

REACHING HIGHER

Strategic Initiatives for Higher Education in Indiana

State-Level Dashboard of Key Indicators

2010 Update

About the Dashboard

In 2008, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, with strong collaboration from the state's public institutions of higher education, developed and published the "State-Level Dashboard of Key Indicators." These indicators provided policymakers and the public with a broad view of the performance of Indiana's system of higher education, relative to past performance and to other states, where appropriate. This effort meets the need identified in *Reaching Higher: Strategic Initiatives for Higher Education in Indiana* for a method of reporting the goals for Indiana's system of higher education. These goals serve as "guideposts" for the tracking of system-level performance, and for the further development of additional data that can be used to better understand and analyze issues.

Results

Based on performance in the most recent year for which data is available, Indiana's system of higher education is making progress in a variety of areas, gaining in nearly all areas measured in the Dashboard:

- ⇒ Completion
- ⇒ Community College
- ⇒ Preparation
- ⇒ Affordability
- ⇒ Major Research Universities

How to Use this Report

Two types of goals are utilized in the Dashboard: those that call for year-over-year performance gains, and those that call for improved performance and rankings against high-performing states.

- Year-over-year goals are monitored using single arrows:
 - ⇒ Up—Indicates significant performance improvement
 - ⇒ Down—Indicates significant decreased performance
 - ⇒ Left/Right Arrow—Indicates no significant change
- Performance goals relative to other states are monitored using arrows in two categories:
 - ⇒ Progress—Measures the improvement in state rankings
 - ⇒ Performance—Measures performance over the base year

Using this methodology, we can clearly see where improvements are being made by Indiana's system of higher education.

Completion

Indiana's public institutions of higher education made significant progress relative to other states in college completion rates, improving in four of five categories. More importantly, college completion rates for all sectors and populations increased significantly over the base year.

Community College

Ivy Tech Community College and Vincennes University increased the number of degrees and certificates earned by 6.1% over the base year. Meanwhile, five 4-year campuses exceeded the goal of increasing students transferred by 50%.

Preparation

Nearly all of the 4-year institutions measured reduced the level of remediation provided to recent high school graduates. Indiana University-East not only met the Dashboard goal, but has eliminated remediation entirely.

Affordability

Indiana has significantly increased its performance in two key affordability areas. 21st Century Scholars are experiencing greater success at several key points in the educa-

tion pipeline, particularly high school graduation—that rate skyrocketed to 92% from 79%. Low-income students are also participating in college at a higher rate, both in actual numbers and relative to other states.

Major Research Universities

Despite stronger competition and reductions in federal R&D dollars, Indiana's Major Research Universities maintained their ranking among Midwestern states.

Quality and accountability must be central of all of the state's aspirations and strategic directions. In striving for greater outcomes-based results, Indiana cannot sacrifice the quality of its educational product. This will require deliberate attention to developing and implementing various transparent and widely reported mechanisms and measure that not only advance the system as a whole, but also support and build on the strengths of individual institutions.

~*Reaching Higher: Strategic Directions for Indiana, 2007*