Swain County

*myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles*

**2030 Proposed Swain County Attainment Goal:** 1,475 (Stretch Goal: 1,506)  
**2030 State Attainment Goal:** 2 million

### Population Spotlight
- **2020 Census:** 14,115  
- **2022 Estimate:** 13,967  
- **Change:** -148

### Growth Rate
- **County:** -1.0%  
- **State:** 2.5%

### Key Statistics
- **Median Household Income (2022):** $55,462  
- **Home Owners (2022):** 73%  
- **Child Poverty Rate (2022):** 33.0%  
- **Opportunity Youth Rate (2022):** 12.8%

### Education Statistics
- **2020 Census:** 14,115  
- **2022 Estimate:** 13,967  
- **Change:** -148

#### Educational Attainment
Swain County residents ages 25-44, 2022

- **No Degree:** 2,119 (63.5%)  
- **Have Degree or Credential:** 1,216 (36.5%)

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

- **Chronic Absenteeism**: 43% of Swain County students are chronically absent from school, above the rural - non-metro county average of 29%.
- **School Counselors**: Swain County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 354:1, above the rural - non-metro county average of 325:1.
- **Adult Learners**: 18% of Swain County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the rural - non-metro county average of 16%.

### 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 Swain County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Swain

### In Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:
- **80.1%**  
- of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

### UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
- **3,111** graduates in 2020  
- **69%** of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021  
- **$41,526** annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

### Top 3 Employers in Swain County
- **Ebci**  
- Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority  
- The Cherokee Boys Club Inc

### Labor Market Alignment

### Educational Attainment
Swain County residents ages 25-44, 2022

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Updated: Jul 22 2024

**Adult Learners**
Waynesville-Franklin Sub-Prosperity Zone post-secondary enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022
- 148 Basic Skills
- 3,797 Continuing Education
- 1,037 Curriculum

9% of Swain County residents have student loan debt. 0% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2022

**Success of Swain County High School Graduates**
- 71% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 78% in peer counties. 2022
- 51% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 55% in peer counties. 2022

**Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023**
- 711 of all college-goers attended Southwestern CC
- 28 of all college-goers attended Haywood CC
- 21 of all college-goers attended Asheville-Buncombe TCC

**How students in Swain County traditional schools are doing:**
- Swain County has met the goal for Pre-K enrollment. (Goal: 75%). 2023
- 27% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 441 more needed to meet state goal of 73%, 2023
- 31% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 415 more needed to meet state goal of 86%, 2023
- 88% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 11 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 43% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 27% statewide; 601 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2023
- Swain County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 354:1 versus 325:1 in peer counties. 2023
- 2% of students drop out of high school (12 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2023

**Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022**
- 711 certificate
- 823 associate
- 2,570 bachelor’s

**Postsecondary assets in Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone sub-region**
- Public, 4-year or above
  - Western Carolina University
- Public, 2-year
  - Haywood Community College, Southwestern Community College, Tri-County Community College
- Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above
- Private not-for-profit, 2-year

**Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Swain County, 2022**

**School Choice**
2,211 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Swain County in the 2022-23 school year.

Note: This profile focuses on outcomes of students enrolled in district schools.

**Access to Postsecondary Credits**
Students in Swain County completed 244 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (180 (74%) were industry-valued credentials) and 138 concentrations in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; Health Science; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.

36 high school students took at least one AP test (6%) versus 8% in peer counties (2023).
110 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (79%) versus 51% in peer counties (2023).

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