High Country Workforce Development Board

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

2030 Proposed High Country Attainment Goal: 34,980

### Growth Rate: WDB: 0.9% vs. State: 2.5%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>10,439,414</td>
<td>10,698,973</td>
<td>259,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alleghany County</td>
<td>10,886</td>
<td>11,185</td>
<td>299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashe County</td>
<td>26,581</td>
<td>27,110</td>
<td>529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avery County</td>
<td>17,812</td>
<td>17,571</td>
<td>-241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell County</td>
<td>14,906</td>
<td>15,094</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watauga County</td>
<td>54,077</td>
<td>55,089</td>
<td>1,012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilkes County</td>
<td>65,968</td>
<td>65,784</td>
<td>-184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yancey County</td>
<td>18,470</td>
<td>18,811</td>
<td>341</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Age Structure, 2022

- Female: 40%  Male: 60%
- 65+: 13%  45-64: 25%  25-44: 29%  18-24: 21%  0-4: 9%

### Race/Ethnicity, 2022

- White: 89%
- Asian/Pac. Isl.: 1%
- Black: 2%
- Hispanic: 6%
- Multiracial: 2%
- Amer. Indian: 0%

### Educational Attainment

- No Degree: 23,689 (53.2%)
- Have Degree or Credential: 20,870 (46.8%)

### In High Country WDB:

- 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 High Country earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

### Top Industries in High Country WDB:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry Name</th>
<th>Average Employment</th>
<th>Average Weekly Wages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Care and Social Assistance</td>
<td>10,345</td>
<td>$1,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>10,029</td>
<td>$570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation and Food Services</td>
<td>9,004</td>
<td>$390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
<td>8,937</td>
<td>$964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>4,441</td>
<td>$895</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Top Job Sectors in High Country WDB:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Sector</th>
<th>Average Employment</th>
<th>Average Weekly Wages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>57,721</td>
<td>$807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government</td>
<td>7,539</td>
<td>$787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Government</td>
<td>5,716</td>
<td>$1,136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Government</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>$1,116</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more detailed information, refer to the High Country Workforce Development Board's myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles.
### Success of High Country High School Graduates

- **79%** of students who enroll persist to their second year versus **83%** for the state. 2022
- **60%** of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus **59%** for the state. 2022

### Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- 3,908 of all college-goers attended **Wilkes CC**
- 1,657 of all college-goers attended **Mayland CC**
- 1,344 of all college-goers attended **Caldwell CC and TI**

### Adult Learners

**High Country resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022**
- 427 Basic Skills
- 4,785 Continuing Education
- 822 Curriculum

- **66%** of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to **62%** statewide; 222 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of **80%**.
- **74%** of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus **74%** in the state. 2022
- **58%** of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus **58%** in the state. 2022

### Postsecondary Enrollment Rates in High Country WDB, 2022

- [Graph showing enrollment rates by demographic group](#)

### How students in High Country traditional schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, each year High Country needs:

- High Country has met the goal for **Pre-K enrollment**. (Goal: **75%**). 2023
- **34%** of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **reading**, compared to **30%** statewide; 3,928 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; 4,545 more needed to meet state goal of **86%**. 2023
- **89%** of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to **87%** statewide; 119 more needed to meet state goal of **95%**. 2023
- **26%** of students are chronically absent from school, compared to **32%** statewide; 3,528 less needed to meet state goal of **11%**. 2022
- **2%** of students drop out of high school (129 total students), compared to **2%** statewide. 2022

### School Choice

27,917 total students were enrolled in K-12 in High Country in the 2022-23 school year.

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

### Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in High Country completed 7,092 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 1,164 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Human Services; Health Science; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.

- **733 high school students** took at least one AP course (10%) versus 15% in the state (2022).
- **1,532 high school students** participated in Career & College Promise programs (49%) versus 23% in the state (2022).

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