

Preparing Students for their Unique Future

June 8, 2026

AUNIFIED VISION FOR INDIANA

The education vertical consists of:

- Indiana Department of Education
- State Board of Education
- Commission for Higher Education
- Charter School Board
- Education Employee Relations Board
- Indiana School for the Deaf
- Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Indiana State Library



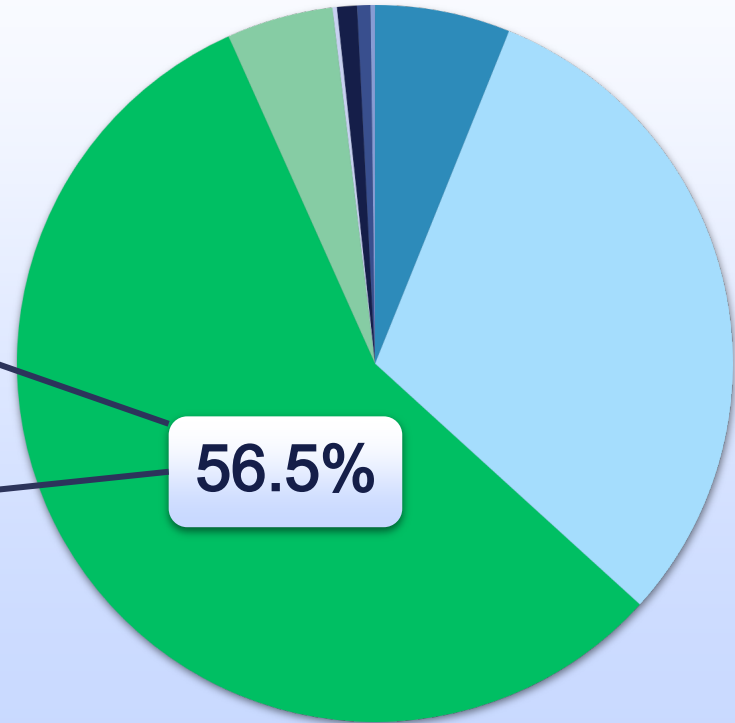
Goals

- Better serve Hoosier taxpayers & students
- Help drive efficiency
- Increase accountability & transparency
- Streamline communication

2025-2027 BIENNIAL Budget distribution

47.1%
(\$21 billion)
K-12 Education

9.4%
(\$4.4 billion)
Higher Education



Backwards Designing Our K-12 System

BEGINNING WITH THE END IN MIND

OUR SHARED GOAL: high school experience prepares every student for success, helping them maximize their educational attainment, regardless of their unique goals and aspirations for the future.



Enrollment



Employment



Enlistment & Service



FOCUSING ON MATTERS (SURVIVAL PROFILE OF A GRADUATE)

Hoosiers consistently agree that these **five characteristics** are most important to a student's lifelong success.

ACADEMIC MASTERY

CAREER & POSTSECONDARY READINESS:
CREDENTIALS & EXPERIENCES

COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION

WORK ETHIC

CIVIC, FINANCIAL & DIGITAL LITERACY

EVERY YEAR MATTERS STUDENT'S EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY

Indiana GPS helps drive the good work happening in our schools by measuring 18 indicators across:



PreK- Grade 2



Grades 3-8



Grades 9-12



Graduation & Beyond

FOUNDATIONAL KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS
LITERACY & STEM

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, & EXPERIENCE
WORKBASED LEARNING & CREDENTIALS

Better Connecting High School to the Future

WHY DO WE NEED TO THINK HIGH SCHOOL?



Fewer Indiana students are *enrolling* in higher education, and even fewer are *graduating*



Students are graduating without the skills needed to secure *career opportunities*



Students who dream of *enlisting* are finding out they are disqualified from what's



Student apathy is high, leading to high rates of *absenteeism* grades 12.

INDIAN ~~NEW~~ DIPLOMA + SEALS

The final rule maintains:




- One base diploma
 - Minimum, flexible requirements for all students
- Opportunities for students to earn **readiness seals**
 - Aligned with their unique path



Note: The federally required ~~alternate diploma~~ for students in special education with a significant cognitive disability is still available.



READINESS SEALS GUARANTEED FOR STUDENTS

 ENROLLMENT HONORS PLUS	 EMPLOYMENT HONORS PLUS	 ENLISTMENT & SERVICE HONORS PLUS
<p>Designed for students who plan to continue their education after high school</p> <p>Key Partners: Indiana colleges and universities</p> <p>Guaranteed Currency: All seven of our state's public colleges and universities are guaranteeing <i>automatic acceptance</i> into their school for any student who applies and has successfully earned this seal. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ball State University• Indiana State University• Indiana University• Ivy Tech Community College• Purdue University• University of Southern Indiana• Vincennes University <p>A growing number of satellite campuses, as well as private colleges and universities have also committed to providing this guarantee for students.</p>	<p>Designed for students who plan to go straight into a career</p> <p>Key Partners: Ascend Indiana Indiana Chamber of Commerce Business representatives across multiple industries</p> <p>Guaranteed Currency: Through the help of Ascend Indiana, students who earn this seal can receive <i>dedicated career support</i>. This includes helping students get connected through interviews with and potentially being hired by some of our state's top employers, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Health Network,• CFA Staffing,• Cummins,• Eli Lilly and Company,• Parkview Health and• Roche Diagnostics <p>Students who interview and have completed either the Employment Honors or Honors Plus Seal will also be eligible for direct entry into the Central Midwest Carpenters Union apprenticeship.</p> <p>State leaders are also actively working with Operating Engineers Local 150 to offer similar benefits in connection with their apprenticeship.</p>	<p>Designed for students who plan to serve their community, state, or Nation</p> <p>Key Partners: Indiana National Guard Representatives from each military branch Public safety officials</p> <p>Guaranteed Currency: Any student who completes this seal will be uniquely qualified to join the Indiana National Guard and other military branches.</p> <p>Once accepted to the Indiana National Guard, students can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Earn college credits</i> for completing training and reduce the time and cost required to complete a degree• <i>Gain direct access</i> to veteran mentors, and military career counselors who can provide college and career guidance• <i>Access priority job placement programs</i> designed for military professionals, offering job interviews for federal employment and private-sector roles where military experience is highly valued

Our continued high school focus

Continuing to **increase connections between schools and employers** and work-based learning and apprenticeships and ensure the skills learned align with credentials that hold real value in today's economy.

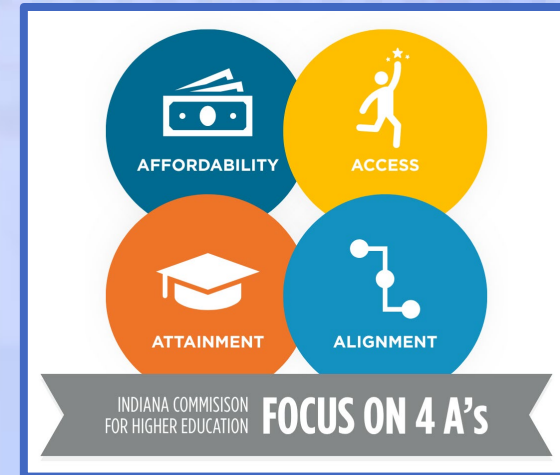
Ongoing partnerships supporting our shared work:

- Through **Indiana iLab** employers across the state continue to partner with educators to build Indiana's new career apprenticeship pathway, known as INCAP.
 - ◆ INCAP allows students to meet graduation requirements while gaining **meaningful real-world experience**

Aligning Higher Ed with Student & Industry Needs

Higher Education Key Areas of Focus

- Ensuring higher education is **affordable and accessible** for Hoosier students and families;
- Increasing **educational attainment** for all Hoosiers to help every student achieve their unique goals and maximize their potential; and
- Streamlining public higher education degree programs to **better align knowledge and skills with industry demand** as well as ensure students who graduate from our public institutions are prepared to contribute positively to our communities, state, and country.



MAKING HIGHER EDUCATION MORE AFFORDABLE

- Approximately **60,000 students** receive state financial aid annually
 - ~32% of undergraduate residents
- In June 2021, **15 Indiana public institutions** committed to a **tuition freeze** for *two consecutive years*.
 - **First time since at least 2010** that more than two campuses have simultaneously held tuition flat



INCREASING COMPLETION/Educational attainment



Moving the Needle

- Guaranteed Enrollment (Seals)
- Market-driven Credentials of Value (Indiana College Core)
- Stackability of Credentials Leading to Increased Completion Levels



ALIGNING KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS WITH DEMAND

HEA 100-2025 required a comprehensive review of degree programs based on **graduate thresholds**.

- 10 graduates for an associate degree
- 15 graduates for a bachelor's degree
- 7 graduates for a master's degree
- 3 graduates for an educational specialist degree or a doctorate

3,400+ degree & certificate programs
(Before HEA 100-2025)

Note: Approximately 1,000 are certificates.



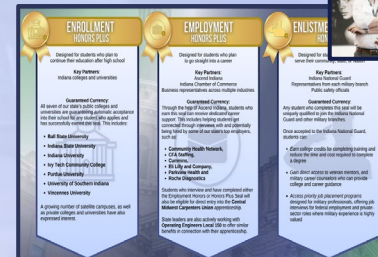
1,700+ degree programs
(After HEA 100-2025)

ALIGNING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS WITH DEMAND

- The remaining more than 1,700 degree programs serve approximately 96% of current students
- All students will have an opportunity to complete their current degree through a teach-out.
- **COMING SOON.** Senate Enrolled Act 199 (2026), we will review any public college degree program with median earnings below a high school graduate (\$35,051).

OUR SHARED WORK HAS GAINED A: HIGHER ED

- HS to E, E, E Readiness Seal Guarantees
- Backward-designed Curriculum
- Market-Driven Credentials of Value
- Stackable Credentials/Qualifications Framework
- Apprenticeship Model (Indiana CEMETS iLab)
- Business & Industry Talent Associations
- Transparent, Longitudinal Data Systems





Thank you!