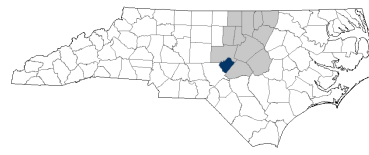


# Lee County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles



Raleigh-Durham  
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region  
**Peer County Type:** Rural - Non-Metro  
**Local Education Agencies:** 1 (2023)  
**Charter Schools:** 3 (2023)

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%** County vs. **2.5%** State



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



**65%**  
Home Owners (2022)  
State: 67%



**22.4%**  
Child Poverty Rate (2022)  
State: 17.2%



**11.9%**  
Opportunity Youth Rate (2022)  
State: 10.9%



**68%**  
Households with Broadband (2022)  
State: 77%



**4.2%**  
Unemployment Rate (2022)  
State: 3.7%

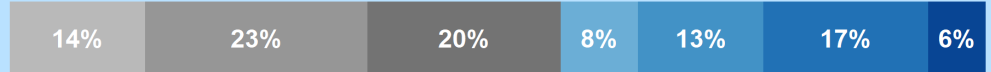
## Educational Attainment

Lee County residents ages 25-44, 2022

Less than high school High school graduate (including GED) Some college, no credential Short-term credential Associate degree Bachelor's degree Graduate or professional degree

**No Degree**  
**9,288**  
56.9%

**Have Degree or Credential**  
**7,029**  
43.1%



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

## 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

46% of Lee County graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs, below the rural - non-metro county average of 51%. Also, 6% of high school students took at least one AP exam, below the peer county average of 8%.



### Adult Learners

20% of Lee County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the rural - non-metro county average of 16%.



### Reading Performance

23% of Lee County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Reading, below the rural - non-metro county average of 25%.

## 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](https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Lee)

## LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

### In Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

**76.5%**

of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

#### Top areas of misalignment:

**Business Management & Administration** bachelor's  
**Health Science** below bachelor's  
**Information Technology** bachelor's



**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)

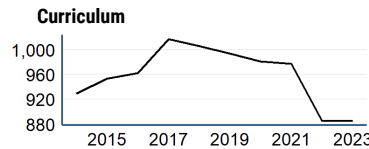


**41%** of adults (ages 25-44) in Lee County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

### Lee County is served by:

Capital Area Workforce Development Board  
Central Pines Council of Governments

### UNC System College Enrollment



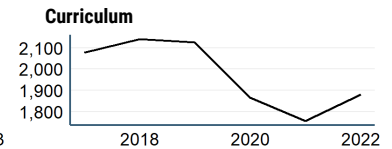
### Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	4%
Data Scientists	4%
Statisticians	4%

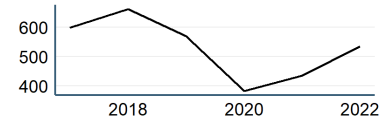
### Top 3 Employers in Lee County

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

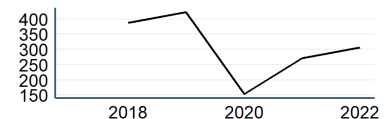
### NC Community College Enrollment



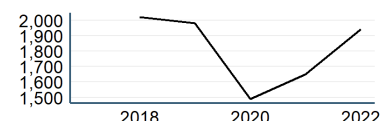
### First-time Curriculum Enrollments



### Basic Skills



### Continuing Education



## Adult Learners

## Lee County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022

307 Basic Skills  
1,942 Continuing Education  
1,882 Curriculum



11% of Lee County residents have **student loan debt**; 8% of debt holders had **student loans in default**. 2022

## Success of Lee County High School Graduates

- 80% of students who enroll **persist to their second year** versus 78% in peer counties. 2022
- 59% 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

- 2,513 of all college-goers attended **Central Carolina CC**
- 164 of all college-goers attended **Sandhills CC**
- 147 of all college-goers attended **Wake TCC**

• 60% of seniors **completed the FAFSA** in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 118 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023

• 52% of graduates reported **intentions to enroll** in a postsecondary institution versus 68% in peer counties. 2022

• 48% of graduates **enrolled in a postsecondary institution** within 12 months versus 52% in peer counties. 2022



49% of Lee County students have **parents with no college degree** (either 2- or 4-year) versus 55% in peer counties.

## 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%. 2023

• 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%. 2023

• 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%. 2023

• 86% of 9th graders **graduate within four years**, compared to 87% statewide; 74 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023

• 23% of students are **chronically absent from school**, compared to 27% statewide; 1,103 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2023



Lee County has a **student-to-school counselor ratio** of 332:1 versus 325:1 in peer counties. 2023



0% of students **drop out of high school** (5 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2023

## Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022

5,278 certificate | 5,596 associate | 16,200 bachelor's

## 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

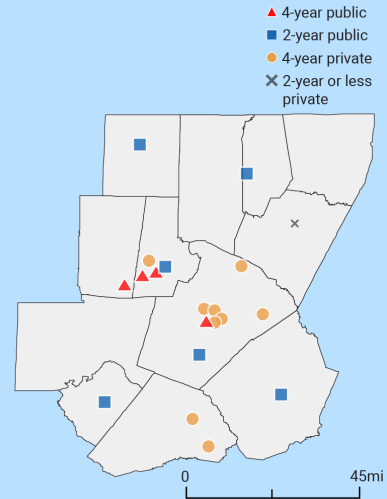
Central Carolina Community College, Durham Technical Community College, Johnston Community College, Piedmont Community College, Vance-Granville Community College, Wake Technical Community College

## Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above

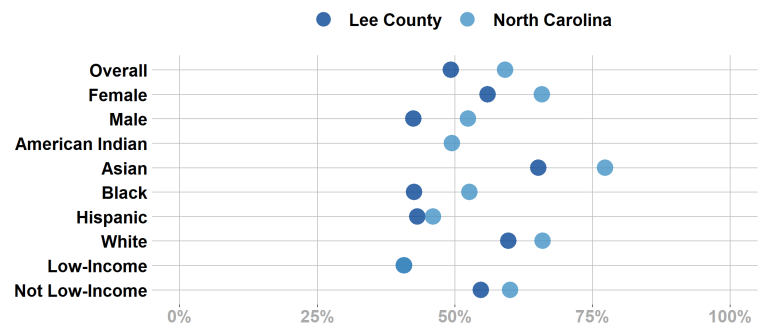
Campbell University, Duke University, Heritage Bible College, Meredith College, Saint Augustine's University, Shaw University, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Southeastern Free Will Baptist Bible College, Watts School of Nursing, William Peace University

## Private not-for-profit, 2-year

Louisburg College



## Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Lee County, 2022

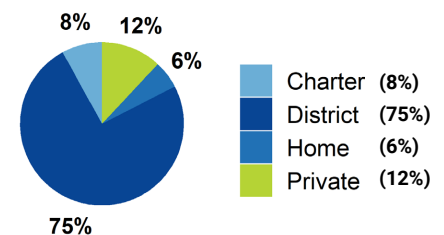


Note: Outcomes for groups with less than 10 students, <5% or >95% are not displayed.

## School Choice

12,025 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Lee 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 Lee County completed 2,178 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (312 (14%) were industry-valued credentials) and 450 concentrations in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Architecture and Construction; Hospitality & Tourism; and Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics.



190 high school students took at least one **AP test** (6%) versus 8% in peer counties (2023).



328 high school students participated in **Career & College Promise programs** (46%) versus 51% in peer counties (2023).

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

[dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/](https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/)