Lenoir County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Lenoir County Attainment Goal: 5,994 (48%)

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 59,495
2020 Census: 55,122
Change: -4,373

Growth Rate
-7.3% County vs. 9.5% State

Median Household Income (2020)
$40,586
Child Poverty Rate (2020)
35.4%
Households with Broadband (2020)
85%
Home Owners (2020)
57%
Voter Registration Rate (2021)
73%
Unemployment Rate (2021)
5.0%

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

NC Pre-K Enrollment
38% of Lenoir County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural non-metro county average of 68%.

Math Performance
19% of Lenoir County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the rural non-metro county average of 26%.

Earning College Credit in High School
43% of Lenoir County graduates participated in the Career & College Promise programs, below the rural non-metro county average of 49%. Also, <5% of high school students took at least one AP exam, below the peer county average of 7%.

Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline
Covid-19 has affected critical transition points along the education continuum.

K-12 Enrollment (district schools)
-3.4% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20

Postsecondary Enrollment
-8.4% 2021 vs. 2020

FAFSA Completion
-5.0% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19

Postsecondary Intentions
-1.0% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

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

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

- 161 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 38%). 2022
- 2,049 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 19%). 2022
- 2,533 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 19%). 2022
- 52 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 87%). 2021
- 1,750 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 32%). 2021

Lenoir County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 340:1 versus 318:1 in peer counties. 2021

60% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022. (99 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%).
https://www.myfuturenc.org/ourwork/first-in-fafsa/

76% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 69% in peer counties. 2021

49% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 50% in peer counties. 2021

65% of Lenoir County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 59% in peer counties.

Career and College Preparation
59 high school students took at least one AP course (<5%) versus 7% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Lenoir County completed 428 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Human Services; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Health Science.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Lenoir County, 2021

Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.
Success of Lenoir County High School Graduates

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020

- 27% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 13% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 59% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 95% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 72% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% in peer counties. 2021
- 53% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 55% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners

Lenoir County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021

- 297 Basic Skills
- 1,185 Continuing Education
- 1,635 Curriculum

13% of Lenoir County residents have student loan debt; 15% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

70.5% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

Top areas of misalignment:
- Health Science (all levels)
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (below bachelor’s)
- Business Management & Administration (bachelor’s)

117 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

- 1,646 graduates in 2020
- 75% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $38,627 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:

- 11,622 in Basic Services
- 5,489 in Career Services
- 674 in Education Services

16.9% of young adults ages 16-24 in Lenoir County were not working and not in school versus 15.2% in peer counties. 2019

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

Impact of Covid-19 on NC Community College Enrollment

Curriculum

First-time Curriculum Enrollments

Basic Skills

Continuing Education

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

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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 Lenoir County has been meeting local needs:

https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Lenoir

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

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