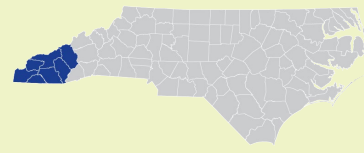


Southwestern Commission

Council of Governments

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

2030 Proposed Regional Council Attainment Goal: 32,575



Counties in Council of Governments:
Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain

Population Spotlight

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

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



21.5%
Child Poverty Rate (2022)
State: 17.2%



9.0%
Opportunity Youth Rate (2021)
State: 12.1%

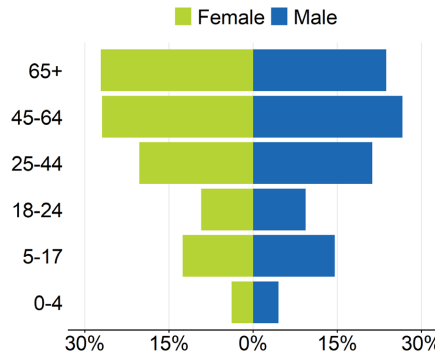


56%
Households with Broadband (2022)
State: 77%

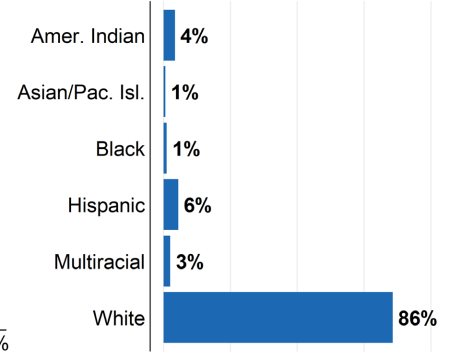


3%
Foreign Born (2022)
State: 9%

Age Structure, 2022



Race/Ethnicity, 2022

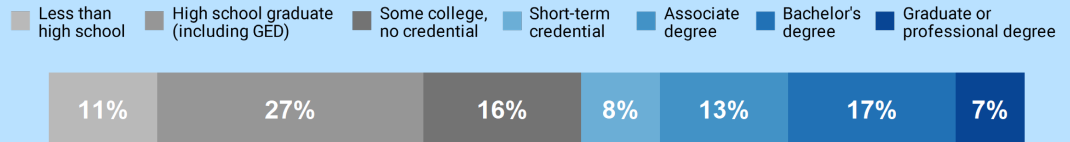


Educational Attainment

Southwestern Commission residents ages 25-44, 2022

No Degree
23,115
54.6%

Have Degree or Credential
19,199
45.4%



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

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

In Southwestern Commission:

15 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

3,111 graduates in 2020

69% 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)

45% of adults (ages 25-44) in Southwestern Commission earned a **family sustaining wage**, 2022

Labor Force Snapshot - 2023 Q2

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Total Jobs | 68,010 |
| Business Establishments | 6,724 |
| Employed | 88,071 |
| Unemployed | 3,276 |
| Avg. Weekly Wage | \$876 |
| Median Household Income | \$57,710 |

Top Industries in Southwestern Commission

| Industry Name | Average Employment | Average Weekly Wages |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Retail Trade | 10,016 | \$653 |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 8,721 | \$463 |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 8,245 | \$974 |
| Public Administration | 6,407 | \$1,010 |
| Educational Services | 5,580 | \$984 |

Top Job Sectors in Southwestern Commission

| Job Sector | Average Employment | Average Weekly Wages |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Private | 50,667 | \$843 |
| Local Government | 13,055 | \$941 |
| State Government | 3,662 | \$1,016 |
| Federal Government | 625 | \$1,324 |

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

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022

711 certificate | **823** associate | **2,570** bachelor's

Postsecondary assets in Southwestern Commission

Public, 4-year or above
Western Carolina University

Public, 2-year
Haywood Community College, Southwestern Community College, Tri-County Community College

Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above
Private not-for-profit, 2-year



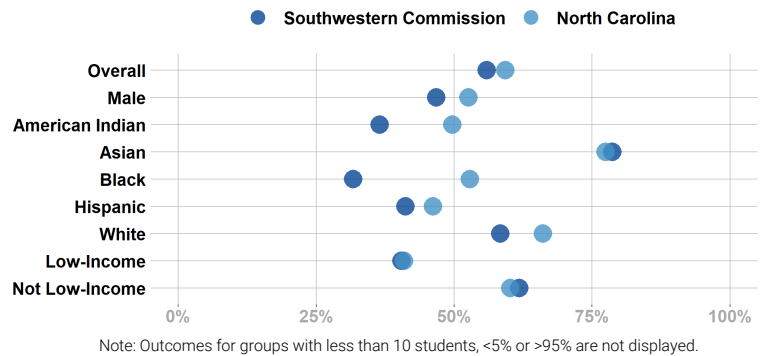
How students in Southwestern Commission traditional schools are currently doing:

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

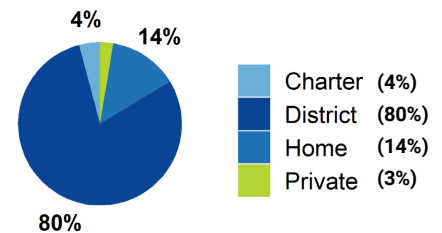
Postsecondary Enrollment Rates in Southwestern Commission, 2022



School Choice

26,756 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Southwestern Commission in the 2022-23 school year.

Note: This profile focuses on outcomes of students enrolled in district schools.



Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in Southwestern Commission completed **4,384 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024)** and **1,072 concentrations** in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Human Services; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.

387 high school students took at least one **AP course (6%)** versus **15%** in the state (2022).

1,395 high school students participated in **Career & College Promise programs (45%)** versus **23%** in the state (2022).

For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit:

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