

Mitchell County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



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

Educational Attainment

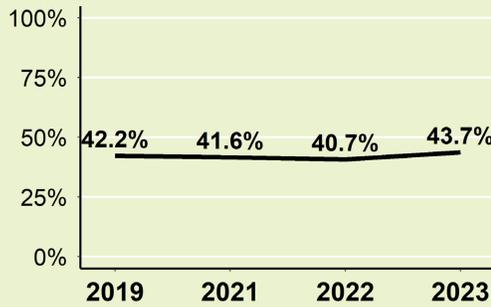
Mitchell County residents ages 25-44, 2023

Have Degree or Credential
1,394
43.7%

No Degree
1,798
56.3%

Residents Ages 25-44
3,192

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 Mitchell County Attainment Goal: 2,251 (Stretch Goal: 2,281)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 14,899
2023 Estimate: 14,999
Change: 100

Growth Rate

0.7% County vs. 3.8% State

Race/Ethnicity

Amer. Indian 0.3%
Asian/Pac. Isl. 0.4%
Black 0.8%
Hispanic 5.3%
Multiracial 1.5%
White 91.5%

\$56,746
Median Household Income (2023)
State: \$70,838

77.6%
Home Owners (2023)
State: 66.3%

63.5%
Households with Broadband (2023)
State: 77.1%

10.5%
Child Poverty Rate (2023)
State: 17.6%

13.1%
Single Parent Households (2023)
State: 17.0%

3.1%
Foreign Born (2023)
State: 9.2%

Top Opportunities for Growth



Family Sustaining Wage

47% of Mitchell County adults 25-44 earn a family sustaining wage, below the state average of 58%.

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

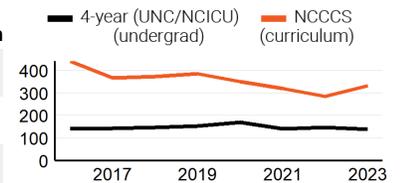
Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

- 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 Mitchell County Residents



0 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

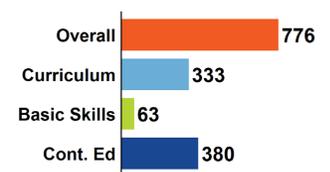
UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

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 Mitchell County

Employer	Employment Range
Sibelco North America Inc	250-499
Mitchell County Board of Education	250-499
Mh Blue Ridge Medical Center Lllp	250-499

Mitchell County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023



Top 3 industries in Mitchell County

Industry	Jobs Percent
Health Care and Social Assistance	875 16.7%
Retail Trade	768 14.7%
Educational Services	670 12.8%

Mitchell County is served by:

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

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



Adult Learners

26% of Mitchell County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the rural - non-metro county average of 16%.

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023

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

Adult Learners

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

- 33 Basic Skills
- 345 Continuing Education
- 67 Curriculum

25.8% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 15.9% | State: 11.7%, 2023



8.9% of Mitchell County residents have student loan debt, 0.0% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2024

Success of Mitchell County High School Graduates

82.6% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 79.6% | State: 83.8%, 2023

95.0% UNC | 70.0% NCCCS | NA NCICU

61.3% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 55.5% | State: 60.0%, 2023

21.3% UNC | 30.0% NCCCS | 5.0% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 614 of all college-goers attended Mayland CC
- 72 of all college-goers attended McDowell TCC
- 42 of all college-goers attended Asheville-Buncombe TCC

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

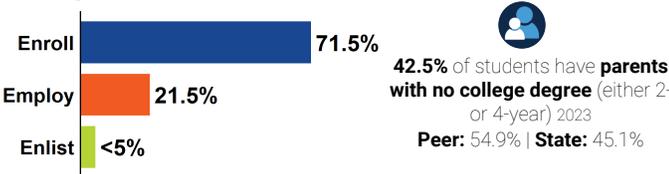


High School Graduation

78% of Mitchell County 9th graders complete high school in 4 years or less, below the rural - non-metro county average of 86%.

56.6% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 29 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 54.0% | State: 55.0%

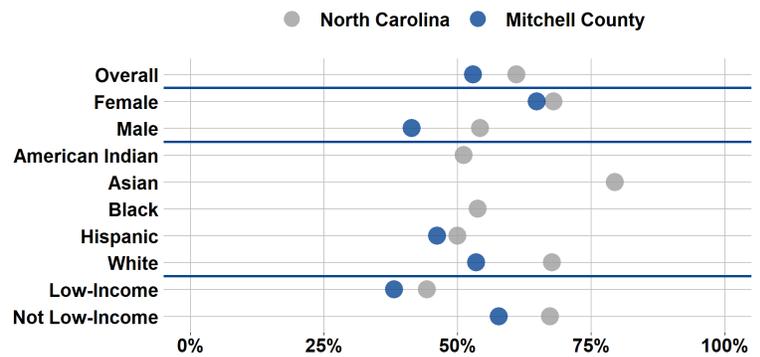
Post High School Graduation Intentions



77.8% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 26 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 85.7% | State: 87.3% 2024

51.1% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 52.6% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Mitchell 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

42% of Mitchell County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural - non-metro county average of 71%.

41.8% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 18 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.

Mitchell County Traditional Public Schools students:

26.4% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 336 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 24.5% | State: 29.8%

29.3% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 408 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 30.3% | State: 36.5%

23.2% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 218 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 27.7% | State: 25.7%

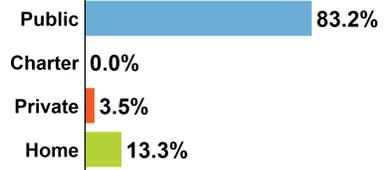
Mitchell County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 340:1 compared to 332:1 in peer counties. 2024

2.8% of students drop out of high school (18 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 1
Traditional Public School(s): 7
Charter School(s): 0
Private School(s): 2
Home School(s): 178

2,040 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 617 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 176 concentrations. 254 (41.2%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Human Services; Health Science; and Architecture and Construction.

51 (8.8%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

101 (79.5%) 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/