

Clay County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles



Waynesville-Franklin
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Rural - Non-Metro
Local Education Agencies: 1 (2023)
Charter Schools: 0 (2023)

2030 Proposed Clay County Attainment Goal: 1,376 (Stretch Goal: 1,400)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 11,085
2022 Estimate: 11,614
Change: 529

Growth Rate

4.8% County vs. **2.5%** State



\$57,698
Median Household Income (2022)
State: \$67,516



80%
Home Owners (2022)
State: 67%



6.3%
Child Poverty Rate (2022)
State: 17.2%



5.8%
Opportunity Youth Rate (2021)
State: 12.1%



61%
Households with Broadband (2022)
State: 77%



4.0%
Unemployment Rate (2022)
State: 3.7%

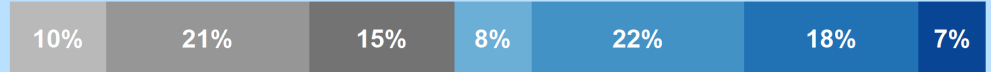
Educational Attainment

Clay County residents ages 25-44, 2022

Less than high school High school graduate (including GED) Some college, no credential Short-term credential Associate degree Bachelor's degree Graduate or professional degree

No Degree
832
45.6%

Have Degree or Credential
993
54.4%



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

Top Opportunities for Growth

These three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Clay County to improve future attainment outcomes.



Earning College Credit in High School

13% of Clay County graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs, below the rural - non-metro county average of 39%. Also, <5% of high school students took at least one AP exam, below the peer county average of 7%.



FAFSA Completion

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



Postsecondary Completion

52% of Clay County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary earn a degree or credential within 6 years, below the state average of 59%.

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 Clay County has been meeting local needs:

https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Clay

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

In Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

80.1%

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
Business Management & Administration 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)

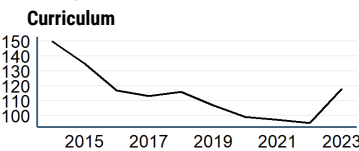


57% of adults (ages 25-44) in Clay County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Clay County is served by:

Southwestern Workforce Development Board
Southwestern Commission

UNC System College Enrollment



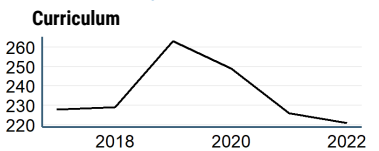
Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	4%
Logisticians	4%
Medical and Health Services Managers	3%

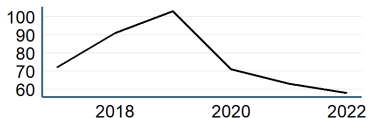
Top 3 Employers in Clay County

Employer	Employment Range
Clay County Board Of Education	100-249
County Of Clay	100-249
Ingles Markets Inc	100-249

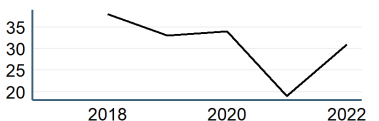
NC Community College Enrollment



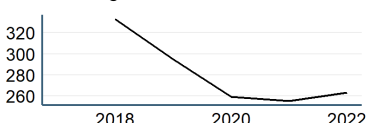
First-time Curriculum Enrollments



Basic Skills



Continuing Education



Adult Learners

Clay County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022

- 31 Basic Skills
- 263 Continuing Education
- 221 Curriculum



7% of Clay County residents have **student loan debt**; 0% of debt holders had **student loans in default**. 2022

Success of Clay County High School Graduates

- 82% of students who enroll **persist to their second year** versus 78% in peer counties. 2022
- 52% 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

- 333 of all college-goers attended **Tri-County CC**
- 14 of all college-goers attended **Southwestern CC**
- 9 of all college-goers attended **Western Carolina University**

60% of seniors **completed the FAFSA** in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 15 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023

68% of graduates reported **intentions to enroll** in a postsecondary institution versus 68% in peer counties. 2022

58% of graduates **enrolled in a postsecondary institution** within 12 months versus 52% in peer counties. 2022



48% of Clay County students have **parents with no college degree** (either 2- or 4-year) versus 57% in peer counties.

How students in Clay County traditional schools are doing:

- Clay County has met the goal for **Pre-K enrollment**. (Goal: 75%). 2023
- 36% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **reading**, compared to 30% statewide; 268 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 32% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **math**, compared to 35% statewide; 285 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 88% of 9th graders **graduate within four years**, compared to 87% statewide; 6 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 26% of students are **chronically absent from school**, compared to 32% statewide; 192 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022



Clay County has a **student-to-school counselor ratio** of 239:1 versus 325:1 in peer counties. 2022



2% of students **drop out of high school** (8 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2022

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022

711 certificate | 823 associate | 2,570 bachelor's

Postsecondary assets in Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone sub-region

Public, 4-year or above

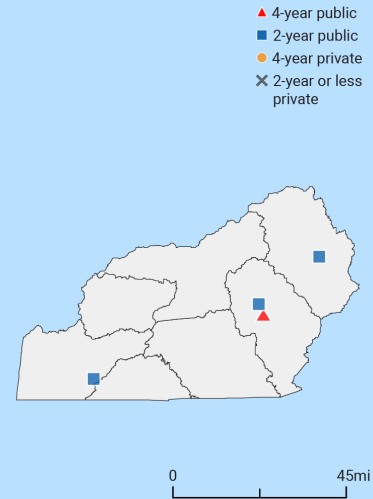
Western Carolina University

Public, 2-year

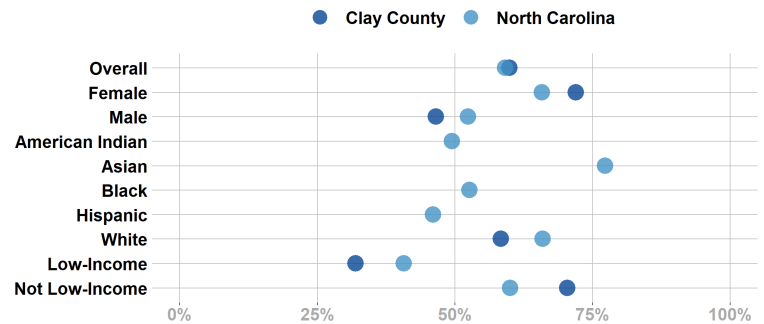
Haywood Community College,
Southwestern Community College, Tri-County Community College

Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above

Private not-for-profit, 2-year



Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Clay County, 2022

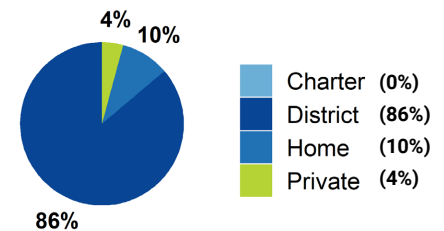


Note: Outcomes for groups with less than 10 students, <5% or >95% are not displayed.

School Choice

1,413 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Clay 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 Clay County completed 226 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 91 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Business Management & Administration; Health Science; and Human Services.



17 high school students took at least one **AP course** (<5%) versus 7% in peer counties (2022).



22 high school students participated in **Career & College Promise programs** (13%) 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/