Alexander County

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

2010 Census: 37,198
2020 Census: 36,444
Population Spotlight
2030 Proposed Alexander County Attainment Goal: 4,753 (48%)
2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)

Population Spotlight
2030 Proposed Alexander County Attainment Goal: 4,753 (48%)

Alexander County

Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline
Covid-19 has affected critical transition points along the education continuum.

Educational Attainment
Alexander County residents ages 25-44, 2021

No Degree
64.7% 5,517
Have Degree or Credential
35.3% 3,014

Note: Numbers may add to more than 100% due to rounding

Top Opportunities for Growth
These three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Alexander County to improve future attainment outcomes.

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%.

How students in Alexander County traditional schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, each year Alexander County needs:

- 34% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program; 83 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2022
- 30% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading; 883 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2022
- 37% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math; 1,008 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2022
- 87% of 9th graders graduate within four years; 30 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2021
- 14% of students are chronically absent from school; 119 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2021

Alexander County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 298.1 versus 362.1 in peer counties. 2021

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

Charter Schools:
Local Education Agencies:
Peer County Type:
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

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/