Cherokee County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

2030 Proposed Cherokee County Attainment Goal: 4,455 (Stretch Goal: 4,492)
2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 28,769
2022 Estimate: 29,512
Change: 743

Growth Rate
2.6% vs. 2.5%
County State

Cherokee County residents ages 25-44, 2022

Educational Attainment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Have Degree or Credential</th>
<th>No Degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,504</td>
<td>2,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47.8%</td>
<td>52.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Chronic Absenteeism
45% of Cherokee County students are chronically absent from school, above the rural - non-metro county average of 35%.

NC Pre-K Enrollment
63% of Cherokee County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural - non-metro county average of 68%.

FAFSA Completion
60% of Cherokee County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural - non-metro county average of 61%.

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

In Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:
80.1% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

15 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
3,111 graduates in 2020
69% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
$41,526 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

45% of adults (ages 25-44) in Cherokee County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Cherokee County is served by:
Southwestern Workforce Development Board
Southwestern Commission

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

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Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>Annual Growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Practitioners</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logisticians</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical and Health Services Managers</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top 3 Employers in Cherokee County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Employment Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee County Board Of Education</td>
<td>500-999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erlanger Western Carolina Hospital</td>
<td>250-499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moog Inc</td>
<td>250-499</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continuing Education

Basic Skills

First-time Curriculum Enrollments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
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Carolina Demographics

myFutureNC 2 million by 2030
82% of Cherokee County residents have student loan debt. 13% of debt holders had student loans in default.

### Success of Cherokee County High School Graduates
- 80% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 78% in peer counties. 2022
- 53% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 55% in peer counties. 2022

### Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023
- 1,020 of all college-goers attended Tri-County CC
- 56 of all college-goers attended Southwestern CC
- 24 of all college-goers attended Western Carolina University

### How students in Cherokee County traditional schools are doing:
- 63% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 12 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2023
- 31% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 742 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; 687 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 92% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 8 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 45% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide, 1,023 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022

Cherokee County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 251:1 versus 325:1 in peer counties. 2022

0% of students drop out of high school (2 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2022

### Access to Postsecondary Credits
- 26 high school students took at least one AP course (<5%) versus 7% in peer counties (2022).
- 256 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (56%) versus 39% in peer counties (2022).

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