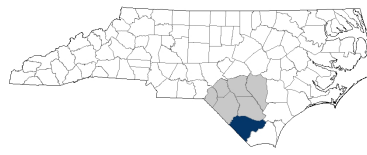


Columbus County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles



Fayetteville-Lumberton Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Rural - Non-Metro
Local Education Agencies: 2 (2023)
Charter Schools: 2 (2023)

2030 Proposed Columbus County Attainment Goal: 5,798 (Stretch Goal: 5,952)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 50,625
 2022 Estimate: 49,885
 Change: -740

Growth Rate

-1.5% vs. 2.5%
 County State



\$45,379
 Median Household Income (2022)
 State: \$67,516



71%
 Home Owners (2022)
 State: 67%



27.3%
 Child Poverty Rate (2022)
 State: 17.2%



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



53%
 Households with Broadband (2022)
 State: 77%



4.2%
 Unemployment Rate (2022)
 State: 3.7%

Educational Attainment

Columbus County residents ages 25-44, 2022

Less than high school High school graduate (including GED) Some college, no credential Short-term credential Associate degree Bachelor's degree Graduate or professional degree

No Degree
8,469
 70.0%

Have Degree or Credential
3,633
 30.0%



Note: Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Top Opportunities for Growth

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



Earning College Credit in High School

<5% of Columbus County high school students took at least one AP exam, below the rural - non-metro county average of 8%. Also, 51% of graduates participated in the Career & College Promise programs, below the peer county average of 51%.



School Counselors

Columbus County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 391:1, above the rural - non-metro county average of 325:1.



Chronic Absenteeism

33% of Columbus County students are chronically absent from school, above the rural - non-metro county average of 29%.

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 Columbus County has been meeting local needs:

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

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

In Fayetteville-Lumberton Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

80.5%

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

Top areas of misalignment:

Business Management & Administration bachelor's
Health Science below bachelor's
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics below 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

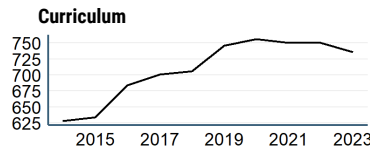
\$38,415 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

33% of adults (ages 25-44) in Columbus County earned a **family sustaining wage**, 2022

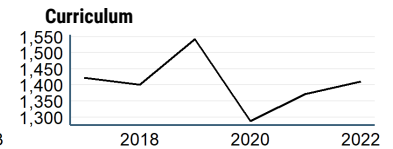
Columbus County is served by:

Cape Fear Workforce Development Board
 Cape Fear Council of Governments

UNC System College Enrollment



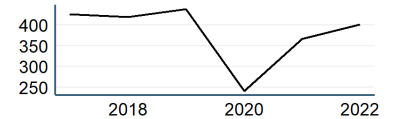
NC Community College Enrollment



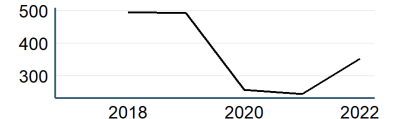
Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Fayetteville-Lumberton Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	4%
Data Scientists	3%
Medical and Health Services Managers	2%

First-time Curriculum Enrollments



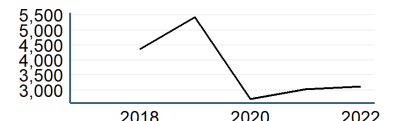
Basic Skills



Top 3 Employers in Columbus County

Employer	Employment Range
Employer Hr Llc	1000+
Columbus County Board Of Education	500-999
International Paper Company	500-999

Continuing Education



POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Adult Learners

Columbus County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022

- 353 Basic Skills
- 3,112 Continuing Education
- 1,411 Curriculum

11% of Columbus County residents have student loan debt; 15% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2022

Success of Columbus County High School Graduates

- 80% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 78% in peer counties. 2022
- 57% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 55% in peer counties. 2022

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- 2,568 of all college-goers attended Southeastern CC
- 185 of all college-goers attended Cape Fear CC
- 106 of all college-goers attended Bladen CC

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

- 60% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 108 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023
- 70% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 68% in peer counties. 2022
- 55% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 52% in peer counties. 2022

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

ACADEMIC READINESS

How students in Columbus County traditional schools are doing:

- Columbus County has met the goal for Pre-K enrollment. (Goal: 75%). 2023
- 22% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 2,015 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 26% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 1,889 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 85% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 64 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 33% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 27% statewide; 1,674 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2023

Columbus County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 391:1 versus 325:1 in peer counties. 2023

2% of students drop out of high school (45 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2023

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

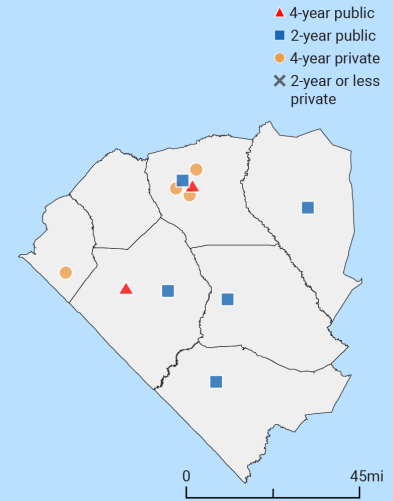
Public, 2-year

Bladen Community College, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Robeson Community College, Sampson Community College, Southeastern Community College

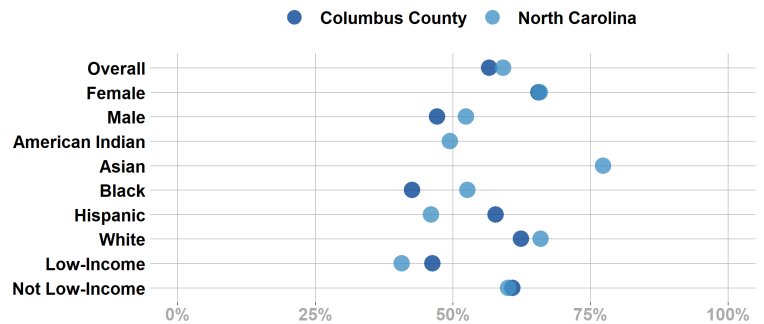
Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above

Carolina College of Biblical Studies, Manna University, Methodist University, St. Andrews University

Private not-for-profit, 2-year



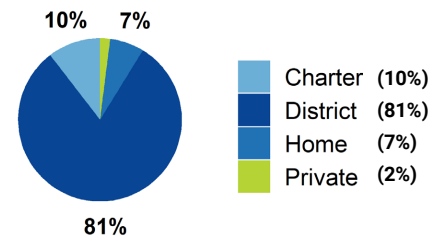
Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Columbus County, 2022



Note: Outcomes for groups with less than 10 students, <5% or >95% are not displayed.

School Choice

8,788 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Columbus County in the 2022-23 school year.



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

Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in Columbus County completed 2,961 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (184 (6%) were industry-valued credentials) and 277 concentrations in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; Health Science; and Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics.

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

281 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (51%) 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/

City/District School Profile

Columbus County Schools | 2022-2023

This profile is a supplement to the County Profiles



□ district boundary

Total Schools: 16 Total Students: 5,037

ACADEMIC READINESS

How students in Columbus County Schools are currently doing:

- **21%** of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **reading**, compared to **30%** statewide; 1,159 more needed to meet state goal of **73%**. 2023
- **23%** of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **math**, compared to **35%** statewide; 1,408 more needed to meet state goal of **86%**. 2023
- **86%** of 9th graders **graduate within four years**, compared to **87%** statewide; 38 more needed to meet state goal of **95%**. 2023
- **36%** of students are **chronically absent from school**, compared to **27%** statewide; 1,378 less needed to meet state goal of **11%**. 2023



Columbus County Schools has a **student-to-school counselor ratio** of **420:1**. 2023

Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in Columbus County Schools completed **2,027 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (131 (6%) were industry-valued credentials)** and **198 concentrations** in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics; and Hospitality & Tourism.



40 high school students took at least one **AP test (<5%)** (2023).



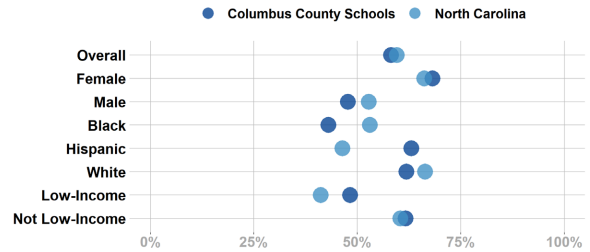
210 high school students participated in **Career & College Promise programs (54%)** (2023).

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

How students in Columbus County Schools are planning for and enrolling in college:

- **59%** of seniors **completed the FAFSA** in 2023, compared to **62%** statewide; 79 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of **80%**. 2023
- **69%** of graduates reported **intentions to enroll** in a postsecondary institution. 2022
- **56%** of graduates **enrolled in a postsecondary institution** within 12 months. 2022

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates (within 12 months) for Select Groups in Columbus County Schools, 2022



Note: Outcomes for groups with less than 10 students, <5% or >95% are not displayed.

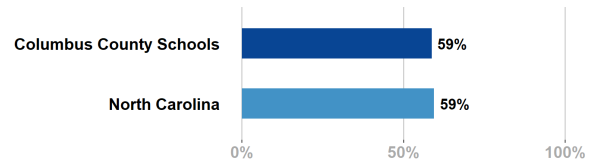
POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- Southeastern CC
- Cape Fear CC
- Bladen CC

• **79%** of college students **persist to their second year** of attendance. 2022

Percentage of students enrolled in North Carolina postsecondary institution who graduate within 6 years of enrollment, 2022



** Observations <10 or no data available

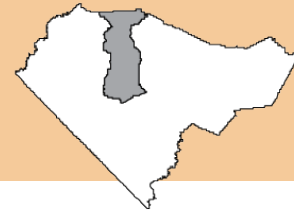
For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit:

dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/

City/District School Profile

Whiteville City Schools | 2022-2023

This profile is a supplement to the County Profiles



□ district boundary

Total Schools: 5 Total Students: 2,001

ACADEMIC READINESS

How students in Whiteville City Schools are currently doing:

- **25%** of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **reading**, compared to **30%** statewide; 444 more needed to meet state goal of **73%**. 2023
- **34%** of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **math**, compared to **35%** statewide; 481 more needed to meet state goal of **86%**. 2023
- **82%** of 9th graders **graduate within four years**, compared to **87%** statewide; 25 more needed to meet state goal of **95%**. 2023
- **25%** of students are **chronically absent from school**, compared to **27%** statewide; 296 less needed to meet state goal of **11%**. 2023



Whiteville City Schools has a **student-to-school counselor ratio** of **334:1**. 2023

Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in Whiteville City Schools completed **934 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (53 (6%) were industry-valued credentials) and 79 concentrations** in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics.



Less than 10 high school students took at least one **AP test (<5%)** (2023).



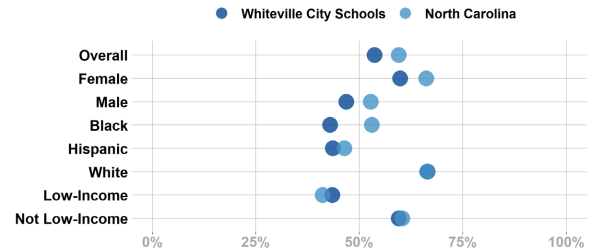
71 high school students participated in **Career & College Promise programs (43%)** (2023).

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

How students in Whiteville City Schools are planning for and enrolling in college:

- **61%** of seniors **completed the FAFSA** in 2023, compared to **62%** statewide; 29 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of **80%**. 2023
- **72%** of graduates reported **intentions to enroll** in a postsecondary institution. 2022
- **52%** of graduates **enrolled in a postsecondary institution** within 12 months. 2022

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates (within 12 months) for Select Groups in Whiteville City Schools, 2022



Note: Outcomes for groups with less than 10 students, <5% or >95% are not displayed.

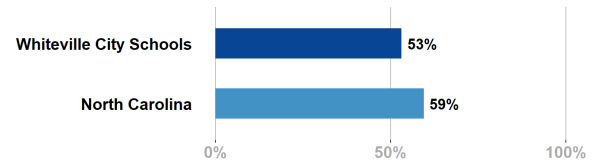
POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- Southeastern CC
- Cape Fear CC
- Bladen CC

- **80%** of college students **persist to their second year** of attendance. 2022

Percentage of students enrolled in North Carolina postsecondary institution who graduate within 6 years of enrollment, 2022



** Observations <10 or no data available

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

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