Dare County
myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

2030 Proposed Dare County Attainment Goal: 5,359 (Stretch Goal: 5,429)
2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 36,910
2022 Estimate: 37,956
Change: 1,046

Growth Rate
2.8% vs. 2.5%
County vs. State

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Educational Attainment
Dare County residents ages 25-44, 2022

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<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>No Degree</th>
<th>Have Degree or Credential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than high school</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>High school graduate (including GED) 21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with high school</td>
<td></td>
<td>Some college, no credential 17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-term credential</td>
<td></td>
<td>Associate degree 8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate or more</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bachelor's degree 12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>professional degree</td>
<td></td>
<td>Graduate or professional degree 27%</td>
</tr>
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Top Opportunities for Growth
These three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Dare County to improve future attainment outcomes.

- **Adult Learners**: 17% of Dare County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the rural - non-metro county average of 16%.
- **Opportunity Youth**: 15% of Dare County youth ages 16-24 are not working and not in school, above the state average of 12%.
- **First-Year Persistence**: 82% of Dare County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary persist to their second year, below the state average of 83%.

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 Dare County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Dare

In Elizabeth City Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:
72.2% 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
- Health Science below bachelor’s
- Business Management & Administration bachelor’s

13 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
- 632 graduates in 2020
- 62% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $33,554 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

46% of adults (ages 25-44) in Dare County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Dare County is served by:
Northeastern Workforce Development Board
Albemarle Commission

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Elizabeth City Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
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<td>4%</td>
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Top 3 Employers in Dare County
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LITERACY AND ATTAINMENT

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**Adult Learners**

Dare County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022

- 58 Basic Skills
- 949 Continuing Education
- 689 Curriculum

9% of Dare County residents have student loan debt. 3% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2022

**Success of Dare County High School Graduates**

- 82% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 78% in peer counties. 2022
- 63% 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**

- 1,022 of all college-goers attended College of The Albemarle
- 41 of all college-goers attended Pitt CC
- 38 of all college-goers attended Wake TCC

• 75% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 18 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023
• 75% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 68% in peer counties. 2022
• 59% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 52% in peer counties. 2022

46% of Dare County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 57% in peer counties.

**How students in Dare County traditional schools are doing:**

- Dare County has met the goal for Pre-K enrollment. (Goal: 75%). 2023
- 36% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 1,123 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 41% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 1,029 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 93% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 11 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 28% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide; 920 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022

Dare County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 310:1 versus 325:1 in peer counties. 2022

1% of students drop out of high school (22 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2022

**Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022**

- 274 certificate
- 349 associate
- 331 bachelor’s

**Postsecondary assets in Elizabeth City Prosperity Zone sub-region**

- Public, 4-year or above
  - Elizabeth City State University
- Public, 2-year
  - College of the Albemarle
- Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above
  - Mid-Atlantic Christian University
- Private not-for-profit, 2-year

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

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

**School Choice**

5,766 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Dare 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 Dare County completed 2,064 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 158 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Human Services; Health Science; and Architecture and Construction.

- 312 high school students took at least one AP course (18% versus 7% in peer counties (2022).
- 314 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (41%) versus 39% in peer counties (2022).

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

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