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

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Bladen County education continuum.

Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline
Covid-19 has affected critical transition points along the education continuum.

Educational Attainment
Bladen County residents ages 25-44, 2021

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

How students in Bladen County traditional schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, each year Bladen County needs:
- 44% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022; 114 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%. 2022
  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.

Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.
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
• 45% 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

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/