Caldwell County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Caldwell County Attainment Goal: 10,959 (50%)

### Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 83,029
2020 Census: 80,652
Change: -2,377

### Growth Rate
- County: -2.9%
- State: 9.5%

### Education Continuum
- Median Household Income (2020): $50,235
- Child Poverty Rate (2020): 19.0%
- Households with Broadband (2020): 87%
- Home Owners (2020): 74%
- Voter Registration Rate (2021): 72%
- Unemployment Rate (2021): 4.9%
- 2020 Census: 80,652
- 2010 Census: 83,029

### Covid-19 Impact on Education Pipeline
- Impact of Covid-19 on attainment outcomes.
- County to improve future opportunities for Caldwell County residents ages 25–44, 2021

### Math Performance
- 27% of Caldwell County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the rural metro county average of 28%.

### Top Opportunities for Growth
- Opportunity Youth: 16% of Caldwell County youth ages 16-24 are not working and not in school, above the rural metro county average of 15%.

### Adult Learners
- 17% of Caldwell County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the state average of 15%.

### Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline
- K-12 Enrollment (district schools): -5.0% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20
- Postsecondary Enrollment: -5.1% 2021 vs. 2020

### How students in Caldwell County traditional schools are currently doing:
- To meet state goals, each year Caldwell County needs:
  - 59% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program; 73 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2022
  - 26% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading; 2,241 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2022
  - 27% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math; 2,821 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2022
  - 87% of 9th graders graduate within four years; 78 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2021
  - 22% of students are chronically absent from school; 1,149 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2021

- Caldwell County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 319:1 versus 362:1 in peer counties. 2021

### College & Career Preparation
- 477 graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs (55%) versus 43% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Caldwell County completed 429 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Human Services; Health Science; and Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics.

### Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Caldwell County, 2021

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

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020

- 34% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 14% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 52% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 95% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 77% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% in peer counties. 2021
- 62% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 57% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners

Caldwell County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Skills</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing Education</td>
<td>1,566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>2,139</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10% of Caldwell County residents have student loan debt; 11% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

70.2% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

Top areas of misalignment:

- Health Science (bachelor’s and below bachelor’s)
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (below bachelor’s)
- Business Management & Administration (bachelor’s)

359 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

- 2,139 graduates in 2020
- 80% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $37,952 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:

- 7,184 in Basic Services
- 2,684 in Career Services
- 378 in Education Services

16.2% of young adults ages 16-24 in Caldwell County were not working and not in school versus 15.2% in peer counties. 2019

Impact of Covid-19 on NC Community College Enrollment

Number of Caldwell County residents employed, January 2020 to March 2022

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 Caldwell County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Caldwell

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