Alexander County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Alexander County Attainment Goal: 4,753 (48%)

**Popualtion Spotlight**
- 2010 Census: 37,198
- 2020 Census: 36,444
- Change: -754

**Growth Rate**
- County: -2.0%
- State: 9.5%

**Median Household Income**
- 2020: $53,523
- 2020: 22.4% Child Poverty Rate
- 2020: 85% Households with Broadband
- 2020: 80% Home Owners
- 2020: 74% Voter Registration Rate
- 2020: 4.2% Unemployment Rate

**Educational Attainment**
- Alexander County residents ages 25-44, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Degree</th>
<th>Have Degree or Credential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>68.6%</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,056</td>
<td>2,771</td>
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</tbody>
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**Top Opportunities for Growth**
- NC Pre-K Enrollment: 34% of Alexander County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural metro county average of 59%.
- Opportunity Youth: 16% of Alexander County youth ages 16-24 are not working and not in school, above the rural metro county average of 15%.
- Transition to Postsecondary: 52% of Alexander County seniors enroll in postsecondary within 12 months of graduation, below the state average of 55%.

**Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline**
- K-12 Enrollment (district schools): -6.8% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20
- Postsecondary Enrollment: -12.5% 2021 vs. 2020
- FAFSA Completion: -1.2% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19
- Postsecondary Intentions: -13.0% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

**Data Disruptions**
- College-and-Career-Ready in Reading
- College-and-Career-Ready in Math
- Chronic Absenteeism

**How students in Alexander County traditional schools are currently doing:**
- To meet state goals, each year Alexander County needs:
  - 83 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 34%). 2022
  - 883 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 30%). 2022
  - 1,008 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 37%). 2022
  - 30 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 87%). 2021
  - 119 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 14%). 2021

- Alexander County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 298:1 versus 362:1 in peer counties. 2021

**Career and College Preparation**
- 129 high school students took at least one AP course (9%) versus 9% in peer counties (2021).
- 147 graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs (45%) versus 43% in peer counties (2021).
- Students in Alexander County completed 264 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Human Services; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Architecture and Construction.

**Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Alexander County, 2021**

**Note:** Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.
Success of Alexander County High School Graduates
Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020

- 28% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 18% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 54% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 94% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 78% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% in peer counties. 2021
- 64% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 57% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners
Alexander County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021

- 24 Basic Skills
- 598 Continuing Education
- 717 Curriculum

- 10% of Alexander County residents have student loan debt; 10% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

70.2% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

Top areas of misalignment:
Health Science (bachelor’s and below bachelor’s)
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (below bachelor’s)
Business Management & Administration (bachelor’s)

359 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

- 2,139 graduates in 2020
- 80% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $37,952 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:

- 7,184 in Basic Services
- 2,684 in Career Services
- 378 in Education Services

- 16.3% of young adults ages 16-24 in Alexander County were not working and not in school versus 15.2% in peer counties. 2019

Promising Attainment Practices
The new Promising Attainment Practices Database is a curated, searchable, and filterable collection of about 250 county, region, and state-level initiatives and programs that directly address various components of the state’s attainment challenge. The Database allows local and regional initiative leaders and other stakeholders to identify groups across the state who are developing or operating initiatives designed to boost attainment.

Follow link to discover how Alexander County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Alexander

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