

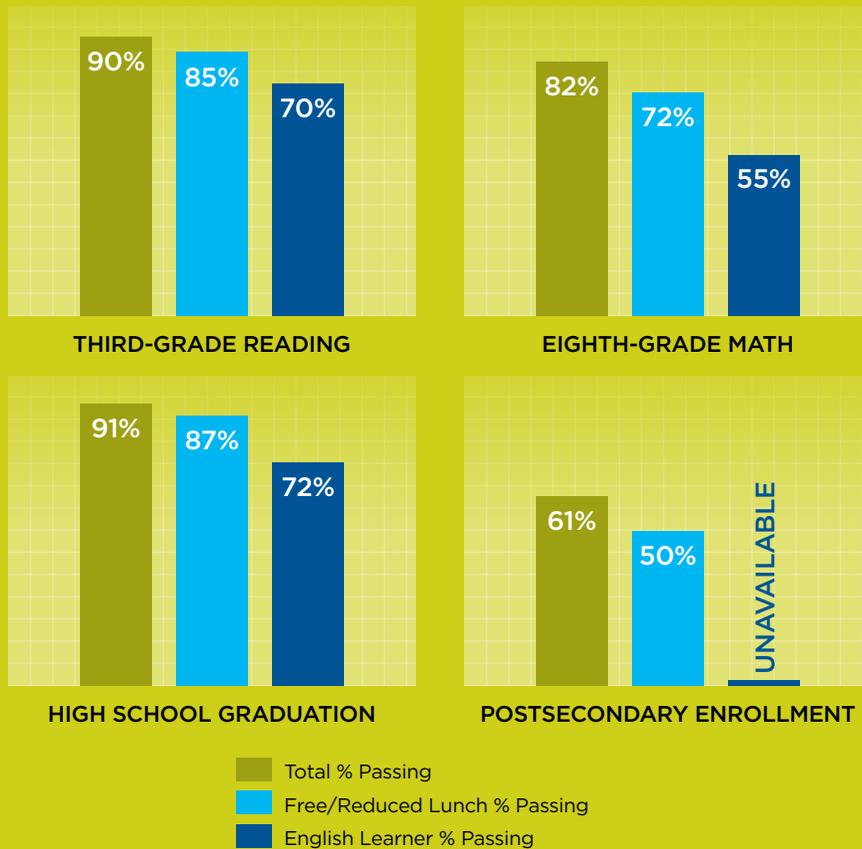
BIG GOAL  
SNAPSHOT

2015

BY 2025, MORE THAN **60%** OF JOBS IN THE UNITED STATES WILL  
REQUIRE A POSTSECONDARY DEGREE OR HIGH-QUALITY CREDENTIAL

## UNDERSTANDING DISPARITIES

**THE BIG GOAL COLLABORATIVE (BGC)** breaks down data by two subpopulations: *students receiving free or reduced lunches*, and *students who are English learners*. Outcomes for these students tend to lag behind those of their peers, and the Big Goal Collaborative is committed to leveraging data to better understand the educational challenges these groups face.

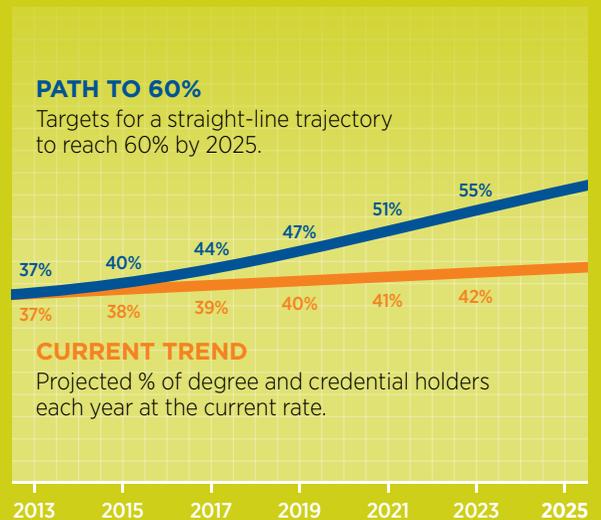


### DATA AT A GLANCE

INDICATOR	BASELINE YEAR	CURRENT YEAR	CHANGE (SINCE BASELINE)
High-Quality Early Learning Enrollment <sup>11</sup>	Unavailable	7.2%	—
Kindergarten Readiness <sup>12</sup>	74.3%	Unavailable	—
Third-Grade Reading <sup>13</sup>	90.5%	90.0%	0.5% ↓
Eighth-Grade Math <sup>14</sup>	81.6%	82.0%	0.4% ↑
High-Quality Credential Attainment in High School <sup>15</sup>	979	1,252	273 ↑
High School Graduation <sup>16</sup>	90.3%	90.5%	0.2% ↑
Postsecondary Enrollment <sup>17</sup>	60.7%	61.1%	0.4% ↑
Postsecondary Persistence <sup>18</sup>	56.3%	57.8%	1.5% ↑
Credential Attainment <sup>19</sup>	Unavailable	Unavailable	—
Degree Attainment <sup>20</sup>	Unavailable	37.5%	—

## SNAPSHOT OF EDUCATION 2015

By the year 2025, more than 60% of jobs in the United States will require a postsecondary degree or high-quality credential.<sup>1</sup> At our current rate, *only 43% of Northeast Indiana's population will meet these qualifications by 2025.*<sup>2</sup>



The **BIG GOAL COLLABORATIVE** is a collaboration of businesses, community partners and educators in Northeast Indiana who have rallied around a common goal: **60% by 2025**. Based on the most recent data available, the region is currently at 37%. Through the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership's **Vision 2020 Initiative**, the Big Goal Collaborative has united more than 150 partners who have committed to working together to increase educational attainment. Collectively, these hardworking leaders are making decisions based on data while working to identify local issues and best practices.

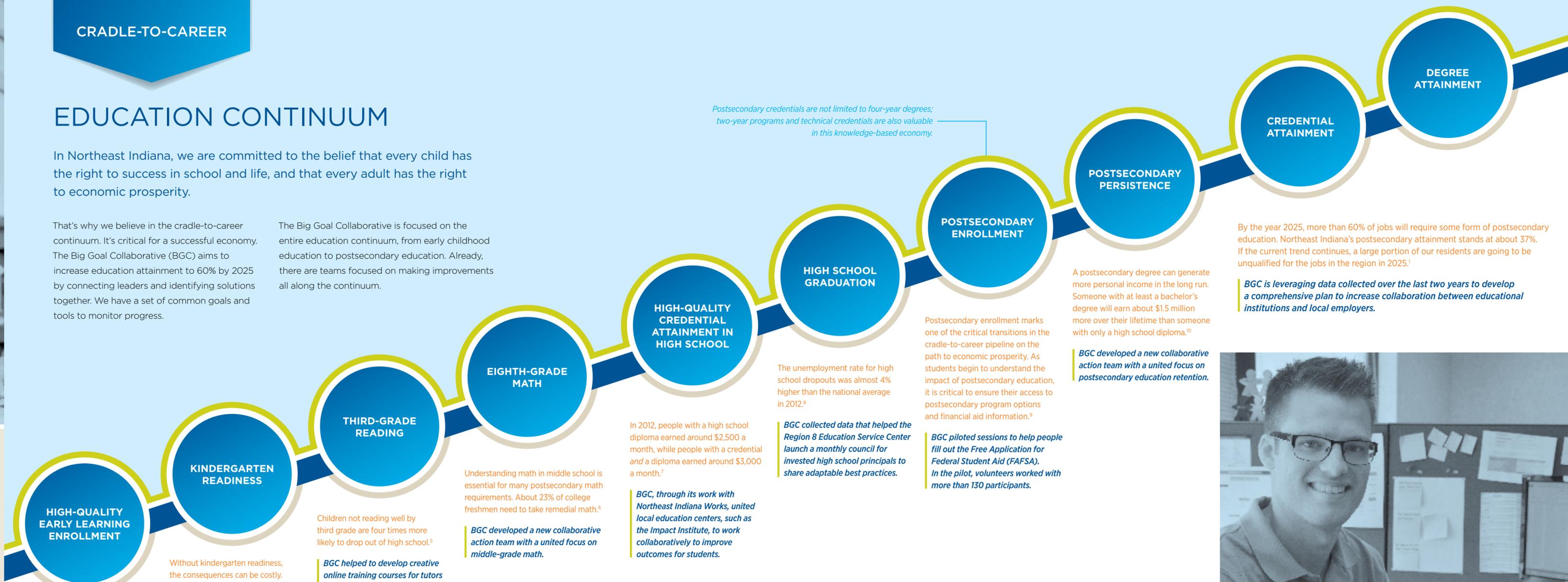
# EDUCATION CONTINUUM

In Northeast Indiana, we are committed to the belief that every child has the right to success in school and life, and that every adult has the right to economic prosperity.

That's why we believe in the cradle-to-career continuum. It's critical for a successful economy. The Big Goal Collaborative (BGC) aims to increase education attainment to 60% by 2025 by connecting leaders and identifying solutions together. We have a set of common goals and tools to monitor progress.

The Big Goal Collaborative is focused on the entire education continuum, from early childhood education to postsecondary education. Already, there are teams focused on making improvements all along the continuum.

Postsecondary credentials are not limited to four-year degrees; two-year programs and technical credentials are also valuable in this knowledge-based economy.



**HIGH-QUALITY EARLY LEARNING ENROLLMENT**

The first few years of life are a particularly sensitive period in the process of development. Quality early childhood interventions are associated with improvements in cognitive skills, socialization and behavior.<sup>3</sup>

**BGC helped launch two high-quality early childhood programs: Let's Talk in DeKalb and Adams counties, and On My Way Pre-K in Allen County.**

**KINDERGARTEN READINESS**

Without kindergarten readiness, the consequences can be costly. Northeast Indiana spent \$1.3 million on students held back in kindergarten during the 2013-14 school year.<sup>4</sup>

**BGC is working to improve reliable accessibility and affordability of high-quality early learning through representation on Indiana's Early Learning Advisory Committee workgroups.**

**THIRD-GRADE READING**

Children not reading well by third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school.<sup>5</sup>

**BGC helped to develop creative online training courses for tutors interested in helping children read. Users of the Follow the Reader program have completed more than 250 course modules.**

**EIGHTH-GRADE MATH**

Understanding math in middle school is essential for many postsecondary math requirements. About 23% of college freshmen need to take remedial math.<sup>6</sup>

**BGC developed a new collaborative action team with a united focus on middle-grade math.**

**HIGH-QUALITY CREDENTIAL ATTAINMENT IN HIGH SCHOOL**

In 2012, people with a high school diploma earned around \$2,500 a month, while people with a credential and a diploma earned around \$3,000 a month.<sup>7</sup>

**BGC, through its work with Northeast Indiana Works, united local education centers, such as the Impact Institute, to work collaboratively to improve outcomes for students.**

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION**

The unemployment rate for high school dropouts was almost 4% higher than the national average in 2012.<sup>8</sup>

**BGC collected data that helped the Region 8 Education Service Center launch a monthly council for invested high school principals to share adaptable best practices.**

**POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT**

Postsecondary enrollment marks one of the critical transitions in the cradle-to-career pipeline on the path to economic prosperity. As students begin to understand the impact of postsecondary education, it is critical to ensure their access to postsecondary program options and financial aid information.<sup>9</sup>

**BGC piloted sessions to help people fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). In the pilot, volunteers worked with more than 130 participants.**

**POSTSECONDARY PERSISTENCE**

A postsecondary degree can generate more personal income in the long run. Someone with at least a bachelor's degree will earn about \$1.5 million more over their lifetime than someone with only a high school diploma.<sup>10</sup>

**BGC developed a new collaborative action team with a united focus on postsecondary education retention.**

**CREDENTIAL ATTAINMENT**

By the year 2025, more than 60% of jobs will require some form of postsecondary education. Northeast Indiana's postsecondary attainment stands at about 37%. If the current trend continues, a large portion of our residents are going to be unqualified for the jobs in the region in 2025.<sup>1</sup>

**BGC is leveraging data collected over the last two years to develop a comprehensive plan to increase collaboration between educational institutions and local employers.**

**DEGREE ATTAINMENT**



"After the **Follow the Reader** program, the kids were actually excited every week to go to the library and read. Now we can turn reading into a family affair."

**STEPHANIE EIFRID**  
Parent, Fort Wayne



"University of Saint Francis' Risk Management and Insurance degree connects our large specialty insurance industry cluster in Northeast Indiana with the students here. It's giving the students a direct education in an industry that needs people to come in directly out of college and work and make a difference. Starting out, I didn't necessarily want to work in the insurance industry, but after working for Ash Brokerage for a year, you see how you get to affect people's lives directly with insurance."

**BRADLEY HARTMAN**  
Student, University of Saint Francis



"The day after high school I had six job offers from different places around the area, all from different companies doing different things. **Impact Institute** gives you options for opportunities. They really set you up for success in the aspect of the basic knowledge and skills. The certifications available through Impact speak wonders. I got my job at C&K over people that had experience because I was able to get my certification through Impact. The way they set people up for success is amazing."

**NORTHEAST INDIANA WORKS**

**BREVIN BENNETT**  
C&K Tool

**ENDNOTES**

- Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. *Recovery: Job Growth and Education Requirements Through 2020.*
- U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2013 5-yr ACS estimates. Expected attainment calculated using CAGR. To provide a rough estimate of credential completion, 5 percent was added to the projected attainment each year, which is consistent with Carnevale et al.'s estimate of credential completion. This estimate does not account for the change or growth in credential completions from now until 2025.
- Rand Corporation. *Early Childhood Interventions: Proven Results, Future Promise.*
- Indiana Department of Education.
- Annie E. Casey Foundation. *Double Jeopardy: How Third-Grade Reading Skills and Poverty Influence High School Graduation.*
- Achieve, Inc. *Do All Students Need Challenging Math in High School?*
- U.S. Census Bureau. *Measuring Alternative Educational Credentials: 2012.*
- U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- Strive Partnership. *Cradle to Career Student Roadmap to Success.*
- National Governors Association Chair's Initiative. *Complete to Compete: Improving Postsecondary Attainment Among Adults.*
- Current year: Indiana Association for Child Care Resource & Referral, data as of April 2015.
- Baseline year: 2012-13 academic year, 15 public school corporations in Northeast Indiana, DIBELS Next.
- Indiana Department of Education, 2012-13 and 2013-14 academic years, 29 public school corporations in Northeast Indiana, IREAD-3.
- Indiana Department of Education, 2012-13 and 2013-14 academic years, 29 public school corporations in Northeast Indiana, ISTEP+.
- 2012-13 and 2013-14 academic years, five technical education programs in Northeast Indiana.
- Indiana Department of Education, 2012-13 and 2013-14 academic years, 29 public school corporations in Northeast Indiana.
- Indiana Commission for Higher Education, 2011-12 and 2012-13 academic years, 29 public school corporations in Northeast Indiana.
- Students retained for a full year starting fall 2012 and starting fall 2013, seven primary postsecondary institutions in Northeast Indiana.
- No local data exists for this indicator.
- U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-13 5-year ACS estimates.

### Contact Information

For more information about the Big Goal Collaborative, Vision 2020 or the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership, please contact Ryan Twiss, director of regional initiatives, at [ryan@neindiana.com](mailto:ryan@neindiana.com).

### StriveTogether

The StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network is a national network focused on quality cradle-to-career collective impact. The network is focused on connecting communities across the nation to learn from common challenges and successes, and to ultimately improve outcomes for all kids. The Big Goal Collaborative is one of 21 sustaining members and one of 63 network members.



### About the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership

The Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership is a regional economic development organization working to build, market and sell Northeast Indiana to increase business investment. In 2010, the Partnership launched Vision 2020 to help the region unleash growth and accelerate progress in five areas: 21st Century Talent, Business Climate, Entrepreneurship, Infrastructure and Quality of Life. There are currently 10 member counties: Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells and Whitley.

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**NORTHEAST INDIANA**  
REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP