

Avery County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Boone-Wilkesboro Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Rural - Non-Metro

Educational Attainment

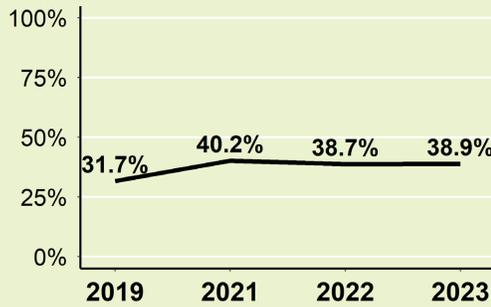
Avery County residents ages 25-44, 2023

Have Degree or Credential
1,683
38.9%

No Degree
2,642
61.1%

Residents Ages 25-44
4,325

Educational Attainment Trend



Note: 2020 data not shown due to inconsistency

Educational Level Breakdown, 2023



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

2030 Proposed Avery County Attainment Goal: 1,782 (Stretch Goal: 1,827)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 17,810
2023 Estimate: 17,561
Change: -249

Growth Rate

-1.4% vs. 3.8%
County State

Race/Ethnicity

Amer. Indian 0.2%
Asian/Pac. Isl. 0.5%
Black 4.2%
Hispanic 5.7%
Multiracial 2.2%
White 87%



\$55,922
Median Household Income (2023)
State: \$70,838



80.0%
Home Owners (2023)
State: 66.3%



62.5%
Households with Broadband (2023)
State: 77.1%



11.8%
Child Poverty Rate (2023)
State: 17.6%



11.4%
Single Parent Households (2023)
State: 17.0%



4.1%
Foreign Born (2023)
State: 9.2%

Top Opportunities for Growth



Labor Force Participation

64% of Avery County adults 25-44 are in the labor force, below the rural - non-metro county average of 78%.

In Boone-Wilkesboro Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

79.6%

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

Top Misalignments

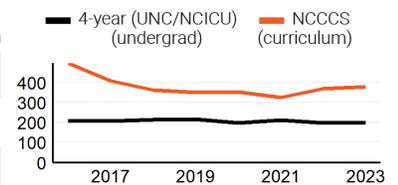
Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

- Health Science Jobs > Creds
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics Jobs > Creds
- Education & Training Jobs < Creds

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Boone-Wilkesboro Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

| Job Title | Annual Growth |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Nurse Practitioners | 3.93% |
| Occupational Therapy Assistants | 2.99% |
| Logisticians | 2.98% |

Postsecondary Enrollment for Avery County Residents



3 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

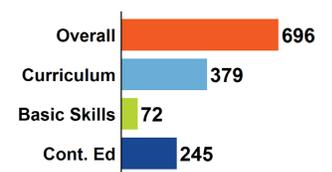
UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

5,202 graduates in 2020
68.7% 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), 2021

Top 3 Employers in Avery County

| Employer | Employment Range |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| NC Department of Adult Corrections | 250-499 |
| County of Avery | 250-499 |
| Avery County Schools | 250-499 |

Avery County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023



Top 3 industries in Avery County

| Industry | Jobs Percent |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Accommodation and Food Services | 1,062 14.3% |
| Public Administration | 908 12.2% |
| Retail Trade | 853 11.5% |

Avery County is served by:

- High Country Workforce Development Board
- High Country Council of Governments

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



Postsecondary Completion

51% of Avery County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary education earn a degree or credential within 6 years, below the rural - non-metro county average of 55%.

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023

923 certificate | 534 associate | 4,232 bachelor's

Adult Learners

Avery County Residents Aged 25+ enrolled in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2023

52 Basic Skills
225 Continuing Education
64 Curriculum

14.2% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 15.9% | State: 11.7%, 2023



8.4% of Avery County residents have student loan debt, NA of debt holders had student loans in default. 2024

Success of Avery County High School Graduates

84.0% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 79.6% | State: 83.8%, 2023

95.0% UNC | 73.9% NCCCS | 81.8% NCICU

51.1% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 55.5% | State: 60.0%, 2023

14.4% UNC | 18.9% NCCCS | 6.7% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 488 of all college-goers attended **Mayland CC**
- 123 of all college-goers attended **Caldwell CC and TI**
- 73 of all college-goers attended **Appalachian State University**

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

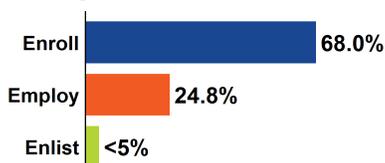


FAFSA Completion

47% of Avery County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural - non-metro county average of 54%.

46.7% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 50 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 54.0% | State: 55.0%

Post High School Graduation Intentions

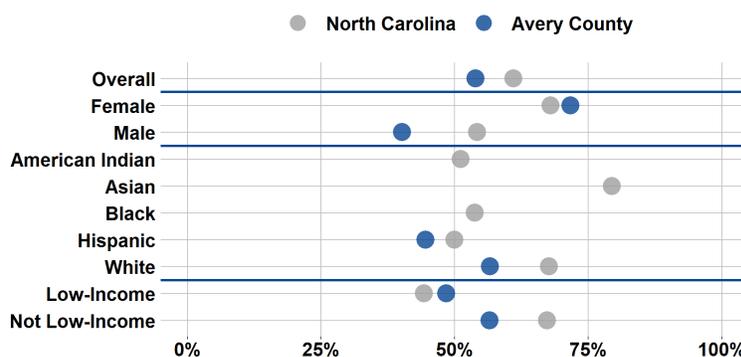


42.5% of students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) 2023. Peer: 54.9% | State: 45.1%

88.8% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 11 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 85.7% | State: 87.3% 2024

52.2% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 52.6% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Avery County, 2023



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

ACADEMIC READINESS

Top Opportunities for Growth



NC Pre-K Enrollment

67% of Avery County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural - non-metro county average of 71%.

67.4% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 7 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. Peer: 71.0% | State: 57.2%

Note: Enrollment numbers only include students served by the NC Pre-K Program and may not represent all Pre-K offerings available.

Avery County Traditional Public Schools students:

31.5% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 313 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 24.5% | State: 29.8%

39.3% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 352 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 30.3% | State: 36.5%

20.8% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 182 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 27.7% | State: 25.7%



Avery County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 293:1 compared to 332:1 in peer counties. 2024

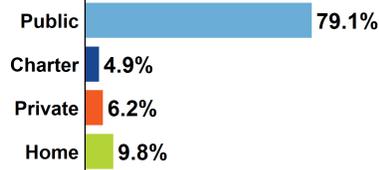


1.9% of students drop out of high school (12 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 1
Traditional Public School(s): 8
Charter School(s): 1
Private School(s): 2
Home School(s): 131

2,226 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 653 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 133 concentrations. 66 (10.1%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Health Science; Manufacturing; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.



41 (7.1%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).



110 (67.9%) high school graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs. State: 36.0% (2024).

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

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