



JANUARY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

January 15, 2026



INDIANA COMMISSION for
HIGHER EDUCATION



IN REMEMBRANCE:

Rex Kendall

Chief of Staff, Indiana State University

- ▶ Dedicated more than ***two decades*** of service to Indiana State University
- ▶ Named Chief of Staff in 2022
- ▶ Previously: Executive Director of the Indiana State University Alumni Association in 2012
- ▶ Received both ***bachelor's and master's degrees*** from Indiana State University



TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

YVONNE HEFLIN

Student Support Specialist

- ▶ Retired on January 2, after **48 years of service** to the state of Indiana.
- ▶ Helped students and families navigate issues related to financial aid.
- ▶ Began career at the **State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana (SSACI)** in 1978.
- ▶ SSACI merged with the Commission in 2012.



INDIANA UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL

15-0

- ▶ Defeated Oregon **(56-22)** at the Peach Bowl
- ▶ ***First-ever*** Peach Bowl win in program history
- ▶ First team ever with ***multiple 28+ point victories*** in the College Football Playoffs
- ▶ **One Game to Go:** IU Football advances to the National Championship against Miami
- ▶ **First time in program history**
- ▶ Monday, January 19, at 7:30 p.m. ET

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.

AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY



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2026-2027 FAFSA FORM IS OPEN!

The 2026-2027
FAFSA opened on
September 24, 2025.
This is the *earliest*
FAFSA form release
in history!



FAFSA

- ▶ In 2024, Hoosier students received over **\$575 million in federal Pell Grants and nearly \$400 million in state financial aid** due to filing the FAFSA.
- ▶ Indiana reached the **60% FAFSA completion goal** for high school seniors in the class of 2025.
- ▶ As of January 13, 2026:
 - ▶ 31.8% of high school seniors and
 - ▶ 38.3% of 21st Century Scholars have filed the FAFSA ahead of the April 15, 2026 deadline.
- ▶ **CHE FAFSA Completion Dashboard:**
<https://www.in.gov/che/reports-and-analyses/fafsa-completion-dashboard/>

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



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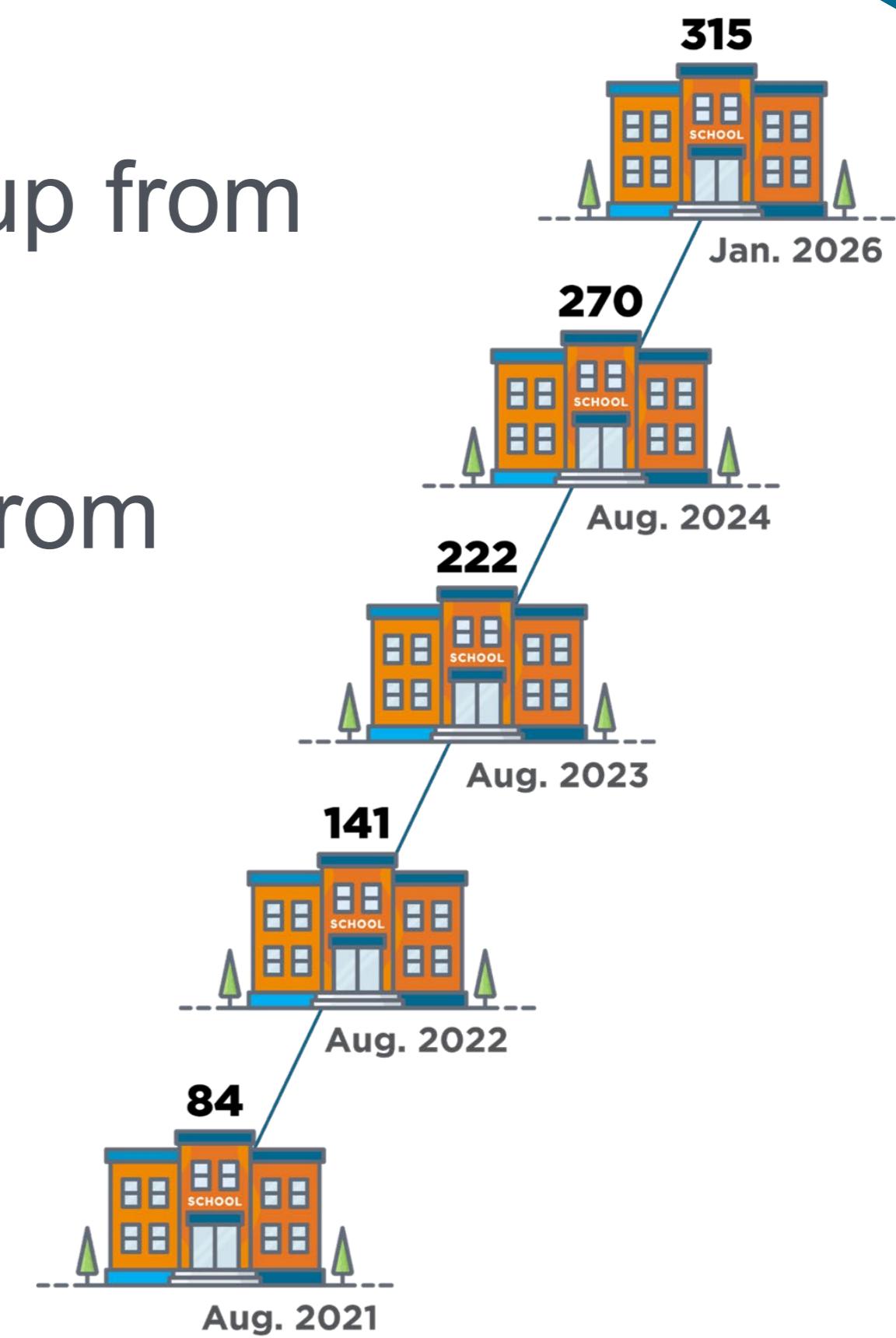
INDIANA COLLEGE CORE



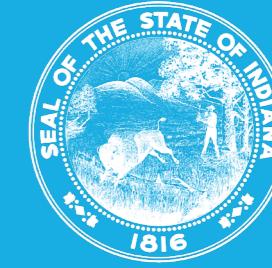
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- ▶ Students can complete a **full year** of college credits through the Indiana College Core (ICC) for **little to no cost**.
- ▶ The ICC is now offered by **315 Indiana high schools**, up from 84 in 2021 (275% increase).
- ▶ **2,625 students** in the 2023 cohort earned the ICC, up from 1,801 in the 2020 cohort (46% increase).

Cohort	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Students Earning the ICC	69	384	748	1,125	1,638	1,801	2,093	2,371	2,625



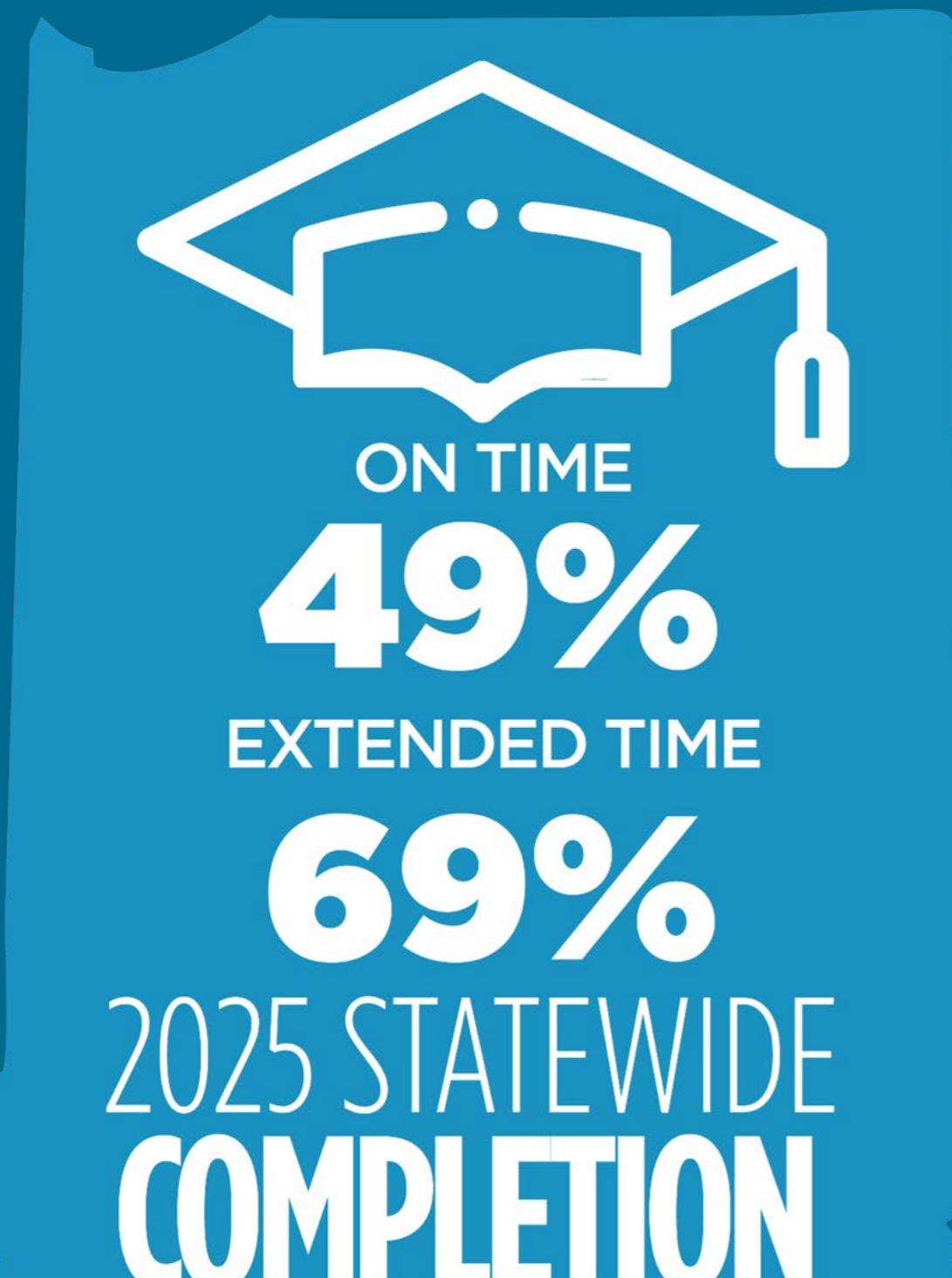
COLLEGIATE PURPLE STAR



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- ▶ Recognizes eligible postsecondary institutions that have successfully demonstrated a **supportive environment for its U.S. military-affiliated students** from application to graduation
- ▶ **28 institutions** recognized in 2025
- ▶ Partnership between the **Indiana Commission for Higher Education** and **Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs**
- ▶ **Notice of interest** form due **January 30, 2026**
- ▶ **Application** due **February 27, 2026**





COLLEGE COMPLETION

- ▶ Statewide, *on-time completion* increased by **one percentage point** from 2024.
- ▶ Statewide, *extended-time completion* also increased by **one percentage point** from 2024.
- ▶ **CHE College Completion Data:**
<https://www.in.gov/che/college-completion-reports/>

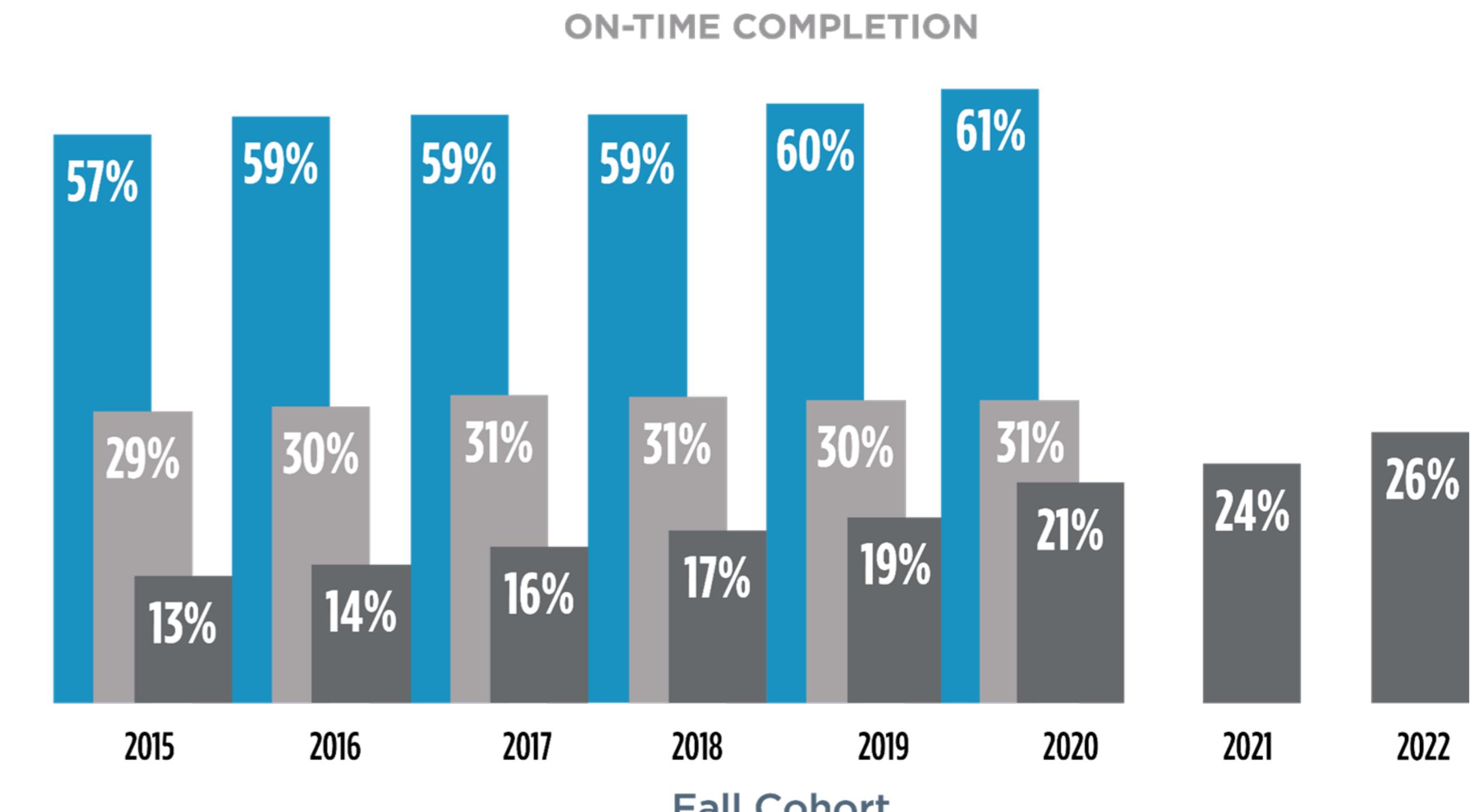
- On-time completion:
Graduating **within 4 years** at
four-year campuses, and
within 2 years at two-year
campuses

- Statewide, on-time completion
rates have increased by **7
percentage points** over the
past 5 years
 - **17 percentage points** over the
past 10 years

DISAGGREGATED ON-TIME COMPLETION

ON-TIME COMPLETION

Same system and degree level



► Extended-time completion:
Graduating **within 6 years**,
regardless of attending a two-
or four-year institution

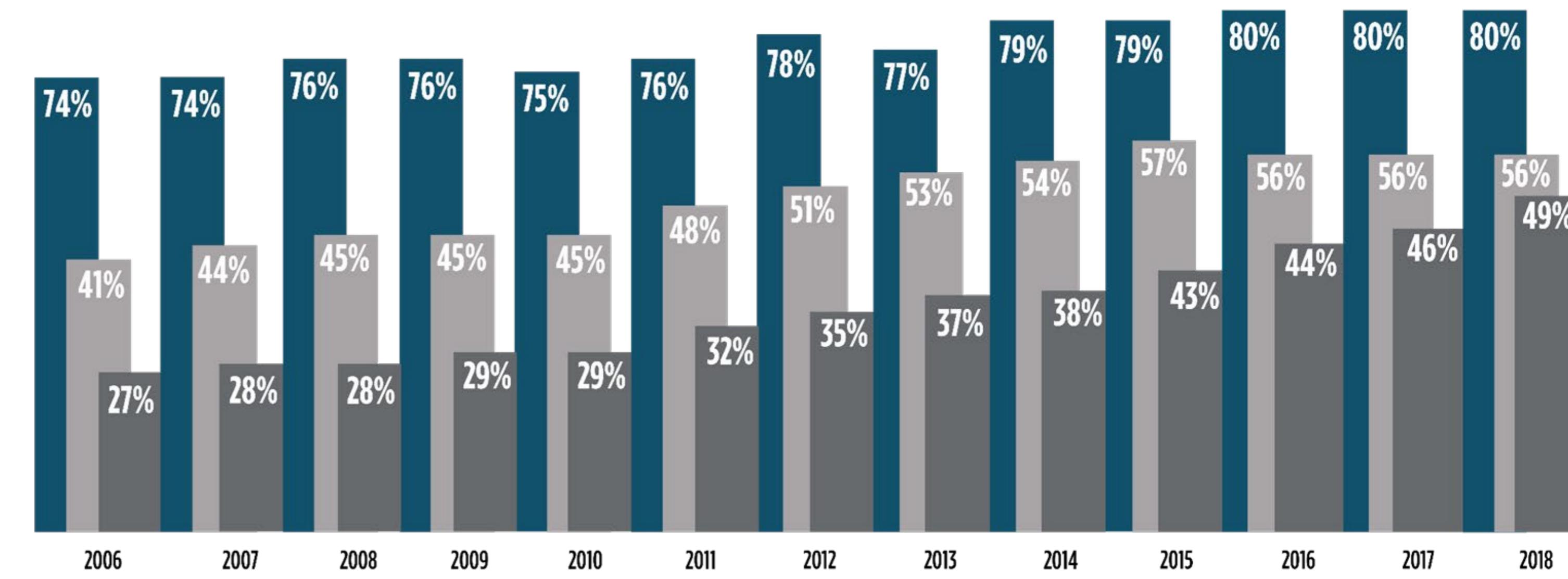
► **4 out of 5 students** at four-
year main campuses graduate
in 6 years

► At four-year non-main
campuses, extended-time
completion improved:
► 3 percentage points in 5 years
► 11 percentage points in 10
years

DISAGGREGATED EXTENDED- TIME COMPLETION

EXTENDED-TIME COMPLETION

Same system and degree level
EXTENDED-TIME COMPLETION

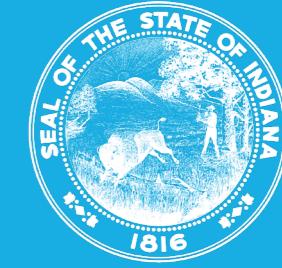


Note:

INDUSTRY ALIGNMENT



AI/MACHINE LEARNING CTE PATHWAY



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- ▶ **New CTE pathway** launching in the 2026-2027 school year
- ▶ Includes two new courses
 - ▶ AI and Data Fundamentals
 - ▶ AI/Machine Learning Capstone
- ▶ Creates a **stackable progression** for students from high school coursework to college credentials



CLOSING COMMENTS





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