

Post-secondary Education

Raise education achievement levels after high school.

By 2025, an estimated 64 percent of jobs in Ohio will require some post-secondary education.

Currently, just 44 percent of working-age Ohioans have such credentials, which include 2- and 4-year degrees, graduate and professional degrees, workforce certificates, industry-recognized credentials and apprenticeships. Ohio ranks in the bottom third of all states (36th out of 50) for overall educational attainment. At the current rate Ohioans are earning post-secondary degrees and certificates, Ohio will fall well short of meeting future workforce needs.

Currently, Ohio ranks 45th out of 50 states in college affordability, putting higher education out of reach for a large proportion of our state's students and families. Between 2007-08 and 2011-12, the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) program, which provides need-based financial aid, was drastically reduced. While OCOG funding has slowly increased since 2009, current appropriations remain well below the Great Recession-era levels: \$100 million in FY 2017 and well

below the FY 2008 appropriation of \$233 million.

Moreover, according to a Brookings Institute report, as many as one in seven students eligible for financial aid does not complete the FAFSA form, which can negatively impact post-secondary enrollment, persistence and completion.

The State of Ohio and other key stakeholders have adopted an Ohio Attainment Goal: By 2025, 65 percent of Ohioans aged 25-64 will have a degree, certificate or other post-secondary credential of value in the workplace. To achieve that goal, Ohio will need to produce more than one million individuals with high-quality, post-secondary certificates or degrees. Boosting enrollment on such a scale will require casting a wide net that targets graduating high school seniors; students already in college and needing support to finish; adults with some college but no completion credential; and adults with no post-secondary education at all.

BY THE NUMBERS

44

Percent of Ohioans with post-secondary education

9

Percent with associate degree

18

Percent with bachelor's degree

5

Percent with high-quality post-secondary certificate

\$203

Amount Ohio spent (in 2015-16) on need-based financial aid per full-time undergraduate

\$597

National average spent on need-based financial aid per full-time undergraduate

P-20 VISION

Each and every Ohio student is actively engaged in their learning, has access to high-quality education opportunities in early childhood, K-12 and post-secondary education and is prepared to enter the workforce and succeed in life.

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Recommendations

Increase Enrollment

- The Governor, General Assembly and Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) should incentivize increasing recruitment efforts targeting a broad range of specific populations, including adult learners, first-generation students, under-represented populations and those from high poverty backgrounds.
- The state, partnering with school districts, should increase the number of high school students who participate in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and/or College Credit Plus by making these classes more available to students and prioritizing these as important components of students' educational experiences.
- The Governor, General Assembly and ODHE should ensure that College Credit Plus remains a sustainable statewide dual enrollment program to encourage students to pursue higher education and make college more affordable for students and their families.

Expand Financial Aid

- The Governor, General Assembly and ODHE should boost investments in OCOG dollars, including expanding OCOG to make community college students eligible.
- The Governor, General Assembly and ODHE should tie any new increase in OCOG dollars to completion-based incentives that encourage students to earn at least 30 credit hours of coursework each year to ensure on-time graduation.
- The Governor, General Assembly, ODHE and Ohio Department of Education should establish an aggressive, statewide FAFSA completion goal of 75 percent for graduating high school seniors.

Control Cost

- The state, partnering with institutions of higher education, should allow, provide and allocate resources for an array of student supports that address financial barriers to completion, such as free-to-finish programs, emergency funds and more robust financial aid opportunities for transfer students.
- The Governor, General Assembly and ODHE should commit to ensuring that college is accessible to all students by maintaining modest tuition and fee caps.

Boost Retention and Completion

- ODHE, General Assembly and institutions of higher education should establish and expand proven student support initiatives designed to boost post-secondary retention and completion rates, including such tactics as transfer centers, emergency funds, ASAP initiative, free-to-finish, prior learning credit, employer-incentives, etc.



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ABOUT PHILANTHROPY OHIO

Philanthropy Ohio is an association of foundations, corporate giving programs, individuals and organizations actively involved in philanthropy in Ohio. Its mission is to lead and equip Ohio philanthropy to be effective, powerful change agents in our communities. It provides the network, tools and knowledge to help people engaged in philanthropy become more effective, powerful change agents in their communities. Together, its more than 220 members hold over \$50 billion in assets and provide over \$4 billion in grants to nonprofit organizations that work to improve the lives of community residents.