Stanly County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)  
2030 Proposed Stanly County Attainment Goal: 8,845 (52%)  

Population Spotlight

2010 Census: 60,585  
2020 Census: 62,504  
Change: 1,919  

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Education Continuum

Transition points along the education continuum.

Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline

Covid-19 has affected critical transition points along the education continuum.

How students in Stanly County traditional schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, each year Stanly County needs:

• 71% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program; 14 more needed to meet state goal of 75% 2022
• 27% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading; 1,752 more needed to meet state goal of 75% 2022
• 28% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math; 2,217 more needed to meet state goal of 86% 2022
• 90% of 9th graders graduate within four years; 33 more needed to meet state goal of 95% 2021
• 22% of students are chronically absent from school; 857 less needed to meet state goal of 11% 2021

Stanly County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 352:1 versus 318:1 in peer counties. 2021
• 51% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022; 153 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%. 2022
https://www.myfuturenc.org/ourwork/first-in-fafsa/
• 69% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 69% in peer counties. 2021
• 49% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 50% in peer counties. 2021
• 53% of Stanly County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 59% in peer counties.

Top Opportunities for Growth

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

FAFSA Completion

51% of Stanly County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural non-metro county average of 55%.

School Counselors

Stanly County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 352:1, above the rural non-metro county average of 318:1.

Transition to Postsecondary

49% of Stanly County seniors enroll in postsecondary within 12 months of graduation, below the rural non-metro county average of 50%.

Educational Attainment

Stanly County residents ages 25-44, 2021

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Success of Stanly County High School Graduates

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020
- 28% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 18% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 53% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- 45% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 95% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 76% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% in peer counties. 2021
- 60% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 55% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners

Stanly County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021

- 194 Basic Skills
- 1,121 Continuing Education
- 1,708 Curriculum

11% of Stanly County residents have student loan debt; 7% 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.

- 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

12.1% of young adults ages 16-24 in Stanly 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 Stanly County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Stanly

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