Southwestern Commission
Council of Governments
myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles
2030 Proposed Regional Council Attainment Goal: 32,575

Population Spotlight
Growth Rate: Council of Governments: 1.2% vs. State: 2.5%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>10,439,414</td>
<td>10,698,973</td>
<td>259,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee County</td>
<td>28,769</td>
<td>29,512</td>
<td>743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay County</td>
<td>11,085</td>
<td>11,614</td>
<td>529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graham County</td>
<td>8,029</td>
<td>7,980</td>
<td>-49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haywood County</td>
<td>62,097</td>
<td>62,609</td>
<td>512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson County</td>
<td>43,107</td>
<td>42,955</td>
<td>-152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macon County</td>
<td>37,016</td>
<td>38,065</td>
<td>1,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swain County</td>
<td>14,115</td>
<td>13,967</td>
<td>-148</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21.5% Child Poverty Rate (2022)
9.0% Opportunity Youth Rate (2021)
56% Households with Broadband (2022)
3% Foreign Born (2022)

Race/Ethnicity, 2022

- Amer. Indian: 4%
- Asian/Pac. Isl.: 1%
- Black: 1%
- Hispanic: 6%
- Multiracial: 3%
- White: 86%

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

Educational Attainment
Southwestern Commission residents ages 25-44, 2022

- No Degree: 23,115 (54.6%)
- Have Degree or Credential: 19,199 (45.4%)

Educational Outcomes:
- 15 individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020
- 3111 graduates in 2020
- 69% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- Annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)
- $41,526
- 45% of adults (ages 25-44) in Southwestern Commission earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Top Industries in Southwestern Commission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry Name</th>
<th>Average Employment</th>
<th>Average Weekly Wages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>10,016</td>
<td>$653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation and Food Services</td>
<td>8,721</td>
<td>$463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care and Social Assistance</td>
<td>8,245</td>
<td>$974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>6,407</td>
<td>$1,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
<td>5,580</td>
<td>$984</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top Job Sectors in Southwestern Commission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Sector</th>
<th>Average Employment</th>
<th>Average Weekly Wages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>50,667</td>
<td>$843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government</td>
<td>13,055</td>
<td>$941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Government</td>
<td>3,662</td>
<td>$1,016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Government</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>$1,324</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Success of Southwestern Commission High School Graduates

- 78% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 83% for the state. 2022
- 59% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 59% for the state. 2022

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- 3,459 of all college-goers attended Southwestern CC
- 1,859 of all college-goers attended Haywood CC
- 1,656 of all college-goers attended Tri-County CC

Adult Learners
Southwestern Commission resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022

- 148 Basic Skills
- 3,797 Continuing Education
- 1,037 Curriculum

- 58% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 328 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023
- 75% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 74% in the state. 2022
- 54% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 58% in the state. 2022

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates in Southwestern Commission, 2022

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

How students in Southwestern Commission traditional schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, each year Southwestern Commission needs:

- 62% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 117 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2023
- 30% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 4,094 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 35% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 4,889 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 91% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 80 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 34% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide; 5,132 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022
- 2% of students drop out of high school (106 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2022

For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit: dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/