:

21.2% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 1,917 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 24.5% | State: 29.8%

26.5% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 2,201 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 30.3% | State: 36.5%

28.9% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 1,548 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 27.7% | State: 25.7%

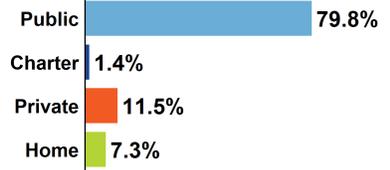
Lenoir County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 446:1 compared to 332:1 in peer counties. 2024

2.0% of students drop out of high school (57 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 1  
Traditional Public School(s): 17  
Charter School(s): 1  
Private School(s): 7  
Home School(s): 457

10,140 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 1,356 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 498 concentrations. 145 (10.7%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; Human Services; and Architecture and Construction.

154 (6.1%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

291 (43.4%) 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/](https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/)