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

$45,379
$67,516

Median Household Income (2022)
State: 67,516

71%
67%

Home Owners (2022)
State: 67%

27.3%
17.2%

Child Poverty Rate (2022)
State: 17.2%

23.7%
12.1%

Opportunity Youth Rate (2021)
State: 12.1%

53%
37%

Households with Broadband (2022)
State: 37%

4.2%
8%

Unemployment Rate (2022)
State: 8%

Educational Attainment
Columbus County residents ages 25-44, 2022

No Degree
8,469
30.0%

Have Degree or Credential
3,633
70.0%

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
26% of Columbus County graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs, below the rural - non-metro county average of 39%. Also, <5% of high school students took at least one AP exam, below the peer county average of 7%.

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

Adult Learners
19% of Columbus County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the rural - non-metro county average of 16%.

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

Evaluation

Top 5 Five-Star Jobs in Fayetteville-Lumberton Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Top Employers in Columbus County

Cape Fear Workforce Development Board
Cape Fear Council of Governments
Updated: Feb 12 2024

### Columbus County 2024 Attainment Profile

**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

**Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Columbus County, 2022**

- 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 peers counties. 2022
- 55% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 52% in peer counties. 2022

68% of Columbus County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 57% in peer counties.

**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

**68% of Columbus County students have parents with no college degree**

(57% 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 32% statewide; 1,658 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022

Columbus County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 391:1 versus 325:1 in peer counties. 2022

3% of students drop out of high school (67 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2022

- 3% of students drop out of high school (67 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2022

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

• 37% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide; 1,364 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022

Columbus County Schools has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 420:1 versus 325:1 in peer districts. 2022

Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in Columbus County Schools completed 2,191 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 183 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; Health Science; and Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics.

58 high school students took at least one AP course (<5%) (2022). 168 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (22%) (2022).

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

Note: 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

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
• 24% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide; 294 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022

Whiteville City Schools has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 334:1 versus 325:1 in peer districts. 2022

Access to Postsecondary Credits
Students in Whiteville City Schools completed 874 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 76 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science, Human Services, and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.

Less than 10 high school students took at least one AP course (<5%) (2022).
117 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (35%) (2022).

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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