

Yancey County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



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

Educational Attainment

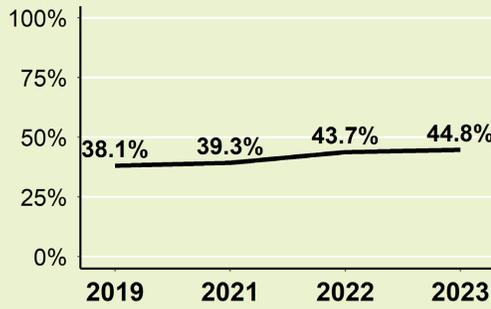
Yancey County residents ages 25-44, 2023

Have Degree or Credential
1,778
44.8%

No Degree
2,195
55.2%

Residents Ages 25-44
3,973

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 Yancey County Attainment Goal: 3,090 (Stretch Goal: 3,130)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 18,474
2023 Estimate: 18,938
Change: 464

Growth Rate

2.5% County vs. 3.8% State

Race/Ethnicity

Amer. Indian 0.1%
Asian/Pac. Isl. 0.4%
Black 0.6%
Hispanic 5.6%
Multiracial 1.9%
White 91.3%

\$54,913
Median Household Income (2023)
State: \$70,838

77.2%
Home Owners (2023)
State: 66.3%

67.1%
Households with Broadband (2023)
State: 77.1%

20.6%
Child Poverty Rate (2023)
State: 17.6%

12.9%
Single Parent Households (2023)
State: 17.0%

3.0%
Foreign Born (2023)
State: 9.2%

Top Opportunities for Growth



Family Sustaining Wage

39% of Yancey County adults 25-44 earn a family sustaining wage, below the rural - non-metro county average of 40%.

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

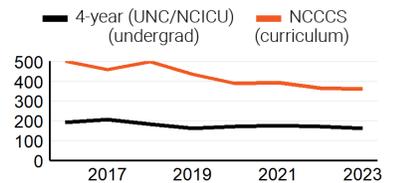
Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

- 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 Yancey County Residents



2 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

38.6% of adults (ages 25-44) in Yancey County earned a **family sustaining wage**. Peer: 40.5% | State: 57.6%, 2023

5.9% of youth (ages 16-24) in Yancey County were **Opportunity Youth**. Peer: 13.8% | State: 10.3%, 2023

78.6% of adults (ages 25-44) in Yancey County **participated in the labor force**. Peer: 78.3% | State: 84.2%, 2023

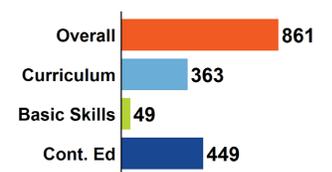
Top 3 Employers in Yancey County

Employer	Employment Range
Altec Industries Inc	500-999
County of Yancey	250-499
Yancey County Schools	250-499

Top 3 industries in Yancey County

Industry	Jobs Percent
Manufacturing	1,219 25.9%
Retail Trade	661 14.0%
Health Care and Social Assistance	434 9.2%

Yancey County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023



Yancey County is served by:

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

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



First-Year Persistence

76% of Yancey County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary education persist to their second year, below the rural - non-metro county average of 80%.

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023

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

Adult Learners

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

28 Basic Skills
415 Continuing Education
71 Curriculum

14.1% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 15.9% | State: 11.7%, 2023



9.6% of Yancey County residents have student loan debt, 1.9% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2024

Success of Yancey County High School Graduates

76.2% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 79.6% | State: 83.8%, 2023

81.8% UNC | 66.7% NCCCS | NA NCICU

58.3% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 55.5% | State: 60.0%, 2023

16.7% UNC | 25.0% NCCCS | 6.9% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 640 of all college-goers attended **Mayland CC**
- 129 of all college-goers attended **Asheville-Buncombe TCC**
- 34 of all college-goers attended **McDowell TCC**

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

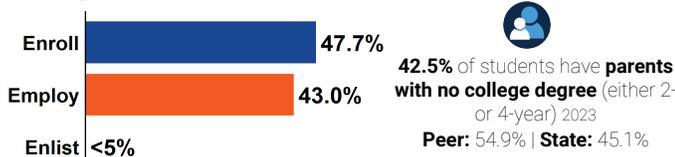


Postsecondary Enrollment

42% of Yancey County seniors enroll in postsecondary education within 12 months of graduation, below the rural - non-metro county average of 52%.

61.6% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 23 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 54.0% | State: 55.0%

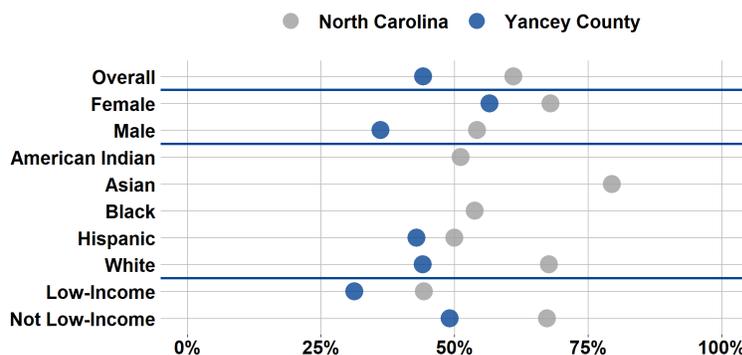
Post High School Graduation Intentions



87.2% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 12 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 85.7% | State: 87.3% 2024

42.4% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 52.6% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Yancey 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

39% of Yancey County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural - non-metro county average of 71%.

39.3% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 40 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.

Yancey County Traditional Public Schools students:

32.7% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 369 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 24.5% | State: 29.8%

40.0% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 422 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 30.3% | State: 36.5%

20.0% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 189 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 27.7% | State: 25.7%

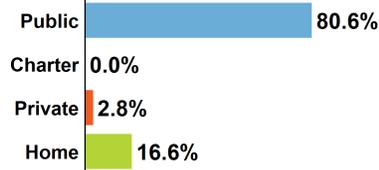
Yancey County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 502:1 compared to 332:1 in peer counties. 2024

1.6% of students drop out of high school (10 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): 3
Home School(s): 294

2,493 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 1,098 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 111 concentrations. 198 (18.0%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Human Services; Architecture and Construction; and Health Science.

73 (12.3%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

110 (79.7%) 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/