

# Buncombe County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Asheville  
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region  
Peer County Type: Suburban

## Educational Attainment

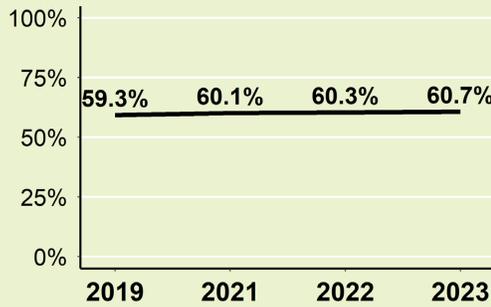
Buncombe County residents ages 25-44, 2023

**Have Degree or Credential**  
45,521  
60.7%

**No Degree**  
29,455  
39.3%

**Residents Ages 25-44**  
74,976

## 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 Buncombe County Attainment Goal: 57,403 (Stretch Goal: 57,749)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

## Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 269,431  
2023 Estimate: 275,901  
Change: 6,470

## Growth Rate

2.4% County vs. 3.8% State

## Race/Ethnicity

Amer. Indian 0.1%  
Asian/Pac. Isl. 1.2%  
Black 5.4%  
Hispanic 8.3%  
Multiracial 3.5%  
White 81.2%



**\$71,218**  
Median Household Income (2023)  
State: \$70,838



**64.4%**  
Home Owners (2023)  
State: 66.3%



**73.3%**  
Households with Broadband (2023)  
State: 77.1%



**15.2%**  
Child Poverty Rate (2023)  
State: 17.6%



**13.2%**  
Single Parent Households (2023)  
State: 17.0%



**7.0%**  
Foreign Born (2023)  
State: 9.2%

## Top Opportunities for Growth



### Family Sustaining Wage

50% of Buncombe County adults 25-44 earn a family sustaining wage, below the suburban county average of 52%.

## In Asheville Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

**67.8%**

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

## Top Misalignments

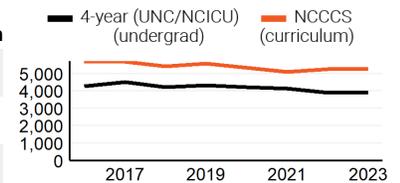
### Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

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

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

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	4.72%
Logisticians	3.51%
Physician Assistants	3.08%

## Postsecondary Enrollment for Buncombe County Residents



**446** Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

## UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

**3,023** graduates in 2020  
**68.9%** of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021  
**\$35,824** annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs), 2021

**50.3%** of adults (ages 25-44) in Buncombe County earned a family sustaining wage. Peer: 51.8% | State: 57.6%, 2023

**9.9%** of youth (ages 16-24) in Buncombe County were Opportunity Youth. Peer: 11.2% | State: 10.3%, 2023

**84.3%** of adults (ages 25-44) in Buncombe County participated in the labor force. Peer: 83.4% | State: 84.2%, 2023

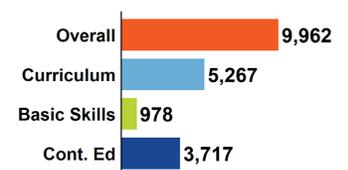
## Top 3 Employers in Buncombe County

Employer	Employment Range
MH Hospital Manager LLC	1000+
Ingles Markets Inc	1000+
Veterans Administration	1000+

## Top 3 industries in Buncombe County

Industry	Jobs   Percent
Health Care and Social Assistance	26,309   18.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	18,863   13.5%
Retail Trade	17,546   12.6%

## Buncombe County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023



## Buncombe County is served by:

- Mountain Area Workforce Development Board
- Land-of-Sky Regional Council

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



Postsecondary Completion

60% of Buncombe County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary education earn a degree or credential within 6 years, below the suburban county average of 61%.

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023

1,689 certificate | 1,451 associate | 1,326 bachelor's

Adult Learners

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

642 Basic Skills  
3,403 Continuing Education  
1,606 Curriculum

10.1% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 15.1% | State: 11.7%, 2023



14.0% of Buncombe County residents have student loan debt, 0.9% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2024

Success of Buncombe County High School Graduates

83.0% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 83.9% | State: 83.8%, 2023

92.0% UNC | 69.4% NCCCS | 88.5% NCICU

60.1% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 61.5% | State: 60.0%, 2023

34.2% UNC | 11.7% NCCCS | 5.2% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 8,543 of all college-goers attended Asheville-Buncombe TCC
- 677 of all college-goers attended Blue Ridge CC
- 659 of all college-goers attended UNC Asheville

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

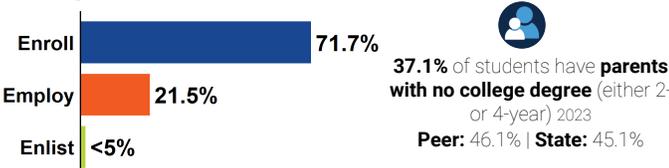


Postsecondary Enrollment

56% of Buncombe County seniors enroll in postsecondary education within 12 months of graduation, below the suburban county average of 59%.

55.6% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 451 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 55.0% | State: 55.0%

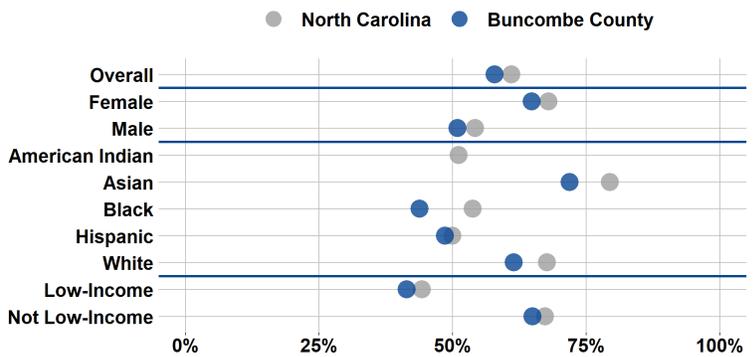
Post High School Graduation Intentions



91.3% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 81 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 88.5% | State: 87.3% 2024

56.1% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 58.8% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Buncombe 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

45% of Buncombe County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the suburban county average of 46%.

44.7% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 287 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. Peer: 46.5% | 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.

Buncombe County Traditional Public Schools students:

32.7% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 4,556 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 30.8% | State: 29.8%

37.6% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 5,471 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 37.8% | State: 36.5%

22.7% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 3,167 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 23.7% | State: 25.7%

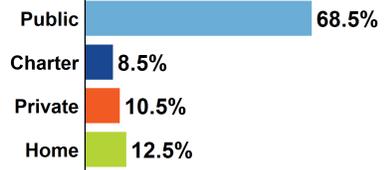
Buncombe County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 253:1 compared to 328:1 in peer counties. 2024

1.4% of students drop out of high school (126 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 2  
Traditional Public School(s): 54  
Charter School(s): 7  
Private School(s): 34  
Home School(s): 3,031

37,560 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 1,534 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 1,505 concentrations. 343 (22.4%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Human Services; Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; and Health Science.

1,363 (16.4%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

1,120 (55.3%) 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:

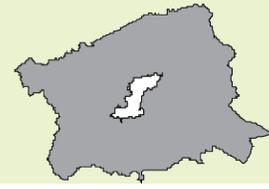
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# Buncombe County Schools

City/District School Profiles

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles

This profile is a supplement to the Buncombe County Profiles



□ district boundary

Total Schools: 45 Total Students: 21,884 (2024)

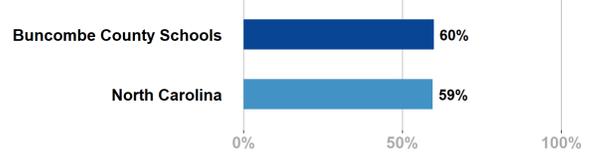
## POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

### Top destinations of all college-goers, 2024

- Asheville-Buncombe TCC
- Blue Ridge CC
- UNC Asheville

**82.3%** of students who enroll **persist to their second year.**  
2023

### Percentage of students enrolled in North Carolina postsecondary institution who graduate within 6 years of enrollment, 2023



## COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

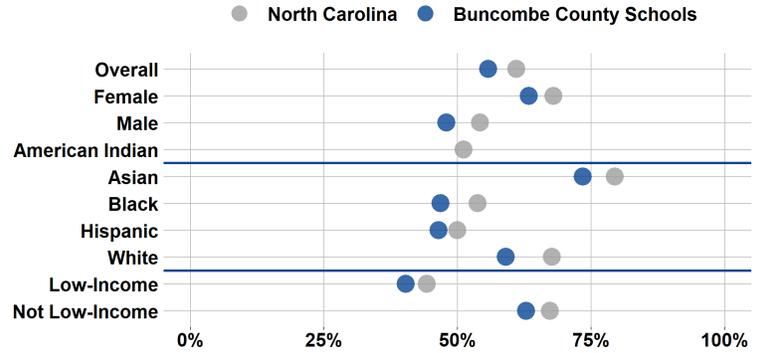
### How students in Buncombe County Schools are planning for and enrolling in college:

**53.0%** of high school class of 2024 **completed the FAFSA** as of Sept. 27, 2024. 414 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of **80%**.

**69.6%** of high school graduates **intended to enroll in a postsecondary institution.** 2023

**54.0%** of graduates **enrolled in a postsecondary institution** within 12 months. 2023

### Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Buncombe County Schools, 2023



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

## ACADEMIC READINESS

### How students in Buncombe County Schools are currently doing:

**31.2%** of 3-8 graders **earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading** in 2024. 4,084 more needed to meet state goal of **73%**.

**37.1%** of 3-8 graders **earned college-and-career-ready scores in math** in 2024. 4,777 more needed to meet state goal of **86%**.

**22.8%** of students were **chronically absent from school** in 2024. 2,714 fewer needed to meet state goal of **11%**.



Buncombe County Schools has a **student-to-school counselor ratio** of **250:1**. 2024

### Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed **1,282 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials** and **1,406 concentrations**. **198 (15.4%) of credentials were industry-valued** in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Human Services; Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics; and Health Science.



**1,006 (14.6%)** high school students took at least one **AP, IB, or CIE exam.**  
State: 16.8% (2023).



**919 (54.1%)** high school graduates participated in **Career & College Promise programs.** State: 36.0% (2024).

\*\* Observations <10 or no data available

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

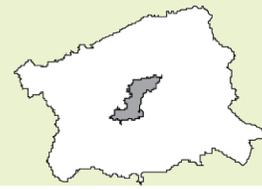
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# Asheville City Schools

City/District School Profiles

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles

This profile is a supplement to the Buncombe County Profiles



■ district boundary

Total Schools: 9 Total Students: 3,859 (2024)

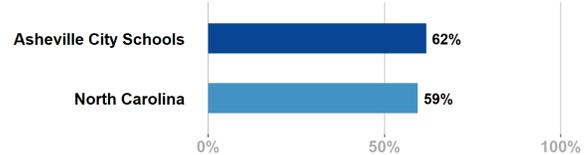
## POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

### Top destinations of all college-goers, 2024

- Asheville-Buncombe TCC
- Blue Ridge CC
- UNC Asheville

**85.8%** of students who enroll **persist to their second year.**  
2023

### Percentage of students enrolled in North Carolina postsecondary institution who graduate within 6 years of enrollment, 2023



## COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

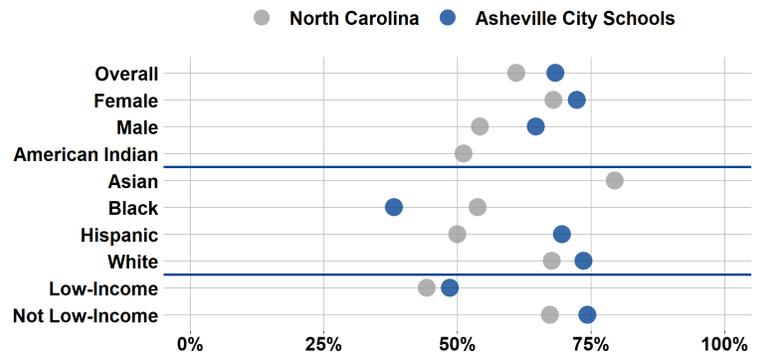
### How students in Asheville City Schools are planning for and enrolling in college:

**68.1%** of high school class of 2024 **completed the FAFSA** as of Sept. 27, 2024. 37 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of **80%**.

**81.3%** of high school graduates **intended to enroll in a postsecondary institution.** 2023

**66.6%** of graduates **enrolled in a postsecondary institution** within 12 months. 2023

### Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Asheville City Schools, 2023



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

## ACADEMIC READINESS

### How students in Asheville City Schools are currently doing:

**42.4%** of 3-8 graders **earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading** in 2024. 473 more needed to meet state goal of **73%**.

**41.1%** of 3-8 graders **earned college-and-career-ready scores in math** in 2024. 694 more needed to meet state goal of **86%**.

**22.2%** of students were **chronically absent from school** in 2024. 453 fewer needed to meet state goal of **11%**.



Asheville City Schools has a **student-to-school counselor ratio** of **273:1**. 2024

### Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed **252 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials** and **99 concentrations**. **145 (57.5%) of credentials were industry-valued** in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; Human Services; and Hospitality & Tourism.



**357** (24.9%) high school students took at least one **AP, IB, or CIE exam.**  
State: 16.8% (2023).



**201** (61.5%) high school graduates participated in **Career & College Promise programs.** State: 36.0% (2024).

\*\* Observations <10 or no data available

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