Bladen County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Bladen County Attainment Goal: 4,501 (51%)

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 35,190
2020 Census: 29,606
Change: -5,584

Growth Rate
-15.9% vs. 9.5% County vs. State

Educational Attainment
Bladen County residents ages 25-44, 2020
No Degree: 65.6% (4,857)
Have Degree or Credential: 34.4% (2,547)

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

Math Performance
13% of Bladen County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the rural non-metro county average of 26%.

FAFSA Completion
44% of Bladen County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural non-metro county average of 55%.

Reading Performance
15% of Bladen County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Reading, below the rural non-metro county average of 24%.

Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline
K-12 Enrollment (district schools)
-6.1% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20
Postsecondary Enrollment
10.5% 2021 vs. 2020
FAFSA Completion
-12.8% 2022-22 vs. 2018-19
Postsecondary Intentions
-11.8% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

Data Disruptions
• College-and-Career-Ready in Reading
• College-and-Career-Ready in Math
• Chronic Absenteeism

How students in Bladen County traditional schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, each year Bladen County needs:
- Bladen County has met the goal for Pre-K enrollment (goal: 75% vs. 87%), 2022
- 938 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 15%), 2022
- 1,176 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 13%), 2022
- 12 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 92%), 2021
- 585 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 26%), 2021

Bladen County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 322:1 versus 318:1 in peer counties. 2021

44% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022. (114 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%).
https://www.myfuturenc.org/ourwork/first-in-fafsa/

62% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 69% in peer counties. 2021
49% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 50% in peer counties. 2021
70% of Bladen County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 59% in peer counties.

School Choice
5,077 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Bladen County in the 2021-22 school year.

Career and College Preparation
28 high school students took at least one AP course (<5%) versus 7% in peer counties (2021).
174 graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs (55%) versus 49% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Bladen County completed 336 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Human Services; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Bladen County, 2021

Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.
Bladen County 2022 Attainment Profile

Success of Bladen County High School Graduates
Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020
- 36% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 9% 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

- 74% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% in peer counties. 2021
- 47% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 55% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners
Bladen County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021
- 98 Basic Skills
- 633 Continuing Education
- 898 Curriculum

13% of Bladen County residents have student loan debt; 16% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:
- 80.4% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

Top areas of misalignment:
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (below bachelor’s)
- Business Management & Administration (bachelor’s)
- Information Technology (bachelor’s)

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)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:
- 10,858 in Basic Services
- 5,285 in Career Services
- 715 in Education Services

22.4% of young adults ages 16-24 in Bladen County were not working and not in school versus 15.2% in peer counties. 2019

Impact of Covid-19 on NC Community College Enrollment
- First-time Curriculum Enrollments
- Basic Skills
- Continuing Education

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

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