Avery County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Avery County Attainment Goal: 1,782 (41%)

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 17,797
2020 Census: 17,806
Change: 9

Growth Rate
0.0% County vs. 9.5% State

Educational Attainment
Avery County residents ages 25-44, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Degree</th>
<th>Have Degree or Credential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63.8%</td>
<td>36.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Less than high school</th>
<th>High school graduate (including GED)</th>
<th>Some college, no degree</th>
<th>Short-term credential</th>
<th>Associate degree</th>
<th>Bachelor’s degree</th>
<th>Graduate or professional degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Note: Numbers may add to more than 100% due to rounding

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

Adult Learners
20% of Avery County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the rural non-metro county average of 17%.

First-Year Persistence
74% of Avery County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary persist to their second year, below the state average of 77%.

Math Performance
34% of Avery County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the state goal of 86%.

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

-4.2% K-12 Enrollment (district schools) 2021-22 vs. 2019-20
10.9% Postsecondary Enrollment 2021 vs. 2020

FAFSA Completion -16.2% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19
Postsecondary Intentions 6.1% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

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

How students in Avery County traditional schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, each year Avery County needs:
- Avery County has met the goal for Pre-K enrollment (goal: 75% vs. 85%). 2022
- 354 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 30%). 2022
- 425 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 34%). 2022
- 8 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 90%). 2021
- 239 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 25%). 2021

Avery County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 295:1 versus 318:1 in peer counties. 2021

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

School Choice
2,353 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Avery County in the 2021-22 school year.

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

Career and College Preparation
73 high school students took at least one AP course (13%) versus 7% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Avery County completed 58 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed included Manufacturing, Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Avery County, 2021

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

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020

- 40% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 14% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 46% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 83% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 74% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% in peer counties. 2021
- 65% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 55% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners

Avery County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021

- 47 Basic Skills
- 279 Continuing Education
- 326 Curriculum

12% of Avery County residents have student loan debt; 0% 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

5.9% of young adults ages 16-24 in Avery 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 Avery County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Avery

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