Catawba County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

2030 Proposed Catawba County Attainment Goal: 23,455 (Stretch Goal: 23,775) 2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 160,609
2022 Estimate: 163,462
Change: 2,853

Growth Rate
1.8% vs. 2.5%

Table:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median Household Income (2022)</td>
<td>$63,934</td>
<td>$67,516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Owners Rate (2022)</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Poverty Rate (2022)</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity Youth Rate (2021)</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with Broadband (2022)</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate (2022)</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Educational Attainment
Catawba County residents ages 25-44, 2022

- **No Degree**: 20,097 (52.8%)
- **Have Degree or Credential**: 17,951 (47.2%)

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

- **Reading Performance**: 28% of Catawba County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Reading, below the suburban county average of 31%.
- **Chronic Absenteeism**: 34% of Catawba County students are chronically absent from school, above the suburban county average of 30%.
- **FAFSA Completion**: 59% of Catawba County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the suburban county average of 62%.

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

In Hickory 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
- Business Management & Administration bachelor's
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics below 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)**

48% of adults (ages 25-44) in Catawba County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Catawba County is served by:
- Western Piedmont Workforce Development Board
- Western Piedmont Council of Governments

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- Western Piedmont Council of Governments
### Adult Learners
Catawba County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022
- **246** Basic Skills
- **4,661** Continuing Education
- **3,672** Curriculum

12% of Catawba County residents have student loan debt. 5% of debt holders had student loans in default, 2022.

### Success of Catawba County High School Graduates
- 83% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 82% in peer counties, 2022.
- 63% 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
- 4,598 of all college-goers attended Catawba Valley CC
- 429 of all college-goers attended Lenoir-Rhyne University
- 410 of all college-goers attended Caldwell CC and TI

### How students in Catawba County traditional schools are doing:
- 55% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 143 more needed to meet state goal of 75%, 2023.
- 28% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 5,783 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; 4,842 more needed to meet state goal of 86%, 2023.
- 88% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 135 more needed to meet state goal of 95%, 2023.
- 34% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide; 5,169 less needed to meet state goal of 11%, 2022.

Catawba County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 335:1 versus 327:1 in peer counties, 2022.

1% of students drop out of high school (105 total students), compared to 2% statewide, 2022.

### School Choice
26,253 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Catawba 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 Catawba County completed 4,790 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 896 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Human Services; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.

673 high school students took at least one AP course (10%) versus 14% in peer counties (2022).

983 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (33%) versus 23% in peer counties (2022).

### Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022
- **1,720** certificate
- **2,199** associate
- **327** bachelor’s

### Postsecondary assets in Hickory Prosperity Zone sub-region
- **4-year public**
- **2-year public**
- **4-year private**
- **2-year or less private**

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
- Catawba Valley Community College, Caldwell Community and Technical Institute

### Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Catawba County, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Catawba County</th>
<th>North Carolina</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-Income</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Low-Income</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Outcomes for groups with less than 10 students, <5% or >95% are not displayed.
Catawba County Schools | 2022-2023

Total Schools: 28 Total Students: 15,351

ACADEMIC READINESS

How students in Catawba County Schools are currently doing:

- 28% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 3,147 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 38% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 3,228 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 87% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 107 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 34% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide; 3,610 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022

Catawba County Schools has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 366:1 versus 327:1 in peer districts. 2022

Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in Catawba County Schools completed 2,403 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 690 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Human Services; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.

- 340 high school students took at least one AP course (7%) (2022).
- 714 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (35%) (2022).

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

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

- 57% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 248 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023
- 75% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution. 2022
- 60% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. 2022

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

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

** Observations <10 or no data available

For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit:
dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/
Total Schools: 10 Total Students: 3,698

How students in Hickory City Schools are currently doing:

- 27% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 786 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 33% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 912 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 88% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 21 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 38% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide; 1,085 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022

Hickory City Schools has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 247:1 versus 327:1 in peer districts. 2022

Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in Hickory City Schools completed 563 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 105 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Human Services; Health Science; and Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics.

171 high school students took at least one AP course (15%) (2022).

131 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (24%) (2022).

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

- 64% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 37 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023
- 66% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution. 2022
- 52% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. 2022

64% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 37 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- Catawba Valley CC
- Caldwell CC and TI
- Western Piedmont CC

- 79% 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postsecondary Enrollment Rates (within 12 months) for Select Groups in Hickory City Schools, 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low-Income</td>
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<td>Not Low-Income</td>
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Newton Conover City Schools [2022-2023]

Total Schools: 7  Total Students: 2,725

**ACADEMIC READINESS**

How students in Newton Conover City Schools are currently doing:

- **26%** of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **reading**, compared to **30%** statewide; 565 more needed to meet state goal of **73%**, 2023

- **36%** of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **math**, compared to **35%** statewide; 602 more needed to meet state goal of **86%**, 2023

- **92%** of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to **87%** statewide; **7** more needed to meet state goal of **95%**, 2023

- **27%** of students are **chronically absent from school**, compared to **32%** statewide; **473** less needed to meet state goal of **11%**, 2022

Newton Conover City Schools has a **student-to-school counselor ratio of 341:1** versus **327:1** in peer districts, 2022

**Access to Postsecondary Credits**

Students in Newton Conover City Schools completed **1,824 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials** (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and **101 concentrations** in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Architecture and Construction; Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; and Human Services.

- **162 high school students** took at least one AP course (18%) (2022).
- **138 high school students** participated in Career & College Promise programs (34%) (2022).

**COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS**

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

- **68%** of seniors completed the **FAFSA** in 2023, compared to **62%** statewide; 25 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of **80%**, 2023

- **73%** of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution. 2022

- **54%** of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. 2022

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Newton Conover City Schools</th>
<th>North Carolina</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-Income</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Low-Income</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION**

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- Catawba Valley CC
- Caldwell CC and TI
- Western Piedmont CC

- **83%** 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Newton Conover City Schools</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>59%</td>
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