

# Lincoln County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Charlotte  
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region  
Peer County Type: Suburban

## Educational Attainment

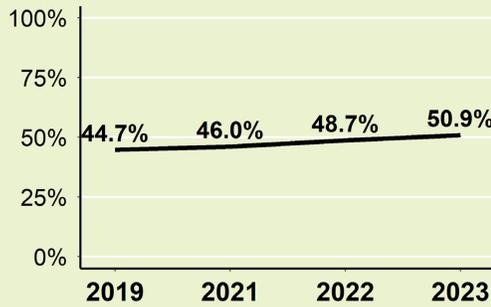
Lincoln County residents ages 25-44, 2023

**Have Degree or Credential**  
10,739  
50.9%

**No Degree**  
10,350  
49.1%

**Residents Ages 25-44**  
21,089

## Educational Attainment Trend



Note: 2020 data not shown due to inconsistency

## Educational Level Breakdown, 2023

Graduate or Professional degree	7.6%
Bachelor's degree	23.0%
Associate degree	12.8%
Short-term credential	7.5%
Some college, no credential	12.9%
High school graduate (including GED)	27.5%
Less than high school	8.7%

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

2030 Proposed Lincoln County Attainment Goal: 14,161 (Stretch Goal: 14,330)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

## Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 86,829  
2023 Estimate: 95,675  
Change: 8,846

## Growth Rate

10.2% vs. 3.8%  
County State

## Race/Ethnicity

Amer. Indian	0.2%
Asian/Pac. Isl.	0.8%
Black	5.8%
Hispanic	7.8%
Multiracial	2.4%
White	82.8%



**\$79,109**  
Median Household Income (2023)  
State: \$70,838



**78.5%**  
Home Owners (2023)  
State: 66.3%



**77.8%**  
Households with Broadband (2023)  
State: 77.1%



**9.4%**  
Child Poverty Rate (2023)  
State: 17.6%



**15.2%**  
Single Parent Households (2023)  
State: 17.0%



**5.1%**  
Foreign Born (2023)  
State: 9.2%

## Top Opportunities for Growth



### Labor Force Participation

80% of Lincoln County adults 25-44 are in the labor force, below the suburban county average of 83%.

## In Charlotte Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

**79.7%**

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

## Top Misalignments

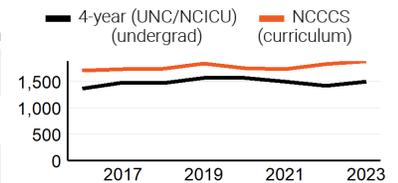
### Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

- **Education & Training** Jobs < Creds
- **Business Management & Administration** Jobs > Creds
- **Health Science** Jobs > Creds

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

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	4.48%
Data Scientists	3.83%
Logisticians	3.62%

## Postsecondary Enrollment for Lincoln County Residents



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

## UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

**12,495** graduates in 2020  
**74.0%** of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021  
**\$45,387** annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs), 2021

**58.6%** of adults (ages 25-44) in Lincoln County earned a **family sustaining wage**. Peer: 51.8% | State: 57.6%, 2023

**14.3%** of youth (ages 16-24) in Lincoln County were **Opportunity Youth**. Peer: 11.2% | State: 10.3%, 2023

**80.0%** of adults (ages 25-44) in Lincoln County **participated in the labor force**. Peer: 83.4% | State: 84.2%, 2023

## Top 3 Employers in Lincoln County

Employer	Employment Range
Lincoln County Schools	1000+
Charlotte Mecklenburg Hospital	1000+
County of Lincoln	500-999

## Top 3 industries in Lincoln County

Industry	Jobs   Percent
Manufacturing	5,031   17.7%
Retail Trade	3,691   13.0%
Accommodation and Food Services	2,657   9.4%

## Lincoln County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023

Overall	3,517
Curriculum	1,885
Basic Skills	127
Cont. Ed	1,505

## Lincoln County is served by:

- Centralina Workforce Development Board
- Centralina Regional Council

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



Adult Learners

13% of Lincoln County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the state average of 12%.

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023

4,911 certificate | 5,727 associate | 8,744 bachelor's

Adult Learners

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

70 Basic Skills  
1,297 Continuing Education  
328 Curriculum

12.9% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 15.1% | State: 11.7%, 2023



11.8% of Lincoln County residents have student loan debt, 1.1% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2024

Success of Lincoln County High School Graduates

85.6% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 83.9% | State: 83.8%, 2023

94.7% UNC | 72.3% NCCCS | 89.8% NCICU

61.2% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 61.5% | State: 60.0%, 2023

36.5% UNC | 12.8% NCCCS | 5.6% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 2,375 of all college-goers attended Gaston College
- 427 of all college-goers attended Catawba Valley CC
- 281 of all college-goers attended Central Piedmont CC

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

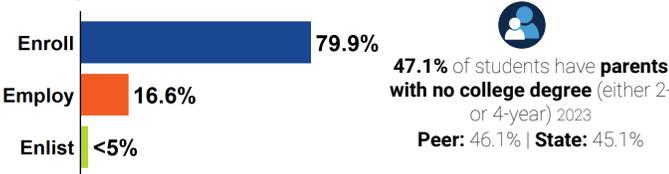


FAFSA Completion

51% of Lincoln County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the suburban county average of 55%.

50.8% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 240 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 55.0% | State: 55.0%

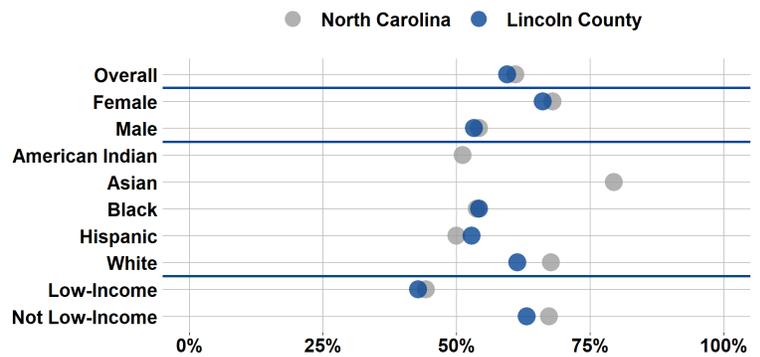
Post High School Graduation Intentions



87.2% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 75 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 88.5% | State: 87.3% 2024

57.8% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 58.8% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Lincoln 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

45% of Lincoln County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the state goal of 86%.

71.0% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 16 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. Peer: 46.5% | 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.

Lincoln County Traditional Public Schools students:

32.3% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 2,135 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 30.8% | State: 29.8%

44.8% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 2,161 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 37.8% | State: 36.5%

18.0% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 841 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 23.7% | State: 25.7%

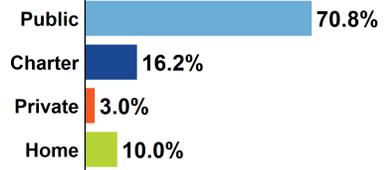
Lincoln County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 265:1 compared to 328:1 in peer counties. 2024

2.2% of students drop out of high school (82 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 1  
Traditional Public School(s): 22  
Charter School(s): 2  
Private School(s): 6  
Home School(s): 943

16,101 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 2,994 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 647 concentrations. 915 (30.6%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Manufacturing; Human Services; and Health Science.

679 (19%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

422 (49.4%) 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/)