

Haywood County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Rural - Metro

Educational Attainment

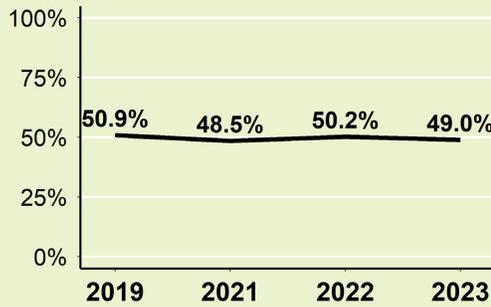
Haywood County residents ages 25-44, 2023

Have Degree or Credential
6,896
49.0%

No Degree
7,191
51.0%

Residents Ages 25-44
14,087

Educational Attainment Trend



Note: 2020 data not shown due to inconsistency

Educational Level Breakdown, 2023

Graduate or Professional degree	9.7%
Bachelor's degree	18.6%
Associate degree	13.1%
Short-term credential	7.5%
Some college, no credential	16.0%
High school graduate (including GED)	25.9%
Less than high school	9.1%

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

2030 Proposed Haywood County Attainment Goal: 10,766 (Stretch Goal: 10,846)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 62,088
2023 Estimate: 62,969
Change: 881

Growth Rate

1.4% County vs. 3.8% State

Race/Ethnicity

Amer. Indian	0.5%
Asian/Pac. Isl.	0.4%
Black	1%
Hispanic	4.7%
Multiracial	2.4%
White	90.9%

\$64,553
Median Household Income (2023)
State: \$70,838

75.0%
Home Owners (2023)
State: 66.3%

62.3%
Households with Broadband (2023)
State: 77.1%

16.4%
Child Poverty Rate (2023)
State: 17.6%

14.2%
Single Parent Households (2023)
State: 17.0%

2.2%
Foreign Born (2023)
State: 9.2%

Top Opportunities for Growth



Family Sustaining Wage

52% of Haywood County adults 25-44 earn a family sustaining wage, below the state average of 58%.

In Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

75.6%

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

Top Misalignments

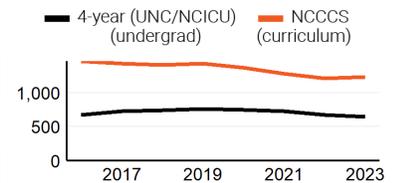
Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

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

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	3.67%
Logisticians	3.54%
Medical and Health Services Managers	2.83%

Postsecondary Enrollment for Haywood County Residents



20 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

3,111 graduates in 2020
69.4% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
\$41,526 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs), 2021

51.9% of adults (ages 25-44) in Haywood County earned a family sustaining wage. Peer: 46.7% | State: 57.6%, 2023

12.6% of youth (ages 16-24) in Haywood County were Opportunity Youth. Peer: 14.8% | State: 10.3%, 2023

84.2% of adults (ages 25-44) in Haywood County participated in the labor force. Peer: 80.7% | State: 84.2%, 2023

Top 3 Employers in Haywood County

Employer	Employment Range
Haywood County Consolidated Schools	500-999
County of Haywood	500-999
Dlp Partner Midwest LLC	500-999

Top 3 industries in Haywood County

Industry	Jobs Percent
Retail Trade	3,300 19.0%
Accommodation and Food Services	2,721 15.7%
Health Care and Social Assistance	2,356 13.6%

Haywood County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023

Overall	2,464
Curriculum	1,231
Basic Skills	132
Cont. Ed	1,101

Haywood County is served by:

- Southwestern Workforce Development Board
- Southwestern Commission

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



First-Year Persistence

78% of Haywood County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary education persist to their second year, below the rural - metro county average of 80%.

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023

710 certificate | 819 associate | 2,609 bachelor's

Adult Learners

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

65 Basic Skills
1,049 Continuing Education
323 Curriculum

16.0% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 16.0% | State: 11.7%, 2023



10.2% of Haywood County residents have student loan debt, 0.0% of debt holders had student loans in default, 2024

Success of Haywood County High School Graduates

77.9% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 80.1% | State: 83.8%, 2023

89.0% UNC | 67.2% NCCCS | 90.0% NCICU

58.0% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 57.5% | State: 60.0%, 2023

24.5% UNC | 18.1% NCCCS | 5.8% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 1,810 of all college-goers attended Haywood CC
- 371 of all college-goers attended Asheville-Buncombe TCC
- 314 of all college-goers attended Western Carolina University

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

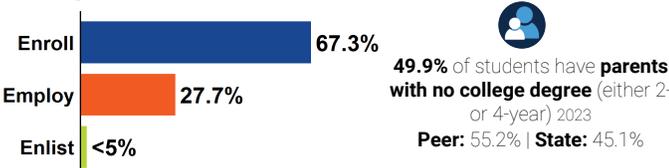


FAFSA Completion

48% of Haywood County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural - metro county average of 52%.

47.9% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 147 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 52.0% | State: 55.0%

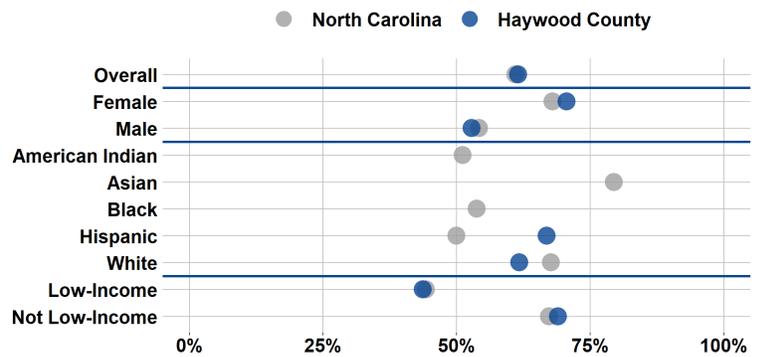
Post High School Graduation Intentions



91.5% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 19 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 85.7% | State: 87.3% 2024

59.8% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 52.0% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Haywood 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

50% of Haywood County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural - metro county average of 62%.

50.0% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 62 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. Peer: 61.7% | 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.

Haywood County Traditional Public Schools students:

35.6% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 1,075 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 25.3% | State: 29.8%

46.6% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 1,133 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 32.3% | State: 36.5%

20.9% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 663 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 27.4% | State: 25.7%

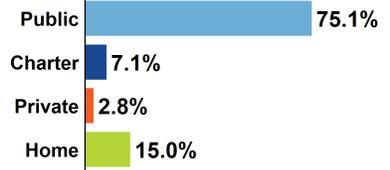
Haywood County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 337:1 compared to 352:1 in peer counties, 2024

1.7% of students drop out of high school (36 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide, 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 1
Traditional Public School(s): 15
Charter School(s): 1
Private School(s): 5
Home School(s): 840

8,547 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 959 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 531 concentrations. 210 (21.9%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Manufacturing; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Architecture and Construction.

120 (6.1%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

208 (39.3%) 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/