

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 Scholarshave filed the FAFSA ahead of the April 15, 2026 deadline.
- ▶ **CHE FAFSA Completion Dashboard:**
<https://www.in.gov/cche/reports-and-analyses/fafsa-completion-dashboard/>

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



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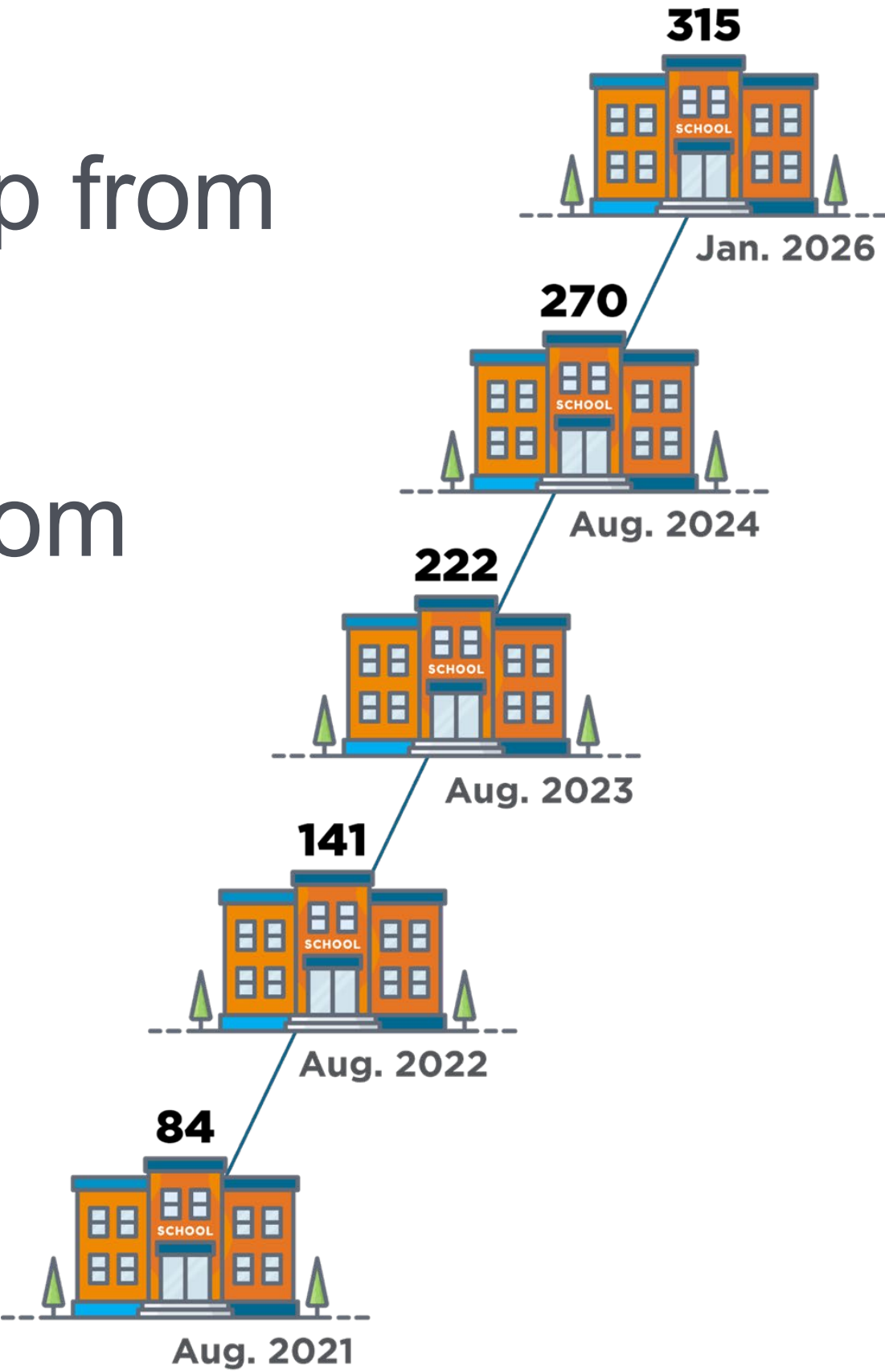
INDIANA COLLEGE CORE



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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



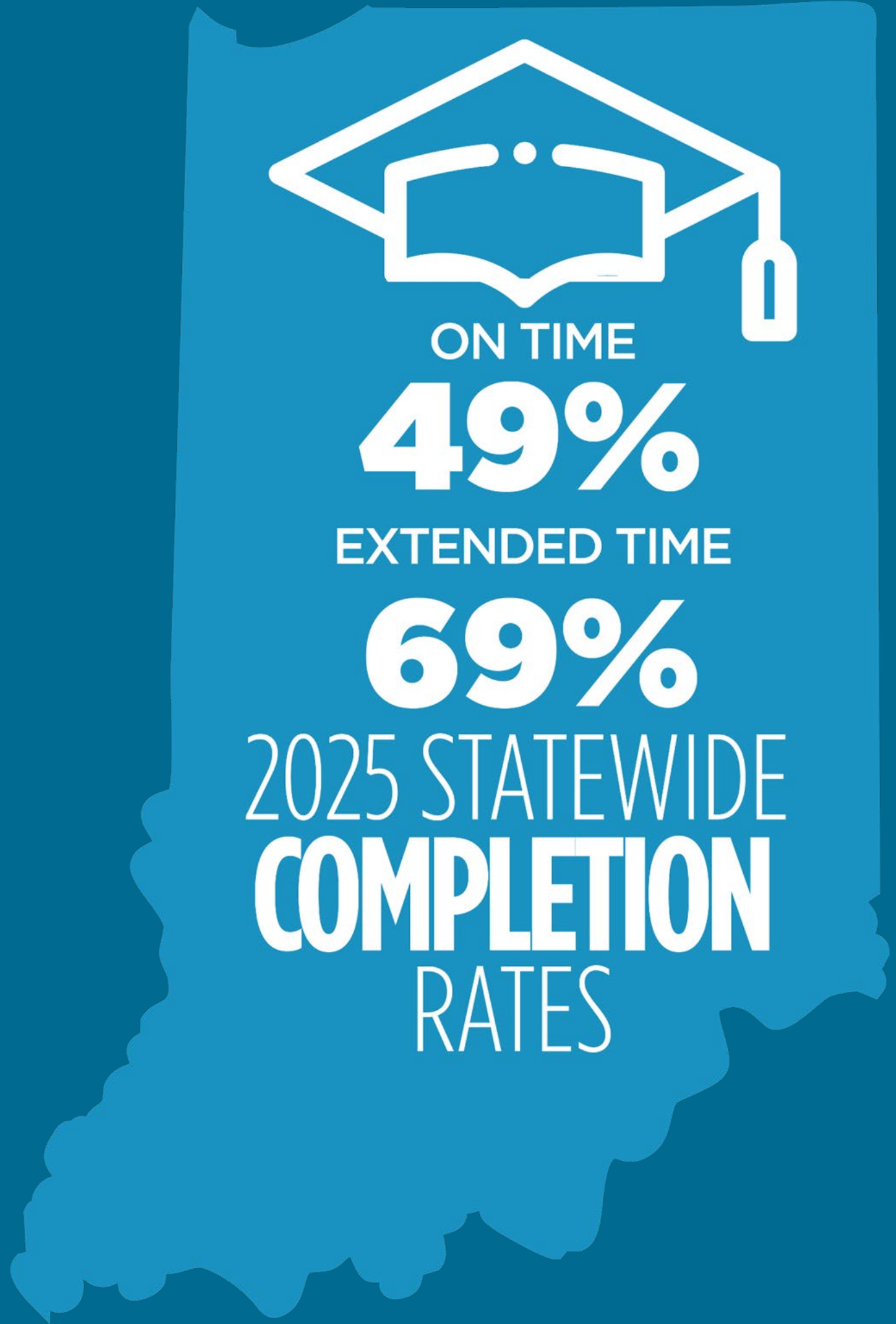
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- ▶ Recognizes eligible postsecondary institutions that have successfully demonstrated a **supportive environment for its U.S. military-affiliated students** from application to graduation
- ▶ **28 institutions** recognized in 2025
- ▶ Partnership 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/>



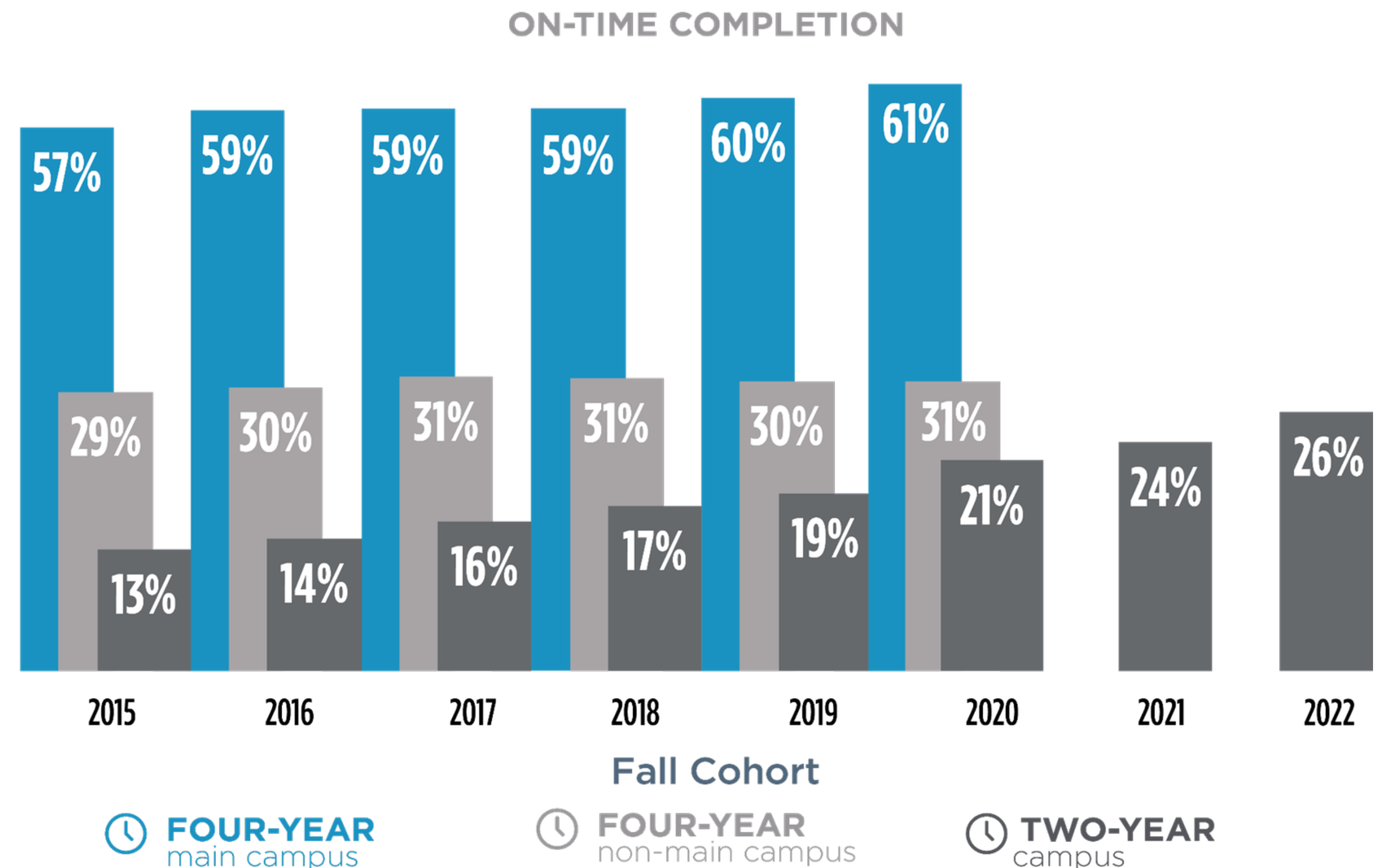
ON TIME
49%
EXTENDED TIME
69%
2025 STATEWIDE
COMPLETION
RATES

- ▶ 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

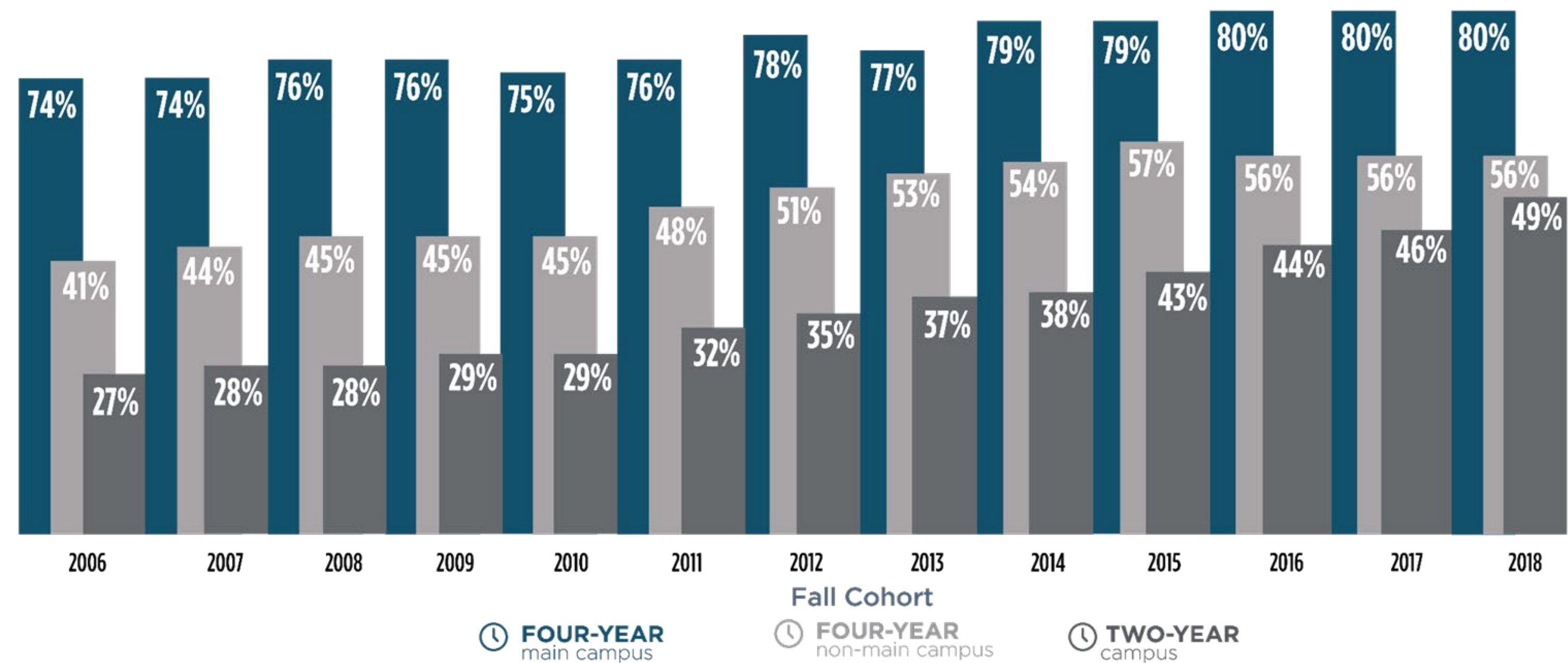


- ▶ Extended-time completion:
Graduating **within 6 years**,
regardless of attending a two-
or four-year institution
- ▶ **4 out of 5 students** at four-
year main campuses graduate
in 6 years
- ▶ At four-year non-main
campuses, extended-time
completion improved:
 - ▶ 3 percentage points in 5 years
 - ▶ 11 percentage points in 10
years

DISAGGREGATED EXTENDED- TIME COMPLETION

EXTENDED-TIME COMPLETION

Same system and degree level
EXTENDED-TIME COMPLETION



Note:

INDUSTRY ALIGNMENT



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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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