

Catawba County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Hickory
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Suburban

Educational Attainment

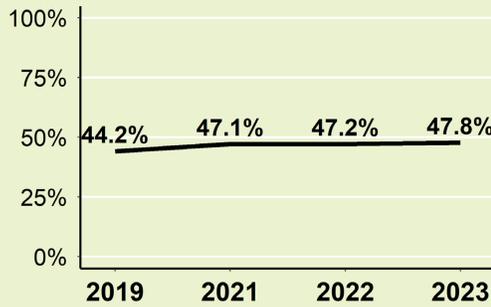
Catawba County residents ages 25-44, 2023

Have Degree or Credential
18,380
47.8%

No Degree
20,107
52.2%

Residents Ages 25-44
38,487

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 Catawba County Attainment Goal: 23,455 (Stretch Goal: 23,775)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

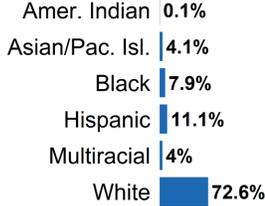
Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 160,597
2023 Estimate: 164,645
Change: 4,048

Growth Rate

2.5% County vs. 3.8% State

Race/Ethnicity



\$65,898
Median Household Income (2023)
State: \$70,838



72.7%
Home Owners (2023)
State: 66.3%



73.1%
Households with Broadband (2023)
State: 77.1%



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



18.0%
Single Parent Households (2023)
State: 17.0%



6.7%
Foreign Born (2023)
State: 9.2%

Top Opportunities for Growth



Opportunity Youth

14% of Catawba County youth ages 16-24 are not working and not in school, above the suburban county average of 11%.

In Hickory Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

68.3%

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

Top Misalignments

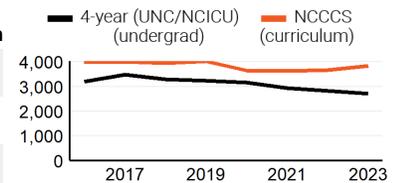
Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

- **Education & Training** Jobs < Creds
- **Health Science** Jobs > Creds
- **Business Management & Administration** Jobs > Creds

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Hickory Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	4.11%
Logisticians	3.20%
Physician Assistants	2.68%

Postsecondary Enrollment for Catawba County Residents



278 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

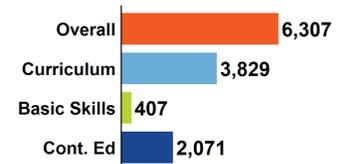
UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

2,139 graduates in 2020
80.0% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
\$37,952 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs), 2021

Top 3 Employers in Catawba County

Employer	Employment Range
Catawba Valley Medical Center	1000+
Corning Optical Communications LLC	1000+
Catawba County Schools	1000+

Catawba County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023



LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

49.5% of adults (ages 25-44) in Catawba County earned a **family sustaining wage**. Peer: 51.8% | State: 57.6%, 2023

14.4% of youth (ages 16-24) in Catawba County were **Opportunity Youth**. Peer: 11.2% | State: 10.3%, 2023

83.9% of adults (ages 25-44) in Catawba County **participated in the labor force**. Peer: 83.4% | State: 84.2%, 2023

Top 3 industries in Catawba County

Industry	Jobs Percent
Manufacturing	23,258 26.1%
Health Care and Social Assistance	11,337 12.7%
Retail Trade	10,155 11.4%

Catawba County is served by:

- Western Piedmont Workforce Development Board
- Western Piedmont Council of Governments

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



Adult Learners

17% of Catawba County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the suburban county average of 15%.

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023

1,394 certificate | 1,970 associate | 380 bachelor's

Adult Learners

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

227 Basic Skills
1,912 Continuing Education
679 Curriculum

16.9% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 15.1% | State: 11.7%, 2023



12.2% of Catawba County residents have student loan debt 0.8% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2024

Success of Catawba County High School Graduates

84.8% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 83.9% | State: 83.8%, 2023

94.7% UNC | 74.2% NCCCS | 92.7% NCICU

62.6% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 61.5% | State: 60.0%, 2023

31.9% UNC | 17.0% NCCCS | 8.4% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 4,768 of all college-goers attended Catawba Valley CC
- 536 of all college-goers attended Appalachian State University
- 420 of all college-goers attended Caldwell CC and TI

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

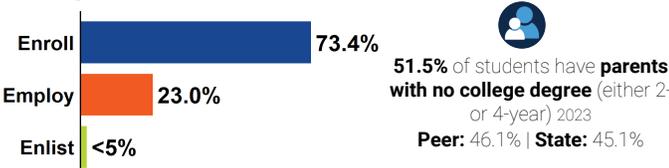


FAFSA Completion

52% of Catawba County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the suburban county average of 55%.

52.3% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 438 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 55.0% | State: 55.0%

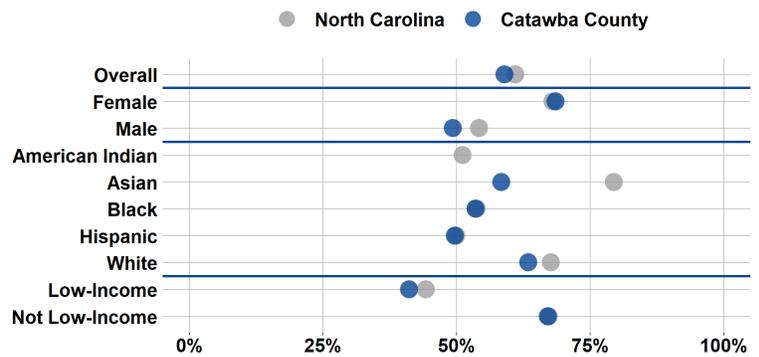
Post High School Graduation Intentions



88.8% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 116 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 88.5% | State: 87.3% 2024

57.3% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 58.8% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Catawba County, 2023



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

ACADEMIC READINESS

Top Opportunities for Growth



Reading Performance

27% of Catawba County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Reading, below the suburban county average of 31%.

54.1% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 158 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.

Catawba County Traditional Public Schools students:

26.9% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 4,537 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 30.8% | State: 29.8%

38.7% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 4,659 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 37.8% | State: 36.5%

21.4% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 2,403 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 23.7% | State: 25.7%

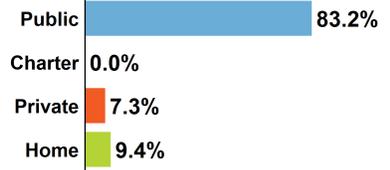
Catawba County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 330:1 compared to 328:1 in peer counties. 2024

1.8% of students drop out of high school (133 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 3
Traditional Public School(s): 43
Charter School(s): 0
Private School(s): 12
Home School(s): 1,487

26,208 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 6,375 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 1,001 concentrations. 1,190 (18.7%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Health Science; Human Services; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.

671 (9.6%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

757 (44.3%) 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:

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

Catawba County Schools

City/District School Profiles

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles

This profile is a supplement to the Catawba County Profiles



■ district boundary

Total Schools: 27 Total Students: 15,598 (2024)

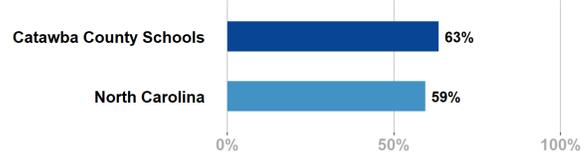
POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2024

- Catawba Valley CC
- Appalachian State University
- Caldwell CC and TI

84.7% 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

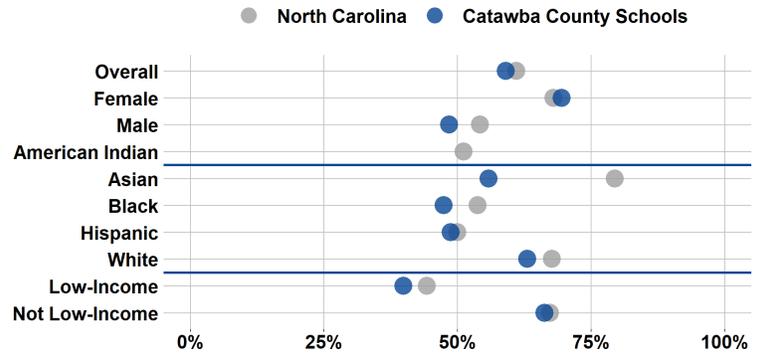
How students in Catawba County Schools are planning for and enrolling in college:

51.7% of high school class of 2024 **completed the FAFSA** as of Sept. 27, 2024. 325 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of **80%**.

72.9% of high school graduates **intended to enroll in a postsecondary institution.** 2023

57.3% of graduates **enrolled in a postsecondary institution** within 12 months. 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Catawba County Schools, 2023



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

ACADEMIC READINESS

How students in Catawba County Schools are currently doing:

27.2% of 3-8 graders **earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading** in 2024. 3,241 more needed to meet state goal of **73%**.

40.3% of 3-8 graders **earned college-and-career-ready scores in math** in 2024. 3,234 more needed to meet state goal of **86%**.

19.9% of students were **chronically absent from school** in 2024. 1,455 fewer needed to meet state goal of **11%**.



Catawba County Schools has a **student-to-school counselor ratio** of **363:1**. 2024

Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed **4,105 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials** and **802 concentrations**. **741 (18.1%) of credentials were industry-valued** in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Health Science; Human Services; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.



336 (6.8%) high school students took at least one **AP, IB, or CIE exam.**
State: 16.8% (2023).



543 (44.5%) 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:

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

Hickory City Schools

City/District School Profiles

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles

This profile is a supplement to the Catawba County Profiles



■ district boundary

Total Schools: 9 Total Students: 3,651 (2024)

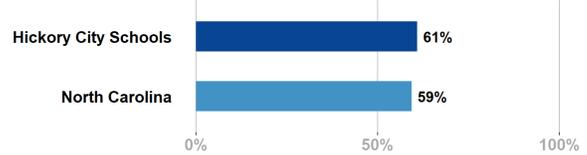
POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2024

- Catawba Valley CC
- Appalachian State University
- Caldwell CC and TI

85.1% 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

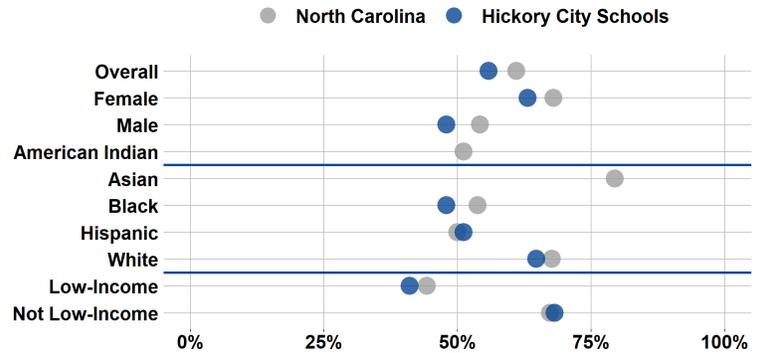
How students in Hickory City Schools are planning for and enrolling in college:

56.0% of high school class of 2024 **completed the FAFSA** as of Sept. 27, 2024. 56 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%.

74.0% of high school graduates **intended to enroll in a postsecondary institution.** 2023

54.1% of graduates **enrolled in a postsecondary institution** within 12 months. 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Hickory City Schools, 2023



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

ACADEMIC READINESS

How students in Hickory City Schools are currently doing:

25.5% of 3-8 graders **earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading** in 2024. 787 more needed to meet state goal of 73%.

31.0% of 3-8 graders **earned college-and-career-ready scores in math** in 2024. 911 more needed to meet state goal of 86%.

24.5% of students were **chronically absent from school** in 2024. 535 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%.



Hickory City Schools has a **student-to-school counselor ratio** of 243:1. 2024

Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed **787 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 112 concentrations. 136 (17.3%) of credentials were industry-valued** in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Human Services; Health Science; and Manufacturing.



141 (12.2%) high school students took at least one **AP, IB, or CIE exam.** State: 16.8% (2023).



112 (42.1%) 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:

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

Newton Conover City Schools

City/District School Profiles

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles

This profile is a supplement to the Catawba County Profiles



■ district boundary

Total Schools: 7 Total Students: 2,566 (2024)

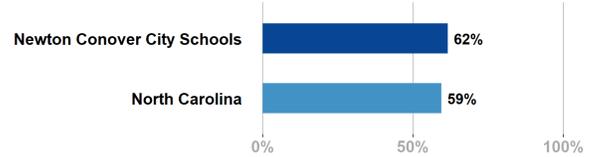
POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2024

- Catawba Valley CC
- Appalachian State University
- Caldwell CC and TI

84.9% 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

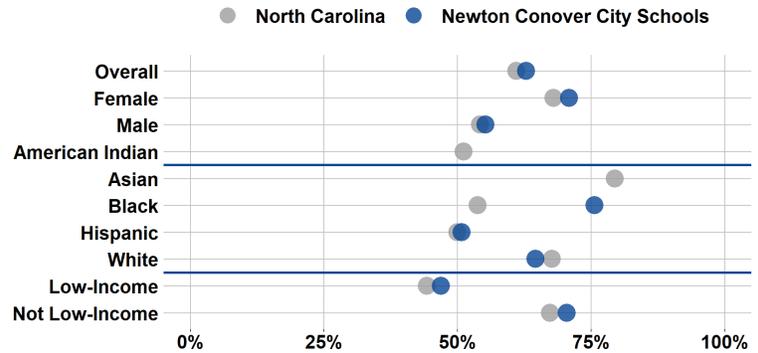
How students in Newton Conover City Schools are planning for and enrolling in college:

51.5% of high school class of 2024 **completed the FAFSA** as of Sept. 27, 2024. 58 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of **80%**.

75.2% of high school graduates **intended to enroll in a postsecondary institution.** 2023

61.1% of graduates **enrolled in a postsecondary institution** within 12 months. 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Newton Conover City Schools, 2023



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

ACADEMIC READINESS

How students in Newton Conover City Schools are currently doing:

27.2% of 3-8 graders **earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading** in 2024. 509 more needed to meet state goal of **73%**.

39.7% of 3-8 graders **earned college-and-career-ready scores in math** in 2024. 514 more needed to meet state goal of **86%**.

26.0% of students were **chronically absent from school** in 2024. 413 fewer needed to meet state goal of **11%**.



Newton Conover City Schools has a **student-to-school counselor ratio** of **318:1**. 2024

Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed **1,483 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials** and **87 concentrations**. **313 (21.1%) of credentials were industry-valued** in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Health Science; Human Services; and Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications.



194 (21%) high school students took at least one **AP, IB, or CIE exam.**
State: 16.8% (2023).



102 (45.5%) 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:

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