

Buncombe County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles



Asheville
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Suburban
Local Education Agencies: 2 (2023)
Charter Schools: 6 (2023)

2030 Proposed Buncombe County Attainment Goal: 57,403 (Stretch Goal: 57,749)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 269,446
2022 Estimate: 273,589
Change: 4,143

Growth Rate

1.5% County vs. 2.5% State



\$67,906
Median Household Income (2022)
State: \$67,516



64%
Home Owners (2022)
State: 67%



14.4%
Child Poverty Rate (2022)
State: 17.2%



11.2%
Opportunity Youth Rate (2021)
State: 12.1%



72%
Households with Broadband (2022)
State: 77%



3.0%
Unemployment Rate (2022)
State: 3.7%

Educational Attainment

Buncombe County residents ages 25-44, 2022

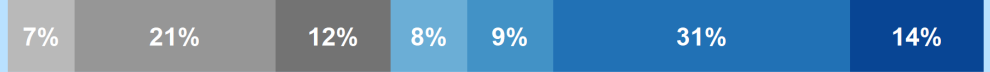
Less than high school High school graduate (including GED) Some college, no credential Short-term credential Associate degree Bachelor's degree Graduate or professional degree



No Degree
29,324
39.7%



Have Degree or Credential
44,626
60.3%



Note: Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Top Opportunities for Growth

These three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Buncombe County to improve future attainment outcomes.



FAFSA Completion

60% of Buncombe County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the suburban county average of 62%.



NC Pre-K Enrollment

46% of Buncombe County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the state average of 53%.



Transition to Postsecondary

53% of Buncombe County seniors enroll in postsecondary within 12 months of graduation, below the state average of 58%.

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 Buncombe County has been meeting local needs:

https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Buncombe

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

In Asheville Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

72.1%

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

Top areas of misalignment:

Health Science all levels
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics below bachelor's
Business Management & Administration bachelor's



636 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

3,023 graduates in 2020

69% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021

\$35,824 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

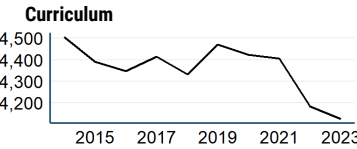


50% of adults (ages 25-44) in Buncombe County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Buncombe County is served by:

Mountain Area Workforce Development Board
Land-of-Sky Regional Council

UNC System College Enrollment



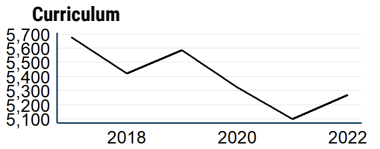
Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Asheville Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	5%
Logisticians	4%
Physician Assistants	3%

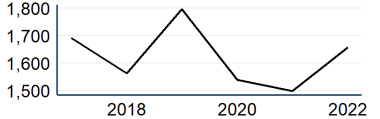
Top 3 Employers in Buncombe County

Employer	Employment Range
Mh Hospital Manager Llc	1000+
Ingles Markets Inc	1000+
Buncombe County Board Of Education	1000+

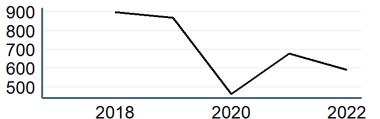
NC Community College Enrollment



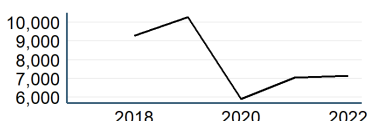
First-time Curriculum Enrollments



Basic Skills



Continuing Education



Adult Learners

Buncombe County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022

591 Basic Skills
7,147 Continuing Education
5,272 Curriculum



13% of Buncombe County residents have **student loan debt**; 6% of debt holders had **student loans in default**. 2022

Success of Buncombe County High School Graduates

- 82% of students who enroll **persist to their second year** versus 82% in peer counties. 2022
- 60% of students who enroll **earn a degree or certificate** within 6 years versus 60% in peer counties. 2022

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- 7,828 of all college-goers attended **Asheville-Buncombe TCC**
- 631 of all college-goers attended **Blue Ridge CC**
- 239 of all college-goers attended **Haywood CC**

60% of seniors **completed the FAFSA** in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 387 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023

72% of graduates reported **intentions to enroll** in a postsecondary institution versus 73% in peer counties. 2022

53% of graduates **enrolled in a postsecondary institution** within 12 months versus 57% in peer counties. 2022



38% of Buncombe County students have **parents with no college degree** (either 2- or 4-year) versus 48% in peer counties.

How students in Buncombe County traditional schools are doing:

- 46% of eligible 4-year-olds **enrolled in NC Pre-K program**, compared to 53% statewide; 255 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2023
- 33% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **reading**, compared to 30% statewide; 6,049 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 37% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **math**, compared to 35% statewide; 5,651 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 91% of 9th graders **graduate within four years**, compared to 87% statewide; 88 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 25% of students are **chronically absent from school**, compared to 32% statewide; 3,743 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022



Buncombe County has a **student-to-school counselor ratio** of 252:1 versus 327:1 in peer counties. 2022



2% of students **drop out of high school** (161 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2022

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022

1,477 certificate | 1,310 associate | 1,451 bachelor's

Postsecondary assets in Asheville Prosperity Zone sub-region

Public, 4-year or above

University of North Carolina at Asheville

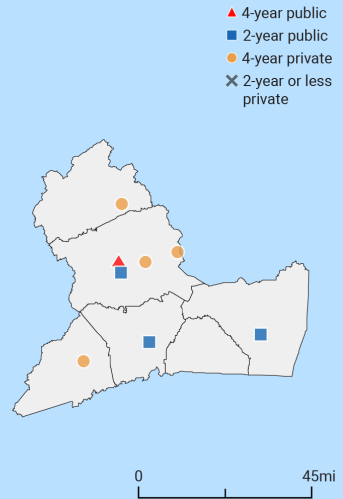
Public, 2-year

Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Blue Ridge Community College, Isothermal Community College

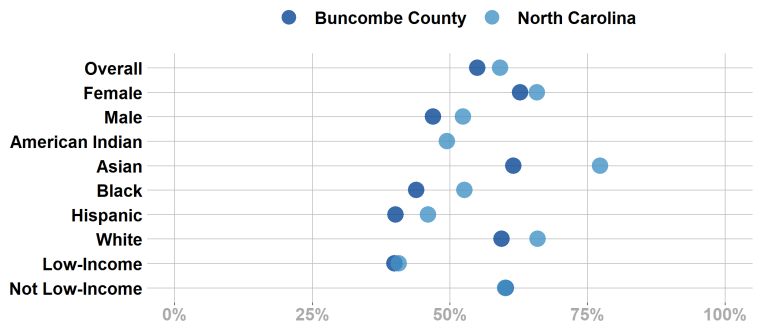
Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above

Brevard College, Mars Hill University, Montreat College, Warren Wilson College

Private not-for-profit, 2-year



Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Buncombe County, 2022

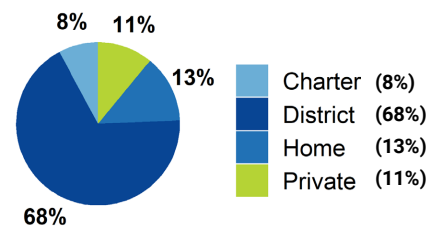


Note: Outcomes for groups with less than 10 students, <5% or >95% are not displayed.

School Choice

38,085 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Buncombe County in the 2022-23 school year.

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



Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in Buncombe County completed 1,131 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 1,469 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Human Services; and Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications.



1,325 high school students took at least one **AP course** (16%) versus 14% in peer counties (2022).



1,474 high school students participated in **Career & College Promise programs** (37%) versus 23% in peer counties (2022).

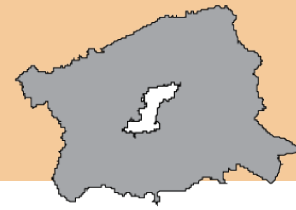
For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit:

dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/

City/District School Profile

Buncombe County Schools | 2022-2023

This profile is a supplement to the County Profiles



district boundary

Total Schools: 45 Total Students: 21,698

ACADEMIC READINESS

How students in Buncombe County Schools are currently doing:

- **32%** of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **reading**, compared to **30%** statewide; 4,031 more needed to meet state goal of **73%**. 2023
- **37%** of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **math**, compared to **35%** statewide; 4,816 more needed to meet state goal of **86%**. 2023
- **91%** of 9th graders **graduate within four years**, compared to **87%** statewide; 73 more needed to meet state goal of **95%**. 2023
- **24%** of students are **chronically absent from school**, compared to **32%** statewide; 2,988 less needed to meet state goal of **11%**. 2022



Buncombe County Schools has a **student-to-school counselor ratio** of **249:1** versus **327:1** in peer districts. 2022

Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in Buncombe County Schools completed **885 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials** (industry-valued credential data available in **Spring 2024**) and **1,306 concentrations** in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Human Services; and Hospitality & Tourism.



991 high school students took at least one **AP course (14%)** (2022).



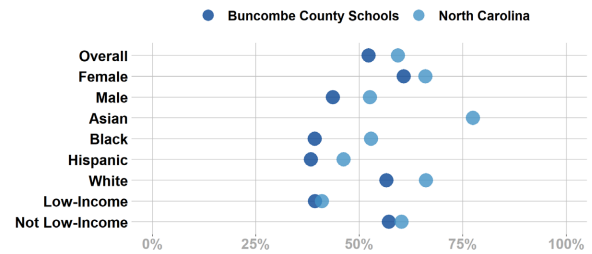
1,190 high school students participated in **Career & College Promise programs (36%)** (2022).

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

How students in Buncombe County Schools are planning for and enrolling in college:

- **57%** of seniors **completed the FAFSA** in 2023, compared to **62%** statewide; 354 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of **80%**. 2023
- **71%** of graduates reported **intentions to enroll** in a postsecondary institution. 2022
- **51%** of graduates **enrolled in a postsecondary institution** within 12 months. 2022

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates (within 12 months) for Select Groups in Buncombe County Schools, 2022



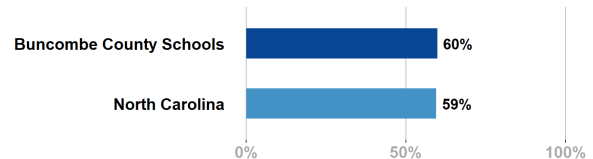
Note: Outcomes for groups with less than 10 students, <5% or >95% are not displayed.

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- Asheville-Buncombe TCC
- Blue Ridge CC
- Haywood CC
- **81%** of college students **persist to their second year** of attendance. 2022

Percentage of students enrolled in North Carolina postsecondary institution who graduate within 6 years of enrollment, 2022



** Observations <10 or no data available

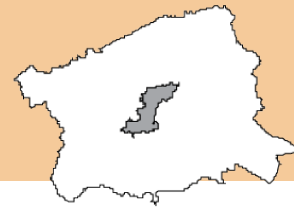
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City/District School Profile

Asheville City Schools | 2022-2023

This profile is a supplement to the County Profiles



■ district boundary

Total Schools: 10 Total Students: 3,960

ACADEMIC READINESS

How students in Asheville City Schools are currently doing:

- **41%** of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **reading**, compared to **30%** statewide; 532 more needed to meet state goal of **73%**. 2023
- **35%** of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **math**, compared to **35%** statewide; 835 more needed to meet state goal of **86%**. 2023
- **91%** of 9th graders **graduate within four years**, compared to **87%** statewide; 16 more needed to meet state goal of **95%**. 2023
- **28%** of students are **chronically absent from school**, compared to **32%** statewide; 755 less needed to meet state goal of **11%**. 2022



Asheville City Schools has a **student-to-school counselor ratio** of **264:1** versus **327:1** in peer districts. 2022

Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in Asheville City Schools completed **246 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials** (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and **163 concentrations** in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; Human Services; and Hospitality & Tourism.



334 high school students took at least one **AP course (23%)** (2022).



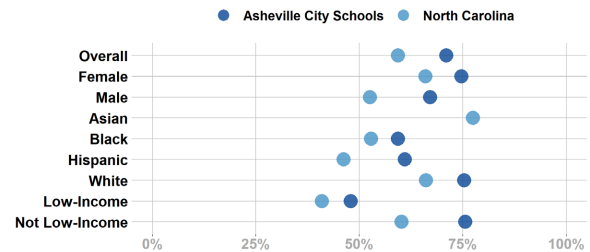
284 high school students participated in **Career & College Promise programs (42%)** (2022).

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

How students in Asheville City Schools are planning for and enrolling in college:

- **71%** of seniors **completed the FAFSA** in 2023, compared to **62%** statewide; 33 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of **80%**. 2023
- **76%** of graduates reported **intentions to enroll** in a postsecondary institution. 2022
- **69%** of graduates **enrolled in a postsecondary institution** within 12 months. 2022

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates (within 12 months) for Select Groups in Asheville City Schools, 2022



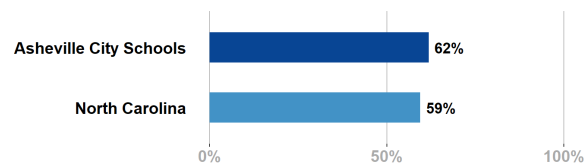
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POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- Asheville-Buncombe TCC
- Blue Ridge CC
- Haywood CC
- **86%** of college students **persist to their second year** of attendance. 2022

Percentage of students enrolled in North Carolina postsecondary institution who graduate within 6 years of enrollment, 2022



** Observations <10 or no data available

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