Ashe County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Ashe County Attainment Goal: 4,133 (62%)

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 27,281 vs. 2020 Census: 26,577
Change: -704

Growth Rate
-2.6% County vs. 9.5% State

2020 Census: 26,577
2010 Census: 27,281

2030 Proposed Ashe County Attainment Goal: 4,133 (62%)
2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)

Ashe County education continuum.
Transition points along the Covid-19 has affected critical education pipeline impact of Covid-19 on attainment outcomes.

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

Adult Learners
22% of Ashe County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, below the rural non-metro county average of 17%.

High School Graduation
85% of Ashe County 9th graders complete high school in 4 years or less, below the rural non-metro county average of 86%.

Postsecondary Completion
56% of Ashe County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary earn a degree or credential within 6 years, below the state average of 59%.

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

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

- 55% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022; 42 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%. 2022 https://www.myfuturenc.org/ourwork/first-in-fafsa/
- 77% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 69% in peer counties. 2021
- 52% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 50% in peer counties. 2021

49% of Ashe County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 59% in peer counties.

School Choice
3,450 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Ashe County in the 2021-22 school year.

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

Career and College Preparation
57 high school students took at least one AP course (7%) versus 7% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Ashe County completed 78 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Manufacturing; and Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Ashe County, 2021

Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.
Success of Ashe County High School Graduates

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020
- 37% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 10% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 52% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 88% of college-goers attended an in-state college
- 78% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% in peer counties. 2021
- 56% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 55% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners

Ashe County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021
- 44 Basic Skills
- 435 Continuing Education
- 518 Curriculum
- 8% of Ashe County residents have student loan debt; 7% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

84.0% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

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

17 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
- 5,202 graduates in 2020
- 69% 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)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:
- 3,616 in Basic Services
- 1,617 in Career Services
- 245 in Education Services
- 5.6% of young adults ages 16-24 in Ashe 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 Ashe County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Ashe

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