Lincoln County
myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

2030 Proposed Lincoln County Attainment Goal: 14,161 (Stretch Goal: 14,330) 2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 86,816
2022 Estimate: 93,095
Change: 6,279

Growth Rate
7.2% County vs. 2.5% State

Median Household Income (2022)
$78,615 County
$76,516 State

Local Education Agencies: 1 (2023)
Charter Schools: 2 (2023)

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Educational Attainment
Lincoln County residents ages 25-44, 2022

No Degree 10,286 51.3%
Have Degree or Credential 9,783 48.7%

Less than high school 9%
High school graduate (including GED) 29%
Some college, no credential 13%
Short-term credential 8%
Associate degree 12%
Bachelor’s degree 22%
Graduate or professional degree 7%

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

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

FAFSA Completion 59% of Lincoln County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the suburban county average of 62%.

Opportunity Youth 15% of Lincoln County youth ages 16-24 are not working and not in school, above the state average of 12%.

Postsecondary Completion 58% of Lincoln County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary earn a degree or credential within 6 years, below the state average of 59%.

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

In Charlotte Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

80.4% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

4,230 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
12,495 graduates in 2020
74% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
$45,387 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

56% of adults (ages 25-44) in Lincoln County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Lincoln County is served by:
Centralina Workforce Development Board
Centralina Regional Council
How students in Lincoln County traditional schools are doing:

- Lincoln County has met the goal for Pre-K enrollment. (Goal: 75%). 2023
- 34% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 2,766 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 43% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 2,265 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 89% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 57 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 18% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide; 776 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2023
- Lincoln County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 315:1 versus 327:1 in peer counties. 2022
- 3% of students drop out of high school (103 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2022

Success of Lincoln County High School Graduates

- 82% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 82% in peer counties. 2022
- 58% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 60% in peer counties. 2022

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- 2,237 of all college-goers attended Gaston College
- 374 of all college-goers attended Catawba Valley CC
- 294 of all college-goers attended Central Piedmont CC

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Lincoln County, 2022

- Overall: 62%
- Female: 62%
- Male: 62%
- American Indian: 71%
- Asian: 70%
- Black: 70%
- Hispanic: 62%
- White: 87%
- Low-Income: 65%
- Not Low-Income: 62%

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

Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in Lincoln County completed 2,743 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 585 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science, Manufacturing, and Human Services.

- 707 high school students took at least one AP course (20%) versus 14% in peer counties (2022).
- 629 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (38%) versus 23% in peer counties (2022).