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

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Avery County education continuum.

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

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

Educational Attainment
Avery County residents ages 25-44, 2021

No Degree
59.8%
2,745

Have Degree or Credential
40.2%
1,843

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

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%). 2022
• 30% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading; 354 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2022
• 34% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math; 425 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2022
• 90% of 9th graders graduate within four years; 8 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2021
• 25% of students are chronically absent from school; 239 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2021

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

• 62% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022; 23 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%. 2022
https://www.myfuturenc.org/ourwork/first-in-fafsa/

• 78% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 69% in peer counties. 2021

• 62% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 50% 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.

Career and College Preparation
85 graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs (61%) versus 49% 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.

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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/