### Pender County

#### 2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
#### 2030 Proposed Pender County Attainment Goal: 12,441 (65%)

### Population Spotlight
- 2020 Census: 52,217
- 2020 Census: 60,203
- Change: 7,986

### Growth Rate
- **County**: 15.3% vs. 9.5% **State**
- **$59,812** Median Household Income (2020)
- 16.0% Child Poverty Rate (2020)
- 87% Households with Broadband (2020)
- 80% Home Owners (2020)
- 79% Voter Registration Rate (2021)
- 4.2% Unemployment Rate (2021)

### Educational Attainment
- Pender County residents ages 25-44, 2021
  - **No Degree**: 49.9% 7,118
  - **Have Degree or Credential**: 50.1% 7,153

### 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 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**: (peer counties) 49.9% (Rural) 50.1%
- **College-and-Career-Ready in Math**: (peer counties) 43% (Rural) 43%
- **Chronic Absenteeism**: (Rural) 11%

### 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%). 2022
- 31% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **reading**: 1,955 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2022
- 36% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **math**: 2,340 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2022
- 93% of 9th graders graduate within four years; 15 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2021
- 25% of students are chronically absent from school; 1,334 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2021

### School Choice
- 11,563 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Pender County in the 2021-22 school year.
  - Note: This profile focuses on outcomes of students enrolled in district schools.

### Career and College Preparation
- 39 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).

### Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Pender County, 2021
- **Overall**: 87%
- **Female**: 91%
- **Male**: 83%
- **Black**: 75%
- **Hispanic**: 78%
- **White**: 93%
- **Low-Income**: 65%
- **Not Low-Income**: 90%

- 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*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Skills</th>
<th>Continuing Education</th>
<th>Curriculum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>895</td>
<td>1,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Credentials Awarded, 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,154 certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,686 associate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,936 bachelor’s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 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

**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

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