INTRODUCTION
From birth to career, there are many opportunities to develop strategies and interventions to increase attainment and improve workforce alignment. Below are some key areas and indicators that highlight where interventions may be possible to improve overall educational attainment outcomes.

Building the Foundation: Pre-K to 8
High-quality early learning helps prepare children for future success while academic progress in early school years often predicts later academic challenges.

Transylvania County has 8 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, 0 or 0% were classified as low performing in 2019.

Ready for Postsecondary
High school completion is a crucial step on the pathway to postsecondary success or the beginnings of a career. Activities that prepare students to navigate the transition to postsecondary include gaining experience in college-level coursework and applying for financial assistance.

Postsecondary Access and Success
These metrics capture student progression and educational attainment from high school graduation to postsecondary completion. They indicate relative strengths and weaknesses of Transylvania County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.

Labor Market Outcomes
Lack of technical skills and lack of education are among the primary reasons why NC employers struggle to fill vacancies. These metrics capture labor market outcomes among recent graduates, the alignment between postsecondary degree production and labor market demand, and future job demands.

How students in Transylvania County traditional public schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, Transylvania County needs:
• 18 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% enrollment).
• 334 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73%).
• 660 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86%).

To meet state goals, Transylvania County needs:
• 31 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95%).
• 51 more seniors to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80%)
• 202 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism).

Among Transylvania County high school graduates:
• 65% enroll in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 57% of peer counties.
• 80% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% of peer counties.
• 52% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 49% of peer counties.

In your sub-prosperity zone: Public postsecondary institutions graduate roughly 2,800 students per year. After 5 years, 69% of 2013 graduates were employed in NC, earning an annual average wage of $33,116.

71% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs. The top gaps are: Health Science (all levels); Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics (below bachelor’s); and Finance (bachelor’s).

There are 255,000 job openings projected in the next 10 years. The top 3 in demand jobs with average wages of $50,000 or more are: 1) Registered Nurses; 2) General and Operations Managers; 3) Sales Representatives, Services, All Other.

HIGH IMPACT STRATEGIES
Compared to rural non-metro counties, these three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Transylvania County to improve future attainment outcomes.

Dual Enrollments
20% of Transylvania high school students participated in NC Community College dual enrollment programs versus 26% in peer counties.

Disconnected Youth
12% of Transylvania County youth ages 16-19 are not working and not in school versus 9% in peer counties.

High School Graduation
85% of Transylvania County 9th graders complete high school in 4 years or less versus 86% in peer counties.
WE NEED TO CLOSE THE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT GAP IN NORTH CAROLINA.

That starts with an ambitious goal: ensuring that by 2030, 2 million North Carolinians ages 25-44 have a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential.

For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit dashboard.myfuturenc.org

ABOUT MYFUTURENC
MyFutureNC is a statewide nonprofit organization focused on educational attainment and is the result of cross-sector collaboration between North Carolina leaders in education, business, and government. Our mission is to prepare North Carolina for the future by empowering individuals, strengthening communities, and ensuring our economic viability in a global economy.

myfuturenc.org  
facebook.com/myfuturenc  
@myFutureNC

ABOUT CAROLINA DEMOGRAPHY
Located within the Carolina Population Center at UNC-Chapel Hill, we use data and other available research to help you put a face or a story on the population-level changes facing your community. Our analysts provide a full array of demographic data and research services to inform decision-making, evaluation, and policy across North Carolina, where we serve organizations and people in all 100 counties.

ncdemography.org  
demography@unc.edu  
@ncdemography