

States with Higher Education Attainment Goals

(January 17, 2023)

The states listed in the table below have articulated a statewide higher education attainment goal, which has been set by their governor, legislature, or college or university systems. Statewide attainment goals seek to increase the educational levels of the adult population and are aligned to address the workforce needs of the state. An effective statewide goal is challenging, quantifiable, addresses achievement gaps for underrepresented populations, includes a target date, is codified in a manner to influence postsecondary education policy and practice, and has broad stakeholder support. States are encouraged to include all of these key elements in their goals.

State	Higher Education Attainment Goal Statement	Goal Setting Organization [Year Adopted]	Link to Goal
Alabama	60% of the state's working age population holding some type of certificate, credential or degree of value by 2025	Executive Order [2017] Updated through Success Plus [2018]	https://alabamaworks.com/successplu/s/
Alaska	Increase percent of Alaskans with postsecondary education leading to a degree or certificate from 37% to 65% by 2025	Alaska Board of Regents [2016] (Supporting the Alaska Postsecondary Access and Completion Network)	https://65by2025.org/about-alaskacan/
Arizona	60% of adults ages 25-64 with a professional certificate or college degree by 2030	Achieve60AZ [2016]	http://achieve60az.com
Arkansas	55% of adult Arkansans will possess a college credential by 2030* *As determined by the 2030 census plus state estimates for certificates	Arkansas Department of Higher Education [2015/updated 2020]	https://adhe.edu/about/master-plan
California	70 % postsecondary degree and certificate attainment among working-aged Californians by 2030	Governor [2022]	https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Higher-Education-Fact-Sheet.pdf

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Colorado	Increase the number of Coloradans aged 25-34 who hold high-quality postsecondary credentials (degrees or certificates) to 66% by 2025 as well as reduce attainment gaps among students from underserved communities.	Colorado Commission on Higher Education/Department of Higher Education [2013/updated 2017]	http://masterplan.highered.colorado.gov/the-colorado-goal-66-percent-statewide-attainment/
Connecticut	Increase the education levels of the adult populations by 2025 to not less than 40% having earned a bachelor's degree and 30% having earned an associate degree	Connecticut General Assembly [2015]	https://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/act/pa/pdf/2015PA-00075-R00HB-07007-PA.pdf
Florida	Increase the percentage of working-age Floridians with a high-value postsecondary certificate, degree, or training experience to 60% by 2030	Florida Legislature [2019]	http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=1000-1099/1004/Sections/1004.013.html
Georgia	60% of young adults will hold a college certificate or degree by 2025	Georgia Board of Regents and State Board of Technical College System [2011]	https://completega.org/goals
Hawai'i	55% of Hawai'i's working age population will have a college degree by 2025, increasing degree attainment at University of Hawai'i by 6-9% every year	University of Hawai'i (oversight of 2 & 4 year institutions) [2008]	https://55by25.org/about/
Idaho	By the year 2025, 60% of the state's citizens between the ages of 25-34 shall have a postsecondary education (certificates and degrees)	Idaho State Board of Education [Updated 2017]	https://boardofed.idaho.gov/education-initiatives/higher-education-task-force/
Illinois	60% of 25-64 year-olds will have a college degree by 2025	Illinois Board of Higher Education [2012]	https://www.ibhe.org/pdf/60x2025goal2017.pdf

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Indiana	Increase higher education attainment of adults to 60% of Indiana's population by 2025	Indiana Commission for Higher Education [2012]	https://www.in.gov/che/data-and-research/reports-and-analyses/
Iowa	70% of Iowa's workforce will have education or training beyond high school by the year 2025	Governor [2016]	https://www.futurereadyiowa.gov/sites/ri/files/basic_page_files/Future%20Ready%20Iowa%20Metrics%20that%20Matter_0.pdf
Kentucky	Raise the percentage of Kentuckians with a high-quality postsecondary degree or certificate from its current level of 45% to 60% by 2030	Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education [updated, 2016]	http://cpe.ky.gov/ourwork/60x30.html
Louisiana	60% of the working age population with a postsecondary credential by 2030	Louisiana Board of Regents [2018]	https://masterplan.laregents.edu/the-master-plan/
Maine	60% of working-age adults will hold a high-value credential by 2025	Maine Workforce and Education Coalition [2016]	http://mainespark.me/
Maryland	At least 55% of residents 25-64 years old hold an associate's or bachelor's degree by 2025	Maryland General Assembly [2013]	https://mhec.maryland.gov/publications/Documents/Research/AnnualReports/2021BestPractices.pdf
Massachusetts	Sixty percent of working-age Massachusetts residents ages 25–64 will hold an associate degree or higher and an additional 10% of the population will hold a high-quality credential by 2030	Massachusetts Department of Higher Education [2020]	https://www.mass.edu/strategic/equity.asp
Michigan	Increase the number of Michigan residents between the ages of 16 and 64 with a post-secondary credential to 60 percent by 2030	Executive Order [2019]	https://www.sixtyby30.org
Minnesota	Increase to at least 70 percent by 2025 the number of Minnesota residents ages 25 to 44 years who hold postsecondary degrees or certificates	Minnesota State Legislature [2015]	https://www.revisor.mn.gov (Minn. Laws 2015 Chapter 69 Article 3 Sec. 6)

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Mississippi	Increase the number of working-age adults (25-64) with credentials of value, whether college degrees or other credentials, certificates or on-the-job-training ending with a credential of value to 55% by 2030 and 60% by 2035.	Education Achievement Committee [2020]	http://www.mississippi.edu/eac/downloads/eac_attainment_goal_resolution_adopted_10-22-2020[52].pdf
Missouri	60% of 25-64 year-olds hold a 2- or 4-year degree or career or technical certificate by 2025	Governor / Missouri Department of Higher Education [2013]	https://dhewd.mo.gov/documents/Blueprint.4.27.16.pdf
Montana	61% of those 25-64 year old hold a postsecondary credential by 2025	Future Ready Cabinet [2019]	https://mus.edu/board/meetings/2019/May2019/183-104-R0519_A1.pdf
Nebraska	70% of Nebraskans ages 25 to 34 to hold postsecondary credentials by 2030	Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Higher Education [2022]	https://ccpe.nebraska.gov/news/commision-adopts-70-educational-attainment-goal ; https://ccpe.nebraska.gov/sites/ccpe.nebraska.gov/files/CompPlan.pdf
New Hampshire	65% of the state's 25 to 64 year-old population holds a high-quality postsecondary credential or degree by the year 2025	New Hampshire Coalition for Business and Education [2015]	https://nebhe.org/policy-research/state-data/new-hampshire-state-data/
New Jersey	65% of the state's population complete education beyond high school by the year 2025	Joint Policy Resolution of the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development, and Governor's Higher Education Council [2017]	https://www.nj.gov/njsetc/policy/resolutions/documents/2017-01%20Statewide%20Credential%20Attainment%20Goal.pdf

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New Mexico	66% of the state workforce population will have a postsecondary degree, certificate or training beyond high school by the year 2030	Governor [2016] ¹	https://hed.nm.gov/uploads/documents/EO_2016-037_Route_to_66.pdf
North Carolina	2 million 25- to 44-year-olds (66%) with a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree by 2030	Resolutions through the University of North Carolina and North Carolina Community College Systems [2019] endorsing goal recommendation of myFutureNC	https://www.myfuturenc.org/the-goal/
North Dakota	65% of North Dakota's workforce aged 25-64 will have education or training beyond high school by 2025, including postsecondary degrees, certificates and other high-quality credentials	State Board of Higher Education [2016]	https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED607797.pdf
Ohio	65% of Ohioans between 25 and 64 years old will hold a degree, certificate or other postsecondary workforce credential of value in the workplace by 2025	Ohio Board of Regents' Resolution [2016]	https://highered.ohio.gov/initiatives/success-completion/degree-and-credential-attainment/degree-and-credential-attainment
Oklahoma	70% of Oklahoma residents 25-64 years old having education training beyond high school by 2025	Governor Mary Fallin, Executive Order 2016-41 [2016]	https://oklahomaworks.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/2017-Oklahoma-Educational-Attainment-Study-Print-and-Release.pdf
Oregon	40% of all adult Oregonians with a baccalaureate degree or higher, 40% with a certificate or an associate's degree, and 20%	Oregon State Legislature - SB 253 established the 40-40-20	https://www.oregon.gov/highered/policy-collaboration/Pages/state-goals.aspx

¹ The subsequent Interdepartmental Resolution on Postsecondary Attainment between the New Mexico Higher Education Department, the Public Education Department and the Department of Workforce Solutions clarified that the goal pertained to the attainment of credentials.

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	<p>with a high school diploma by 2025</p> <p>Oregon anticipates more than 120,000 additional jobs requiring post-secondary training or education between now and 2030. In order to meet this need, 300,000 additional adult Oregonians should earn a new degree, certificate or credential valued in the workforce during that time. Because Oregon has substantial attainment gaps among minority, low income and rural Oregonians, the state will also commit to reducing those attainment gaps by half during the decade.</p>	<p>Goal in law, Chapter 638 [2011]</p> <p>Higher Education Coordinating Commission/ Oregon Workforce Talent and Development Board [2018]</p>	
Pennsylvania	60 percent of the population ages 25-64 hold a postsecondary degree or industry recognized credential by 2025, with a particular focus on closing attainment gaps for historically underrepresented populations.	State Board of Education's Council of Higher Education [2018]	https://data.pa.gov/stories/s/Post-Secondary-Education/smj2-s46s/
Rhode Island	70% of Rhode Islanders will have an associates or bachelor's degree by 2025	Rhode Island Board of Education [2018]	http://ritalentdashboard.org/higher-education/
South Carolina	60% of the adults in South Carolina will obtain a workforce-relevant credential – that is, a degree or certificate – by 2025	SC General Assembly / SC Commission on Higher Education (for 4 year institutions) [2017]	https://che.sc.gov/sites/che/files/Documents/General%20Public/2021_02_05_CHE_Public_Agenda_Implementation_Plan_Final.pdf
South Dakota	65% of South Dakotans aged 25-34 will have a credential or degree beyond high school by 2025	Executive Proclamation by Governor Daugaard [2016]	https://www.sdbor.edu/mediapubs/New%20Press%20Releases/080416Goal.pdf#search=attainment%20goal

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Tennessee	55% of Tennesseans earning a college degree or certificate by 2025	Governor and Tennessee General Assembly – Complete College TN Act [2010]	https://driveto55.org
Texas	By 2030, at least 60% of Texans ages 25-34 will have a certificate or degree	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board [2015]	http://www.60x30tx.com
Vermont	By the year 2025, 70% of VT's working-age adults will possess a postsecondary degree or credential of value, particularly gaining credentials aligned to Vermont's workforce needs	Advance Vermont Cross-Sector Resolution [2016]	https://advancevermont.org
Virginia	Virginia will be the top state in educational attainment and reach the 60.5%/10% benchmarks of working adults having a degree/certificate by 2030	State Council for Higher Education in Virginia [2015]	https://www.schev.edu/research-publications/strategic-plan
Washington	At least 70% of Washington adults aged 25-44 will have a postsecondary credential by 2023	Washington Student Achievement Council [2013]	https://wsac.wa.gov/the-roadmap
West Virginia	60% of West Virginians between the ages of 25 and 64 hold a degree, certificate, or other postsecondary workforce credential of value in the workplace by 2030	West Virginia Legislature [2020]	https://www.wvhepc.edu/news-release-west-virginias-education-leaders-call-for-doubling-the-number-of-certificates-or-degrees-for-state-residents/
Wisconsin	60% of adult population aged 25-64 will hold a high-quality credential by 2027	Joint Council: presidents of UW, WAICU, WTCS [2016]	https://www.60forward.org

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Wyoming	60-67% by 2025 and 75-82% by 2040 of Wyoming's working population 25-64 years possess a valuable post-secondary credential (degree or certificate)	Wyoming Educational Attainment Executive Council [2020]	https://communitycolleges.wy.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Revised-WY-Attainment-Plan-FINAL-Draft-May-2020.pdf