

NOVEMBER COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

November 13, 2025



INDIANA COMMISSION *for*
HIGHER EDUCATION

EDUCATION VERTICAL OVERVIEW





GOALS

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

EDUCATION VERTICAL: LEARNER-CENTERED, FUTURE-FOCUSED

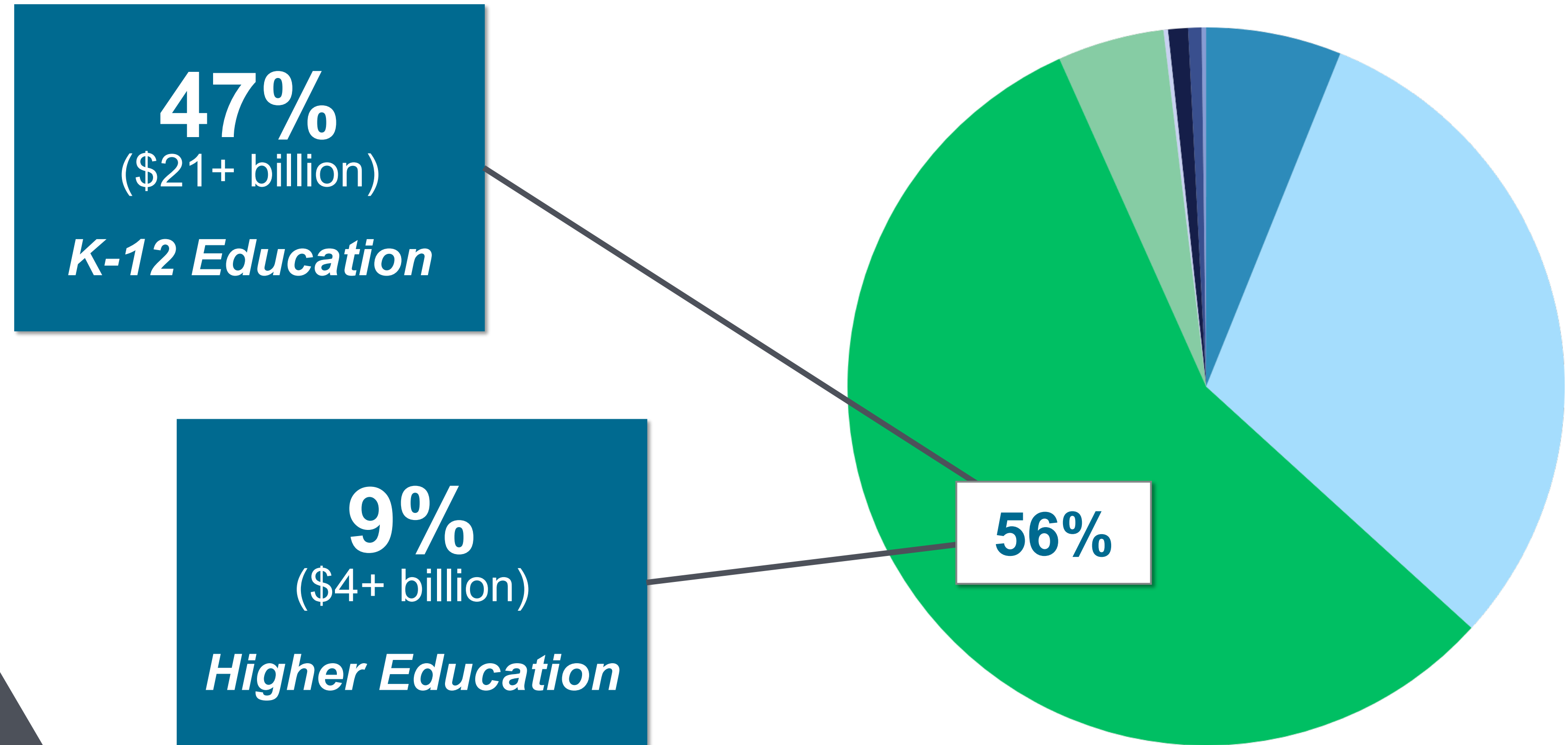
The education vertical consists of:

- ▶ 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



INDIANA COMMISSION for
HIGHER EDUCATION

2025-2027 BIENNIAL BUDGET DISTRIBUTION OVERVIEW



COMMISSION STRUCTURE & RESPONSIBILITIES



INDIANA COMMISSION for
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COMMISSION STRUCTURE

- ▶ Per statute, the Commission is a 14-member board appointed by the Governor and serves as the coordinating higher education agency for the state of Indiana.
- ▶ Per statute, the Commission operates as an independent agency and collaborates with the Indiana Department of Education and other state agencies.

OUR ROLE AS A COMMISSION

- ▶ The general purposes of the Commission are the following:

1. Degree/Program Review and Approval

2. Financial Oversight and Review

NOTE: *Specific statutory responsibilities* are outlined on slides 8-9.

- ▶ This does not include statutorily required responsibilities executed by the agency's staff.

COMMISSION STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

DEGREE/PROGRAM REVIEW AND APPROVAL



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Vote to approve or disapprove the ***offering of any proposed or existing degree or program.***

- ▶ Includes associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degrees; and programs leading to a certificate or other indication of accomplishment. (IC 21-18-9-5)
- ▶ **New degrees/programs** - Must be voted on **within 90 days** of the public institution providing the Commission with all necessary information. (IC 21-18-9-5)
- ▶ **Existing degrees/programs** - Includes reviewing and voting on the **continuation of under-threshold degree programs.** (IC 21-18-9-10.7)
 - ▶ Each degree and program must be reviewed and voted on at least **once every 10 years.**
 - ▶ For degrees or programs approved before July 1, 2025, review must occur no later than July 1, 2035. (IC 21-18-9-5.5)

COMMISSION STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT/REVIEW



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- ▶ **Capital** - Review and vote on capital projects, including recommendations regarding **appropriations and bonding authorizations** for public institutions. (IC 21-18-9-1); *this is a recommendation; State Budget Committee has the final authority.*
- ▶ **Budget** - Review the **legislative request budgets** of all public institutions prior to each budget session (IC 21-18-9-1); *the Commission makes recommendations to the State Budget Committee and the Governor.*
- ▶ **Tuition and fees** - Make **tuition and other mandatory fee recommendations** for public institutions within 30 days of the enactment of a state budget. (IC 21-14-2-12.5); *if an institution goes beyond this recommendation, they must go before the State Budget Committee.*
- ▶ **Campuses and locations** - Vote to approve or disapprove the establishment of any new college or school, as well as any new branches, regional or other campuses, or extension centers. (IC 21-18-9-5)

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Each *public institution's board of trustees* maintains all powers and authority over the following related to their institution, unless otherwise outlined in state law:

- ▶ **Management**
- ▶ **Operation**
- ▶ **Financing**

HIGHER EDUCATION LEVEL-SET



KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

1. Ensuring higher education is more **affordable and accessible** to Hoosier students and families;
2. Increasing **educational attainment** for all Hoosiers to help every student achieve their unique goals and maximize their potential; and
3. 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.



1.AFFORDABILITY

DATA LEVEL-SET

- ▶ Approximately **60,000 students** receive *state financial aid* annually, which is approximately **32% of Indiana undergraduate residents**.
- ▶ In June 2025, **all 15 Indiana public institutions** committed to a **tuition freeze** for *two consecutive academic years* for the first time since 2010.

Key tactics working to move the needle in this area:

- ▶ 21st Century Scholars Program
- ▶ FAFSA
- ▶ State Student Financial Aid
- ▶ Tuition and Fee Setting

Next Step: Establish SMART goals; understand and transparently share ROI.



76%

of Hoosier high school graduates say they intend to go on to some form of higher learning...

52%

actually do...and of these students...

26%

who enroll in a 2-year college or university graduate on-time.

53%

who enroll in a 4-year college or university graduate on-time.

2. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

ENROLLMENT & COMPLETION ADDITIONAL DATA LEVEL-SET

- ▶ An *increasing number of students* are graduating high school with **college credit** and/or a **tangible credential** – currency for the student!
- ▶ Indiana ranks **#1 nationwide** in terms of students completing at least **one college course** in high school.
- ▶ Approximately **62-64%** of Indiana high school graduates earn **some form of college credit**; the average student leaves with **14.2 credits**.

Key tactics working to move the needle in this area:

- ▶ Guaranteed Enrollment (Honors Plus Seal, etc.)
- ▶ Credentials of Value (Indiana College Core, CTE Credential)
- ▶ Stackability of Credentials Leading to Increased Completion Levels

Next Step: Establish SMART goals; understand and transparently share ROI.

3. INDUSTRY ALIGNMENT

CURRENT & FUTURE NEEDS

DATA LEVEL-SET

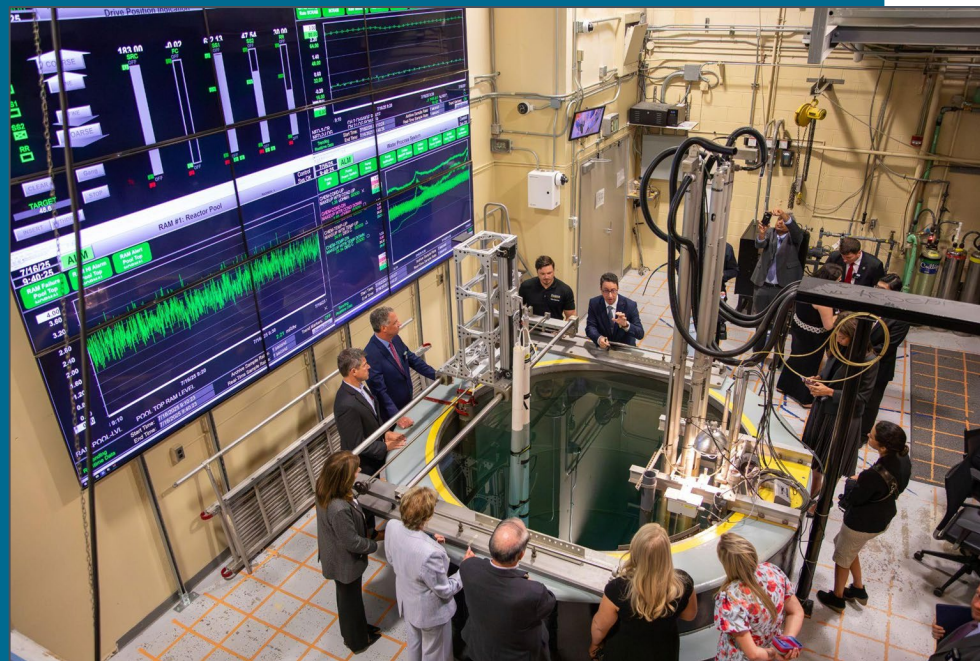
- ▶ Indiana is currently the **only state** to include graduate retention in its outcome-based performance funding formula.
 - ▶ **73% of Indiana resident students** across public institutions were **working or enrolled** within Indiana one-year post-graduation, compared to **58% of all students** (FY 2023).
- ▶ Before HEA 1001-2025, Indiana colleges and universities had over **3,400 degree and certificate programs**.

Key tactics working to move the needle in this area:

- ▶ Talent Association Development and Convening
- ▶ Qualifications Framework (Stackable Credentials)
- ▶ Degree Program Approval and Review
- ▶ Growth of Apprenticeships

*Note: Additional tactics may be developed to increase the **graduate retention rate** (both resident and non-resident) and to adapt to the **ongoing impact of AI**.*

Next Step: Establish SMART goals; understand and transparently share ROI.



OUR WORK AHEAD



NEXT STEPS

- Step 1** - Ensure **SMART goals** are aligned with each area of focus
- Step 2** - Understand **return on investment (ROI)** for current tactics
- Step 3** - Transparently **share SMART goals and ROI data**
- Step 4** - ***Double-down on what is working*** and re-invest where we are not seeing progress
- Step 5** - Evaluate additional **data-driven tactics** needed to achieve SMART goals



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