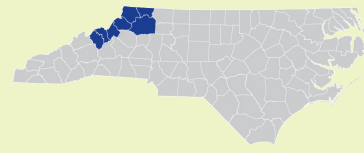


High Country

Council of Governments

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

2030 Proposed Regional Council Attainment Goal: 34,980



Counties in Council of Governments:
Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, Watauga, Wilkes, Yancey

Population Spotlight

Growth Rate: Council of Governments: 0.9% vs. State: 2.5%

County	2020	2022	Change
North Carolina	10,439,414	10,698,973	259,559
Alleghany County	10,886	11,185	299
Ashe County	26,581	27,110	529
Avery County	17,812	17,571	-241
Mitchell County	14,906	15,094	188
Watauga County	54,077	55,089	1,012
Wilkes County	65,968	65,784	-184
Yancey County	18,470	18,811	341

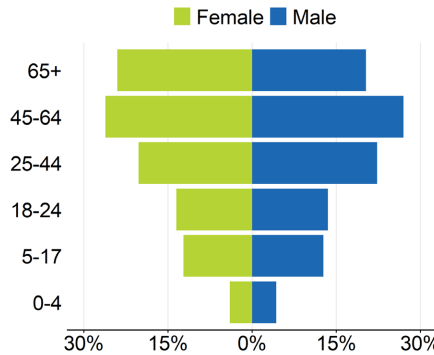
20.8%
Child Poverty Rate (2022)
State: 17.2%

7.6%
Opportunity Youth Rate (2022)
State: 10.9%

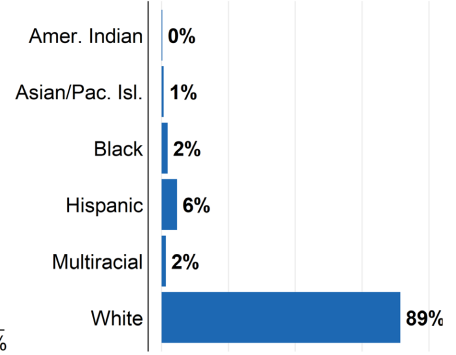
71%
Households with Broadband (2022)
State: 77%

3%
Foreign Born (2022)
State: 9%

Age Structure, 2022



Race/Ethnicity, 2022



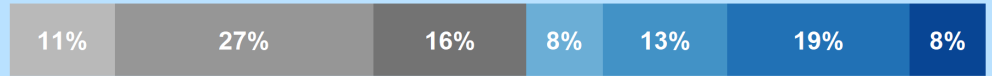
Educational Attainment

High Country 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
23,689
53.2%

Have Degree or Credential
20,870
46.8%



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

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

In High Country Council of Governments:

17 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

5,202 graduates in 2020

69% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021

\$44,421 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

38% of adults (ages 25-44) in High Country earned a **family sustaining wage**, 2022

Labor Force Snapshot - 2023 Q2

Total Jobs	71,482
Business Establishments	6,160
Employed	92,673
Unemployed	3,406
Avg. Weekly Wage	\$833
Median Household Income	\$53,749

Top Industries in High Country Council of Governments

Industry Name	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wages
Retail Trade	10,095	\$596
Health Care and Social Assistance	10,076	\$1,024
Accommodation and Food Services	8,537	\$383
Educational Services	7,780	\$975
Manufacturing	6,921	\$929

Top Job Sectors in High Country Council of Governments

Job Sector	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wages
Private	57,721	\$807
Local Government	7,539	\$787
State Government	5,717	\$1,136
Federal Government	507	\$1,115

Success of High Country High School Graduates

- **79%** of students who enroll **persist to their second year** versus **83%** for the state. 2022
- **60%** of students who enroll **earn a degree or certificate** within 6 years versus **59%** for the state. 2022

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- **3,908** of all college-goers attended **Wilkes CC**
- **1,657** of all college-goers attended **Mayland CC**
- **1,344** of all college-goers attended **Caldwell CC and TI**

Adult Learners

High Country resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022

- 427** Basic Skills
- 4,785** Continuing Education
- 822** Curriculum

- **66%** of seniors **completed the FAFSA** in 2023, compared to **62%** statewide; 222 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of **80%**. 2023
- **74%** of graduates reported **intentions to enroll** in a postsecondary institution versus **74%** in the state. 2022
- **58%** of graduates **enrolled in a postsecondary institution** within 12 months versus **58%** in the state. 2022

How students in High Country traditional schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, each year High Country needs:

- High Country Council of Governments has met the goal for **Pre-K enrollment**. (Goal: **75%**). 2023
- **34%** of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **reading**, compared to **30%** statewide; 3,928 more needed to meet state goal of **73%**. 2023
- **41%** of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **math**, compared to **35%** statewide; 4,545 more needed to meet state goal of **86%**. 2023
- **89%** of 9th graders **graduate within four years**, compared to **87%** statewide; 119 more needed to meet state goal of **95%**. 2023
- **22%** of students are **chronically absent from school**, compared to **27%** statewide; 2,474 less needed to meet state goal of **11%**. 2023
- **2%** of students **drop out of high school** (131 total students), compared to **2%** statewide. 2023

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022

763 certificate | **499** associate | **4,461** bachelor's

Postsecondary assets in High Country Council of Governments

Public, 4-year or above

Appalachian State University

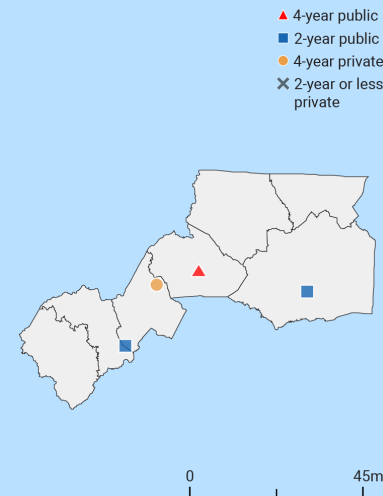
Public, 2-year

Mayland Community College, Wilkes Community College

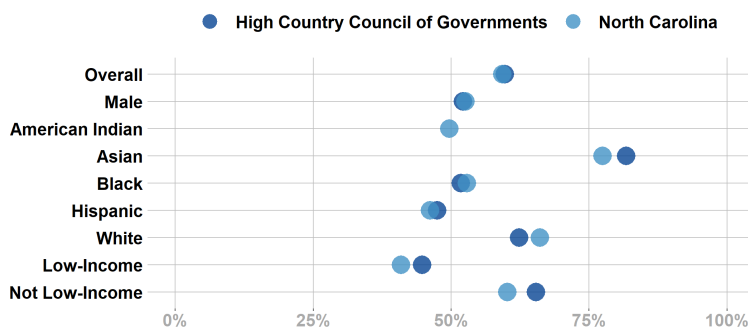
Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above

Lees-McRae College

Private not-for-profit, 2-year



Postsecondary Enrollment Rates in High Country, 2022

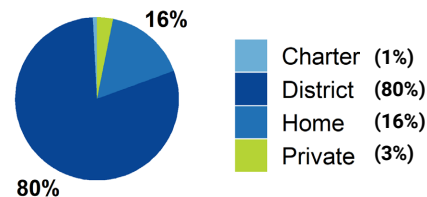


Note: Outcomes for groups with less than 10 students, <5% or >95% are not displayed.

School Choice

27,917 total students were enrolled in K-12 in High Country in the 2022-23 school year.

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



Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in High Country completed **8,500 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (1,731 (20%) were industry-valued credentials) and 1,504 concentrations** in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Human Services; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.



704 high school students took at least one **AP test (10%)** versus **16%** in the state (2023).



1,075 high school students participated in **Career & College Promise programs (63%)** versus **36%** in the state (2023).

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

dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/