Henderson County

**myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles**

**2030 Proposed Henderson County Attainment Goal: 17,717 (Stretch Goal: 17,909)**

**2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million**

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**Population Spotlight**

- 2020 Census: 116,279
- 2022 Estimate: 118,106
- Change: 1,827

**Growth Rate**

- 1.6% County
- 2.5% State

- $65,252 Median Household Income (2022)
- 74% Home Owners (2022)
- 18.0% Child Poverty Rate (2022)
- 11.0% Opportunity Youth Rate (2022)
- 72% Households with Broadband (2022)
- 3.2% Unemployment Rate (2022)

**Peer County Type:** Suburban

**Local Education Agencies:** 1 (2023)

**Charter Schools:** 2 (2023)

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**Educational Attainment**

Henderson County residents ages 25-44, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Degree</th>
<th>Have Degree or Credential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13,227</td>
<td>11,983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52.5%</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

**Top Opportunities for Growth**

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

- **NC Pre-K Enrollment**: 28% of Henderson County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the suburban county average of 45%.
- **Adult Learners**: 18% of Henderson County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the suburban county average of 15%.
- **Earning College Credit in High School**: 13% of Henderson County high school students took at least one AP exam, below the suburban county average of 15%. Also, 39% of graduates participated in the Career & College Promise programs, below the peer 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 Henderson County has been meeting local needs:

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

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**In Asheville Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:**

- 72.1% 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

**636** Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

**UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:**

- 3,023 graduates in 2020
- 69% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $35,824 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

**46%** of adults (ages 25-44) in Henderson County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

**Henderson County is served by:**

- Mountain Area Workforce Development Board
- Land-of-Sky Regional Council

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**Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Asheville Prosperity Zone Sub-Region**

- Nurse Practitioners: 5%
- Logisticians: 4%
- Physician Assistants: 3%

**Top 3 Employers in Henderson County**

- Henderson Co Bd Of Public Education: 1000+
- Margaret R Pardee Memorial Hosp: 1000+
- Ingles Markets Inc: 1000+

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**Labor Market Alignment**
Adult Learners

Asheville Sub-Prosperity Zone post-secondary enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022

- 733 Basic Skills
- 8,927 Continuing Education
- 2,725 Curriculum

9% of Henderson County residents have student loan debt. 7% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2022

Success of Henderson County High School Graduates

- 82% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 82% in peer counties. 2022
- 59% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 60% in peer counties. 2022

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- 3,829 of all college-goers attended Blue Ridge CC
- 780 of all college-goers attended Asheville-Buncombe TCC
- 68 of all college-goers attended Isothermal CC

- 61% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 179 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023
- 71% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 73% in peer counties. 2022
- 57% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 57% in peer counties. 2022

54% of Henderson County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 48% in peer counties.

How students in Henderson County traditional schools are doing:

- 28% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 217 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2023
- 33% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 3,093 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 40% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 2,631 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 90% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 51 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 21% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 27% statewide, 1,340 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2023

Henderson County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 348:1 versus 327:1 in peer counties. 2023

2% of students drop out of high school (76 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2023

School Choice

16,934 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Henderson 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 Henderson County completed 2,105 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (766 (36%) were industry-valued credentials) and 613 concentrations in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Architecture and Construction; Manufacturing; and Health Science.

532 high school students took at least one AP test (13%) versus 15% in peer counties (2023).

390 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (39%) versus 39% in peer counties (2023).

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