

Clinton County THRIVE Partnership

December 2012 Baseline Report

Introduction:

Clinton County, New York's THRIVE partnership evolved from a community business summit held in March 2010, developed with continued discussion at a Workforce Development Roundtable in September 2010, and became a reality through designation by the Strive National Network in December, 2011. The THRIVE partnership exists to ensure that every citizen, regardless of age, has the opportunity to succeed, from cradle through career. The partnership seeks to develop successful students, productive citizens, and thriving communities in Clinton County.

In order to achieve the vision of a highly productive, educated, globally competitive workplace and citizenry that creates the basis for a thriving Clinton County community, the THRIVE Leadership Council established six goals. The partnership intends to measure improvement in these critical areas using key indicators from trusted, replicable information sources.

The indicators in this baseline report, however, do not represent comprehensive community assessment. Four separate THRIVE Action/Implementation teams will work to increase understanding of both the strengths and challenges facing Clinton County in pursuit of these goals. The teams will implement improvement in each area through the collaboration and coordination of all available community resources.

This report marks a starting point for the regional THRIVE effort. Using the selected, chosen indicators provided below, the partnership will track progress toward its goals. In some cases, important potential indicators are identified, but the data are not yet available to be included in this baseline report. These data will be added when available. This report provides a "jumping off" point to what we hope will be a productive and unifying community THRIVE effort.

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Goal 1:

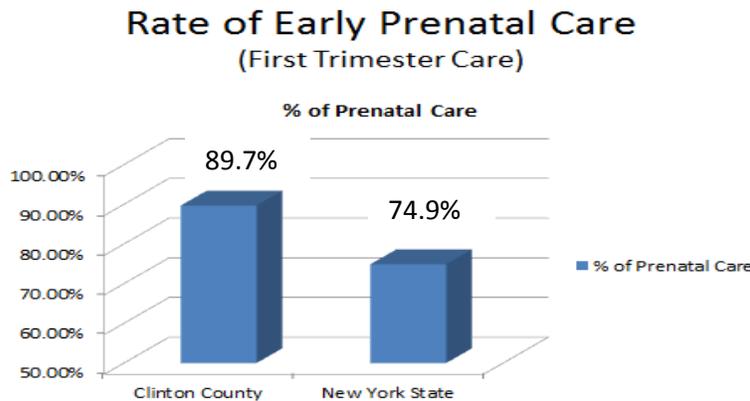
Every child is PREPARED for school

It is important that our children enter school ready to succeed. Enrollment in a quality preschool helps to prepare children for kindergarten, the beginning of formal education. In Clinton County, the data available suggest that **only about a third of the children aged 3-5 are enrolled in preschool¹**.

It is likely this is attributable to a number of factors including limited program resources, the cost of pre-school programs for families in economic hard times, and even difficulties in transporting children to preschool in a rural community. This is an area that seems to warrant concern and the pursuit of potential measures to increase pre-school attendance at qualified facilities.

The percentage of children rated as “kindergarten ready” when they enroll in kindergarten is a second measure for successful school preparation and will be tracked when those data are available.

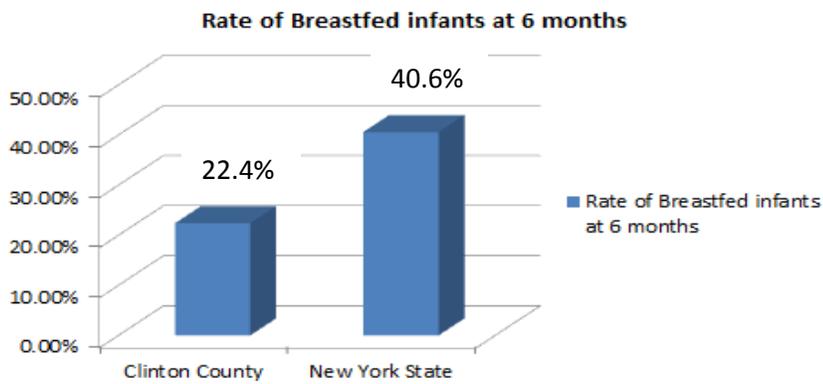
Healthy children are better prepared to learn². Supporting children’s health must begin at the very beginning of their lives and one measure of attention to early childhood health is the percentage of mothers receiving medical care in the first trimester of pregnancy. In Clinton County this percentage actually is greater than that of the rest of New York State. **The rate of early prenatal care in Clinton County is 89.7% compared to 74.9% in the state overall³**. This represents an apparent regional success in access to healthcare, but will continue to be tracked.



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Substantial research supports the concept that breastfed infants tend to be healthier children⁴. but here, Clinton County shows rates of breastfeeding that lag behind the state average. **Only 22.4% of women in the Clinton County WIC program breastfed their children at age 6 months, while the state averaged 40.6%.**

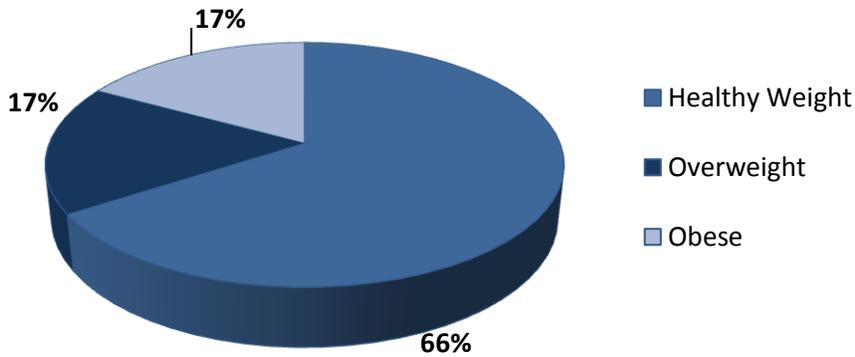
Rate of Breastfeeding at age 6 months



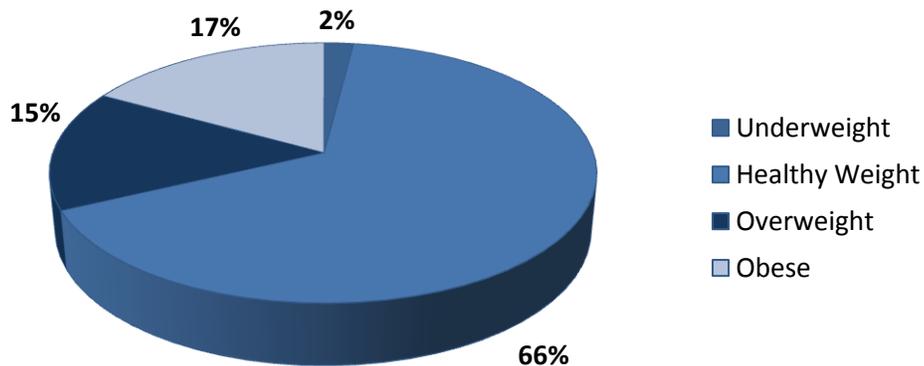
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The epidemic of child obesity in the United States, which has developed as a predominate concern to the medical community, is reflected in Clinton County statistics⁵. **More than one third (34%) of Clinton County children are considered overweight (BMI at or above the 85th percentile) and 17% meet the criterion of obesity (BMI at or above the 95th percentile).**⁶ Clinton County demonstrated a slightly higher proportion of overweight children that found across New York State during this period.

Clinton County Student Weight Status 2008-2010⁶



NYS Student Weight Status 2008-2010⁶

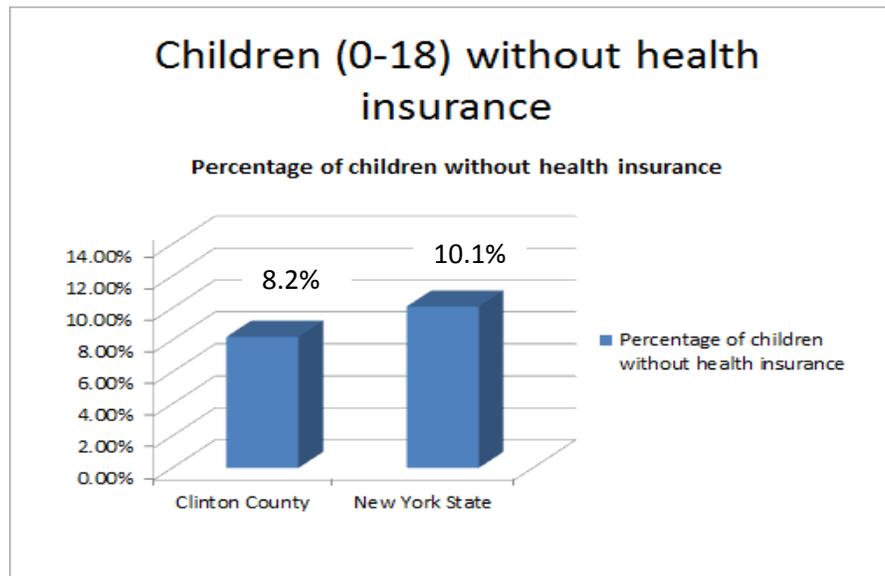


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Goal 2:

Every student is SUPPORTED inside and outside of school

Access to health care is essential for continued success in school. One highly indicative measure of access for children is their medical insurance coverage. **The percentage of children (0-18 years old) who do not have health insurance in Clinton County is 8.2%, lower than the overall rate in New York State (which is 10.1%)⁷.** While this is a statistic that can be improved, it appears Clinton County children have insurance coverage rates at least comparable to those across the state. Many children in the county receive mental health screening, another potentially important way of supporting academic success, but the percentage of children being screened is not yet available to the partnership.



Another indicator of support of the positive development of children in our community is the availability and use of quality after-school programs. Data so far available suggest that **nearly all (98%) of the available capacity of registered after-school program is being used⁸.** This indicates strong interest in taking advantage of the available after-school program resources, but suggests that there may be unmet needs as well.

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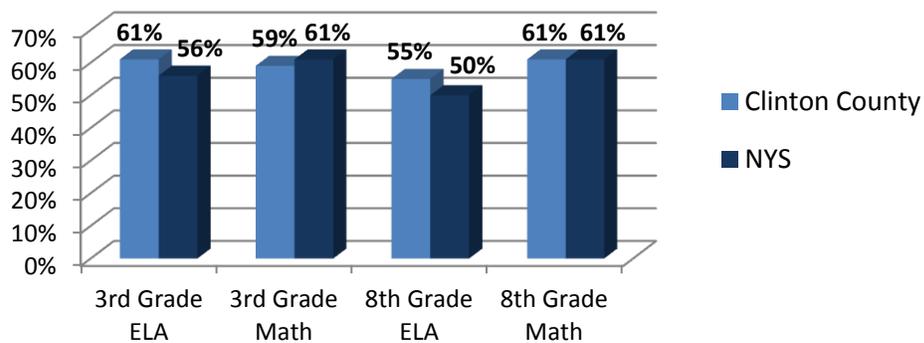
Goal 3:

Every student SUCCEEDS academically

The availability of full-day kindergarten is an important foundation to the public school systems of Clinton County and **all districts in the county (100%) offer full-day programs**. This is a metric that will continue to be tracked as districts face continued fiscal pressures.

Early academic success can be assessed through examination of the results of standardized examinations in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics given in third and eighth grade across New York State. **Clinton County student ratings are generally comparable to those of the state overall, but exhibit great room for improvement⁹.**

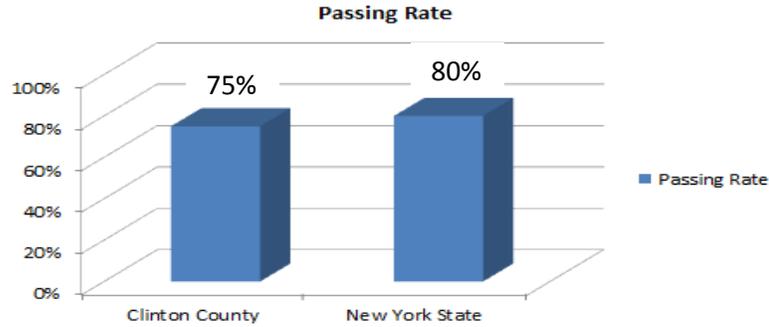
2012 Clinton County vs. NYS Student Standardized State Test Scores⁹



Similarly, proficiency in the critical areas of English and Mathematics at the high school level can be measured by reviewing NYS Regents examination scores. **Proficiency in English, as measured by a score of 65 or better on the English Regents Exam, was demonstrated by 75% of the Clinton County youth in 2011⁹.** The most recent (2007) statewide rate for passing the Comprehensive English Regents Examination is 80%.

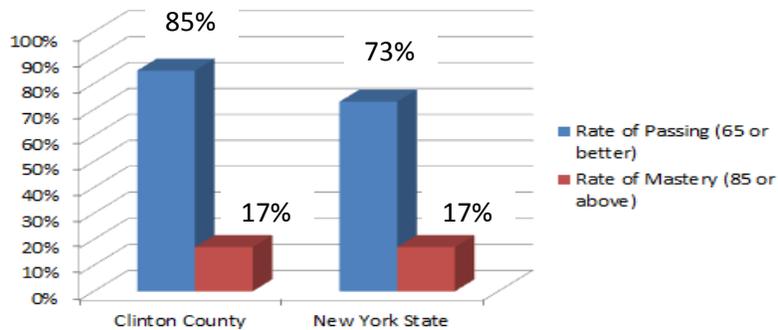
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English Regents Proficiency



Jobs in the 21st century require an increasing level of competence in Science and Mathematics. Therefore, THRIVE has attempted to look at participation and achievement in advanced courses in these fields. The most recent statistics from Clinton County public schools indicated that of the 1,055 students enrolled for Integrated Algebra in 2011, **85% of students scored 65 or above (considered proficient) and 17% scored 85 or above (considered mastery)**. New York State rates are slightly lower for proficiency (73%) and consistent for mastery (17%)⁹.

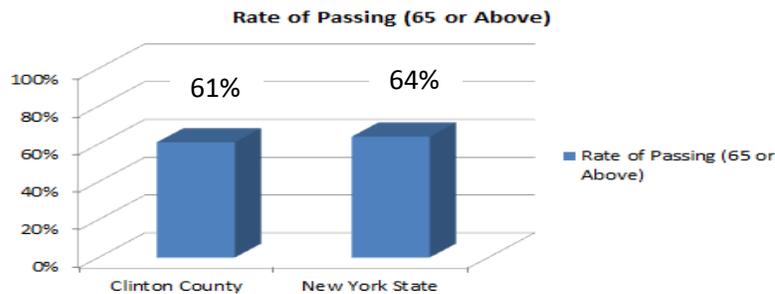
Algebra Proficiency (1,055 participating students)



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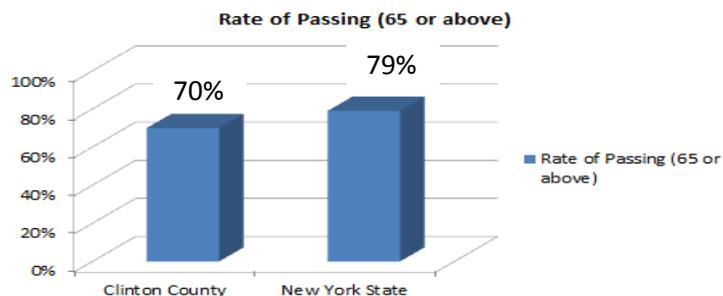
Students are generally not required to take more advanced courses in these fields, although competence would be expected for those planning careers in STEM fields. Just under-half (49%) the number of students (520) that were enrolled in Integrated Algebra were enrolled in Algebra II/Trigonometry-in 2011⁹. **Sixty-one percent scored 65 or above, which is near to the New York State rate overall (64%).**

Trigonometry/Algebra II Proficiency (49% lower participation than Algebra 520 students)



Physics is considered the most challenging of high school Science classes. **Only 188 students enrolled in Physical Settings/Physics in all of the seven public schools districts in Clinton County⁹. Seventy percent scored 65 or above, compared to 79% across the state.** The low enrollments and lack of proficiency are areas that suggest areas of needed improvement.

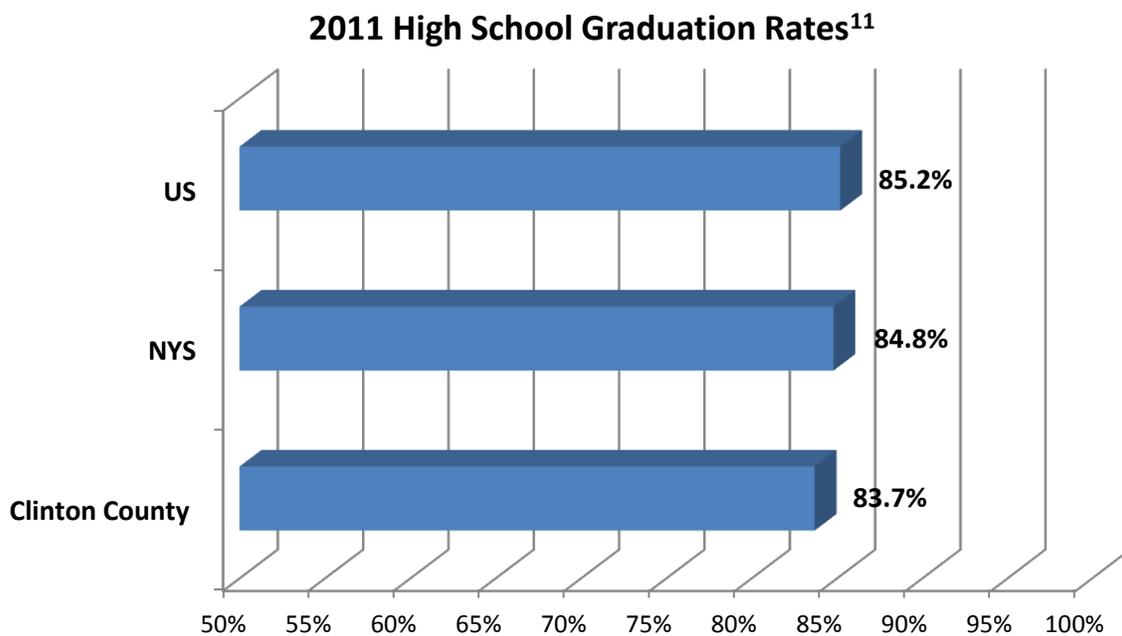
Physical Setting/Physics Proficiency (Only 188 students participated from 7 school districts)



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Another measurement of Clinton County students striving to maximize their educational opportunities is enrollment in Clinton Community College's College Advancement Program (CAP). **A total of 578 high school students in Clinton County were concurrently enrolled at Clinton Community College in the Fall of 2011¹⁰.**

The ultimate objective in P-12 education, and the single most important achievement at this level, is high school graduation. **The most recent high school graduation rate among all in Clinton County residents is 83.7%, which falls slightly below state (84.8%) and national (85.2%) averages¹¹.** Put another way, roughly 15% of our youth may be seeking employment without the most basic educational requirement, a high school diploma.



Goal 4:

Every student ENROLLS in some form of post-secondary education

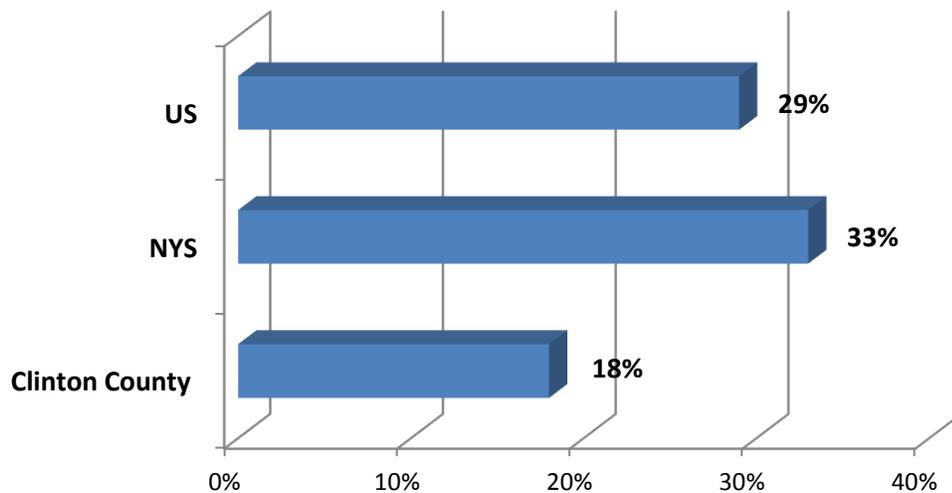
While high school graduation is considered essential, in today's knowledge-based economy career success is almost universally dependent upon post-secondary training of some kind. Current data systems do not allow an opportunity to summarize the percentage of Clinton high-school graduates that enroll in any postsecondary educational or training program, regardless of location. However, one indicator that we can follow over time is the number of

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Clinton County residents enrolled-at the two large postsecondary institutions located within the County. **In Fall 2011, 1,786 county residents enrolled at-Clinton Community College¹⁰ and 991 county residents enrolled at the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh¹²** CV-TEC also provides postsecondary educational training, with 125 students enrolled in these programs in 2011⁹. These totals include students of all ages, not just those who recently graduated from high school.

Another way of looking at Clinton County's educational attainment, one that is particularly important to prospective employers considering relocation or expansion here, is the percentage of the population with Bachelor's or higher degrees. **In Clinton County, the percentage of the citizenry with Bachelor's or higher degrees is 18%, compared to 32.6% in New York State and 28.7% in the United States.**

Proportion of Residents Ages 25 or Older with Bachelor or Higher Degree- 2011¹¹



These figures have declined within Clinton County within recent years. Clearly, this puts the county at a disadvantage in attracting companies requiring employees with four-year degrees and represents economic challenges to its residents, considering the additional income potential associated with higher levels of educational attainment.

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Goal 5:

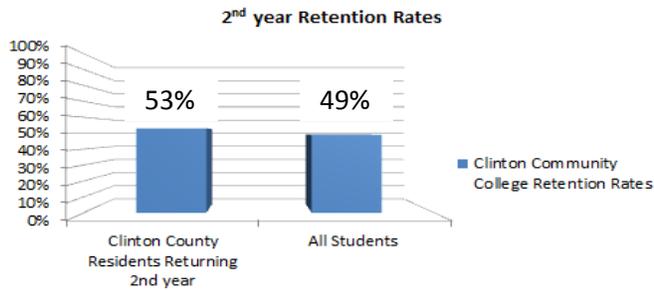
Every student GRADUATES and ENTERS a CAREER

Enrollment in post-secondary programs is important, but credentialing requires program completion. As with enrollment, summary data are not currently available on how well Clinton residents do in completing formal programs outside of the area. However, it is possible to track continuation of education or technical training following the completion of the first year in the county's postsecondary institutions Clinton Community College, SUNY College at Plattsburgh, and CV-TEC.

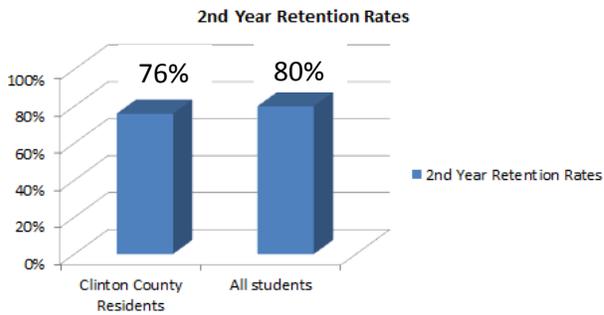
Just over half of Clinton County residents who enrolled full-time at Clinton Community College for the first time (53%) in Fall 2010 returned the following year. This is a higher rate of one year retention than that found among CCC students as a whole (49% of all students returned for a second year).¹⁰ **At SUNY Plattsburgh, 76% of new students from Clinton County entering in Fall 2010 returned for the second year, compared to 80% of all students¹².** A higher percentage of CV-TEC students (89%) returned for their second year of training.

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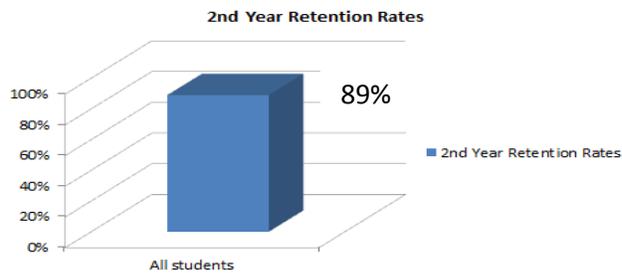
Clinton Community College



Plattsburgh State University

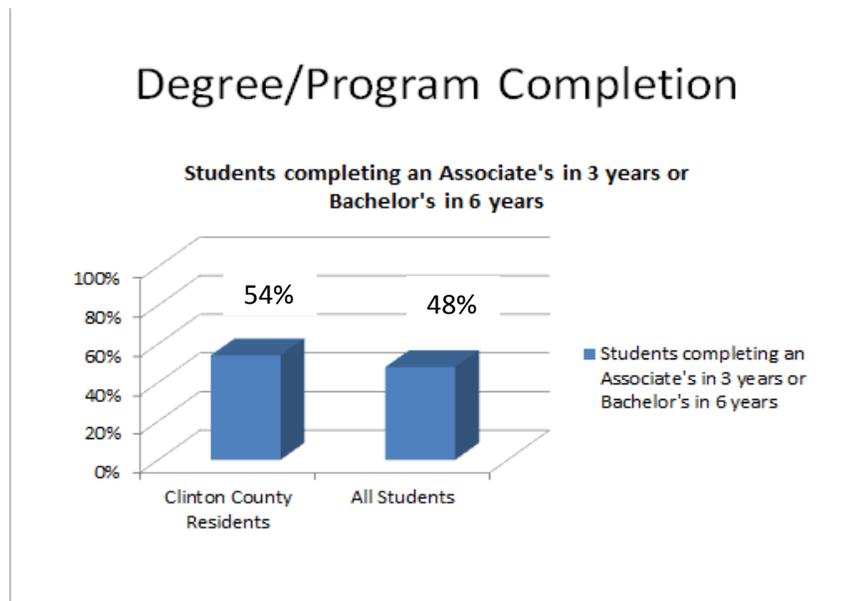


CV-Tec Training



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Graduation rates at the Clinton County institutions are a little more complex to analyze since many Clinton Community College students go on to SUNY Plattsburgh. A total of **54% of Clinton County residents beginning as first time, full time students at a higher education institution in Clinton County had graduated within three years from an Associate's program or six years from a Baccalaureate program, while 48% of all students graduated within these timeframes from these institutions^{10,12}.**



While the data are not really comparable to the post-secondary graduation rates for Clinton Community and Plattsburgh State, the home school graduation rate for CV-TEC students is 95%, higher than the average Clinton County high school graduation rate mentioned earlier, 83.7%.

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Goal 6:

Our Community is ACTIVELY ENGAGED in LIFELONG LEARNING

The reality of today's world is that training needs change over time as technology, markets, and business needs shift. Therefore, if Clinton County is to offer a globally competitive workplace and citizenry, it must provide opportunities for continuing education and retraining. Much of this type of training must occur during weekend and evening hours to permit students to continue work at their regular jobs.

Clinton Community College offered 60 night classes and 17 different weekend classes in Fall 2011. SUNY Plattsburgh offered 224 night classes and 4 weekend classes in Fall 201^{10,12}.

Enrollment in non-credit classes during the 2010-2011 academic year was 2,743 at Clinton Community and 5,132 at SUNY Plattsburgh. Enrollment in similar part-time class work at CV-TEC for the same period was 1,949^{9,10,12}.

Summary and Conclusions

In this benchmark report a number of areas of regional weaknesses in the cradle-through-career educational pipeline were identified. Several areas of apparent comparative strength were also identified. Four separate THRIVE Action/Implementation teams will work to increase our understanding of both the strengths and challenges facing Clinton County in pursuit of our goals and to implement improvements with the collaboration and coordination of all available resources. This work will enrich the data discovery process for the Thrive effort, providing greater detail in areas where it is currently missing.

As the process continues, the partnership expects to refine the existing information in order to understand and track Clinton County's progress as accurately as possible. The partnership is grateful for the support and assistance of many in the region who have the special knowledge, talent or strong interest in these efforts to improve educational outcomes. The partnership solicits the engagement of more community members to join the team in strengthening and improving these programs so that, with the combined talents and resources of all, Clinton County will THRIVE!

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Sources Cited

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Population Data: *US Census Bureau, American Community Survey One Year Estimates, 2011*
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6. NYS DOH "*Student Weight Status Category Reporting Survey Results- County Level Report 2008-2010*
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