Lee County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

2030 Proposed Lee County Attainment Goal: 10,102 (Stretch Goal: 10,229)
2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 63,281
2022 Estimate: 65,476
Change: 2,195

Growth Rate
3.5% vs. 2.5%

County: State

65% Home Owners (2022) State: 67%
22.4% Child Poverty Rate (2022) State: 17.2%
11.7% Opportunity Youth Rate (2021) State: 12.1%
68% Households with Broadband (2022) State: 77%
4.2% Unemployment Rate (2022) State: 3.7%

Median Household Income (2022): $58,244 State: $67,516

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Educational Attainment
Lee County residents ages 25-44, 2022

No Degree: Have Degree or Credential
9,288 7,029
56.9% 43.1%

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

Earning College Credit in High School
34% of Lee 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%.

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

In Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:
76.5% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

5,347 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
19,047 graduates in 2020
65% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
$50,028 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

41% of adults (ages 25-44) in Lee County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Job Title Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners 4%
Data Scientists 4%
Statisticians 4%

Top 3 Employers in Lee County
Employer Employment Range
Caterpillar Inc 1000+
Lee County Schools 1000+
Pilgrims Pride Corporation 500-999

Lee County is served by:
Capital Area Workforce Development Board
Central Pines Council of Governments

Note: Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding

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Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022
- 5,278 certificates
- 5,596 associates
- 16,200 bachelors

Postsecondary assets in Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone sub-region
- Public, 4-year or above
  - North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University at Raleigh, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Public, 2-year
  - Central Carolina Community College, Durham Technical Community College, Johnston Community College, Piedmont Community College, Vance-Granville Community College, Wake Technical Community College
- Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above
  - Campbell University, Duke University, Heritage Bible College, Meredith College, Saint Augustine’s University, Shaw University, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Southeastern Free Will Baptist Bible College, Watts School of Nursing, William Peace University
- Private not-for-profit, 2-year
  - Louisburg College

How students in Lee County traditional schools are doing:
- 71% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide, 17 more needed to meet state goal of 75%.
- 23% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 2,536 more needed to meet state goal of 73%.
- 31% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 2,214 more needed to meet state goal of 86%.
- 86% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 74 more needed to meet state goal of 95%.
- 38% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide; 2,650 less needed to meet state goal of 11%.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Lee County, 2022

Access to Postsecondary Credits
- Students in Lee County completed 3,680 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 356 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Architecture and Construction; Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics; and Human Services.

For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit: dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/