Surry County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Surry County Attainment Goal: 10,855 (59%)

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 73,673
2020 Census: 71,359
Change: -2,314

Growth Rate
-3.1% County vs. 9.5% State

Median Household Income (2020)
$47,114

Child Poverty Rate (2020)
22.4%

Households with Broadband (2020)
74%

Home Owners (2020)
73%

Voter Registration Rate (2021)
76%

Unemployment Rate (2021)
4.4%

Winston-Salem
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Rural Non-Metro
Local Education Agencies: 3
Charter Schools: 2

Educational Attainment
Surry County residents ages 25-44, 2020

No Degree
57.6% 9,150

Have Degree orCredential
42.4% 6,742

Less than high school
16%

High school graduate (including GED)
27%

Some college, no credential
15%

Short-term credential
8%

Associate degree
14%

Bachelor’s degree
16%

Graduate or professional degree
5%

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

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

NC Pre-K Enrollment
62% of Surry County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural non-metro county average of 68%.

Opportunity Youth
16% of Surry County youth ages 16-24 are not working and not in school, above the rural non-metro county average of 15%.

Transition to Postsecondary
51% of Surry County seniors enroll in postsecondary within 12 months of graduation, below the state average of 55%.

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

K-12 Enrollment (district schools)
-1.6% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20

Postsecondary Enrollment
-6.0% 2021 vs. 2020

FAFSA Completion
-2.9% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19

Postsecondary Intentions
-5.4% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

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

• 56 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 62%). 2022
• 1,932 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 31%). 2022
• 2,272 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 37%). 2022
• 43 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 90%). 2021
• 1,517 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 26%). 2021

Surry County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 319:1 versus 318:1 in peer counties. 2021

Career and College Preparation
252 high school students took at least one AP course (8%) versus 7% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Surry County completed 619 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Human Services; Health Science; and Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Surry County, 2021

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

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020

- 32% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 12% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 57% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 95% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 78% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% in peer counties. 2021
- 59% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 55% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners

Surry County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021

- 213 Basic Skills
- 1,281 Continuing Education
- 2,058 Curriculum

8% of Surry County residents have student loan debt; 9% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

83.2% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

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

Unc and NC Community College Outcomes:

- 4,918 graduates in 2020
- 78% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $43,544 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:

- 12,639 in Basic Services
- 5,245 in Career Services
- 785 in Education Services

16.2% of young adults ages 16-24 in Surry 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 Surry County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Surry

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