INTRODUCTION
From birth to career, there are many opportunities to develop strategies and interventions to increase attainment and improve workforce alignment. Below are some key areas and indicators that highlight where interventions may be possible to improve overall educational attainment outcomes.

Building the Foundation: Pre-K to 8
High-quality early learning and strong academic progress in early years helps prepare children for future success.

Ashe County has 6 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, none were classified as low performing in 2019.

Ready for College & Career
High school completion is a crucial step on the pathway to postsecondary success or the beginnings of a career. Activities that prepare students to navigate the transition to postsecondary include gaining experience in college-level coursework and applying for financial assistance.

Postsecondary Access and Success
These metrics capture student progression and educational attainment from high school graduation to postsecondary completion. They indicate relative strengths and weaknesses of Ashe County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.

Ashe County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 327:1.

Labor Market Outcomes
Lack of technical skills and lack of education are among the primary reasons why NC employers struggle to fill vacancies. These metrics capture labor market outcomes among recent graduates, the alignment between postsecondary degree production and labor market demand, and future job demands.

5.3% of teens ages 16-19 are not working and not in school versus 8.9% of peer counties.

How students in Ashe County traditional public schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, Ashe County needs:
• 22 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 86%).
• 51 more seniors to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80% vs. 56%).
• Ashe County has met the goal for students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 10%).

To meet state goals, Ashe County needs:
• 67% of graduates enroll in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 57% of peer counties.
• 76% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% of peer counties.
• 61% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 49% of peer counties.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2018-19:
12 individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program.
1,740 Basic Skills enrollments at NC community colleges.
8,809 Continuing Education enrollments at NC community colleges.

There are 84,705 job openings projected between 2017-2026. The top 3 in demand jobs with median wages of $50,000 or more are: 1) Registered Nurses; 2) General and Operations Managers; 3) First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers.

Opportunities for Growth
Compared to rural non-metro counties and the state, these three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Ashe County to improve future attainment outcomes.

Adult Learners
26% of Ashe County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the rural non-metro county average of 25%.

FAFSA Completion
56% of Ashe County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the state average of 64%.

AP Participation
12% of Ashe County high school students took at least one Advanced Placement exam, below the state average of 17%.
## Largest postsecondary institutions in your Prosperity Zone sub-region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution Name</th>
<th>Undergraduate Enrollments 2017-18</th>
<th>Graduate or Transfer in 8 Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Enrollments</td>
<td>28,661</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appalachian State University</td>
<td>18,135</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute</td>
<td>4,636</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilkes Community College</td>
<td>3,416</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayland Community College</td>
<td>1,455</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lees-McRae College</td>
<td>1,019</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
Enrollments reflect degree- or credential-seeking undergraduate enrollments. The graduate or transfer rate is drawn from IPEDS and represents the share of students who either graduate with a degree or credential from the institution or transfer to another institution within 8 years. The 8-year outcome is the only measure that includes information on transfer out. Detailed data guidance is provided at http://go.unc.edu/countydata

---

### Local Cross-Sector Promising Practice: Early Childhood and Education Program

Our Early Childhood and Education Program improves quality or maintains high quality child care in our county through teacher education. We provide onsite technical assistance, peer mentors, group and onsite training to child care facilities to increase or maintain their star ratings.

We identified this example of an emerging cross-sector promising practice in partnership with local leaders. If you have additional examples you’d like to share with myFutureNC, please respond to this [short survey](#).

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

---

## ABOUT CAROLINA DEMOGRAPHY

Located within the Carolina Population Center at UNC-Chapel Hill, we use data and other available research to help you put a face or a story on the population-level changes facing your community. Our analysts provide a full array of demographic data and research services to inform decision making, evaluation, and policy across North Carolina, where we serve organizations and people in all 100 counties.

- [ncdemography.org](http://ncdemography.org)
- [demography@unc.edu](mailto:demography@unc.edu)
- [@ncdemography](https://twitter.com/ncdemography)

---

## ABOUT MYFUTURENC

MyFutureNC is a statewide nonprofit organization focused on educational attainment and is the result of cross-sector collaboration between North Carolina leaders in education, business, and government. Our mission is to prepare North Carolina for the future by empowering individuals, strengthening communities, and ensuring our economic viability in a global economy.

- [myfuturenc.org](http://myfuturenc.org)
- [facebook.com/myfuturenc](http://facebook.com/myfuturenc)
- [@myFutureNC](https://twitter.com/myFutureNC)