Brunswick County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Brunswick County Attainment Goal: 22,373 (62%)

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 107,431
2020 Census: 136,693
Change: 29,262

Growth Rate
County: 27.2% vs. State: 9.5%

$64,371 Median Household Income (2020)
17.2% Child Poverty Rate (2020)
89% Households with Broadband (2020)
81% Home Owners (2020)
82% Voter Registration Rate (2021)
6.0% Unemployment Rate (2021)

Updated: Dec 08 2022

Educational Attainment
Brunswick County residents ages 25-44, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Degree</th>
<th>Have Degree or Credential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>56.3%</td>
<td>43.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14,442</td>
<td>11,218</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

Earning College Credit in High School
32% of Brunswick County graduates participated in the Career & College Promise programs, below the rural metro county average of 43%. Also, 8% of high school students took at least one AP exam, below the peer county average of 9%.

NC Pre-K Enrollment
49% of Brunswick County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural metro county average of 59%.

High School Graduation
84% of Brunswick County 9th graders complete high school in 4 years or less, below the rural metro county average of 87%.

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

K-12 Enrollment (district schools)
-0.3% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20

Postsecondary Enrollment
-10.5% 2021 vs. 2020

FAFSA Completion
-6.2% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19

Postsecondary Intentions
-9.7% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

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

How students in Brunswick County traditional schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, each year Brunswick County needs:

• 137 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 49%).

• 2,569 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 29%).

• 2,949 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 35%).

• 121 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 84%).

• 1,942 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 27%).

Brunswick County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 352:1 versus 362:1 in peer counties.

School Choice
16,830 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Brunswick County in the 2021-22 school year.

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

Career and College Preparation
327 high school students took at least one AP course (8%) versus 9% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Brunswick County completed 300 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Human Services; Health Science; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Brunswick County, 2021

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

**Success of Brunswick County High School Graduates**

*Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020*

- 37% 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
- 93% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 76% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% in peer counties. 2021
- 56% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 57% in peer counties. 2021

**Adult Learners**

*Brunswick County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021*

- 284 Basic Skills
- 1,496 Continuing Education
- 2,210 Curriculum

11% of Brunswick County residents have student loan debt; 9% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

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

85.4% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

- 273 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

**UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:**

- 5,768 graduates in 2020
- 66% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $44,807 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

**Top areas of misalignment:**

- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (below bachelor’s)
- Health Science (below bachelor’s)
- Finance (bachelor’s)

**In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:**

- 8,319 in Basic Services
- 4,329 in Career Services
- 501 in Education Services

15.2% of young adults ages 16-24 in Brunswick 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 Brunswick County has been meeting local needs:

https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Brunswick

For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit:


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**Postsecondary assets in Wilmington Prosperity Zone sub-region**

- 1,154 certificate
- 1,686 associate
- 3,936 bachelor’s

**Degree Credentials Awarded, 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>1,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate</td>
<td>1,686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
<td>3,936</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

**Curriculum**

- First-time Curriculum Enrollments
  - 2013: 2,100
  - 2015: 1,900
  - 2017: 1,700
  - 2019: 1,500
  - 2021: 1,300

**First-time Curriculum Enrollments**

- 2013: 600
- 2015: 500
- 2017: 400
- 2019: 300
- 2021: 200

**Basic Skills**

- 2013: 400
- 2015: 300
- 2017: 200
- 2019: 100
- 2021: 0

**Continuing Education**

- 2013: 1,800
- 2015: 1,600
- 2017: 1,400
- 2019: 1,200
- 2021: 1,000

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

- January 2020: 40,000
- March 2020: 45,000
- May 2020: 50,000
- July 2020: 55,000
- September 2020: 60,000
- November 2020: 65,000
- January 2021: 70,000
- March 2021: 75,000
- May 2021: 80,000
- July 2021: 85,000
- September 2021: 90,000
- November 2021: 95,000
- January 2022: 100,000
- March 2022: 105,000