Mitchell County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Mitchell County Attainment Goal: 2,251 (57%)

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 15,579
2020 Census: 14,903
Change: -676

Growth Rate
-4.3% vs. 9.5% State

Educational Attainment
Mitchell County residents ages 25-44, 2020

- No Degree: 57.3% (1,855)
- Have Degree or Credential: 42.7% (1,385)

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

- NC Pre-K Enrollment: 53% of Mitchell County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural non-metro county average of 68%.
- High School Graduation: 76% of Mitchell County 9th graders complete high school in 4 years or less, below the rural non-metro county average of 86%.
- Adult Learners: 23% of Mitchell County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the rural non-metro county average of 17%.

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

- K-12 Enrollment (district schools): -6.0% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20
- Postsecondary Enrollment: 13.0% 2021 vs. 2020
- FAFSA Completion: 30.8% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19
- Postsecondary Intentions: 5.5% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

Data Disruptions
- College-and-Career-Ready in Reading
- College-and-Career-Ready in Math
- Chronic Absenteeism

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

- 14 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 53%).
- 335 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 30%).
- 454 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 27%).
- 30 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 76%).
- 247 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 25%).

Mitchell County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 284:1 versus 318:1 in peer counties.

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

107 graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs (85%) versus 49% in peer counties.

Students in Mitchell County completed 120 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Human Services; Health Science; and Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics.

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Success of Mitchell County High School Graduates

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020
- 32% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 13% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 55% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 84% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 83% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% in peer counties. 2021
- 58% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 55% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners

Mitchell County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021
- 47 Basic Skills
- 276 Continuing Education
- 320 Curriculum

12% of Mitchell County residents have student loan debt; 12% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

84.0% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

Top areas of misalignment:
- Health Science (below and above bachelor’s)
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (below bachelor’s)
- Business Management & Administration (bachelor’s)

17 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
- 5,202 graduates in 2020
- 69% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $44,421 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:
- 3,616 in Basic Services
- 1,617 in Career Services
- 245 in Education Services

5.5% of young adults ages 16-24 in Mitchell 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 Mitchell County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Mitchell

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