Catawba County

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 154,358
2020 Census: 160,610
Change: 6,252

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Catawba County Attainment Goal: 23,455 (56%)

Growth Rate 4.0% County vs. 9.5% State

$52,737 Median Household Income (2020)
19.0% Child Poverty Rate (2020)
90% Households with Broadband (2020)
70% Home Owners (2020)
78% Voter Registration Rate (2021)
4.7% Unemployment Rate (2021)

Educational Attainment
Catawba County residents ages 25-44, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree or Credential</th>
<th>No Degree</th>
<th>Have Degree or Credential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than high school</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate (including GED)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no credential</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-term credential</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate degree</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or professional degree</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

FAFSA Completion
51% of Catawba County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the suburban county average of 57%.

First-Year Persistence
74% of Catawba County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary persist to their second year, below the suburban county average of 77%.

Opportunity Youth
13% of Catawba County youth ages 16-24 are not working and not in school, above the suburban county average of 11%.

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

- K-12 Enrollment (district schools) -4.1% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20
- Postsecondary Enrollment -6.6% 2021 vs. 2020
- FAFSA Completion -16.2% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19
- Postsecondary Intentions -4.4% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

Data Disruptions
- College-and-Career-Ready in Reading
- College-and-Career-Ready in Math
- Chronic Absenteeism

How students in Catawba County traditional schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, each year Catawba County needs:

- 46% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program; 254 more needed to meet state goal of 75%, 2022
- 28% of 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading; 4,505 more needed to meet state goal of 73%, 2022
- 36% of 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math; 5,016 more needed to meet state goal of 86%, 2022
- 87% of 9th graders graduate within four years; 139 more needed to meet state goal of 95%, 2021
- 24% of students are chronically absent from school; 2,893 less needed to meet state goal of 11%, 2021

Catawba County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 334:1 versus 336:1 in peer counties. 2021

- 51% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022; 411 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%, 2022
https://www.myfuturenc.org/ourwork/first-in-fafsa/
- 76% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 75% in peer counties. 2021
- 55% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 55% in peer counties. 2021

55% of Catawba County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 49% in peer counties.

School Choice
26,218 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Catawba County in the 2021-22 school year.

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

Career and College Preparation
783 high school students took at least one AP course (12%) versus 15% in peer counties (2021).

673 graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs (41%) versus 33% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Catawba County completed 665 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Human Services; and Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Catawba County, 2021

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

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020
• 37% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
• 16% 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
• 93% of college-goers attended an in-state college

• 74% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 77% in peer counties. 2021
• 65% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 60% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners
Catawba County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Skills</th>
<th>Continuing Education</th>
<th>Curriculum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>245</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,621</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12% of Catawba County residents have student loan debt; 7% 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.

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

13.3% of young adults ages 16-24 in Catawba County were not working and not in school versus 11.2% 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 Catawba County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Catawba

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