Executive Summary

Today, the majority of employers say they need employees with some postsecondary education. However, only 56.9% of Illinois residents have a high-quality college degree or postsecondary credential (according to the Lumina Foundation).

The Illinois P-20 Council set a goal to increase the number of adults with high-quality college degrees and postsecondary credentials to 60% by the year 2025. The Illinois Education and Career Success Network was launched in 2013 (under the name Illinois 60 by 25 Network) to support communities across the state progress towards the postsecondary goal. The Success 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 Communities

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

- Capture and use data for continuous improvement
- Define a geographic community of focus
- 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 Regions
- McLean County
- NCI/Starved Rock Region
- Northwest Educational Council for Student Success (NECSS)
- OAI/Rich Township District 227
- Rockford
- Sangamon County Continuum of Learning
- SI Now
- Vandalia ONE
- Vermilion County
Supports for Leadership Communities

1. 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

2. Provide technical assistance on collective impact and other strategies to support communities to increase meaningful and equitable postsecondary attainment and civic engagement.

3. 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: Postsecondary Enrollment and Community College Remediation
Explore at dashboard.IILSuccessNetwork.org

INTERACTIVE MAP with community snapshots

DOWNLOAD the visualizations or data in spreadsheets

TRENDS for selected district/s displayed in a line chart

FILTERS by Leadership Community or by selecting districts

Postsecondary Enrollment from High School (Across the years)

Postsecondary Enrollment includes the percentage of students who graduated with a regular high school diploma from a public high school in Illinois and enrolled in a two-year or four-year college in the US, within 10 months.

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