



Metropolitan Studies Institute

The Status of Education in Greenwood County

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The Status of Education in Greenwood County

Community indicators are measurement tools of social, environmental, economic, educational, civic, and health status that provide information about past and current trends, and that inform the decisions that affect the community's wellbeing. Education indicators allow analysis of the status of education and offers predications for the future.

No one metric is an adequate reflection of the status of education, so multiple measures are used. As with other indicator reports, leading, secondary, and crosscutting indicators are provided. All data are from sources recognized by subject matter experts as being valid and reliable. In order to provide context, most data are reported with appropriate comparison or trend data. For this assessment, the counties of Darlington and Laurens in South Carolina were selected to comprise the comparison group on the county level due to in-state comparability on numerous factors such as population and economic demographics and transportation corridors. Comparison data are also provided for the State of South Carolina and the United States to provide further context to the data.

Original sources are provided so that the reader can delve further in the data as they wish. Where valid and reliable sources are limited, data are likewise limited. An index of terms can be found appended to this report.

Any questions may be addressed to the author of this study.

Leading Indicators

Leading indicators are those measures that best reflect the status of education, are most impactful, and are useful predictors of educational trends.

Kindergarten Readiness

Kindergarten readiness assessment in the State of South Carolina has been inconsistent, making it hard to accurately measure and track factors that impact a child's readiness for school.

Preschool Enrollment

Learning disparities start with educational disparities, and children who are unprepared often do not catch up. Children who attend preschool programs are better prepared for kindergarten than their peers who do not participate, and research has shown that those who come from poor or instable living environments benefit the most from preschool programs¹. When entering kindergarten prepared, a child has an 82% chance that they will master basic skills by age 11. In comparison, those who are unprepared have a 45% chance of mastering basic skills by age 11.

Further, children who are considered at-risk and do not get high quality early childhood experiences are 25% more likely to drop out of school, 40% more likely to have a teen pregnancy, and 60% less likely to attend college².

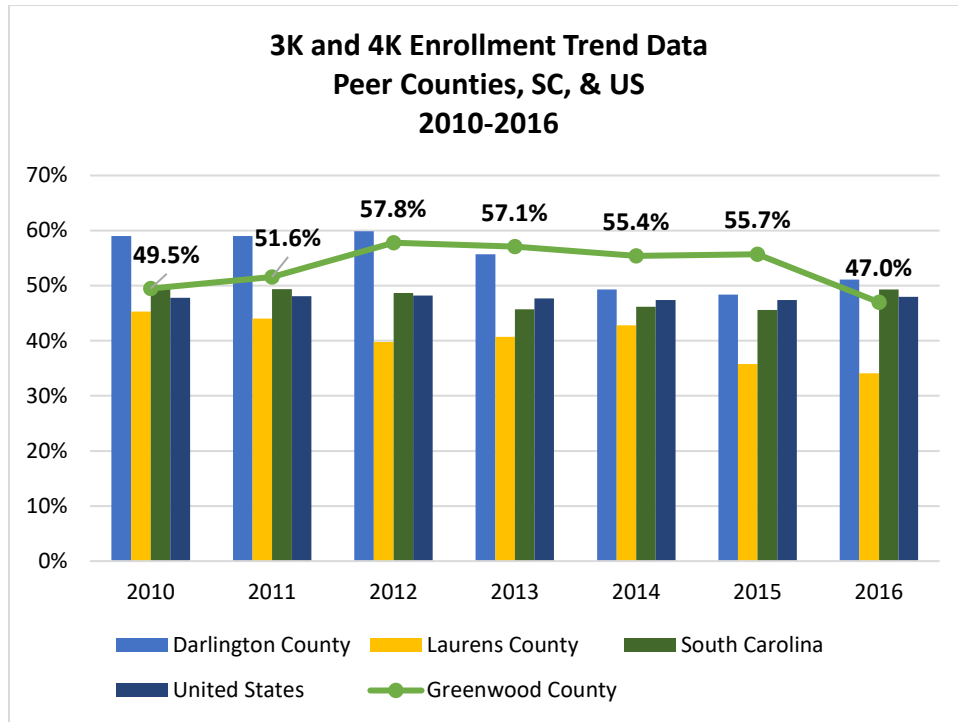
3K and 4K enrollment, Greenwood County School Districts			
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
3k Enrollment	44	62	57
4K Enrollment	410	393	397

Greenwood County has had a higher percentage of 3- and 4-year olds enrolled in 3K and 4K for the past 7 years than all the comparison groups but has had a decline in the percentage over the past 2 years³.

¹ The Current State of Scientific Knowledge on Pre-Kindergarten Effects, https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/duke_prekstudy_final_4-4-17_hires.pdf

² Bloomberg, Ten Reasons Why Early Childhood Education Pays Off, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-10-21/ten-reasons-why-early-childhood-education-pays-off>

³ United States Census Bureau, American FactFinder



*Percentages on chart reflect Greenwood County data

South Carolina 3- & 4-Year Olds Not Attending Preschool						
	2009-2011	2010-2012	2011-2013	2012-2014	2013-2015	2014-2016
All Children	50%	53%	56%	56%	55%	53%

The most recent Kids Count Data shows that 53% of all South Carolina 3- and 4-year olds did not attend preschool during the data period 2014-2016, close to the national average of 52%. Connecticut had the lowest percentage of 3- and 4-year olds not enrolled in preschool at 35%, while North Dakota & Idaho had the highest percentage at 68%. South Carolina was ranked 20th (with 1 being best) out of 50 states⁴.

⁴ Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center

Access to Books

Sixty-eight percent of 4th graders in the United States do not read at grade level, and 1 in 6 who do not read at grade level will not graduate from high school. Research has shown that children who live in print-rich environments and who are read to during the first few years of life are much more likely to read on schedule⁵.

Children from lower income households have access to a fewer number of book and other reading materials than their peers. Children who come from middle income families have regular access to view, read, and purchase books at rate of approximately 13 books per child, whereas lower income children have access at rates as low as 1 book per 300 children. According to the United States Department of Education, 61% of low income families have no books at all in their homes for children.

Reading out loud to a child is one of the most critical activities for building vocabulary and communication skills, and when children have a lowered access to books, they are less likely to be read out loud to in the home⁶. A child's development of language and literacy begins at birth. By age 3, a preschooler's vocabulary consists of approximately 2-4,000 words, and by age 5, that number increases to 5-8,000 words⁷.

In 2017, the Emerald City Rotary Foundation in Greenwood County started the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Project through which children under the age of five are eligible to receive free age-appropriate books each month. The program is primarily funded by the Greenwood County Foundation, the Hack Foundation, the O'Dell Corporation, the Emerald City Rotary Club, and the Rotary District 7750, and the program is administered by the Greenwood County Library. As of early July 2018, 403 children have been impacted by the project and over 4,806 books have been distributed since the start.

8.8% of eligible children were enrolled in the project, and the program, at the time of this report, has recently restarted enrollment in the program after new enrollment was stopped in November 2017 through June 2018 pending further funding⁸.

Greenwood Dolly Parton Imagination Library Report July 2018	
Total Enrolled	352
% of Eligible Children (n=4,000)	8.8%
Total Graduates	51
Total Children Impacted Since 2001	403
Total Books Distributed Since 2001	4,806

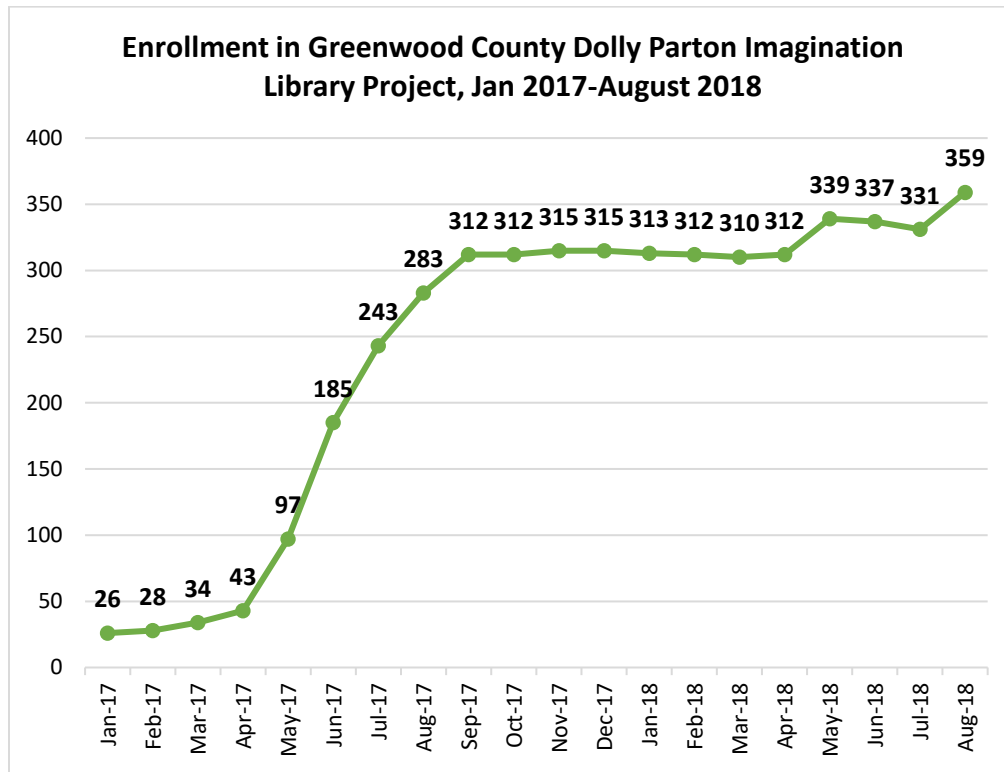
⁵ Children's Literacy Foundation, <http://clifonline.org/resources/research/>

⁶ Scholastic, Access to Books, <http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/face/pdf/research-compendium/access-to-books.pdf>

⁷ Connecticut State Department of Education, Early Literacy, <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/DEPS/Early/literacy.pdf>

⁸ United Way of the Piedmont, Imagination Library Project, <http://www.uwpiedmont.org/what-we-do/programs-investment/imagination-library/>

The graph below shows the monthly enrollment through August 2018 (as of the report supplied in July 2018).



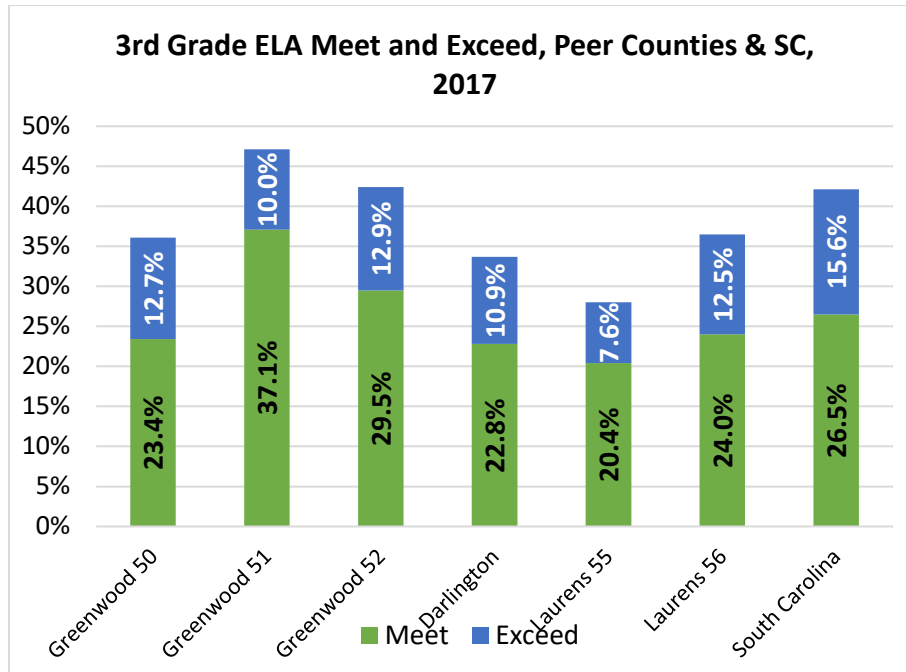
Third Grade English Language Arts (ELA)

Because of the type of test used in South Carolina to establish proficiencies in a given subject area, data is only comparable within the State.

Students who fall behind in reading at grade level are at a higher risk of not graduating high school and have long-term impacts on their future social and economic statuses. Reading proficiency by the end of 3rd grade is a strong predictor of a child's educational development and a make-or-break benchmark. Prior to 3rd grade, children are "learning to read" whereas 4th grade and beyond is "reading to learn." After 3rd grade, textbooks and other reading materials are no longer simple primers, but rather actual texts containing material that children must master before moving forward. According to the Children's Reading Foundation, almost half of the printed 4th grade materials is incomprehensible to children who read below level.

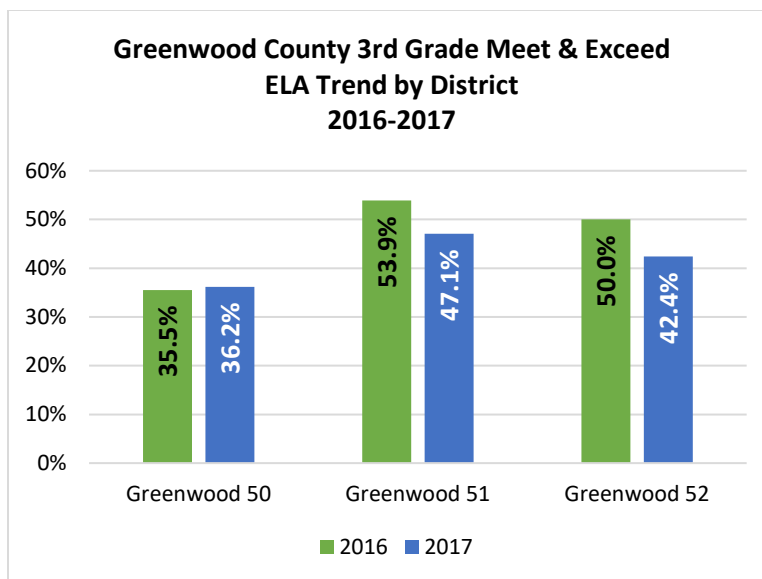
A higher percentage of 3rd graders in Greenwood District 51 met or exceeded the ELA standard in 2017 than any of the other districts in the county, the peer counties, and the state average. In contrast, District 50 had a lower percentage of students meeting or exceeding the standard than all the other districts and state except Darlington and Laurens 55⁹.

⁹ South Carolina Department of Education



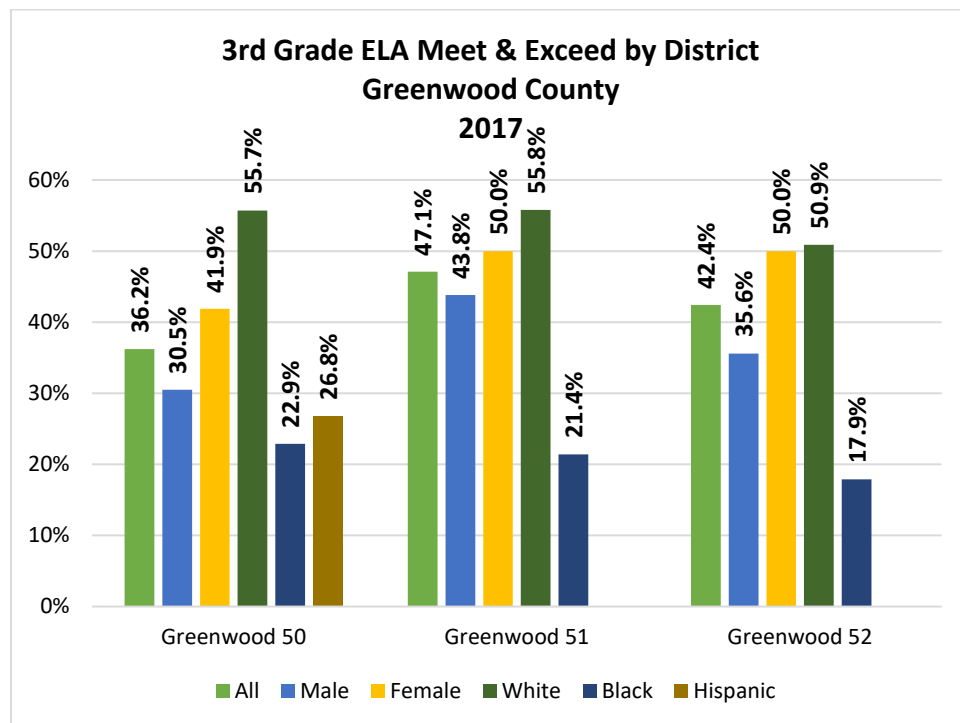
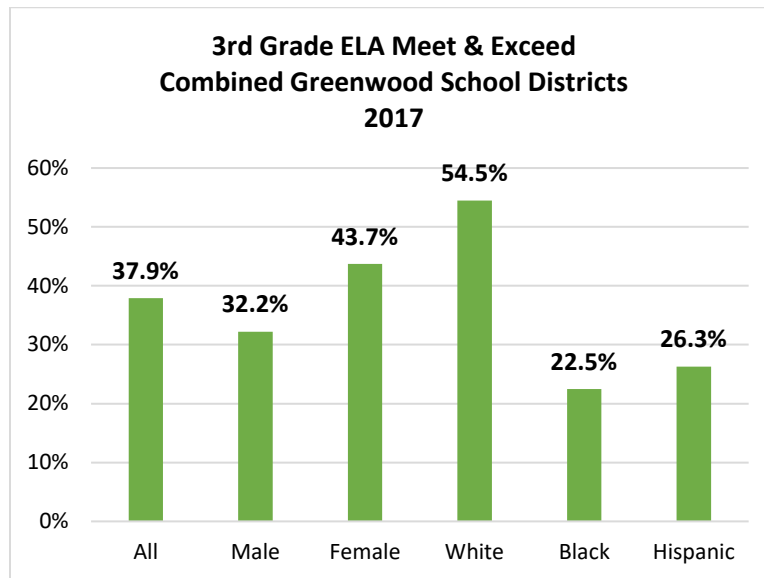
Districts 51 and 52 in Greenwood County have had higher percentages of students meeting and exceeding the state ELA standard in both 2016 and 2017 than District 50. Both District 51 and District 52 saw a decline in the percentage of students who met or exceeded the standard between 2016 and 2017.

Note: two years does not necessarily indicate a trend. The decrease in percentage of students meeting and exceeding the ELA standard from 2016 to 2017 has been observed consistently in other counties.



State of South Carolina has used different instruments in 2014 (SCPASS) and 2015 (ACT® Aspire®) than was used in 2016 and 2017 (SC READY). Due to the differences in those assessments, results years prior to 2016 are not comparable.

There are wide disparities in this measure when broken down by race and ethnicity. In 2017, 54.5% of white children scored as “meet” or “exceed” on the proficiency standard, while black children had the lowest percentage at 22.5% or less than 1 in 4¹⁰.



**No data available for Hispanic students in districts 51 and 52 due to none of the Hispanic students meeting or exceeding the state ELA standard.*

¹⁰ South Carolina Department of Education

3rd Grade ELA Meet & Exceed by Elementary School Greenwood County 2017					
	Eleanor S. Rice Elementary	Hodges Elementary	Lakeview Elementary	Mathews Elementary	Merrywood Elementary
All	30.3%	41.3%	47.2%	34.8%	39.7%
Male	17.6%	35.1%	44.6%	25.6%	36.4%
Female	43.8%	45.2%	50.0%	42.0%	44.1%
White	57.7%	52.2%	66.0%	42.9%	54.3%
Black	17.5%	22.2%	18.4%	29.2%	25.8%
Hispanic	--	--	36.4%	50.0%	--

3rd Grade ELA Meet & Exceed by Elementary School Greenwood County 2017					
	Ninety-Six Elementary	Pinecrest Elementary	Springfield Elementary	Ware Shoals Primary	Woodfields Elementary
All	42.4%	23.5%	41.6%	47.1%	30.4%
Male	--	28.9%	34.7%	43.8%	20.0%
Female	50.0%	17.5%	50.0%	50.0%	40.4%
White	50.9%	58.8%	55.6%	55.8%	55.6%
Black	17.9%	9.8%	37.0%	21.4%	23.4%
Hispanic	--	--	30.8%	--	13.0%

**If no percentage is presented, that means no students by that demographic met or exceeded the 3rds Grade ELA standard in that school.*

Eighth Grade Math

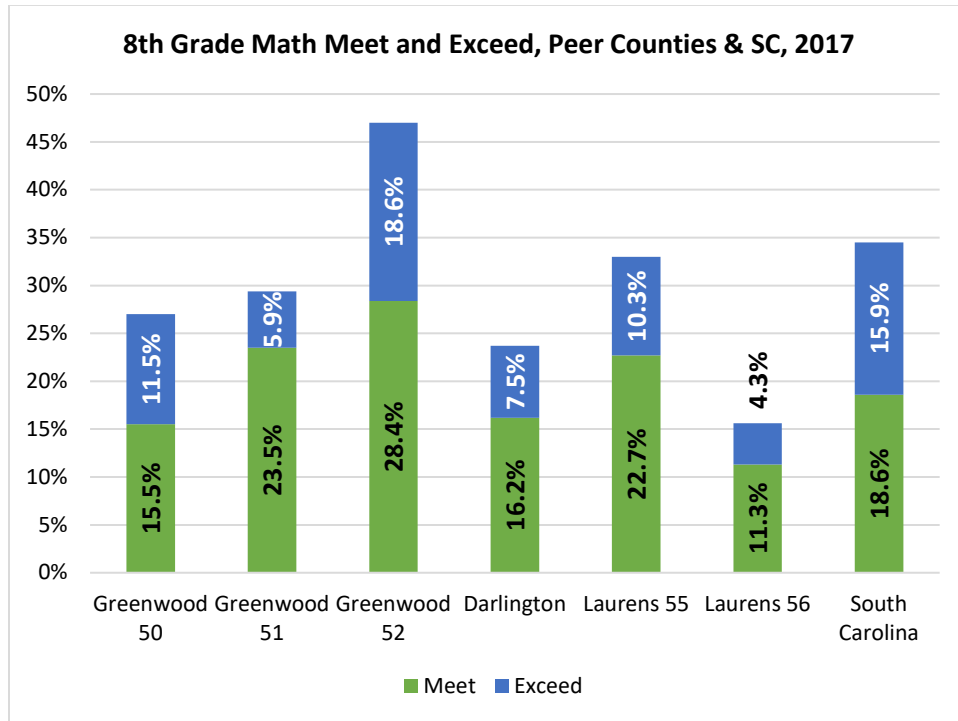
Because of the type of test used in South Carolina to establish proficiencies in a given subject area, data is only comparable within the State.

Math proficiency and taking higher level mathematics courses in high school are correlated to high school graduation and are considered gatekeeping courses for student's enrollment & completion of college. According to the National Mathematics Advisory Panel 2008 report "a strong grounding in high school mathematics through Algebra II or higher correlates with access to college, graduation from college, and earning in the top quartile of income from employment. In fact, students who complete Algebra II are more than twice as likely to graduate from college compared to students with less mathematical preparation¹¹."

Higher level math courses emphasize higher order thinking and complex problem-solving skills; both of which are important beyond the academic realm. Individuals who transition into the workforce with limited mathematic skills are likely to find functioning in society challenging as basic arithmetic skills are required for everyday functions.

¹¹ National Mathematics Advisory Panel Report, 2008,
<https://www2.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/mathpanel/report/final-report.pdf>

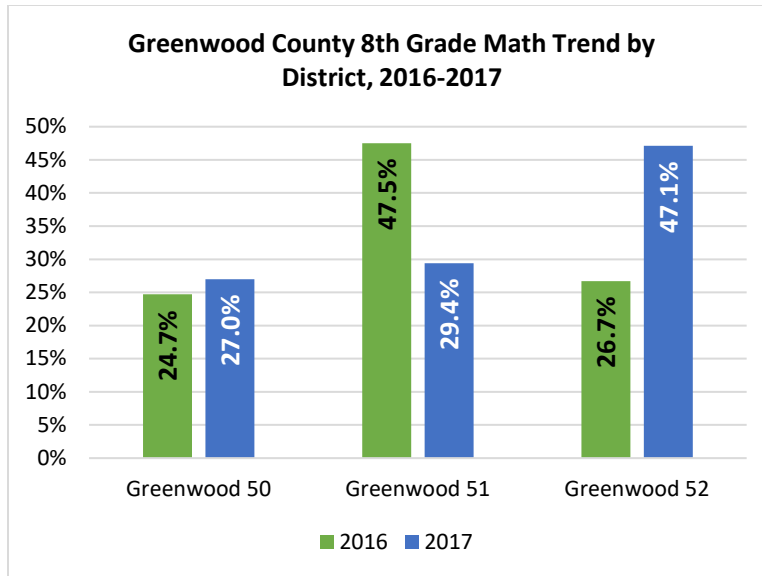
Greenwood District 52 outpaced all the other districts in the county and the comparison groups in the percentage of 8th graders who met or exceeded the state math standard in 2017 with 47% of 8th graders in that district meeting or exceeding the standard. Like the 3rd grade ELA, Greenwood District 50 lags all the others except Darlington County and Laurens District 56¹².



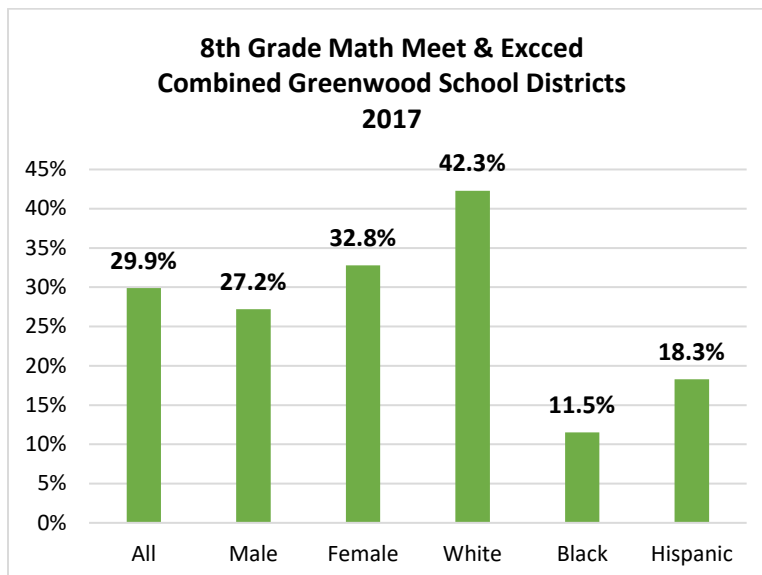
There has been large variance in the percentage of 8th graders in districts 51 and 52 who have met or exceeded the state math standard between 2016 and 2017, and district 50 has consistently had a lower percentage of students met or exceed than the other two districts.

Note: two years does not necessarily indicate a trend. A decrease in percentage of students meeting and exceeding the math standard from 2016 to 2017 has been observed consistently in other counties.

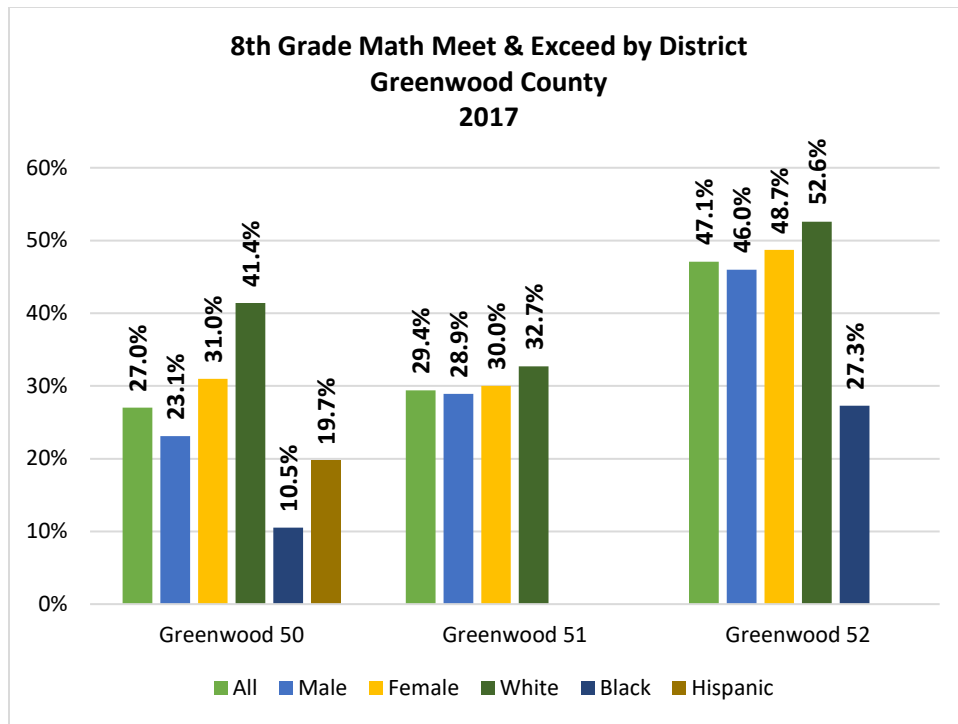
¹² South Carolina Department of Education



As with the 3rd grade reading, there are significant disparities when the percentage of students who meet or exceed the proficiency standard is broken down by race and ethnicity. Only 11.5% (approximately 1 in 10) of black students in Greenwood County met or exceeded the proficiency standard in 2017. Hispanic students also lag behind their white peers with only 18.3% (almost 1 in 5) who met or exceeded the proficiency standard¹³.



¹³ South Carolina Department of Education



**No data available for Hispanic students in districts 51 and 52 due to none of the Hispanic students meeting or exceeding the state math standard.*

8th Grade Math Meet & Exceed by School Greenwood County 2017					
	Brewer Middle	Edgewood Middle	Northside Middle	Ware Shoals Elementary Middle	Westview Middle
All	27.7%	47.1%	24.6%	29.4%	28.2%
Male	11.1%	46.0%	18.8%	28.9%	34.4%
Female	38.8%	48.7%	32.1%	30.0%	20.0%
White	50.0%	52.6%	28.2%	32.7%	45.1%
Black	9.6%	27.3%	11.0%	--	10.8%
Hispanic	13.3%	--	42.9%	--	13.6%

High School Graduation

Students who graduate high school are more likely to enroll in college, are more employable, and have higher earnings than their peers who fail to graduate. According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2015, individuals who failed to earn a high school diploma earned 27% less than those who graduated high school and almost 57% less than those who graduated college¹⁴. In addition to earnings, those who graduate high school have lower unemployment rates and better health outcomes than their peers who fail to graduate.

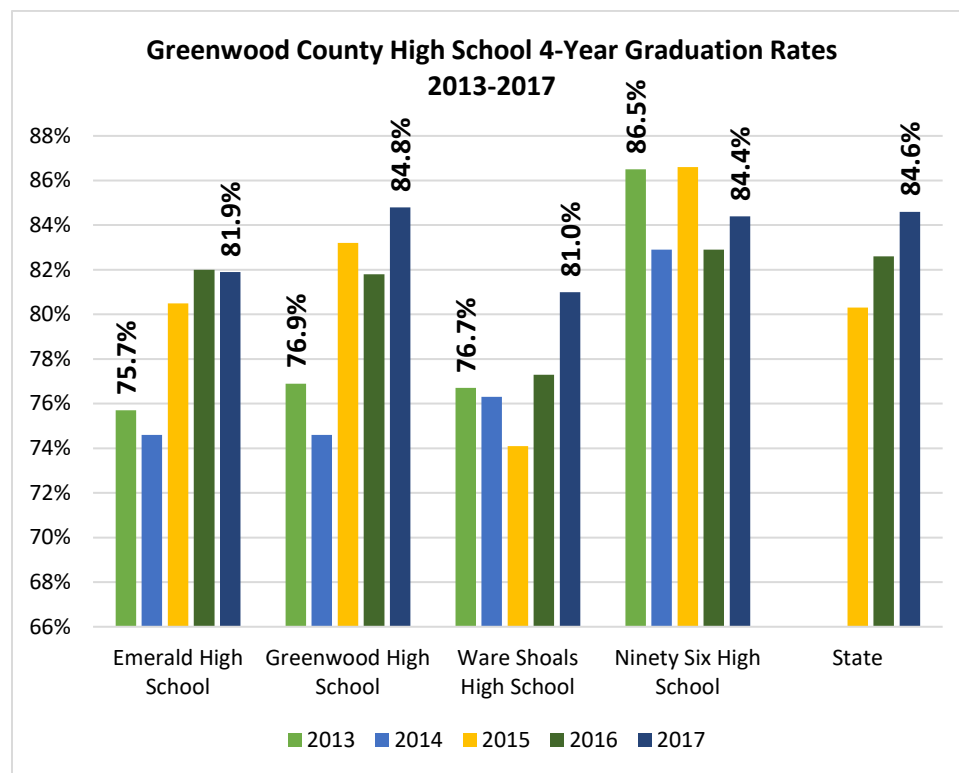
¹⁴ United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, Education Matters, Earnings and Unemployment Rates by Educational Attainment, 2015

The National Center for Education Statistics reported that during the 2014-2015 school year, the national adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR) for public high school students was 83%. Iowa had the highest graduation rate at 91% and the District of Columbia and New Mexico had the lowest at 69%. South Carolina tied for 35th out of 50 (49 States plus the District of Columbia) with an ACGR of 80%*. The adjusted cohort graduate rate is the number of students who graduate in 4 years with a regular high school diploma, accounting for students who enter and leave the cohort between 9th and 12th grade, divided by the number of students who form the adjusted cohort for the graduating class¹⁵.

**Alabama's ACGR did not meet the reporting standards and no rate is available.*

As with the previous measures, there are disparities by race or ethnicity. Nationally during the 2014-2015 academic year, 12% of white students who were part of the adjusted cohort did not graduate high school, whereas the rate for black students was twice as high at 25% and the rate for Hispanic students was 22%¹⁶.

Consistently, Ninety Six High School has had the highest graduation rate from 2013 to 2017 of all the high schools in Greenwood County and is higher than the state rate. Ware Shoals High School has the lowest graduation rate in 2017 at 81.0%¹⁷.



**Percentage on the chart represents 2013 & 2017 graduation rates.*

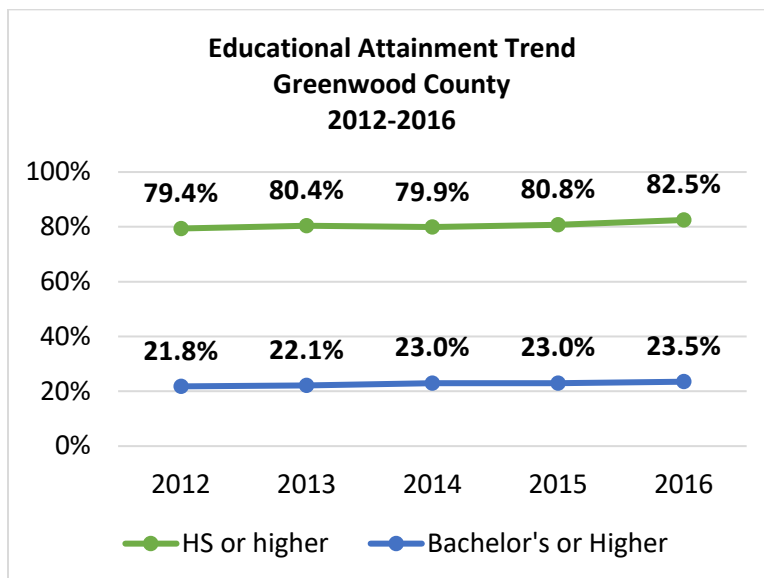
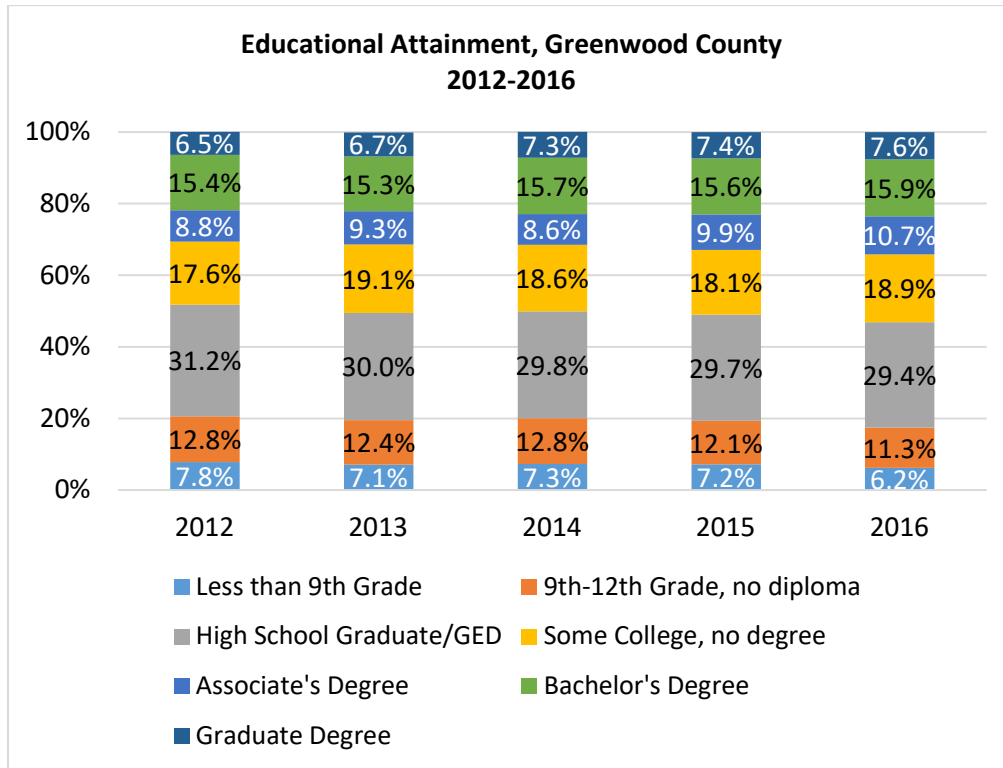
¹⁵ National Center for Education Statistics

¹⁶ National Center for Education Statistics

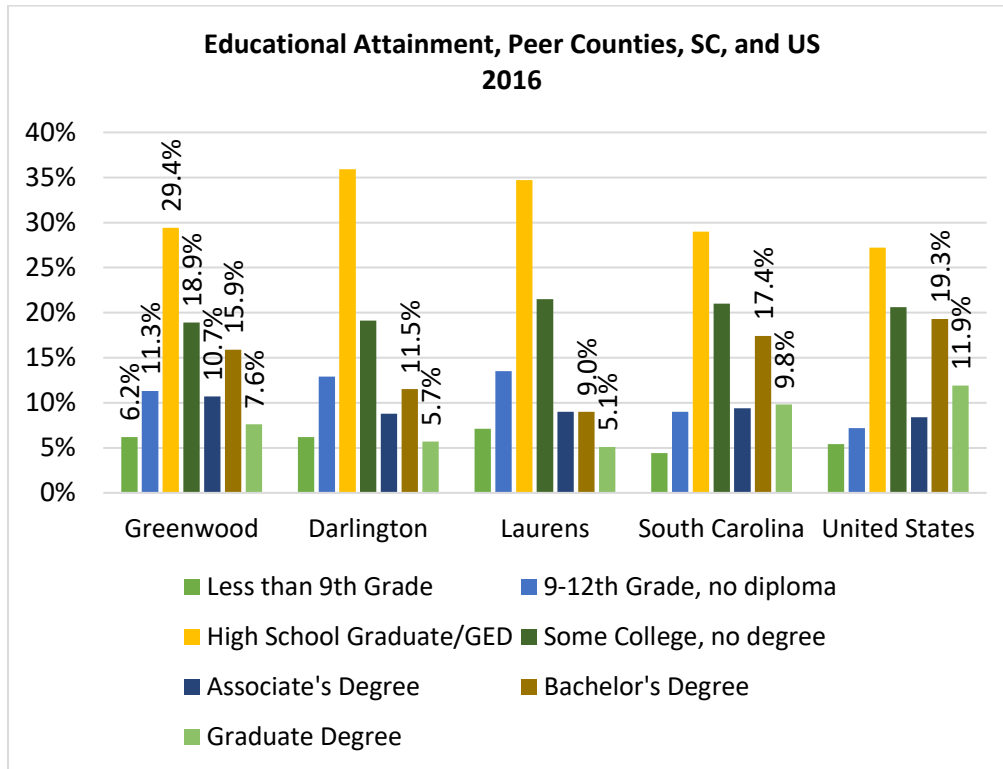
¹⁷ South Carolina Department of Education

Post-Secondary Completion

Educational attainment is a powerful predictor of a community’s well-being. A higher educational attainment is strongly correlated with higher wages and lower unemployment rates. Since educational attainment is measured for adults age 25 and over, increases in attainment are typically not significant when looking from year to year. Trend data is presented to show what changes in educational attainment are present in the community.



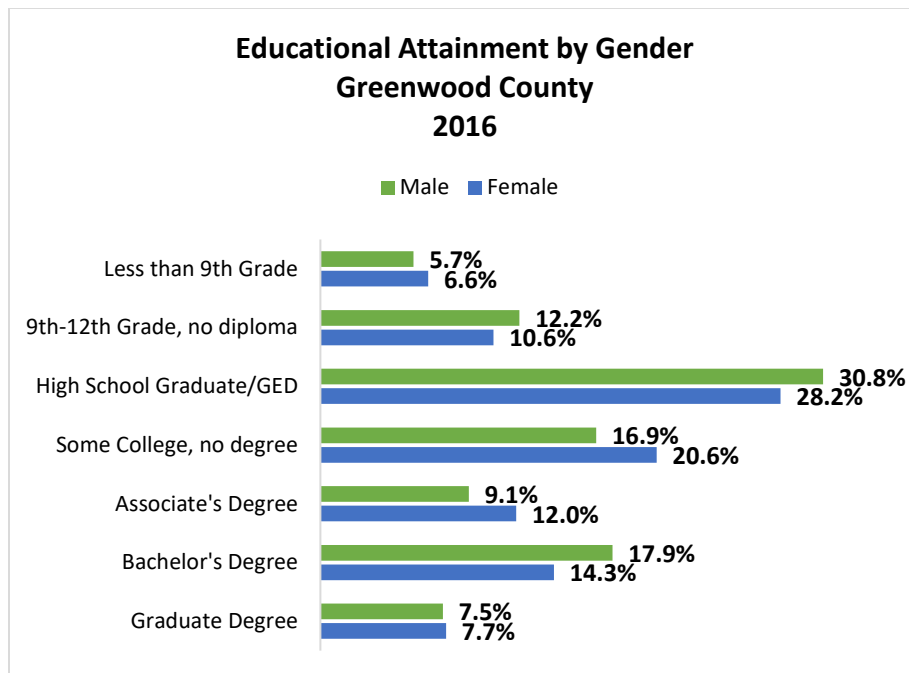
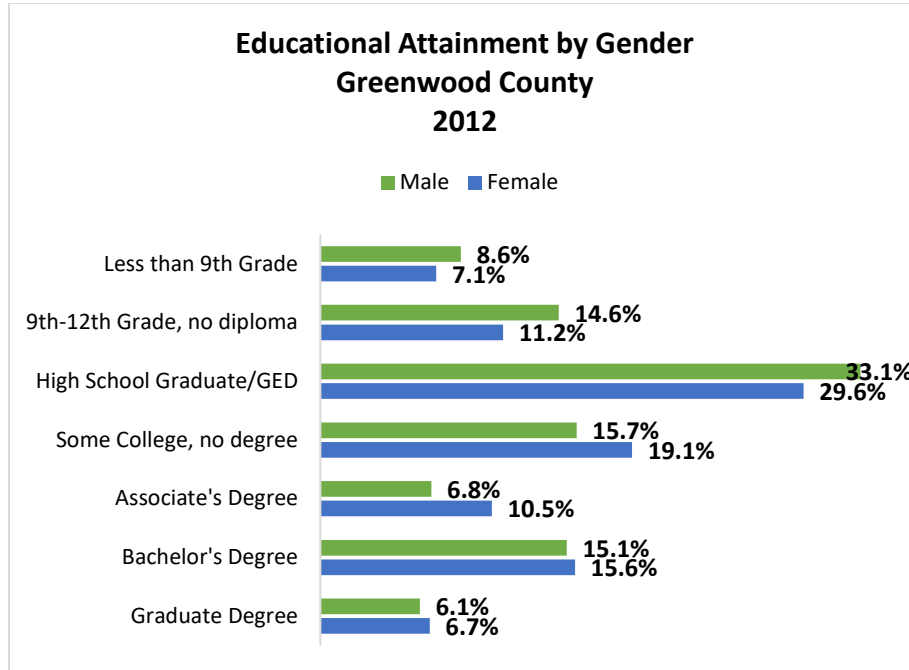
When compared to the peer counties, South Carolina, and the United States, in 2016, Greenwood County has a higher percentage of the population with a bachelor’s degree than the peer counties and a lower percentage of the population has less than a 9th grade education than Darlington and Laurens Counties. Greenwood County continues to lag behind the state and the nation in the percentage of the population with a bachelor’s or graduate degree.



Educational Attainment Peer Counties, SC, & US 2016		
	HS or Higher	Bachelor's or Higher
Greenwood	82.5%	23.5%
Darlington	80.9%	17.1%
Laurens	79.4%	14.2%
South Carolina	86.6%	27.2%
United States	87.5%	31.3%

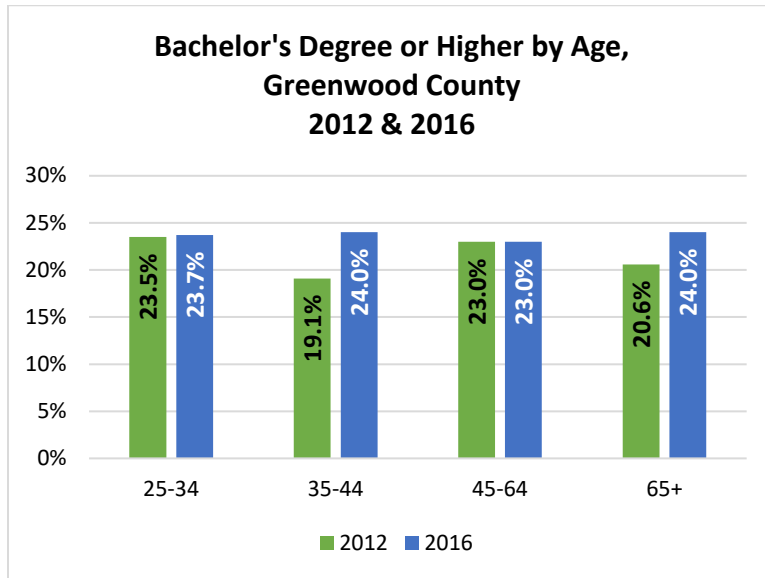
Educational Attainment by Selected Characteristics

In 2016 in Greenwood County, a higher percentage of males had obtained a bachelor's degree than females, however females are more likely to have earned some college or an associate degree¹⁸. The next two graphs show the educational attainment by gender in 2012 and in 2016.

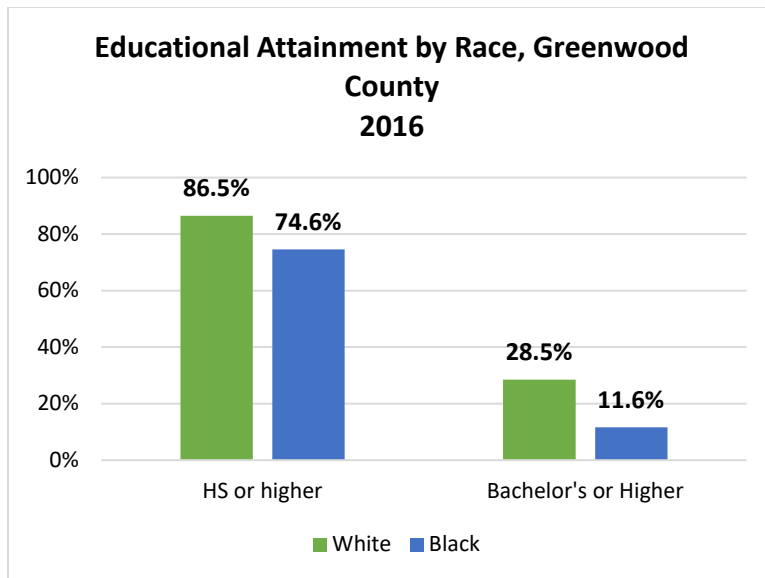


¹⁸ United States Census Bureau, American FactFinder

The county has had a little change in the percentage of the population between the ages of 25-34 who have obtained a bachelor’s degree or higher from 2012 to 2016 with only 23.7% of the population between ages 25 and 34 (1 out of every 4) having obtained a bachelor’s or higher.



Individuals in the county who are white have higher educational attainment rates than their black counterparts. *Unable to report Hispanic rates due to low population size.*



Secondary Indicators

Secondary indicators are other measures of the educational status of the community, variables that have impacts on education, or are tangentially reflective of the state of the education.

Dropout Rate

Dropout rate calculates the percent of students who leaves school for any reason, other than death, prior to graduation or completion of the course of studies; without transferring to another school/institution¹⁹.

Individuals who dropout of high school are at a higher risk than their peers for several negative outcomes. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that in 2015, college graduates earn 27% more than high school graduates, and earn at an even higher rate than those without a high school diploma (57% higher)²⁰.

Disparities in several other outcomes are evident in those who fail to obtain a high school diploma. They are less like to have a job, to own homes, and to contribute to a 401(k) or other retirement plans, and are more likely to end up in prison, rely on government assistance, and to have poorer health outcomes²¹.

All the high schools except Ninety Six High School in Greenwood County saw a decline in the dropout rate from 2016 to 2017. Ninety Six High School's dropout rate increased from 5.5% to 6.3% during this period²².

Dropout Rate Greenwood County High Schools and Peer Districts 2016 and 2017		
	2016 Dropout Rate	2017 Dropout Rate
Emerald High School	2.4%	2.1%
Greenwood High School	1.5%	0.4%
Ware Shoals High School	5.5%	6.3%
Ninety Six High School	3.2%	2.6%
Darlington District	0.3%	0.5%
Laurens 55 District	4.6%	4.6%
Laurens 56 District	3.2%	0.9%

**Rates represent the percentage of the students who dropped out*

¹⁹ South Carolina Department of Education, 2016 Dropout Policies and Procedures Manual, <http://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/school-safety/discipline-related-reports/dropout-data/2016-dropout-policies-and-procedure-manual/>

²⁰ United States Bureau of Labor Statistics

²¹ USA Today, Pay Gap Between College Grads and Everyone Else at a Record, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2017/01/12/pay-gap-between-college-grads-and-everyone-else-record/96493348/>

²² South Carolina Department of Education

Per-Pupil Funding & Instructional Staff Salary

The national average per-pupil spending during the 2016-2017 academic year was \$11,642 and the average public-school teacher salary was \$59,660. South Carolina's average per-pupil spending was \$11,552 and the teacher salary was \$50,000²³.

As seen in the chart below, all the Greenwood school districts had an average per-pupil spending that was lower than the state and national average and all districts had an average teacher salary below the national average. Greenwood District 52's average teacher salary was slightly higher than the state average.

District Report Cards Greenwood County 2016-2017 Academic Year						
	Number of Students	Number of Teachers	Student to Teacher Ratio in Core Subjects	Dollars Spent per Pupil	Average Teacher Salary	Percent of Students in Poverty (TANF, SNAP, Medicaid, foster child, or homeless)
Greenwood District 50	9,015	567	22.3:1	\$9,160	\$48,439	70.5%
Greenwood District 51	943	70	20.1:1	\$10,225	\$43,911	72.7%
Greenwood District 52	1,608	104	25.5:1	\$10,097	\$50,666	59.6%

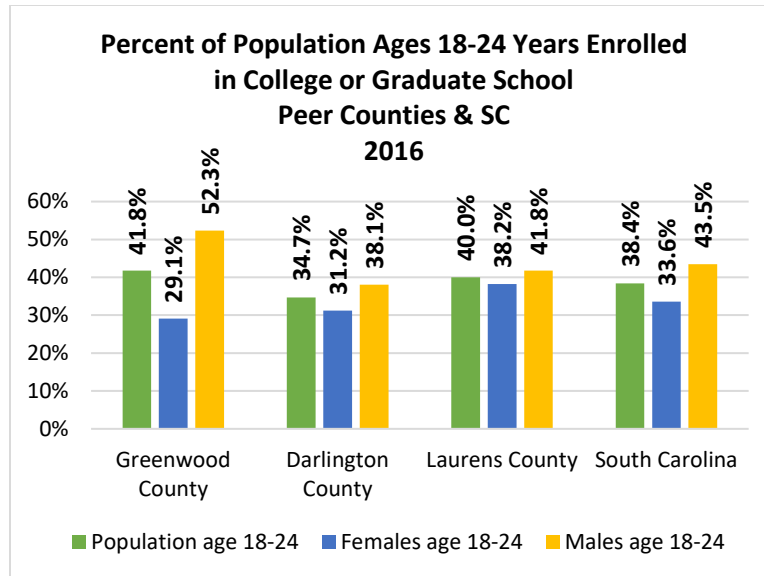
College Enrollment

According to the United States Census Bureau, in the 2016. 27.7% of the total population was enrolled in college or graduate school, and those ages 18 to 24 had an enrollment rate of 42.6%. Of the 18 to 24 age range, females were enrolled at a higher rate (47.0%) than their male counterparts (38.4%)²⁴.

The graph below shows the percent of the total population, females ages 18 to 24, and males ages 18 to 24 in Greenwood County and the comparison groups during 2016 who were enrolled in college or graduate school. Greenwood County has the highest percentage of those between the ages of 18 and 24 enrolled in college or graduate school out of the peers and the state.

²³ National Education Association, Rankings & Estimates: Rankings of the States 2017 and Estimates of School Statistics 2018

²⁴ United States Census Bureau, American FactFinder



Nationally, the trend of females enrolling in postsecondary education at a higher rate than their male counterparts has been observed since before 2000, and in the fall of 2016, female students made up 56% of total undergraduate enrollment in the United States.

The type of institution and the type of enrollment status has been shifting at the national level since 2000. In the United States, enrollment as either a full- or part-time student has generally increased, but there has been a 9% decline in full-time enrollment from 2010-2016.

While enrollment in 2-year colleges has been declining since 2010, it is projected to increase by 21% between 2014 and 2025. 4-year colleges are expected to see a smaller increase at 10% during this same timeframe²⁵.

Ninety Six High School has some of the highest 2- and 4-year enrollment rates of students from previous year graduating class while Ware Shoals has some of the lowest rates²⁶.

Percentage of Students from Previous Year Graduating Class Enrolled in a 2- or 4-Year college in Fall		
	Fall 2015	Fall 2016
Emerald High School	60.9%	64.1%
Greenwood High School	59.9%	59.6%
Ware Shoals High School	62.1%	56.9%
Ninety Six High School	68.8%	66.4%
Darlington District	70.7%	60.1%
Laurens 55 District	52.2%	49.9%
Laurens 56 District	70.0%	78.1%
State	70.7%	70.8%

²⁵ National Center for Education Statistics, The Condition of Education: Undergraduate Enrollment, Updated May 2016

²⁶ South Carolina Department of Education

The next two charts show Greenwood County school graduates who were enrolled, employed, or engaged in other activities during the in fall 2013 and fall 2016.

Percentages highlighted in red on the following charts reflect a decline in the percentage of graduates who enrolled in that type of higher education from fall 2013 to fall 2016²⁷.

High School Completers Enrolled in College Freshman Class Fall 2013 and Fall 2016				
	Emerald High School		Greenwood High School	
	Fall 2013	Fall 2016	Fall 2013	Fall 2016
Total High School Completers	--	223	316	384
Percent of Completers who entered				
Freshman Class	--	64.1%	59.2%	59.6%
4-year college	--	38.1%	32.6%	35.4%
2-year college	--	3.1%	0.0%	2.9%
Technical college degree program	--	22.9%	26.6%	8.6%
In-state college	--	96.5%	100.0%	91.7%
Out-of-state college	--	3.5%	0.0%	8.3%
Gainful Employment	--	22.0%	16.5%	37.2%
Armed Forces	--	0.9%	2.2%	2.1%

Fall 2013 data for Emerald High School was not available.

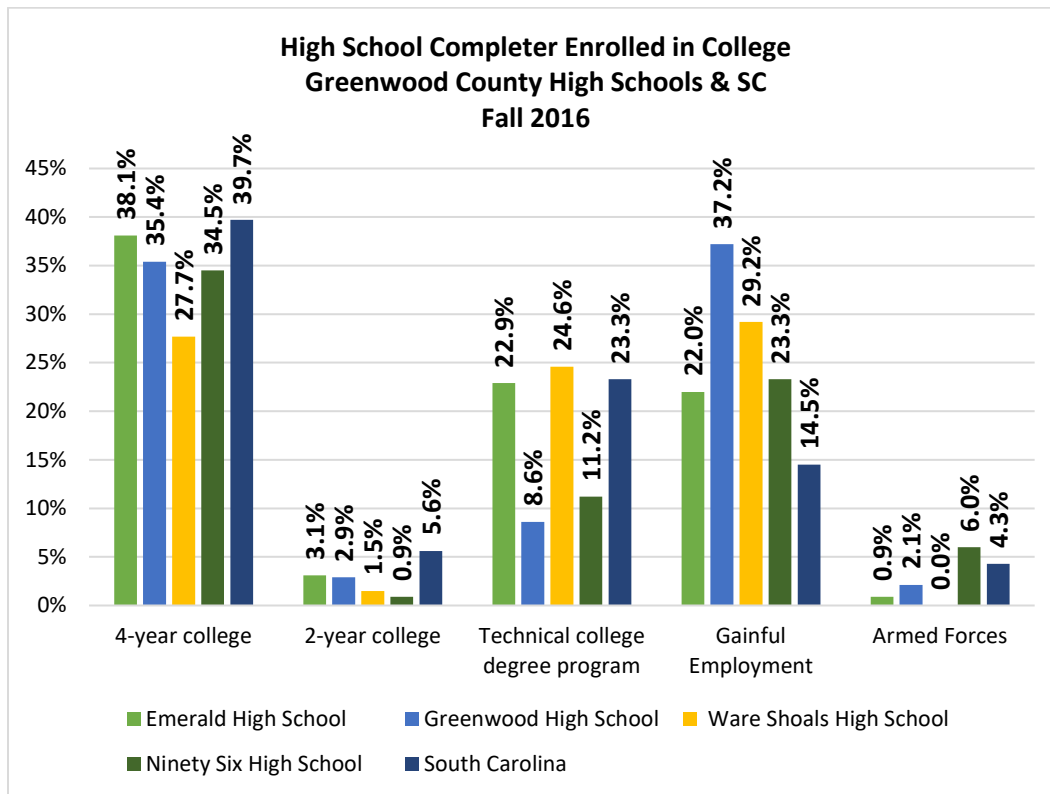
High School Completers Enrolled in College Freshman Class Fall 2013 and Fall 2016				
	Ware Shoals High School		Ninety Six High School	
	Fall 2013	Fall 2016	Fall 2013	Fall 2016
Total High School Completers	57	65	87	116
Percent of Completers who entered				
Freshman Class	64.9%	56.9%	60.9%	66.4%
4-year college	22.8%	27.7%	46.0%	34.5%
2-year college	3.5%	1.5%	1.1%	0.9%
Technical college degree program	38.6%	24.6%	13.8%	11.2%
In-state college	97.3%	94.6%	94.3%	97.4%
Out-of-state college	2.7%	5.4%	5.7%	2.6%
Gainful Employment	29.8%	29.2%	13.8%	23.3%
Armed Forces	3.5%	0.0%	0.0%	6.0%

²⁷ South Carolina Department of Education

High School Completers Enrolled in College Freshman Class Fall 2013 and Fall 2016		
	South Carolina	
	Fall 2013	Fall 2016
Total High School Completers	37,525	46,691
Percent of Completers who entered		
Freshman Class	69.7%	70.8%
4-year college	39.7%	39.7%
2-year college	5.2%	5.6%
Technical college degree program	24.8%	23.3%
In-state college	90.7%	89.7%
Out-of-state college	9.3%	10.3%
Gainful Employment	11.9%	14.5%
Armed Forces	4.4%	4.3%

The percentages on the charts above do not add up to 100% as a graduate could fall into multiple categories (i.e. in-state college and freshman class).

The graph below shows the percent of graduates by high school in Greenwood County that have enrolled in one of five types of post-graduation opportunities—higher education, gainful employment, armed forces²⁸.



²⁸ South Carolina Department of Education

Freshman Retention Rate

The strongest predictor of college completion is freshman to sophomore year retention and is the measure of whether first-time freshmen thrive on a particular college campus and advance to their sophomore year. The national retention rate for students who enrolled as a first-time freshman at a 4-year degree granting institution in fall 2014 was 81%²⁹. This means as many as one in five college students will not return their sophomore year due to various reasons, including family, health, financial, and academic problems.

Generally, private institutions and those institutions that are classified as highly selective have higher retention rates. In 2016, retention rates for 4-year institutions ranged from 94.3% for private, highly selective institutions to 56.6% for public, open institutions.

2016 National Retention Rates by Type of Institution³⁰

- Two-Year Public: 56.4%
- Two-Year Private: 63.3%
- BA/BS Public: 64.9%
- BA/BS Private: 70.8%
- All Institutions: 68.5%

The chart below shows the retention rates for Greenwood County institutions of higher education (IHE). Lander University, which is a BA/BS public institution, has consistently had the highest retention rate³¹.

Retention Rates of Greenwood IHE					
2012-2016					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Lander University	61%	61%	68%	69%	70%
Piedmont Technical College	60%	59%	60%	58%	58%

College Graduation Rate

The following graduation rate data is collected at the institutional level, not at student level and is reflective of full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking students who started and finished at the same institution.

In addition to the benefits to the individual, a community that is well-educated has many economic and social benefits – for example, increased tax revenue and increased job opportunities.

For the academic year 2015-2016, Greenwood County institutions of higher education (IHE) awarded 619 associate degrees, 441 bachelor's degrees, 17 master's degrees, and 503 certificates³².

²⁹ National Center for Education Statistics, Retention and Graduation Rates

³⁰ ACT Retention Reports, 2015 and 2016

³¹ IPEDS Data Center

³² IPEDS Data Center

Number of Degrees Awarded at Greenwood IHE 2015-2016 Academic Year						
	Associates	Bachelor's	Master's	Certificates	Certificates <1 year	Certificates 2-4 years
Lander University	0	441	17	3	0	0
Piedmont Technical College	619	0	0	0	362	138

4-, 6-, & 8-Year Graduation Rates for 4-Year Not-For-Profit Institutions in Greenwood County 2016			
	4-year	6-year	8-year
Lander University	29%	45%	47%

The graph above shows the 4-, 6-, and 8-year graduation rates Lander University in Greenwood County. The completion periods are for those who entered the institutions in 2008 (cohort year)³³.

2-, 3-, & 4-Year Graduation Rates for 2-Year Not-For-Profit Institutions in Greenwood County 2016			
	2-year	3-Year	4-Year
Piedmont Technical College	8%	18%	23%

Like the previous graph, the above graph shows the 2-, 3-, and 4-year graduation rates for Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood County³⁴.

Higher Education Funding, Tuition, and Scholarships

In 2016-2017, the average national published undergraduate, full-time tuition and fees charges ranged from \$3,520 for public, 2-year institutions to \$33,480 for private, 4-year institutions. The table below shows the published undergraduate charges by sector for the 2016-2017 academic year and shows that all sectors had an increase in charges over the previous year.

It is important to note that total cost of a college education depends on the time it takes a student from initial enrollment to graduation. More students are taking longer than 4 years to complete their degrees, and students at public institutions tend to have a longer timeframe than those at private institutions³⁵.

³³ IPEDS Data Center

³⁴ IPEDS Data Center

³⁵ CollegeBoard, Average Published Undergraduate Charges by Sector, 2016-2017:

<https://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing/figures-tables/average-published-undergraduate-charges-sector-2016-17>

Average Published Undergraduate Charges by Sector, 2016-2017

	Public Two-Year In-District	Public Four-Year In-State	Public Four-Year Out-of-State	Private Nonprofit Four-Year	For-Profit
Tuition and Fees					
2016-17	\$3,520	\$9,650	\$24,930	\$33,480	\$16,000
2015-16	\$3,440	\$9,420	\$24,070	\$32,330	\$15,660
\$ Change	\$80	\$230	\$860	\$1,150	\$340
% Change	2.3%	2.4%	3.6%	3.6%	2.2%
Room and Board					
2016-17	\$8,060	\$10,440	\$10,440	\$11,890	—
2015-16	\$7,930	\$10,150	\$10,150	\$11,540	—
\$ Change	\$130	\$290	\$290	\$350	—
% Change	1.6%	2.9%	2.9%	3.0%	—
Tuition and Fees and Room and Board					
2016-17	\$11,580	\$20,090	\$35,370	\$45,370	—
2015-16	\$11,370	\$19,570	\$34,220	\$43,870	—
\$ Change	\$210	\$520	\$1,150	\$1,500	—
% Change	1.8%	2.7%	3.4%	3.4%	—

Accessed from *Collegeboard.org*

The average tuition and fees in 2016-2017 for for-profit institutions is nearly \$12,500 more per year than the tuition and fees at public, 2-year institutions and over \$6,000 more per year than the tuition and fees at public, 4-year institutions.

Between the 2011-2012 academic year and the 2016-2017 academic year, the published tuition and fees nationally increased by 9% for public, 4-year institutions, 11% for public, 2-year institutions, and 13% for private, 4-year institutions³⁶.

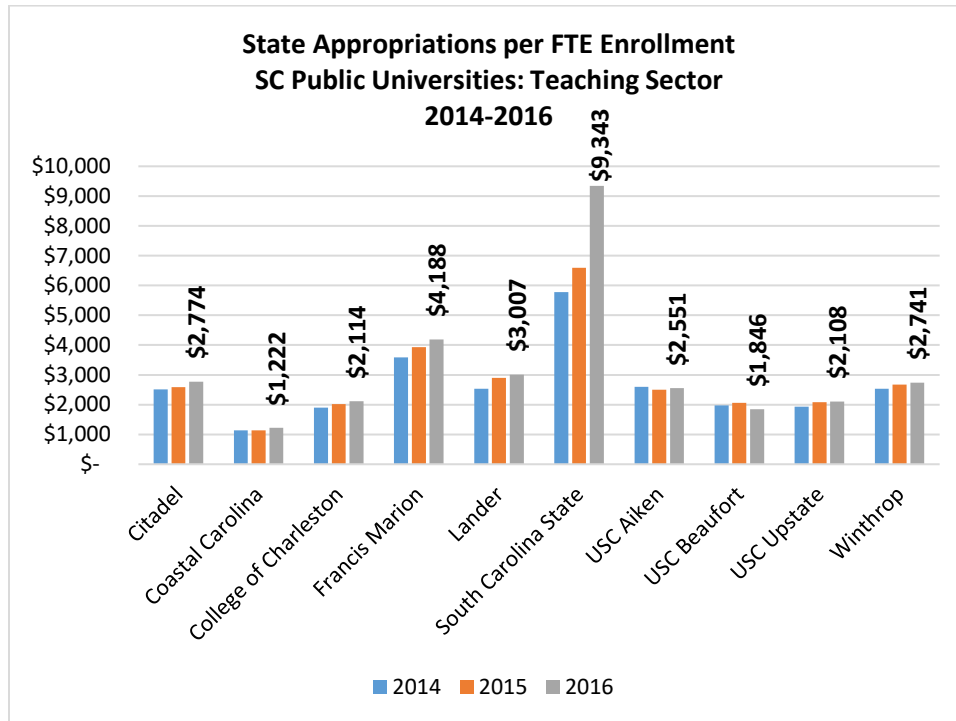
The table below shows the tuition and fees for in-state, full-time students during the 2015-2016 academic year at Greenwood County institutions of higher education³⁷.

Tuition and Fees for In-State Full-Time Students Greenwood County IHE 2015-2016 Academic Year	
	Average Tuition
Lander University	\$11,200
Piedmont Technical College	\$4,193

³⁶ CollegeBoard, Tuition and Fees and Room and Board Over Time, <https://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing/figures-tables/tuition-fees-room-and-board-over-time>

³⁷ IPEDS Data Center

A point of concern is the parity of state funding for institutions in South Carolina. The graph below shows the 2014 to 2016 state appropriations per full time enrolled (FTE) student among institutions in the same sector. In 2014, the average FTE appropriation for SC institutions was approximately \$2,650 and that amount rose to \$3,189 in 2016. South Carolina State University was the highest funded institution in 2016 (\$9,343/FTE student: \$6,154 more than average)³⁸.



*Dollar amounts on graph represent 2016 State FTE Appropriations

Cuts to state appropriations to the higher education system are making college less affordable and will potentially impact the quality of education. The per-student funding allocated by the State for 2017 has fallen by 25.8% since 2008³⁹. When considering rising tuition and fees costs and the decline in state per-student funding appropriations, financial aid is even more important when considering a student's persistence and success. This issue is further compounded by the fact that the median household income in Greenwood County has not kept pace with rising higher education costs.

Nationally, students from families that earn at or above \$90,000 annually have a 1 in 2 chance of graduating with a bachelor's degree by age 24, but that falls to a 1 in 17 if the family income is less than \$35,000⁴⁰. According to a 2016 Sallie Mae survey, 29% of families reported being frequently or consistently stressed about financial expenses related to education; which is more than those who indicated that they were frequently or consistently stressed about medical or housing expenses⁴¹.

³⁸ IPEDS Data Center

³⁹ Time.com, *A Growing Number of States are Spending Less on Public College Students*, accessed 6/28/2018

⁴⁰ The Washington Post, *Incomes Aren't the Only Thing Not Keeping Pace with Rising Tuition. Neither are Scholarships*, accessed 4.27.2017

⁴¹ Sallie Mae, *How America Pays for College 2016*,

http://news.salliemae.com/files/doc_library/file/HowAmericaPaysforCollege2016FNL.pdf

Crosscutting Indicators

Crosscutting indicators are indicators in more than one community indicators area. Typically, they are leading indicators in one area and secondary indicators in another area.

Earnings by Educational Attainment

Earnings increase and unemployment rates decrease as educational attainment rises. The charts below shows the median earnings and the unemployment rates of Greenwood County residents in 2016 by educational attainment⁴².

Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months by Educational Attainment, Greenwood County, Population 25+, 2016	
	Median Earnings
Less than High School	\$ 17,445
High School Only	\$ 22,006
Some College/Associate's	\$ 27,746
Bachelor's	\$ 38,105
Graduate	\$ 56,131

**In 2016 inflation adjusted dollars*

Unemployment Rate in Past 12 Months by Educational Attainment, Greenwood County, Population 25+ 2016	
Less than High School	33.1%
High School Only	20.9%
Some College/Associate's	16.9%
Bachelor's and Above	6.3%

Childbirth

Teen Birth Rate

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), although the teen birth rate has fallen in the past few years, the United States teen birth rate is substantially higher than that of any other western industrialized nation⁴³. There are also significant racial/ethnic disparities in teen birth rates. Hispanic teens have the highest risk of having an unplanned teenage pregnancy, with 1 in 5 girls having an infant before their 20th birthday. Black teenage girls are just behind them with an 18% risk, while white teenage girls have half the risk of their minority counterparts⁴⁴.

Factors such as socioeconomic conditions can contribute to higher teen pregnancy rates, and young women in foster care are two times as likely to become pregnant than those not in foster care⁴⁵.

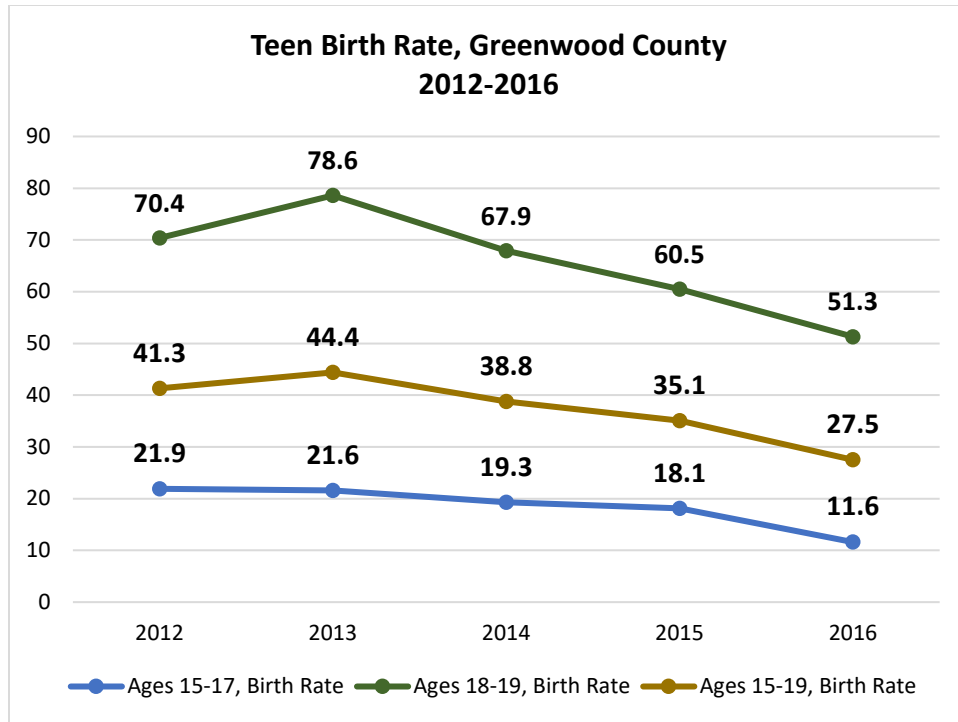
The five-year trend in Greenwood County shows a decrease in the teen birth rate across several measures. However, the overall teen birth rate for teens ages 15-19 has been consistently higher than the state rate, and in 2016, the rate was 27.5 (state rate: 23.8 in 2016).

⁴² United States Census Bureau, American FactFinder

⁴³ Center for Disease Control and Prevention, About Teen Pregnancy, <https://www.cdc.gov/teenpregnancy/about/index.htm>

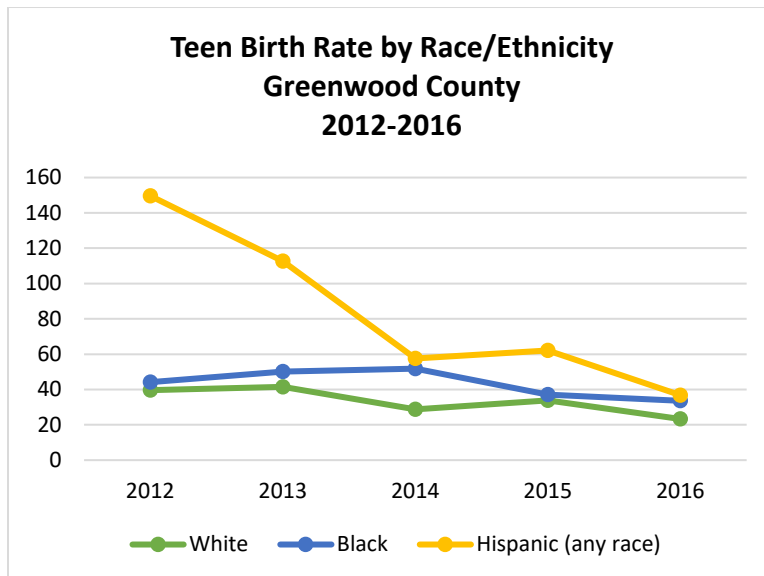
⁴⁴ Health Research Funding, 22 Important Unplanned Teenage Pregnancy Statistics, <http://healthresearchfunding.org/?s=teen+pregnancy>

⁴⁵ Center for Disease Control and Prevention, About Teen Pregnancy, <https://www.cdc.gov/teenpregnancy/about/index.htm>



* Rate per 1,000 population

Disparities by race and ethnicity exist in the county as well. Teenagers who are black have higher birth rates than their counterparts do⁴⁶. Caution should be used when interpreting the teen birth rates for Hispanic teens. Because this is a smaller population, significant variances are more prevalent and single year changes are often more prominent.



⁴⁶ South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

The percent of births to mothers under the age of 18 and the percent of teen girls ages 14-17 who became pregnant have both decreased in the county since 2012⁴⁷.

Percent of Births to Mothers Under Age 18 Greenwood County				
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
3.8%	3.9%	3.6%	3.4%	2.5%

Percent of Teen Girls Ages 14-17 Who Became Pregnant Greenwood County				
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
2.2%	2.2%	2.1%	1.8%	1.3%

Teen pregnancy has substantial implications for educational and socioeconomic outcomes for the teen mother. Parenthood is the leading reason that teen girls drop out of school. More than 50% of teen mothers never graduate from high school. Compared to their counterparts, approximately, 90% of women who do not give birth during their teenage years will graduate from high school⁴⁸. Additionally, less than 2% of teen moms earn a college degree by age 30⁴⁹.

Birth to Mothers with Less Than a High School Education

Births to mothers with less than a high school education is an indicator of the status of public health and education and is one of the strongest predictors of a child's probability to fail to graduate high school. In Greenwood County in 2016, 18.5% of the live births were to mothers who had not completed 12th grade at the time of delivery, and even though this percentage has fallen since 2012, each of the past 5 years Greenwood's percentage has been higher than the state percentage⁵⁰.

Births to Mothers with Less than High School Education Peer Counties & SC 2012-2016					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Greenwood County	22.8%	21.3%	20.9%	19.8%	18.5%
Darlington County	23.7%	20.1%	18.4%	20.3%	19.1%
Laurens County	25.3%	22.8%	23.5%	23.9%	21.7%
South Carolina	18.2%	16.6%	15.7%	15.0%	14.2%

⁴⁷ Annie E. Casey Kids Count Data Center

⁴⁸ Center for Disease Control and Prevention, About Teen Pregnancy, <https://www.cdc.gov/teenpregnancy/about/index.htm>

⁴⁹ DoSomething.org, 11 Facts about Teen Pregnancy, <https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-teen-pregnancy>

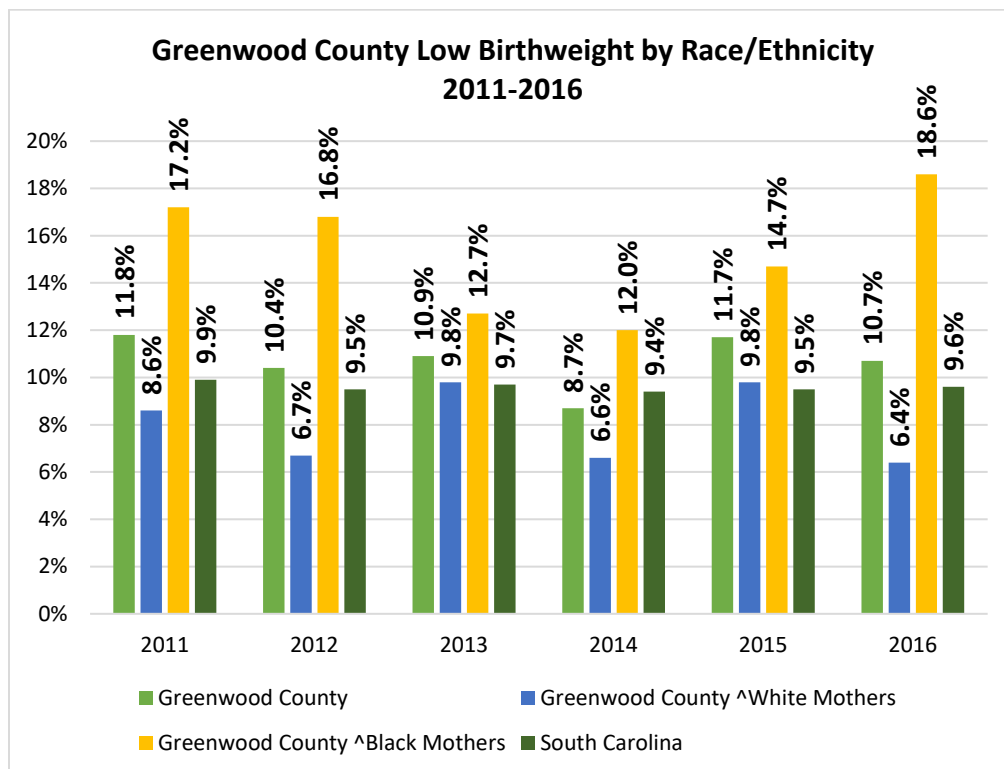
⁵⁰ Kids Count Data Center, Birth to Mothers with Less Than a High School Education, 2011-2015

Low Birthweight

Low birthweight is less than 5 lb. 8oz, and according to the March of Dimes, 1 in every 12 babies is born at a low birthweight⁵¹. Children born at a low birthweight incur many long-term disadvantages in cognitive and academic performance, have poor health outcomes, and often generate significant economic costs, including higher medical expenditures, special education/social services expenses, and decreased productivity in adulthood.

Compared to their peers, children born at a low birthweight score significantly lower on reading comprehension and math achievement tests. Additionally, low birthweight increases a child's probability of dropping out of high school by nearly one-third, reduces yearly earnings by approximately 15%, and increases the likelihood of health issues in adulthood⁵².

In 2016, 10.7% of babies were born with a low birth weight in the county and this rate has had little variance since 2011. When broken down by race, a higher percentage of babies born to black mothers have a low birth weight than their white counterparts⁵³.



⁵¹ March of Dimes, Low Birth Weight, <http://www.marchofdimes.org/complications/low-birthweight.aspx>

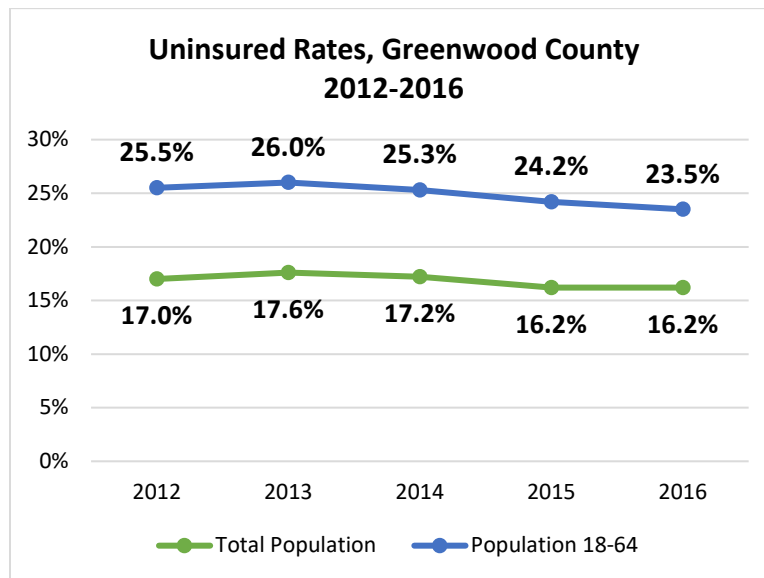
⁵² University of Michigan Institute for Social Research, Born to Lose: How Birth Weight Affects Adult Health and Success, <http://ns.umich.edu/new/releases/5882-born-to-lose-how-birth-weight-affects-adult-health-and-success>

⁵³ Annie E. Casey Kids County Data Center

Health Insurance Coverage Rates

Health insurance coverage rates in a community are strong indicators of not only the health status of the population, but also the economic and educational statuses. High quality, well-paying jobs usually include health insurance coverage and often require higher educational attainment. If a community has a lower collective educational attainment, a lower the number of high quality jobs may be available.

Over the past 5 years, the total population and the population ages 18-64 uninsured rates has fallen. From 2012-2016, approximately 1 in 4 between the ages of 18-64 were uninsured.



When the county is compared to the peers and the state, a higher percentage of those under the age of 18 were uninsured in 2016 at 8.5% and the uninsured rates by each educational attainment are higher than the comparison groups⁵⁴.

Percent Uninsured Peer Counties & SC 2016				
	Greenwood County	Darlington County	Laurens County	South Carolina
Age				
Under 18	8.5%	3.6%	7.1%	4.0%
18-64	23.5%	22.7%	18.9%	14.9%
65 years and older	0.6%	0.5%	0.1%	0.3%
Educational Attainment (population 25 years +)				
Less Than High School	30.2%	22.5%	20.7%	22.6%
High School Graduate or Equivalent	20.1%	19.5%	17.3%	14.3%
Some College or Associate Degree	18.2%	14.8%	10.9%	9.8%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	7.6%	7.1%	3.8%	3.9%
Work Status				
Worked Full-Time, year- round in the past 12 months	17.0%	11.7%	11.8%	10.5%
Worked Less Than Full Time, year-round in the past 12 months	29.7%	36.7%	27.6%	20.3%
Did Not Work	28.2%	27.3%	22.5%	18.9%

⁵⁴ United States Census Bureau, American FactFinder

Appendix

Definitions and Terms⁵⁵

Median: represents the middle value or the average of the two middle values. Divides the total distribution into two equal parts— $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cases fall below the median and $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cases exceed the median

Mean: represents an arithmetic average of a set of numbers. It is derived by dividing the total sum of the group by the total number of items in the group

Household: composed of one or more people who occupy a housing unit

Family Household: two or more individuals who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption, may include other unrelated people

Non-family Household: people who live alone or who share their residence with unrelated individuals

Family Income: the sum of the income of all family members 15 years and older living in the household

Unemployment Rate: represents the number of unemployed people as a percentage of the civilian labor force

Graduation Rate⁵⁶: IPEDS data that is reflective of full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking students who started and finished at the same institution. Does not represent all students at the institution (excludes part-time, transfer, and non-degree seeking). Calculated by dividing the number of students who completed their program within a specific percentage (100%, 150%, and 200%) of the normal time completion (2 year or 4 year) by the number of students entering the cohort (adjusted)

⁵⁵ United States Census Bureau, Glossary, <https://www.census.gov/glossary/>

⁵⁶ National Center for Education Statistics, <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2017/2017046.pdf>