Iredell County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Iredell County Attainment Goal: 36,127 (67%)

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 159,437
2010 Census: 159,437

Education Pipeline

Educational Attainment
Iredell County residents ages 25-44, 2021

- No Degree 47.1% 21,336
- Have Degree or Credential 52.9% 23,977

Note: Numbers may add to more than 100% due to rounding

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

NC Pre-K Enrollment
38% of Iredell County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the suburban county average of 45%.

School Counselors
Iredell County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 398:1, above the suburban county average of 336:1.

Earning College Credit in High School
31% of Iredell County graduates participated in the Career & College Promise programs, below the suburban county average of 33%. Also, 14% of high school students took at least one AP exam, below the peer county average of 15%.

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

How students in Iredell County traditional schools are currently doing:

- 38% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program; 314 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2022
- 32% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading; 4,749 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2022
- 39% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math; 5,442 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2022
- 89% of 9th graders graduate within four years; 146 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2021
- 20% of students are chronically absent from school; 2,444 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2021

Iredell County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 398:1 versus 336:1 in peer counties. 2021

How seniors in Iredell County traditional schools are currently doing:

- 57% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022; 441 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%. 2022
https://www.myfuturenc.org/ourwork/first-in-fafsa/
- 74% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 75% in peer counties. 2021
- 58% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 55% in peer counties. 2021

45% of Iredell County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 49% in peer counties.

Career and College Preparation
1,202 high school students took at least one AP course (14%) versus 15% in peer counties (2021).

673 graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs (31%) versus 33% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Iredell County completed 1,201 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Human Services; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Health Science.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Iredell County, 2021

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

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020
- 49% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 14% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 36% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 86% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 78% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 77% in peer counties. 2021
- 67% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 60% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners
Iredell County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021
- 327 Basic Skills
- 1,724 Continuing Education
- 3,782 Curriculum

15% of Iredell County residents have student loan debt; 9% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:
82.2% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

Top areas of misalignment:
- Business Management & Administration (bachelor’s)
- Information Technology (bachelor’s)
- Finance (bachelor’s)

4,230 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
- 12,495 graduates in 2020
- 74% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $45,387 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:
- 16,131 in Basic Services
- 7,386 in Career Services
- 506 in Education Services

12.6% of young adults ages 16-24 in Iredell County were not working and not in school versus 11.2% 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 Iredell County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Iredell

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