Pender County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

2030 Proposed Pender County Attainment Goal: 12,441 (Stretch Goal: 12,557)

Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 60,208
2022 Estimate: 65,737
Change: 5,529

Growth Rate
9.2% vs. 2.5%
County vs. State

82% Home Owners (2022)
State: 67%

15.8% Child Poverty Rate (2022)
State: 17.2%

10.7% Opportunity Youth Rate (2022)
State: 10.0%

69% Households with Broadband (2022)
State: 77%

3.5% Unemployment Rate (2022)
State: 3.7%

Median Household Income (2022)
$73,663
State: $67,516

Change: 5,529
9.2%
County vs. 2.5%
State

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

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

School Counselors
Pender County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 460:1, above the rural - metro county average of 362:1.

FAFSA Completion
57% of Pender County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural - metro county average of 58%.

Transition to Postsecondary
50% of Pender County seniors enroll in postsecondary within 12 months of graduation, below the state average of 58%.

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

In Wilmington Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

83.8% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

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

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

Pender County is served by:
- Cape Fear Workforce Development Board
- Cape Fear Council of Governments

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Wilmington Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
- Nurse Practitioners: 4%
- Data Scientists: 4%
- Web Developers: 4%

Top 3 Employers in Pender County
- Pender County Schools: 1000+
- Pender County N C: 250-499
- Medical Edge Recruitment Llc: 250-499

First-time Curriculum Enrollments

Basic Skills

Continuing Education

Labor Market Alignment
Updated: Jul 22 2024

**Basic Skills**

- 6,638 Continuing Education
- 1,928 Curriculum

14% of Pender County residents have student loan debt; 6% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2022

**Continuing Education**

- 381 Basic Skills
- 6,638 Continuing Education

**Curriculum**

- 14% of Pender County residents have student loan debt; 6% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2022

**Success of Pender County High School Graduates**

- 77% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 79% in peer counties. 2022
- 56% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 56% in peer counties. 2022

**Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023**

- 2,405 of all college-goers attended Cape Fear CC
- 80 of all college-goers attended Coastal Carolina CC
- 68 of all college-goers attended James Sprunt CC

- 57% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 160 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023
- 75% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 68% in peer counties. 2022
- 50% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 51% in peer counties. 2022
- 30% of Pender County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 55% in peer counties.

**How students in Pender County traditional schools are doing:**

- Pender County has met the goal for Pre-K enrollment (Goal: 75%). 2023
- 33% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 2,578 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 39% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 2,298 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 94% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 11 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 25% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 27% statewide; 1,538 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2023
- Pender County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 460:1 versus 362:1 in peer counties. 2023
- 0% of students drop out of high school (8 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2023

**School Choice**

12,154 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Pender County in the 2022-23 school year.

**Access to Postsecondary Credits**

- Students in Pender County completed 5,218 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (844 (16%) were industry-valued credentials) and 584 concentrations in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Hospitality & Tourism.
- 359 high school students took at least one AP test (11%) versus 8% in peer counties (2023).
- 397 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (51%) versus 43% in peer counties (2023).

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