Yancey County
myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

2030 Proposed Yancey County Attainment Goal: 3,090 (Stretch Goal: 3,130)
2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 18,470
2022 Estimate: 18,811
Change: 341

Growth Rate
1.8% vs. 2.5%
County
State

Median Household Income (2022)
$54,455
Home Owners (2022)
78%
Child Poverty Rate (2022)
24.0%
Opportunity Youth Rate (2021)
5.7%
Households with Broadband (2022)
66%
Unemployment Rate (2022)
3.6%

Charter Schools: 0 (2023)
Local Education Agencies: 1 (2023)

Educational Attainment
Yancey County residents ages 25-44, 2022

No Degree
2,169
56.3%

Have Degree or Credential
1,686
43.7%

Less than high school
7%

High school graduate (including GED)
34%

Some college, no credential
15%

Short-term credential
8%

Associate degree
14%

Bachelor’s degree
18%

Graduate or professional degree
4%

Note: Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding

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

NC Pre-K Enrollment
33% of Yancey County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural - non-metro county average of 68%.

School Counselors
Yancey County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 488:1, above the rural - non-metro county average of 325:1.

FAFSA Completion
56% of Yancey County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural - non-metro county average of 61%.

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

Top areas of misalignment:

Health Science below bachelor’s bachelor’s bachelor’s
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics
Business Management & Administration

In Boone-Wilkesboro Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:
83.4%
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)

38%
of adults (ages 25-44) in Yancey County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Yancey County is served by:

High Country Workforce Development Board
High Country Council of Governments

Carlina Demography

myFutureNC
2 million by 2030

Boone-Wilkesboro Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Rural - Non-Metro
Local Education Agencies: 1 (2023)
Charter Schools: 0 (2023)
Yancey County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022

- 54 Basic Skills
- 600 Continuing Education
- 366 Curriculum

8% of Yancey County residents have student loan debt. 0% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2022

Success of Yancey County High School Graduates

- 77% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 78% in peer counties. 2022
- 59% 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

- 491 of all college-goers attended Mayland CC
- 134 of all college-goers attended Asheville-Buncombe TCC
- 39 of all college-goers attended McDowell TCC

- 56% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 34 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%.
- 45% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 68% in peer counties. 2022
- 45% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 52% in peer counties. 2022

44% of Yancey County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 57% in peer counties.

How students in Yancey County traditional schools are doing:

- 33% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 44 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2023
- 33% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 472 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 41% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 402 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 85% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 17 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 39% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide; 578 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022

Yancey County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 488:1 versus 325:1 in peer counties. 2022

4% of students drop out of high school (23 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2022

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