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

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

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%.

Adult Learners
23% of Mitchell County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the rural non-metro county average of 17%.

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%.

Postsecondary Intentions
30.8% of seniors took at least one AP course (7%) versus 7% in peer counties (2021). 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.

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

- 53% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program; 14 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2022
- 30% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading; 335 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2022
- 27% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math; 454 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2022
- 76% of 9th graders graduate within four years; 30 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2021
- 25% of students are chronically absent from school; 247 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2021

Mitchell County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 284:1 versus 318:1 in peer counties. 2021

- 62% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022; 24 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%. 2022

https://www.myfuturenc.org/ourwork/first-in-fafsa/
- 76% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 69% in peer counties. 2021
- 55% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 50% in peer counties. 2021

50% of Mitchell County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 59% in peer counties.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Mitchell County, 2021

Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.
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.

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/