Dare County

**2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal:** 2 million (67%)

**2030 Proposed Dare County Attainment Goal:** 5,359 (57%)

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**Population Spotlight**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2010 Census: 33,920</th>
<th>2020 Census: 36,915</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change: 2,995</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Growth Rate**

| 8.8% | vs. 9.5% |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Median Household Income (2020)</th>
<th>$72,962</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Poverty Rate (2020)</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with Broadband (2020)</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Owners (2020)</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter Registration Rate (2021)</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate (2021)</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
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</tbody>
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**Educational Attainment**

Dare County residents ages 25-44, 2020

- **No Degree:** 46.8%  (3,758)
- **Have Degree or Credential:** 53.2%  (4,267)

- **Less than high school:** 7%
- **High school graduate (including GED):** 23%
- **Some college, no credential:** 17%
- **Short-term credential:** 8%
- **Associate degree:** 13%
- **Bachelor's degree:** 23%
- **Graduate or professional degree:** 9%

**Note:** Numbers may add to more than 100% due to rounding

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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 state average of 15%.
- **Opportunity Youth:** 13% of Dare County youth ages 16-24 are not working and not in school, above the state average of 12%.
- **Math Performance:** 35% of Dare County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the state goal of 86%.

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**Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline**

Covid-19 has affected critical transition points along the education continuum.

- **K-12 Enrollment (district schools):** -2.9% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20
- **FAFSA Completion:** -13.3% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19
- **Postsecondary Enrollment:** -13.6% 2021 vs. 2020
- **Postsecondary Intentions:** -10.5% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

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**Data Disruptions**

- **College-and-Career-Ready in Reading**
- **College-and-Career-Ready in Math**
- **Chronic Absenteeism**

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

To meet state goals, each year Dare County needs:

- Dare County has met the goal for Pre-K enrollment (goal: 75% vs. 81%). 2022
- 890 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 34%). 2021
- 1,171 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 35%). 2022
- 7 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 93%). 2021
- 459 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 20%). 2021

Dare County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 313:1 versus 318:1 in peer counties. 2021

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**Career and College Preparation**

- 385 high school students took at least one AP course (23%) versus 7% in peer counties (2021).
- Students in Dare County completed 136 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Human Services; Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; and Hospitality & Tourism.

202 graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs (47%) versus 49% in peer counties (2021).

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**Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Dare County, 2021**

- **Overall**
- **Female**
- **Male**
- **Black**
- **Hispanic**
- **White**
- **Low-Income**
- **Not Low-Income**

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**School Choice**

5,850 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Dare County in the 2021-22 school year.

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

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**Charter (0%)**

**District (87%)**

**Home (11%)**

**Private (2%)**

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**College & Career Access**

- 62% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022. (73 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%).
- 76% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 69% in peer counties. 2021
- 58% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 50% in peer counties. 2021

46% of Dare County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 59% in peer counties.

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

Success of Dare County High School Graduates

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020

- 50% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 14% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 35% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 85% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 82% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% in peer counties. 2021
- 62% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 55% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners

Dare County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021

- 49 Basic Skills
- 375 Continuing Education
- 750 Curriculum

- 7% of Dare County residents have student loan debt; 8% of debt holders had student loans in default.

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

- 70.0% 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 (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)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:

- 3,785 in Basic Services
- 2,643 in Career Services
- 293 in Education Services

- 13.0% of young adults ages 16-24 in Dare County were not working and not in school versus 15.2% in peer counties. 2019

Impact of Covid-19 on NC Community College Enrollment

First-time Curriculum Enrollments

- Curriculum
- Continuing Education

Number of Dare County residents employed, January 2020 to March 2022

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

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

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