

Executive Summary

Launched in 2013, the Illinois Education and Career Success Network supports communities across the state to increase meaningful and equitable postsecondary attainment. In Illinois, 70 percent (4,168,000) of jobs will require postsecondary training beyond high school in 2031.¹ Currently, 57.1% of Illinois adults have a high-quality postsecondary college or career credential—a significant increase from 43% in 2013, when the Network was established.² The Success Network (formerly the Illinois 60 by 25 Network) is organized by Advance Illinois, Education Systems Center at Northern Illinois University, and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. Learn more at ILSuccessNetwork.org.

Leadership Community Designation

Communities with systems in place to drive meaningful and equitable postsecondary attainment are eligible for recognition as Success Network Leadership Communities. They engage in peer-to-peer learning and must meet the following criteria:



Identify a trusted intermediary organization to help build a common agenda with a shared measurement system, harmonize mutually reinforcing activities, measure progress, and foster communication among partners

Develop a plan to implement key strategies for increasing meaningful and equitable postsecondary attainment. Strategies may include:

- Aligning student transitions through postsecondary education and into careers
- Implementing locally prioritized college and career pathway systems
- Supporting implementation of real life learning
- Proactively considering equity in the design and implementation of strategies

Document a partnership involving employers, workforce boards, education, municipal leadership, and community-based organizations

CURRENT LEADERSHIP COMMUNITIES

- Aurora Regional Pathways to Prosperity
- · Black Hawk Region Pathways
- Boone County
- Chicago Public Schools
- East St Louis School District 189
- Enlace Chicago
- Evanston
- Greater Peoria Pathways
- Lake County
- Making Opportunities Real for Everyone (MORE) in the Mississippi and Rock River Region

- McLean County
- NCI/Starved Rock Region
- Northwest Educational Council for Student Success (NECSS)
- OAI/Rich Township District 227
- Rockford
- Sangamon County Continuum of Learning
- Southern Illinois Region
- Vandalia ONE
- Vermilion County

¹ State Report - After Everything: Projections of Jobs, Education, and Training Requirements through 2031 (2023). Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.

² Stronger Nation: Illinois (2024). Lumina Foundation.

Supports for Leadership Communities

Communities with systems in place to drive meaningful and equitable postsecondary attainment are eligible for recognition as Success Network Leadership Communities. They engage in peer-to-peer learning and must meet the following criteria:

- Manage a peer-to-peer learning and action network through:
 - Holding an annual convening to bring together communities, technical experts, and state/ national leaders
 - Promoting the work of the Network and documenting and sharing best practices in partnership with internal and external members
 - Connecting local community efforts to state policy to advance our postsecondary goal
- Provide technical assistance on collective impact and other strategies to support communities to increase meaningful and equitable postsecondary attainment and civic engagement.

- Provide a data dashboard featuring curated, critical data that communities can use to:
 - Visualize regional trend data on education and compare them with State averages
 - Group together data from multiple districts for comparison
 - Download data
- 4. Serve as a conduit for financial support to communities for strategies to increase meaningful and equitable postsecondary attainment.

SUCCESS NETWORK DASHBOARDS FEATURES

- Current views include postsecondary enrollment and community college remediation
- Explore at dashboard.ILSuccessNetwork.org

