

Align, Engage, Advance: A Strategic Plan to Transform Indiana's Workforce

Objective 5: Adopt a data-driven, sector-based approach that directly aligns education and training with the needs of Indiana's regional economies

Increasing employment opportunities for Hoosiers will require diving deeply into how the State and partners can best support growth in key economic sectors. But a "one-size fits all" approach will not work. Indiana must invest time and resources in strategies that fit individual industry sector needs, particularly the high-growth sectors of the economy. Industry sectors at the regional level, however, are nuanced and oftentimes require different strategies from one to another. Therefore, regionally-based sector partnerships will provide a mechanism for deploying sector strategies throughout Indiana. Further, due in part to the limited public resources available for education, training, and career development, it is

important the State ensure that the resources it makes available are directly tied to those industry sectors that are key drivers of the state's existing and emerging economy.

Sector strategies are partnerships of employers within one industry that bring government, education, training, economic development, labor, and community organizations together to focus on the workforce needs of an industry within a regional labor market. At the state level, they are policies and investments that support the development of local sector partnerships.

-National Governors Association

Strategy 5.1

Directly link public investments for education, training, and career development to the priority industry sectors within Indiana's economy

Strategy 5.2

Launch/Expand regional sector partnerships that complement the State's priority industry sectors to provide a mechanism for Indiana's education, job skills training, and career development system to collect information and respond to sector needs

"Sector strategies are among the few workforce interventions that statistical evidence shows to improve employment opportunities for work and to increase their wages once on the job."

-National Governor's Association

Indicators of Success:

Fully-functional sector partnership entities in every region throughout the State by 2016

Number of employers that participate in sector partnership entities

Increased number of Hoosiers that obtain post-secondary credentials (occupational certifications, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, etc.) in priority-sector fields of study

Percentage of individuals that obtain post-secondary credentials and enter into careers within priority sectors