Cumberland County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Cumberland County Attainment Goal: 49,125 (59%)

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 319,431
2020 Census: 334,728
Change: 15,297

Growth Rate
4.8% vs. 9.5%

County

State

$49,160 Median Household Income (2020)
26.2% Child Poverty Rate (2020)
89% Households with Broadband (2020)
51% Home Owners (2020)
71% Voter Registration Rate (2021)
6.9% Unemployment Rate (2021)

Fayetteville-Lumberton
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Suburban
Local Education Agencies: 1
Charter Schools: 2

Educational Attainment
Cumberland County residents ages 25-44, 2020

No Degree
54.4%
52,691

Have Degree or Credential
45.6%
44,120

6% Less than high school
23% High school graduate (including GED)
26% Some college, no credential
8% Short-term credential
10% Associate degree
20% Bachelor’s degree
8% Graduate or professional degree

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

Math Performance
22% of Cumberland County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the suburban county average of 34%.

Postsecondary Completion
51% of Cumberland County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary earn a degree or credential within 6 years, below the suburban county average of 60%.

Adult Learners
26% of Cumberland County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the suburban county average of 17%.

Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline
K-12 Enrollment (district schools)
-3.9% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20
Postsecondary Enrollment
-1.9% 2021 vs. 2020

FAFSA Completion
-7.4% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19
Postsecondary Intentions
-9.0% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

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

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

- 837 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 48%). 2022
- 10,375 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 26%). 2022
- 14,163 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 22%). 2022
- 430 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 84%). 2021
- 10,054 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 32%). 2021

Cumberland County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 317:1 versus 336:1 in peer counties. 2021

Career and College Preparation
1,509 high school students took at least one AP course (11%) versus 15% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Cumberland County completed 1,934 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security; Human Services; and Health Science.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Cumberland County, 2021

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

Success of Cumberland County High School Graduates

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020

- 49% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 14% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 36% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 89% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 71% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 77% in peer counties. 2021
- 51% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 60% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners

Cumberland County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021

- 1,289 Basic Skills
- 4,423 Continuing Education
- 7,787 Curriculum

- 22% of Cumberland County residents have student loan debt; 12% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

Postsecondary assets in Fayetteville-Lumberton Prosperity Zone sub-region

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2021

- 2,584 certificate
- 3,044 associate
- 2,900 bachelor's

Impact of Covid-19 on NC Community College Enrollment

Curriculum

- First-time Curriculum Enrollments

Basic Skills

- Number of Cumberland County residents employed, January 2020 to March 2022

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:

- 10,138 in Basic Services
- 3,486 in Career Services
- 274 in Education Services

- 13.1% of young adults ages 16-24 in Cumberland County were not working and not in school versus 11.2% 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.

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

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