Bladen County
myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

2030 Proposed Bladen County Attainment Goal: 4,501 (Stretch Goal: 4,578)

Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 29,617
2022 Estimate: 29,446
Change: -171

Growth Rate
-0.6% vs. 2.5%
County vs. State

$46,002
Median Household Income (2022)
State: $67,516

70%
Home Owners (2022)
State: 67%

41.1%
Child Poverty Rate (2022)
State: 17.2%

20.7%
Opportunity Youth Rate (2022)
State: 10.9%

58%
Households with Broadband (2022)
State: 77%

4.3%
Unemployment Rate (2022)
State: 3.7%

Educational Attainment
Bladen County residents ages 25-44, 2022

No Degree
4,110 63.9%

Have Degree or Credential
2,319 36.1%

Top Opportunities for Growth
These three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Bladen County to improve future attainment outcomes.

Math Performance
17% of Bladen County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the rural - non-metro county average of 29%.

Reading Performance
16% of Bladen County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Reading, below the rural - non-metro county average of 25%.

FAFSA Completion
57% of Bladen County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural - non-metro county average of 61%.

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 Bladen County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Bladen

In Fayetteville-Lumberton Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:
80.5% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

1,855 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
5,664 graduates in 2020
56% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
$38,415 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

38% of adults (ages 25-44) in Bladen County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Bladen County is served by:
Lumber River Workforce Development Board
Lumber River Council of Governments

Top areas of misalignment:
Business Management & Administration
bachelor’s
Health Science below bachelor’s
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics below bachelor’s

First-time Curriculum Enrollments
Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Fayetteville-Lumberton Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Job Title
Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners 4%
Data Scientists 3%
Medical and Health Services Managers 2%

Top 3 Employers in Bladen County
Employer
Employment Range
Smithfield Foods Inc 1000+
Gildan Yarns Llc 1000+
Bladen County Schools 500-999

Basic Skills
Continuing Education
2018 2020 2022
Bladen County 2024 Attainment Profile

Updated: Jul 22 2024

1,281 Basic Skills
12,836 Continuing Education
5,244 Curriculum

13% of Bladen County residents have student loan debt; 14% of debt holders had student loans in default.

Success of Bladen County High School Graduates
- 77% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 78% in peer counties.
- 47% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 55% in peer counties.

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023
- 1,033 of all college-goers attended Bladen CC
- 150 of all college-goers attended Southeastern CC
- 127 of all college-goers attended Fayetteville TCC

- 57% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 70 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%.
- 61% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 68% in peer counties.
- 50% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 52% in peer counties.

69% of Bladen County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 55% in peer counties.

How students in Bladen County traditional schools are doing:
- Bladen County has met the goal for Pre-K enrollment. (Goal: 75%).
- 16% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 1,153 more needed to meet state goal of 73%.
- 17% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 1,144 more needed to meet state goal of 86%.
- 91% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 15 more needed to meet state goal of 95%.
- 26% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 27% statewide; 627 less needed to meet state goal of 11%.

Bladen County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 318:1 versus 325:1 in peer counties.

1% of students drop out of high school (15 total students), compared to 2% statewide.

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022
- 2,986 certificate
- 2,774 associate
- 2,891 bachelor’s

Postsecondary assets in Fayetteville-Lumberton Prosperity Zone sub-region
- Public, 4-year or above: Fayetteville State University, University of North Carolina at Pembroke
- Public, 2-year: Bladen Community College, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Robeson Community College, Sampson Community College, Southeastern Community College
- Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above: Carolina College of Biblical Studies, Manna University, Methodist University, St. Andrews University
- Private not-for-profit, 2-year

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Bladen County, 2022

Access to Postsecondary Credits
Students in Bladen County completed 2,025 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (256 (13%) were industry-valued credentials) and 342 credentials in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Human Services; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Health Science.

34 high school students took at least one AP test (5%) versus 8% in peer counties (2023).

178 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (56%) versus 51% in peer counties (2023).

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