



Land of Sky P20 Council Student Support Resource Guide

Resources for Educators, Students, and
Parents

*CONNECTING THE DOTS THAT
LEAD TO EDUCATIONAL
ATTAINMENT AND GAINFUL
EMPLOYMENT*





Acknowledgements

The Land of Sky P20 Council wants to thank each stakeholder for their hard work on this project, as well as your continued support.

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John M Belk
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ELEVATE THROUGH EDUCATION

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Introduction

The Land of Sky P20 Council Student Support Resource Guide was developed as part of the myFutureNC Educational Attainment Initiative to assist key stakeholders in their work with local students in Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties. The P20 Council utilizes components of the Collective Impact Model to establish a shared mission and common interests among stakeholders with the purpose of aligning the human talent needs of local employers to educational attainment objectives and outcomes. This pilot program developed an attainment model that examines educational initiatives, certificates, and degrees that create a seamless transition from educational institutions to gainful employment that can be utilized in all 100 North Carolina counties.

Stakeholders include:

- Pre-Kindergarten/Early Childhood Education Programs
- K-12 School Systems
- Community Colleges
- Public Colleges and Universities
- Private Colleges and Universities
- Workforce Development Boards
- Economic Developers
- Private and Public Employers
- Community Partners
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Local and State Governments

This Guide provides resources for educators, students, and parents, and lists programs, initiatives, and community groups that support students. Note: some initiatives were paused during the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We have attempted to verify that initiatives have started back and have active links.

Student



Guide



Community Education Advocacy Groups



The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club of Buncombe County

<https://southernusa.salvationarmy.org/asheville-buncombe-county/boys-girls-clubs>

Boys & Girls Clubs of America have a lineup of tested and proven nationally recognized programs that address today's most pressing youth issues, teaching young people the skills they need to succeed in life. Boys & Girls Clubs of America are committed to changing lives. By measuring how much Club kids and teens are achieving, we can determine how effectively the Club experience is helping America's youth build great futures. These programs are found in six core program areas.

- Character and Leadership Development
- Education and Career Development
- Health and Life Skills
- The Arts
- Sports, Fitness and Recreation
- Spiritual Development

Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County

https://bgchendersonco.org/about-us_2023/#contact

The mission of the Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County is to inspire and enable young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens. The Boys & Girls Club provides year-round activities and programs to meet the interests of youth and their educational, physical, emotional, cultural, and social needs. We model our programs and activities on the Boys & Girls Clubs of America core areas:

- Education and Career Development

- Fitness and Recreation
- The Arts
- Health and Life Skills
- Character and Leadership Development

The Cindy Platt Boys & Girls Club of Transylvania County

<https://www.bgctransylvania.org/our-mission>

The Cindy Platt Boys & Girls Club of Transylvania County's mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. We serve school-aged youth, ages 5 to 18, year-round through a comprehensive approach that emphasizes engaging and evidence-based programming combined with authentic relationship-building and social/emotional support that serves the whole child. We provide a positive, inclusive, and safe environment for our members to engage in learning, recreation, and companionship. Our programs are facilitated by caring, compassionate, and dedicated staff with the goal of impacting children's lives within the following outcome areas: academic success, good character and citizenship, the arts, and health and wellness.

City of Asheville Youth Leadership Academy (CAYLA)

<https://www.ashevillenc.gov/department/community-economic-development/community-development/cayla/>

CAYLA recruits, trains, and places local high school students at meaningful summer jobs with the City and with participating agencies, in addition to providing weekly day-long workshops on financial literacy, leadership, career exploration, and 21st Century job skills. CAYLA engages its students throughout the school year by offering classroom-based enrichment activities and individualized assistance with college applications and scholarship research. Activities include:

- Internships
- Community Service
- Workshops

In Real Life (IRL) After-School Program

<https://www.acsf.org/irl>

IRL provides high quality, hands-on, equitable, and accessible after-school programming for all Asheville City Schools middle school students. IRL operates on a sliding scale and during COVID-19, has waived all student registration fees, providing after-school programming at no cost to all students. IRL partners with Asheville City Schools transportation to provide busing around the city and in the evenings to increase access for students and families.

My Daddy Taught Me That (MDTMT)

<https://mydaddytaughtmethat.org>

MDTMT is a non-profit agency providing mentoring programs for middle and high school youth in the Greater Asheville, North Carolina area. The program forms partnerships with local schools, low-income housing developments, the juvenile court system, churches (and other faith groups), social service agencies, and many more to foster a commitment to adolescent male youths that promote pro-social friendships, strong interpersonal skills, good decision-making, acceptance of responsibility, and accountability for their actions.

My Sistah Taught Me That (MSTMT)

<https://mstmt.square.site>

MSTMT is a young girl's developmental program designed to encourage, inspire, educate, and empower young girls ages 11-19 with a special focus on girls growing up in single parent homes without their father. This program was created so young ladies in Buncombe County and surrounding areas in western North Carolina may have the chance to be exposed to professional leaders in our community who are dedicated to providing opportunities, open



dialogue, and exposure to things they would not routinely do, with the intent on helping them grow and mature.

Positive Change Youth Ministries (PCYM)

<https://positivechangesyouthministries.org>

Over the last six years the PCYM's program has gone from a free afterschool and summer camp program for low-income families to a college readiness program. The mission is to empower youth with the tools and skills needed to be successful in life through life skill building, leadership training, tutoring, mentoring, career interest exploration, community service, college exploration, and academic success incentives. All seniors are challenged to apply to ten colleges/universities of their choice. Eighty percent of seniors attend an institution of higher education.

Youth Transformed for Life (YTL)

https://www.ytltrainingprograms.org/?fbclid=IwAR3CD30piJAqFF7n1-g_1ODcfU4bfonj8Swq9oWJUhyx_kpi8SJowQT0ZcE

YTL Training Programs support disenfranchised communities as they strive to succeed in an inequitable system. As educators, mentors, advocates, and neighbors, they create bridges for children and families to overcome the current gaps of disparity. Programs include:

- YTL G.R.A.C.E for Teens after school (6th-10th grade)
- YTL G.R.A.C.E for Teens Advocacy and Outreach
- YTL G.R.A.C.E for Girls
- YTL G.R.A.C.E for Boys
- G.R.A.C.E for R.O.S.E.S/ M.O.S.S (3rd-6th grade) Redeveloping Our Self Esteem for Success/Motivating Ourselves to Soar to Success



Financial Aid Information Resources



Free Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA Form)

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid>

It's never too early—or too late—to explore options for college or career schools. This site discusses key steps in preparing for higher education and provides resources that can help students along the way.

The College Foundation of NC

<https://www.cfnc.org>

The College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) is a free service from the State of North Carolina provided by a collaboration of educational pathways. CFNC promotes access to North Carolina higher education and assists students and parents with education planning, career planning, and applying and paying for college.

North Carolina First in FAFSA Tracker

<https://www.cfnc.org/fafsa-tools/fafsa-tracker/>

North Carolina First in FAFSA is a CFNC Collaborative that focuses on increasing the number of high school seniors who complete the FAFSA. Increasing the FAFSA completion rate is a fundamental step in North Carolina's efforts to meet its postsecondary attainment goal. Students who complete the FAFSA are more likely to enroll in higher education, persist in their college coursework, and obtain a degree.

FAFSA Completion Assistance

- **Local Assistance:** Use this tool to help connect students and families with financial aid professionals at colleges to receive free assistance.
<https://www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/fafsa-assistance/financial-aid-help-near-you/>
- **FAFSA Video Resources:** Use this tool to complete the FAFSA application.
<https://www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/fafsa-assistance/#>



Schools and Colleges' Scholarships



Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College

<https://abtech.edu/future-students/financial-aid/scholarships>

Asheville City Schools Foundation

<https://www.acsf.org/overview-scholarships>

Blue Ridge Community College

<https://www.blueridge.edu/paying-for-college/scholarships>

Brevard College

<https://brevard.edu/apply-for-scholarships-and-aid>

Buncombe County Schools Foundation Scholarships

<https://foundation.buncombeschools.org/o/foundation/page/2024-bcsf-scholarships>

North Carolina College Scholarships:

<https://www.collegescholarships.com/local/north-carolina-scholarships>

Community Foundation of Henderson County's Scholarship Program

<https://www.cfhcforever.org/grants/scholarships>

Connestee Falls Student Scholarship Program

<https://www.cfscholarships.org/about>

Golden Door Scholars

<https://www.goldendoorscholars.org>

Goodnight Scholarships

<https://goodnight.ncsu.edu/about>

Henderson County DREAM Scholarship

<https://uufhnc.org/justice/henderson-county-dream-scholarship>

Henderson County Education Foundation

<https://hcefnc.org/our-work/scholarships>

Hispanic Scholarship Fund

<https://www.hsf.net/scholarship>

Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship

<https://www.jkcf.org/our-scholarships/college-scholarship-program>

Lenoir-Rhyne University

<https://www.lr.edu/financial-aid-costs/undergraduate>

Madison County Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Endowment Fund

<https://www.madisoncounty-nc.com/category/scholarships>

Madison County Community Foundation

<https://www.madisonccf.org/scholarships>

Mars Hill University

<https://www.mhu.edu/future-students/traditional-undergraduate/financial-aid/scholarships-grants>

Montreat College

<https://www.montreat.edu/admissions/tuition-aid/undergraduate/scholarships>

Transylvania County Schools Educational Foundation

<https://tcsef.org/programs/scholarships>

Transylvania Excellence in Education / Excellence Award

<https://cfwnc.org/scholarships/transylvania-excellence-in-education-excellence-award>

UNC Asheville

<https://www.unca.edu/admission/financial-aid/types-of-aid/scholarships>

Warren Wilson College

<https://www.warren-wilson.edu/giving/scholarships>

Western Carolina University

<https://www.wcu.edu/apply/scholarships/index.aspx>



Other Scholarships & Funded Opportunities



A-B Tech's Skills Training and Employment Program

<https://www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Depts/PublicAssistance/step.aspx>

The Skills, Training, and Employment Program (STEP) allows all food and nutrition service recipients (ages 16 and older) the opportunity to take continuing education courses at A-B Tech at no cost. Tuition and fees, books, supplies, and testing are all covered by STEP.

AWS Foundation Scholarship (Welding)

<https://www.aws.org/Career-Resources/Students/Scholarships>

Since 1993, the AWS Foundation has awarded over 12,000 scholarships, totaling more than \$15 million. Receiving an AWS Foundation scholarship enables welding students to focus on their education and training while turning their passion for welding into a rewarding career.

Ceatham-White Merit Scholarship

[Ceatham-White Merit Scholarship](#)

A merit-based scholarship, this unique opportunity is available to incoming freshmen at North Carolina A & T State University and North Carolina Central University. The scholarship fully funds four years of higher education. This includes costs associated with tuition, student fees, housing, meals, textbooks, a laptop, supplies, travel, and personal expenses.

Finish Line Grants

<https://www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/apply-for-financial-aid/finish-line-grants>

Finish Line Grants are grants of up to \$1,000 awarded to community college students who are on the cusp of completing their education or training and are faced with an unanticipated

financial hardship that may prevent them from doing so. Too often, financial emergencies like unexpected healthcare costs, childcare expenses, or car breakdowns prevent students from completing their programs. Finish Line Grants are awarded to students facing these unforeseen challenges. They can be used for course materials, housing, medical needs, dependent care, or other financial hardships that students face through no fault of their own.

Journey Scholarship

<https://wnccommunities.org/journey-scholarship/>

This scholarship was established to grant scholarships to high school seniors in western North Carolina planning to further their education at a 2- or 4-year institution. The primary criteria for consideration of this scholarship are youth that excel in academic ability and achievement, have exceptional character, and are involved in outstanding contributions to school and community. Applicants must be a member of one of the communities active in our WNC Honors Awards Program.

Golden Leaf Community Colleges Scholarship

<https://scholars.goldenleaf.org/community-colleges>

Up to \$2,250 per school year, including summer term, is available for curriculum students and up to \$1,850 per year for students enrolling in occupational programs. Awards can be applied toward tuition, fees, books, supplies at the community college where enrolled, transportation, childcare expenses related to attending classes, and credential testing upon course completion.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Association of Asheville and Buncombe County

<http://mlkasheville.org/activities/youth-awards-celebration/>

In late April, the MLK Association honors area high school and middle school students who have demonstrated leadership, intellectual, and community engagement skills. In addition to receiving recognition awards, up to three students each year are awarded a scholarship to the university of their choice.

National Dislocated Worker Grant Of WNC

<https://wncdislocatedworkergrant.com>

Choosing a new career path can be filled with hopes and dreams for the future, but it can also be daunting. A unique funding opportunity to aid dislocated workers on this journey is now available thanks to a \$7.5 million National Dislocated Worker Grant managed by the Southwestern Commission and Land of Sky Regional Council for an 11-county area of Western North Carolina.

NC Promise

<https://www.northcarolina.edu/future-students/nc-promise/>

Through NC Promise, the state has significantly reduced student tuition cost to \$500 per semester at three UNC System institutions: Elizabeth City State University, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, and Western Carolina University. The plan has increased educational access, reduced student debt, and has grown the State's economy.

Opportunity Scholarships

<https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/?excmpid=af19-st-1-ncan>

Opportunity Scholarships offer college planning steps for six separate chances at \$500 scholarships. When all six steps are completed, students are entered into a drawing for a \$40,000 scholarship. Money can still be earned even if all six steps are not completed.

P.E.O. Projects and Philanthropies

<https://www.peointernational.org/projects>

The P.E.O. Sisterhood maintains six educational projects in the form of grants, scholarships and loans as well as the stewardship of Cottey College.

State Employees Credit Union Foundation

<https://www.ncsecufoundation.org/Projects/Scholarships.html>

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM:

SECU Foundation established the People Helping People four-year scholarship program to help North Carolina public high school students attend college. Each of the 115 North Carolina Local Education Agencies (LEAs)/School Districts will receive a minimum of one scholarship valued at \$10,000 payable at \$1,250 per semester for up to eight consecutive semesters for a senior to attend one of the 16 constituent campuses of the University of North Carolina

System.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROGRAM:

The SECU Foundation established a major scholarship program to assist students in each of the fifty-eight community colleges in the North Carolina Community College System. There are 116 two-year scholarships valued at up to \$5,000 each. Each North Carolina community college will receive two scholarships, representing an annual financial commitment to the entire North Carolina community college system of up to \$580,000.

The Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF)

<https://www.tmcf.org/>

The Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) and Coca-Cola Foundation are proud to offer financial assistance to outstanding students attending Alabama State, Albany State, Norfolk State, North Carolina Central, Prairie View A & M, Savannah State and Tuskegee University. Four (4) scholars will be selected to receive a fall scholarship up to \$5,000 (\$2,500 per semester) for the 2021-2022 academic school year (which can only be applied to verifiable costs associated with average tuition and usual fees).

UNC System

<https://www.northcarolina.edu/future-students/scholarships-and-opportunities/>

The UNC System offers some of the most affordable opportunities in higher education anywhere in the nation. Financial aid opportunities help cover the total cost of attendance, which includes tuition, housing, textbooks, and program fees.

WIOA Funding at A-B Tech

<https://abtech.edu/programs/continuing-ed-workforce/financial-aide-support-services-students-community/ncworks-1>

A recipient of this funding must be over 18 years old and a Buncombe County resident and meet income guidelines or be a dislocated worker.



Programs and Initiatives



BEST NC

<https://bestnc.org>

BEST NC is a non-profit, non-partisan coalition of business leaders committed to improving North Carolina's education system through policy and advocacy. This is done by convening a broad constituency; encouraging collaboration around a shared, bold vision for education; and advocating for policies, research, programs, and awareness that will significantly improve education in North Carolina.

MISSION STATEMENT:

At BEST NC, we envision a North Carolina in which every student graduates with the knowledge, skills, and behaviors to succeed in a competitive global economy.

Public School Forum of NC

<https://www.ncforum.org>

This Forum provides a platform for information and best practice sharing, while creating opportunities for collaboration and joint capacity-building initiatives. As participants, partnerships are given the opportunity to discuss what is happening in the communities, efforts to support local school systems, and ways to work together to advance public education in North Carolina. The Public School Forum serves as the convener of this group and provides expertise in state level education legislation and education research. Programs include:

- NC Resilience and Learning Project
- NC Center for Afterschool Programs
- Dudley Flood Center for Educational Equity and Opportunity
- C Education Partners

- Education Policy Fellowship Program

MISSION STATEMENT:

For nearly 40 years the Public School Forum of North Carolina has served as an indispensable and nonpartisan champion of better schools. We bring together individuals and institutions from business, education and government to study education issues, develop ideas, seek consensus, and ultimately inform and shape education policy.

Hometown Strong

<https://hometownstrong.nc.gov/about-hometown-strong>

Hometown Strong coordinates with both the public and private sectors across many industries to make state government work to benefit the people it is meant to serve. The focus of the work is meeting the needs of local communities. Whether it's supporting small businesses, investing in infrastructure, or providing educational opportunities, Hometown Strong is committed to making a positive impact.

In addition to providing resources, Hometown Strong also works to connect rural communities to the broader North Carolina community. The organization promotes the strengths and assets of rural areas and seeks out partnerships and collaborations to benefit all involved.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Our mission is to empower rural communities by providing resources and support to improve the quality of life for residents. We focus on economic development, education, healthcare, and community engagement.

