Cherokee County

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 27,444
2020 Census: 28,774
Change: 1,330

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2010 Census: 27,444

Population Spotlight

2030 Proposed Cherokee County Attainment Goal: 4,455 (68%)
2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)

Cherokee County education continuum.

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

Educational Attainment
Cherokee County residents ages 25-44, 2021

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

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

Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline

Cherokee County residents ages 25-44, 2021

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

• 54% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, 34 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2022
• 28% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, 588 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2022
• 28% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, 757 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2022
• 87% of 9th graders graduate within four years, 23 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2021
• 39% of students are chronically absent from school, 789 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2021

K-12 Enrollment (district schools)
-7.7% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20
Postsecondary Enrollment
-0.9% 2021 vs. 2020

FAFSA Completion
5.9% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19
Postsecondary Intentions
6.2% 2026-21 vs. 2018-19

Transition to Postsecondary
51% of Cherokee County seniors enroll in postsecondary within 12 months of graduation, below the state average of 55%.

Cherokee County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 166.1 versus 318.1 in peer counties. 2021

College and Career Preparation
13 high school students took at least one AP course (<5%) versus 7% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Cherokee County completed 171 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Human Services; Health Science; and Hospitality & Tourism.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Cherokee County, 2021

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

**Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020**

- 36% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 14% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 50% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 87% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 74% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% in peer counties. 2021
- 63% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 55% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners

**Cherokee County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021**

- 71 Basic Skills
- 427 Continuing Education
- 612 Curriculum

- 9% of Cherokee County residents have student loan debt; 18% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

**81.2%** of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

**Top areas of misalignment:**
- Health Science (all levels)
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (below bachelor’s)
- Education & Training (above bachelor’s)

- 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)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:

- 6,126 in Basic Services
- 3,913 in Career Services
- 212 in Education Services

- 7.2% of young adults ages 16-24 in Cherokee County were not working and not in school versus 15.2% 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 Cherokee County has been meeting local needs:

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

For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit: