

Wayne County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



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

Educational Attainment

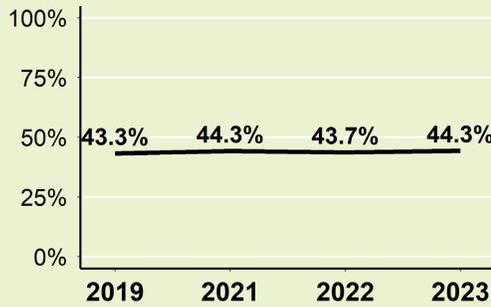
Wayne County residents ages 25-44, 2023

Have Degree or Credential
13,135
44.3%

No Degree
16,525
55.7%

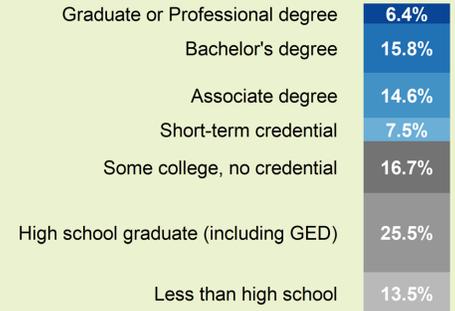
Residents Ages 25-44
29,660

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 Wayne County Attainment Goal: 20,498 (Stretch Goal: 20,747)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 117,321
2023 Estimate: 118,686
Change: 1,365

Growth Rate

1.2% County vs. 3.8% State

Race/Ethnicity

Amer. Indian 0.1%
Asian/Pac. Isl. 1.2%
Black 30.2%
Hispanic 13.2%
Multiracial 4%
White 51%



\$56,313
Median Household Income (2023)
State: \$70,838



61.5%
Home Owners (2023)
State: 66.3%



72.2%
Households with Broadband (2023)
State: 77.1%



25.6%
Child Poverty Rate (2023)
State: 17.6%



21.3%
Single Parent Households (2023)
State: 17.0%



6.9%
Foreign Born (2023)
State: 9.2%

Top Opportunities for Growth



Family Sustaining Wage

40% of Wayne County adults 25-44 earn a family sustaining wage, below the rural - metro county average of 47%.

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

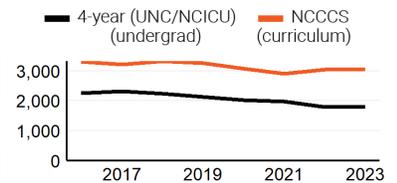
Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

- **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 Wayne County Residents



62 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

40.1% of adults (ages 25-44) in Wayne County earned a family sustaining wage. Peer: 46.7% | State: 57.6%, 2023

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

81.2% of adults (ages 25-44) in Wayne County participated in the labor force. Peer: 80.7% | State: 84.2%, 2023

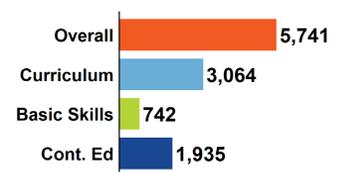
Top 3 Employers in Wayne County

Employer	Employment Range
Wayne County Public Schools	1000+
Wayne Memorial Hospital Inc	1000+
NC Dept of Health & Human Services	1000+

Top 3 industries in Wayne County

Industry	Jobs Percent
Health Care and Social Assistance	7,074 16.9%
Retail Trade	6,442 15.4%
Manufacturing	5,720 13.7%

Wayne County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023



Wayne County is served by:

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

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



Postsecondary Completion

56% of Wayne County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary education earn a degree or credential within 6 years, below the rural - metro county average of 57%.

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023

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

Adult Learners

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

447 Basic Skills

1,596 Continuing Education

838 Curriculum

16.7% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 16.0% | State: 11.7%, 2023



13.9% of Wayne County residents have student loan debt. 2.4% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2024

Success of Wayne County High School Graduates

82.4% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 80.1% | State: 83.8%, 2023

92.2% UNC

77.0% NCCCS

80.9% NCICU

56.0% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 57.5% | State: 60.0%, 2023

25.1% UNC

21.3% NCCCS

5.7% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 4,217 of all college-goers attended Wayne CC
- 487 of all college-goers attended Lenoir CC
- 483 of all college-goers attended East Carolina University

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

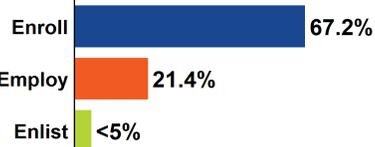


High School Graduation

79% of Wayne County 9th graders complete high school in 4 years or less, below the rural - metro county average of 86%.

45.8% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 374 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 52.0% | State: 55.0%

Post High School Graduation Intentions

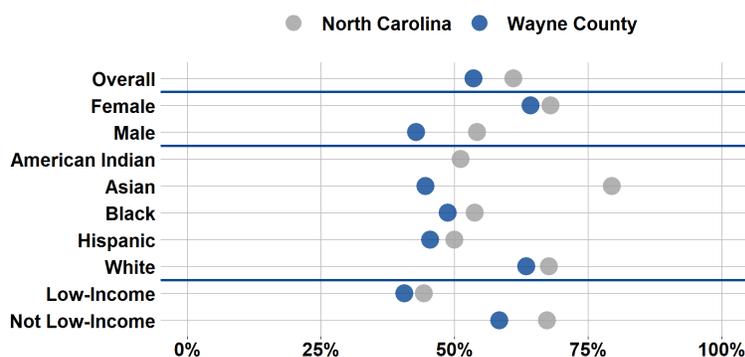


58.8% of students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) 2023. Peer: 55.2% | State: 45.1%

79.2% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 220 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 85.7% | State: 87.3% 2024

51.9% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 52.0% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Wayne 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

33% of Wayne County graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs, below the rural - metro county average of 43%. Also, 5% of high school students took at least one AP exam, below the peer county average of 9%.

73.7% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 10 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.

Wayne County Traditional Public Schools students:

21.4% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 4,101 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 25.3% | State: 29.8%

29.4% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 4,500 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 32.3% | State: 36.5%

36.9% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 4,702 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 27.4% | State: 25.7%



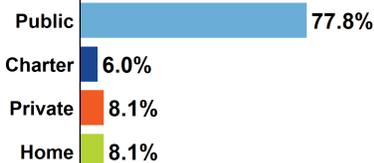
Wayne County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 431:1 compared to 352:1 in peer counties. 2024



2.8% of students drop out of high school (154 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 1
 Traditional Public School(s): 33
 Charter School(s): 3
 Private School(s): 12
 Home School(s): 1,093



21,795 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.

Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 5,699 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 592 concentrations. 903 (15.8%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Human Services; Health Science; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.



186 (<5%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).



422 (36.0%) 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/