**Union County**

**2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal:** 2 million (67%)

**2030 Proposed Union County Attainment Goal:** 56,704 (70%)

### Population Spotlight
- 2010 Census: 201,292
- 2020 Census: 238,267
- Change: 36,975

### Growth Rate
- **County:** 18.4%
- **State:** 9.5%

### Median Household Income
- **2020:** $90,920
- **2020 Census:** 238,267
- **2010 Census:** 201,292

### Education Continuum
- **Top Opportunities for Growth**
  - These three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Union County to improve future attainment outcomes.

### Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline
- Covid-19 has affected critical transition points along the education continuum.
  - K-12 Enrollment (district schools): -2.5% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20
  - Postsecondary Enrollment: -0.9% 2021 vs. 2020

### Math Performance
- 52% of Union County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the state goal of 86%.

### Reading Performance
- 42% of Union County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Reading, below the state goal of 73%.

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

### School Choice
- 53,680 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Union County in the 2021-22 school year.

### Career and College Preparation
- 2,923 high school students took at least one AP course (21%) versus 15% in peer counties (2021).
- 849 graduates participated in Career and College Promise programs (26%) versus 33% in peer counties (2021).

### Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Union County, 2021

#### Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.
Success of Union County High School Graduates
Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020
• 55% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
• 16% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
• 29% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
• <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
• 82% of college-goers attended an in-state college

• 83% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 77% in peer counties. 2021
• 69% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 60% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners
Union County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021

- 404 Basic Skills
- 1,328 Continuing Education
- 4,288 Curriculum
15% of Union County residents have student loan debt; 9% 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.

Top areas of misalignment:
Business Management & Administration (bachelor’s)
Information Technology (bachelor’s)
Finance (bachelor’s)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:

- 4,230 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020
- 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

7.8% of young adults ages 16-24 in Union County were not working and not in school versus 11.2% in peer counties. 2019

Number of Union County residents employed, January 2020 to March 2022

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