Caldwell County

**myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles**

**2030 Proposed Caldwell County Attainment Goal: 10,959 (Stretch Goal: 11,149)**  
**2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million**

### Population Spotlight

- **2020 Census:** 80,664
- **2022 Estimate:** 80,492
- **Change:** -172

### Growth Rate

- **County:** -0.2%
- **State:** 2.5%

### Fiscal Profile

- **2022 Median Household Income:** $53,586
- **Home Owners:** 75% (2022)
- **Child Poverty Rate:** 20.0% (2022)
- **Opportunity Youth Rate:** 16.7% (2021)
- **Households with Broadband:** 64% (2022)
- **Unemployment Rate:** 3.6% (2022)

### Educational Attainment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Have Degree or Credential</th>
<th>No Degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6,847</td>
<td>11,003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38.4%</td>
<td>61.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Top Opportunities for Growth
- **Chronic Absenteeism:** 40% of Caldwell County students are chronically absent from school, above the rural-metro county average of 34%.
- **Math Performance:** 28% of Caldwell County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the rural-metro county average of 30%.
- **Adult Learners:** 18% of Caldwell County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the rural-metro county average of 17%.

### 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](https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Caldwell)

### In Hickory Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

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

### Caldwell County is served by:

- Western Piedmont Workforce Development Board
- Western Piedmont Council of Governments

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**Note:** Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
Adult Learners
Caldwell County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022
193 Basic Skills
2,933 Continuing Education
2,209 Curriculum
9% of Caldwell County residents have student loan debt. 6% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2022

Success of Caldwell County High School Graduates
• 80% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 79% in peer counties. 2022
• 58% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 56% in peer counties. 2022

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023
• 2,993 of all college-goers attended Caldwell CC and TI
• 344 of all college-goers attended Catawba Valley CC
• 209 of all college-goers attended Western Piedmont CC

Postsecondary assets in Hickory Prosperity Zone sub-region
Public, 4-year or above
Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, Catawba Valley Community College, McDowell Technical Community College, Western Piedmont Community College
Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above
Lenoir-Rhyne University
Private not-for-profit, 2-year

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Caldwell County, 2022
Note: Outcomes for groups with less than 10 students, <5% or >95% are not displayed.

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