Columbus County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

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

Local Education Agencies:
2 (2023)
Charter Schools:
2 (2023)

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

Growth Rate
-1.5% vs. 2.5%
County State

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

Educational Attainment
Columbus County residents ages 25-44, 2022

No Degree
8,469
70.0%

Have Degree or Credential
3,633
30.0%

Median Household Income (2022)
$45,379
County State

Home Owners (2022)
71% State: 67%

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

Opportunity Youth Rate (2022)
20.7% State: 10.0%

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

Unemployment Rate (2022)
4.2% State: 3.7%

Growth Rate
-1.5% vs. 2.5%
County State

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

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)

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

L marginal alignment

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

First-time Curriculum Enrollments
Basic Skills
Continuing Education

Basic Skills
Continuing Education
Columbus County 2024 Attainment Profile

Updated: Jul 22 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

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/
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 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

- Columbus County Schools: 59%
- North Carolina: 59%

**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/
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% 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

- Whiteville City Schools 53%
- North Carolina 59%

** Observations <10 or no data available

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