Beaufort County

**2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal:** 2 million (67%)

**2030 Proposed Beaufort County Attainment Goal:** 5,588 (53%)

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**Population Spotlight**

- 2010 Census: 47,759
- 2020 Census: 44,652
- Change: -3,107

**Growth Rate**

- **County:** -6.5% vs. **State:** 9.5%  
  - **Median Household Income (2020):** $50,253
  - **Child Poverty Rate (2020):** 27.5%
  - **Households with Broadband (2020):** 79%
  - **Home Owners (2020):** 72%
  - **Voter Registration Rate (2021):** 77%
  - **Unemployment Rate (2021):** 4.8%

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**Educational Attainment**

Beaufort County residents ages 25-44, 2020

- **No Degree:** 60.2% (5,886)
- **Have Degree or Credential:** 39.8% (3,885)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Less than high school</th>
<th>High school graduate (including GED)</th>
<th>Some college, no credential</th>
<th>Short-term credential</th>
<th>Associate degree</th>
<th>Bachelor’s degree</th>
<th>Graduate or professional degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Numbers may add to more than 100% due to rounding.

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**Top Opportunities for Growth**

These three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Beaufort County to improve future attainment outcomes.

- **NC Pre-K Enrollment:**
  - 47% of Beaufort County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural non-metro county average of 68%.

- **Adult Learners:**
  - 22% of Beaufort County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the rural non-metro county average of 17%.

- **Postsecondary Completion:**
  - 52% of Beaufort County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary earn a degree or credential within 6 years, below the rural non-metro county average of 55%.

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**Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline**

Covid-19 has affected critical transition points along the education continuum.

- **K-12 Enrollment (district schools):** -8.6% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20
- **Postsecondary Enrollment:** -0.0% 2021 vs. 2020
- **FAFSA Completion:** 7.4% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19
- **Postsecondary Intentions:** 13.7% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

**Data Disruptions**

- College-and-Career-Ready in Reading
- College-and-Career-Ready in Math
- Chronic Absenteeism

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**How students in Beaufort County traditional schools are currently doing:**

To meet state goals, each year Beaufort County needs:

- 80 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 47%), 2022
- 1,345 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 23%), 2022
- 1,516 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 30%), 2022
- 43 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 86%), 2021
- 743 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 24%), 2021

Beaufort County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 345:1 versus 318:1 in peer counties, 2021

- 54% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022. (96 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%).
  
- 80% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 69% in peer counties.
- 49% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 50% in peer counties.

58% of Beaufort County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 59% in peer counties.

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**School Choice**

- 7,415 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Beaufort County in the 2021-22 school year.

Note: This profile focuses on outcomes of students enrolled in district schools.

**Career and College Preparation**

- 150 high school students took at least one AP course (8%) versus 7% in peer counties.
- 184 graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs (42%) versus 49% in peer counties.

Students in Beaufort County completed 158 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Manufacturing; Human Services; and Health Science.

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**Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Beaufort County, 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Beaufort County</th>
<th>North Carolina</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>Beaufort County</td>
<td>North Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Low-Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.
**Success of Beaufort County High School Graduates**

**Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020**
- 33% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 12% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 53% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 95% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 71% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% in peer counties. 2021
- 52% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 55% in peer counties. 2021

**Adult Learners**

**Beaufort County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021**
- 164 Basic Skills
- 967 Continuing Education
- 1,392 Curriculum

12% of Beaufort County residents have student loan debt; 17% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

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**In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:**

86.0% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

**Top areas of misalignment:**
- Health Science (below bachelor’s and bachelor’s)
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (below bachelor’s)
- Business Management & Administration (bachelor’s)

402 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

**UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:**
- 7,374 graduates in 2020
- 71% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $46,194 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

**In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:**
- 8,737 in Basic Services
- 4,829 in Career Services
- 278 in Education Services

13.5% of young adults ages 16-24 in Beaufort County were not working and not in school versus 15.2% in peer counties. 2019

**Impact of Covid-19 on NC Community College Enrollment**

**Curriculum**
- 2013: 1,800
- 2015: 1,700
- 2017: 1,600
- 2019: 1,500
- 2021: 1,400

**First-time Curriculum Enrollments**
- 2013: 450
- 2015: 400
- 2017: 350
- 2019: 300
- 2021: 250

**Basic Skills**
- 2013: 1,200
- 2015: 1,000
- 2017: 900
- 2019: 800
- 2021: 700

**Continuing Education**
- 2013: 1,200
- 2015: 1,000
- 2017: 900
- 2019: 800
- 2021: 700

**Number of Beaufort County residents employed, January 2020 to March 2022**

**Promising Attainment Practices**

The new Promising Attainment Practices Database is a curated, searchable, and filterable collection of about 250 county, region, and state-level initiatives and programs that directly address various components of the state’s attainment challenge. The Database allows local and regional initiative leaders and other stakeholders to identify groups across the state who are developing or operating initiatives designed to boost attainment.

Follow link to discover how Beaufort County has been meeting local needs: https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Beaufort

For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit: dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/