# Pender County

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

2030 Proposed Pender County Attainment Goal: 12,441 (65%)

## Population Spotlight

2010 Census: 52,217  
2020 Census: 60,203  
Change: 7,986

## Growth Rate

15.3% vs. 9.5%  
County vs. State

## Median Household Income (2020)

$59,812

## Child Poverty Rate (2020)

19.3%

## Home Owners (2020)

81%

## Voter Registration Rate (2021)

79%

## Unemployment Rate (2021)

4.2%

## Wilmington Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Peer County Type: Rural Metro

Local Education Agencies: 1  
Charter Schools: 0

## Local Education Agencies

1

## Charter Schools

0

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## Educational Attainment

Pender County residents ages 25-44, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Degree</th>
<th>Have Degree or Credential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7,676</td>
<td>6,983</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## School Counselors

Pender County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 426:1, above the rural metro county average of 362:1.

## Postsecondary Completion

55% of Pender County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary earn a degree or credential within 6 years, below the rural metro county average of 57%.

## Transition to Postsecondary

52% of Pender County seniors enroll in postsecondary within 12 months of graduation, below the state average of 55%.

## Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline

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

- K-12 Enrollment (district schools): 5.7%  
  2021-22 vs. 2019-20
- Postsecondary Enrollment: -7.6%  
  2021 vs. 2020
- FAFSA Completion: -3.6%  
  2021-22 vs. 2018-19
- Postsecondary Intentions: -3.3%  
  2020-21 vs. 2018-19

## Data Disruptions

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

## How students in Pender County traditional schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, each year Pender County needs:

- Pender County has met the goal for Pre-K enrollment (goal: 75% vs. 90%), 2022
- 1,955 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 31%), 2022
- 2,340 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 36%), 2022
- 15 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 93%), 2021
- 1,334 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 25%), 2021

Pender County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 426:1 versus 362:1 in peer counties, 2021

## School Choice

11,563 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Pender County in the 2021-22 school year.

- 11% Charter  
- 87% District  
- 8% Home  
- 4% Private

## Career and College Preparation

- 339 high school students took at least one AP course (12%) versus 9% in peer counties (2021).
- 370 graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs (46%) versus 43% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Pender County completed 448 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Architecture and Construction.

## Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Pender County, 2021

- 65% Overall  
- 64% Female  
- 66% Male  
- 67% Black  
- 67% Hispanic  
- 68% White  
- 62% Low-Income  
- 67% Not Low-Income

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

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020

- 39% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 9% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 51% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 93% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 76% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% in peer counties. 2021
- 55% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 57% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners

Pender County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021

- 102 Basic Skills
- 895 Continuing Education
- 1,600 Curriculum

14% of Pender County residents have student loan debt; 8% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

85.4% 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 (below bachelor’s)
- Finance (bachelor’s)

273 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

- 5,768 graduates in 2020
- 66% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $44,807 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:

- 8,319 in Basic Services
- 4,329 in Career Services
- 501 in Education Services

12.1% of young adults ages 16-24 in Pender County were not working and not in school versus 15.2% in peer counties. 2019

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

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