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
2020 Census: 26,577
Change: -704

Growth Rate
-2.6% vs. 9.5% State

Educational Attainment
Ashe County residents ages 25-44, 2020

- No Degree: 56.9% (3,335)
- Have Degree or Credential: 43.1% (2,524)

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, above 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.

- K-12 Enrollment (district schools): -7.5% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20
- Postsecondary Enrollment: -10.2% 2021 vs. 2020
- FAFSA Completion: -9.8% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19
- Postsecondary Intentions: 0.6% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

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

How students in Ashe County traditional schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, each year Ashe County needs:
- 491 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 34%). 2022
- 508 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 45%). 2022
- 22 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 85%). 2021
- 155 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 17%). 2021

Ashe County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 307:1 versus 318:1 in peer counties. 2021

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).
109 graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs (52%) versus 49% 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.

How students in Ashe County traditional schools are currently doing:

- 55% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022. (42 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%).
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.
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

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