Forsyth County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 382,584
2022 Estimate: 389,157
Change: 6,573

Growth Rate
1.7% County
2.5% State

$62,992 Median Household Income (2022)
State: $67,516

62% Home Owners (2022)
State: 67%

23.3% Child Poverty Rate (2022)
State: 17.2%

11.9% Opportunity Youth Rate (2021)
State: 12.1%

72% Households with Broadband (2022)
State: 77%

3.7% Unemployment Rate (2022)
State: 3.7%

Educational Attainment
Forsyth County residents ages 25-44, 2022

No Degree
43,072
44.6%

Have Degree or Credential
53,428
55.4%

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

Chronic Absenteeism
43% of Forsyth County students are chronically absent from school, above the urban county average of 31%.

NC Pre-K Enrollment
33% of Forsyth County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the urban county average of 41%.

Math Performance
31% of Forsyth County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the urban county average of 39%.

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

In Winston-Salem Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

82.4%
of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

1,224
Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

4,918 graduates in 2020
78% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
$43,544 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

49% of adults (ages 25-44) in Forsyth County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Forsyth County is served by:
Piedmont Triad Regional Workforce Development Board
Piedmont Triad Regional Council

Top areas of misalignment:
Health Science below bachelor’s
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics below bachelor’s
Business Management & Administration bachelor’s

Top Five-Star Jobs in Winston-Salem Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Top 3 Employers in Forsyth County

Nurse Practitioners
Logisticians
Data Scientists

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Winston-Salem Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

2030 Proposed Forsyth County Attainment Goal: 70,763 (Stretch Goal: 71,485)
2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

First-time Curriculum Enrollments

Basic Skills

Continuing Education
712 Basic Skills
6,283 Continuing Education
6,791 Curriculum
17% of Forsyth County residents have student loan debt. 9% of debt holders had student loans in default.

Success of Forsyth County High School Graduates
• 83% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 86% in peer counties. 2022
• 61% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 62% in peer counties. 2022

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023
• 8,001 of all college-goers attended Forsyth TCC
• 811 of all college-goers attended Guilford TCC
• 619 of all college-goers attended Davidson-Davie CC

• 67% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 486 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023
• 81% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 81% in peer counties. 2022
• 63% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 64% in peer counties. 2022
50% of Forsyth County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 38% in peer counties.

How students in Forsyth County traditional schools are doing:
• 33% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 884 more needed to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 75%. 2023
• 27% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 13,970 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
• 31% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 13,158 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
• 87% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 334 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
• 43% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide; 17,678 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022
Forsyth County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 316:1 versus 286:1 in peer counties. 2022
4% of students drop out of high school (630 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2022

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