

# Wayne County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles



■ Goldsboro-Kinston  
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region  
**Peer County Type:** Rural - Metro  
**Local Education Agencies:** 1 (2023)  
**Charter Schools:** 2 (2023)

**2030 Proposed Wayne County Attainment Goal: 20,498 (Stretch Goal: 20,747)**

**2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million**

## Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 117,324  
2022 Estimate: 117,286  
Change: -38

## Growth Rate

**-0.0%** County vs. **2.5%** State



**\$55,635**  
Median Household Income (2022)  
State: \$67,516



**61%**  
Home Owners (2022)  
State: 67%



**28.4%**  
Child Poverty Rate (2022)  
State: 17.2%



**13.2%**  
Opportunity Youth Rate (2021)  
State: 12.1%



**70%**  
Households with Broadband (2022)  
State: 77%



**4.0%**  
Unemployment Rate (2022)  
State: 3.7%

## Educational Attainment

Wayne County residents ages 25-44, 2022

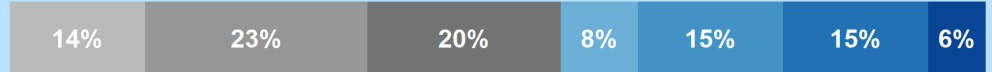
■ Less than high school ■ High school graduate (including GED) ■ Some college, no credential ■ Short-term credential ■ Associate degree ■ Bachelor's degree ■ Graduate or professional degree



**No Degree**  
**16,583**  
56.3%



**Have Degree or Credential**  
**12,859**  
43.7%



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

## Top Opportunities for Growth

These three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Wayne County to improve future attainment outcomes.



### Chronic Absenteeism

44% of Wayne County students are chronically absent from school, above the rural - metro county average of 34%.



### Earning College Credit in High School

22% of Wayne County graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs, below the rural - metro county average of 31%. Also, <5% of high school students took at least one AP exam, below the peer county average of 7%.



### High School Graduation

78% of Wayne County 9th graders complete high school in 4 years or less, below the rural - metro county average of 85%.

## 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 Wayne County has been meeting local needs:

[https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt\\_search=Wayne](https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Wayne)

## LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

### In Goldsboro-Kinston Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

**72.6%**

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

#### Top areas of misalignment:

**Health Science** below bachelor's and bachelor's  
**Business Management & Administration** bachelor's  
**Transportation, Distribution & Logistics** below 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)

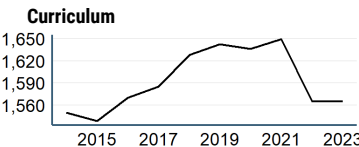


**40%** of adults (ages 25-44) in Wayne County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

### Wayne County is served by:

**Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board**  
**Eastern Carolina Council of Governments**

### UNC System College Enrollment



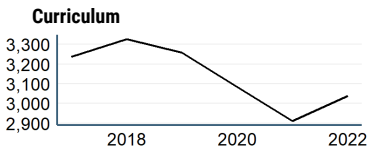
### Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Goldsboro-Kinston Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	4%
Logisticians	3%
Medical and Health Services Managers	2%

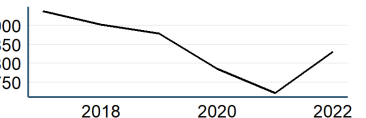
### Top 3 Employers in Wayne County

Employer	Employment Range
Wayne County Public Schools	1000+
State Of NC Dept Of Health & Human	1000+
Wayne UNC Health Care	1000+

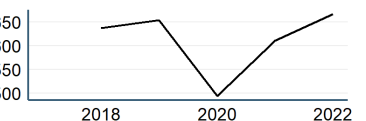
### NC Community College Enrollment



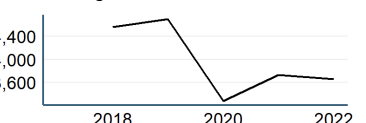
### First-time Curriculum Enrollments



### Basic Skills



### Continuing Education



## Adult Learners

## Wayne County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022

666	Basic Skills
3,658	Continuing Education
3,039	Curriculum



13% of Wayne County residents have **student loan debt**; 11% of debt holders had **student loans in default**. 2022

## Success of Wayne County High School Graduates

- 78% of students who enroll **persist to their second year** versus 79% in peer counties. 2022
- 58% 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

- 4,101 of all college-goers attended **Wayne CC**
- 367 of all college-goers attended **Lenoir CC**
- 288 of all college-goers attended **University of Mount Olive**

• 52% of seniors **completed the FAFSA** in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 307 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023

• 64% of graduates reported **intentions to enroll** in a postsecondary institution versus 68% in peer counties. 2022

• 47% of graduates **enrolled in a postsecondary institution** within 12 months versus 51% in peer counties. 2022



56% of Wayne County students have **parents with no college degree** (either 2- or 4-year) versus 57% in peer counties.

## How students in Wayne County traditional schools are doing:

• 61% of eligible 4-year-olds **enrolled in NC Pre-K program**, compared to 53% statewide; 120 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2023

• 20% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **reading**, compared to 30% statewide; 5,263 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023

• 25% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **math**, compared to 35% statewide; 4,888 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023

• 78% of 9th graders **graduate within four years**, compared to 87% statewide; 235 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023

• 44% of students are **chronically absent from school**, compared to 32% statewide; 6,146 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022



Wayne County has a **student-to-school counselor ratio** of 447:1 versus 362:1 in peer counties. 2022



4% of students **drop out of high school** (234 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2022

## Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022

1,805 certificate | 1,140 associate | 506 bachelor's

## Postsecondary assets in Goldsboro-Kinston Prosperity Zone sub-region

## Public, 4-year or above

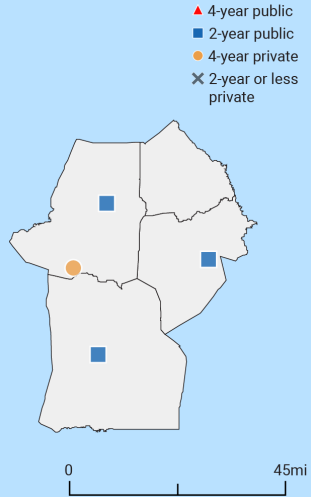
## Public, 2-year

James Sprunt Community College, Lenoir Community College, Wayne Community College

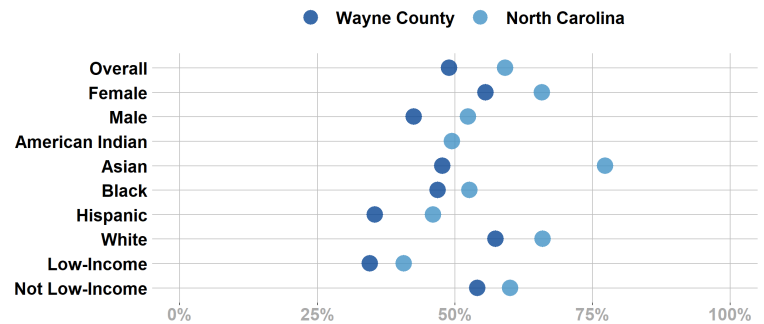
## Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above

University of Mount Olive

## Private not-for-profit, 2-year



## Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Wayne County, 2022

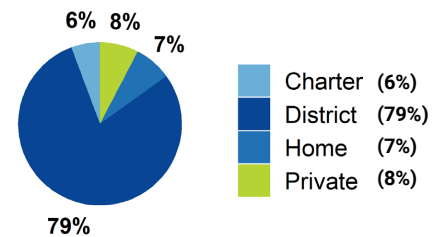


Note: Outcomes for groups with less than 10 students, <5% or >95% are not displayed.

## School Choice

21,612 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Wayne County in the 2022-23 school year.

Note: This profile focuses on outcomes of students enrolled in district schools.



## Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in Wayne County completed 4,927 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 600 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Human Services; Health Science; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.



201 high school students took at least one **AP course** (<5%) versus 7% in peer counties (2022).



514 high school students participated in **Career & College Promise programs** (22%) versus 31% in peer counties (2022).

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

[dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/](https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/)