



Lessons Learned: The Road to College Readiness in Indiana

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Indiana in the late 80's - few students went to college...

- Strong agriculture and manufacturing base – high-wage, low skill jobs in abundance.
- Less than 39% of Indiana students going to college after high school.
- Leadership recognized things were going to change – and education would be increasingly more important.
- Convincing students, parents, families and educators that a college education would be necessary was a challenge.
- The state approached the challenge on several fronts.



Changing attitudes, beliefs and ultimately actions

Key state strategies:

- Agreeing on a core curriculum that best prepares students for college and workforce success
- Financial incentives for students to complete more rigorous coursework
- Efforts to help students see college as possible
- Aggressive distribution of college and career information
- Elimination of financial barriers for low-income students
- Sustained leadership focused on ensuring college and workforce success

3

**Agreeing on a core curriculum that
best prepares students for college
and workforce success –**

Indiana Core 40

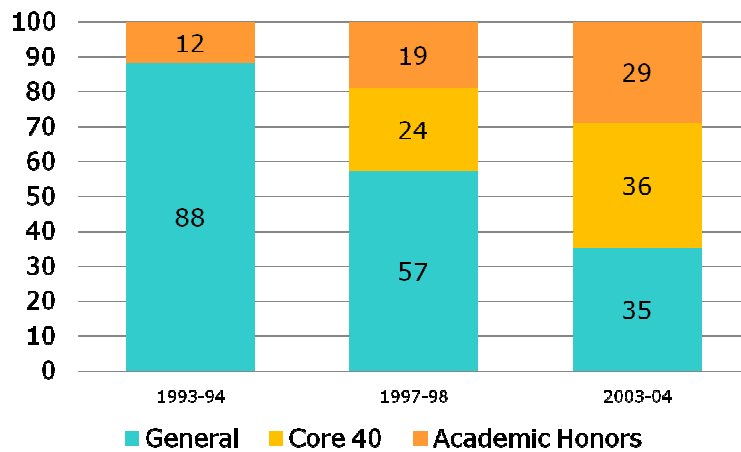
Indiana Core 40 (In the beginning...)

- Core 40 adopted in 1994 as **best preparation for college and workforce success**.
- Indiana's business, higher education and K-12 leaders came together to speak with **one voice** about the academic preparation students need for success
- **Voluntary** for students, but required to be offered by schools
- **More than course titles**
- **All students** required to have **career/course plan that includes Core 40**
- Second wave of policy changes came 10 years later (2004-05) **Core 40 required**.

5

Core 40: Progress over 10 years

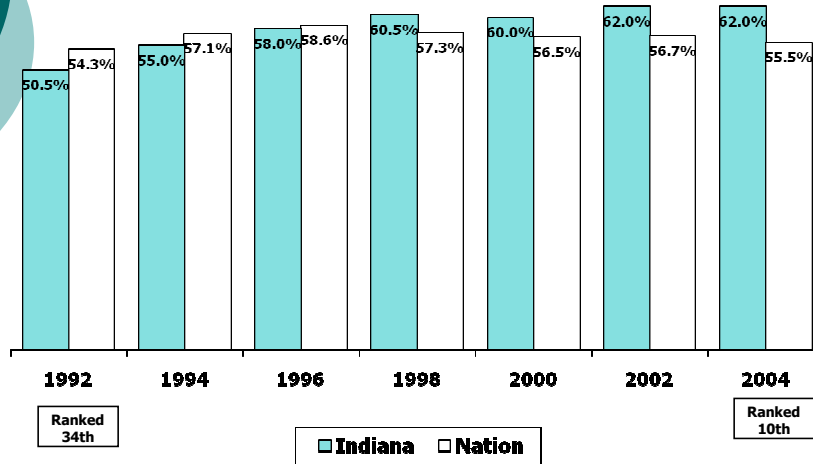
Moving students out of general track into Core 40 and Academic Honors (voluntary)



6

College-going:

Percent of high school graduates enrolled the next fall in college

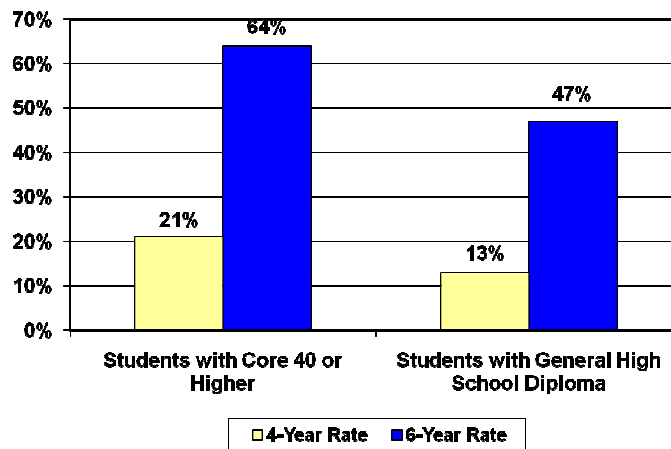


Source: Mortenson, T. Postsecondary Education Opportunity, Oskaloosa, Iowa. (Note: Technical corrections were made to three states: Indiana, Kentucky, and Utah in the 2004 data and are reflected in the chart).

7

Core 40: Positive effect on college graduation rates

Graduation rates of first-time, full-time bachelor's degree-seeking students with Core 40 or Higher at a selective Indiana public university



Source: Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Data Warehouse, Student Information Systems, annual data provided by Indiana's public colleges and universities.

8

Financial incentives for students to complete more rigorous coursework

Core 40 and AHD Bonus

State financial aid policies restructured to provide incentives for Core 40 and Academic Honors completion

- 80% for General Diploma
- 90% for Core 40 Diploma
- 100% for Academic Honors Diploma

K-12 school funding formula also provided schools with Academic Honors completion bonuses.

Efforts to help students see college as possible

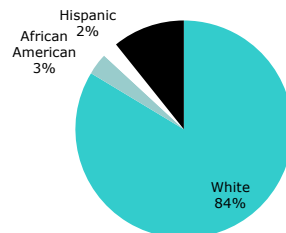
Free PSAT and AP Exams

Advanced Placement (AP):

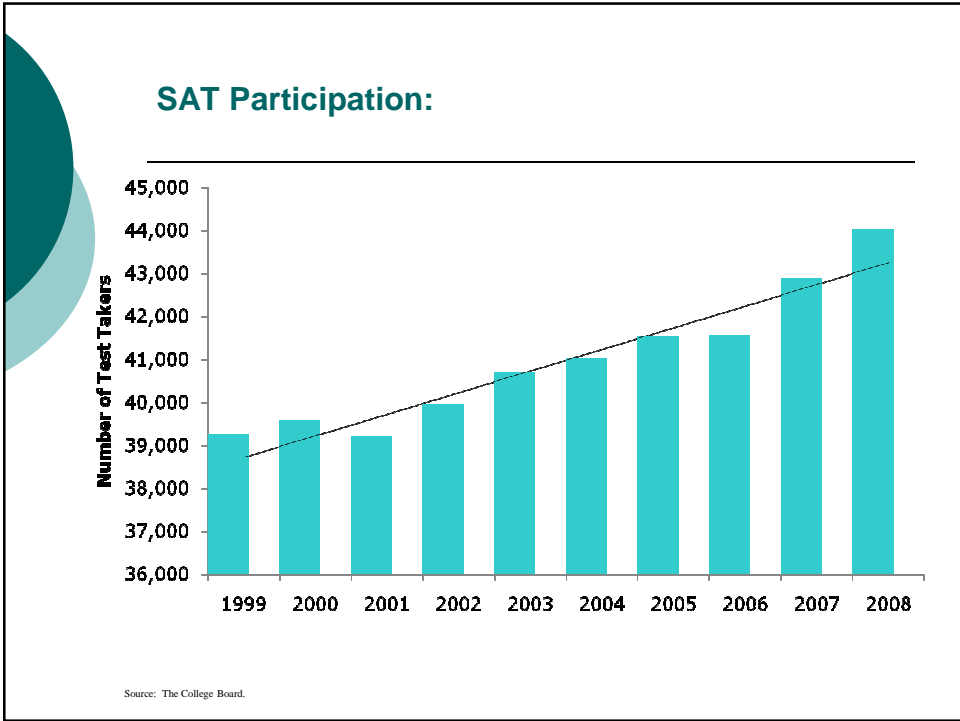
Number of Indiana AP Exams Taken By Race

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
African American	514	509	655	779	926	935	1,074
Hispanic	372	348	448	508	657	661	786
White	13,926	15,244	17,496	19,718	24,307	24,603	27,844
Total Exams Taken	16,352	17,914	20,571	23,326	28,821	29,807	33,291

AP Exams Taken, by Race (2007)



Source: The College Board.



**Aggressive distribution of college
and career information**

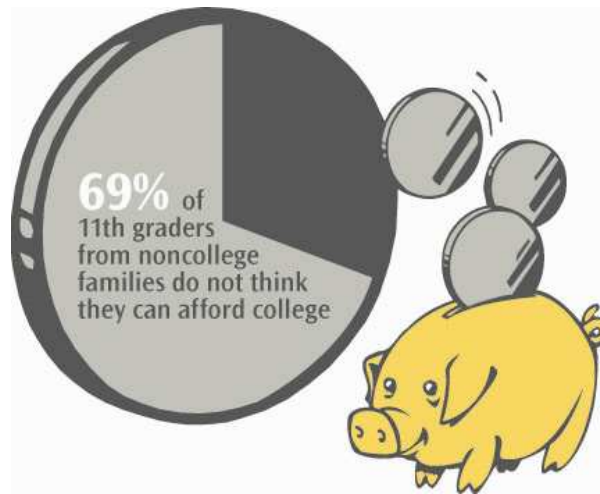
**Core 40 Corp, ICPAC,
College Goal Sunday
Learn More Indiana**



Elimination of financial barriers to college for low-income students

Twenty-first Century Scholars

Students Perceive Cost of College as a Barrier



Source: Indiana's Annual Career and College Information Survey of Students in Grades 9 and 11, 1007

Twenty-first Century Scholars:

An Early Promise Program

- Eliminates the financial barrier to college
- Challenges kids to work hard academically
- Challenges kids to stay out of trouble
- Gives them another reason to stay on-track for high school graduation
- Helps them take the steps necessary to get to and through college

Indiana's #1 drop-out prevention program!



Twenty-first Century Scholars:

An Early Promise

- QUALIFY - Free & Reduced Lunch
- SIGN-UP - Grades 6, 7, and 8
- PLEDGE – Maintain a 2.0 GPA, no alcohol or drugs, do not get arrested, graduate from high school
- FREE TUITION – At any Indiana public or equivalent independent college or university

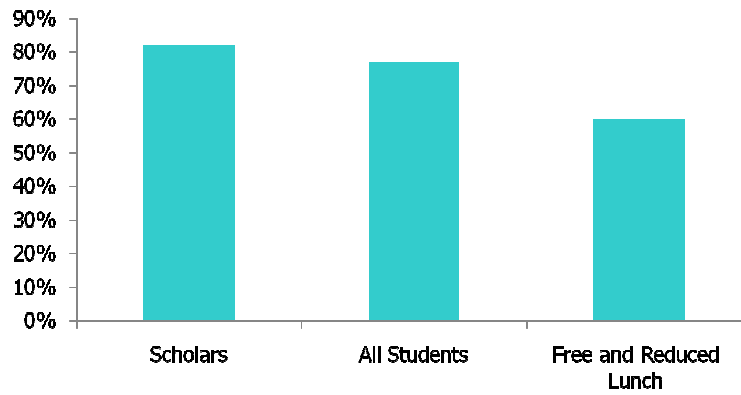
19



Snapshot of Twenty-first Century Scholars

- 58% First generation college students
- 49% Single parent family
- Median family income: \$29,000
 - Median family income of other state grant recipients \$33,000
 - Median family income of students not eligible for state aid \$80,000
 - Indiana median family income for a family of four \$65,464 (2004)

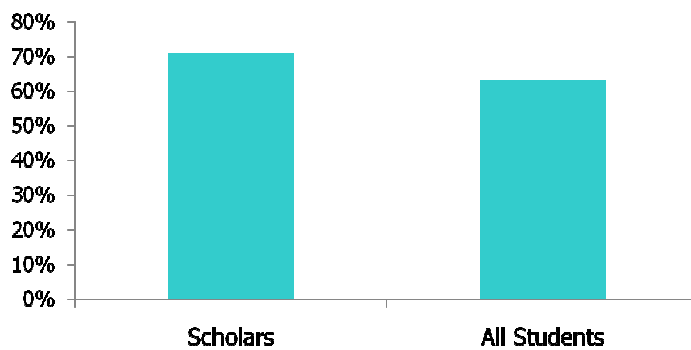
Scholars are:
More Likely Than Their Peers to Graduate From High School



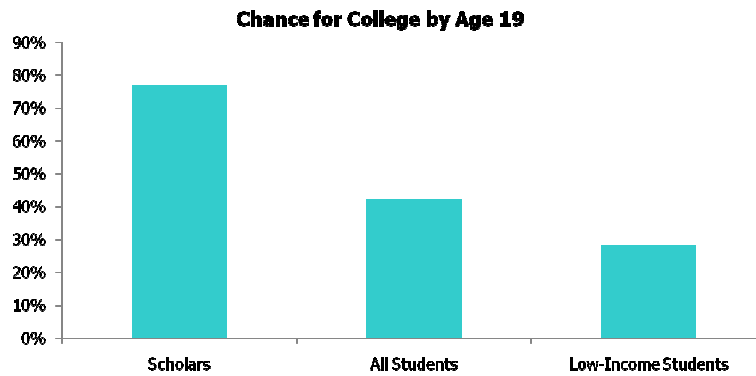
Note: Free and reduced lunch data underestimate the extent of poverty among high school students, as free and reduced lunch participation rates significantly decline in grades 9-12.

Scholars are:
More Likely to Enter College with a Core 40 Diploma

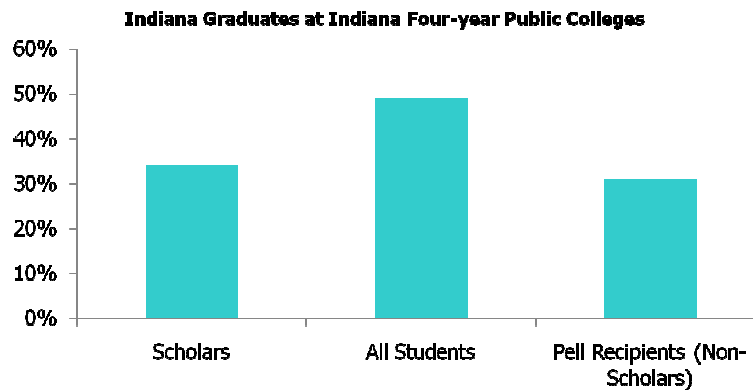
Recent Public College Entrants with Core 40



Scholars are:
More Likely Than Their Peers to Go to College



Scholars are:
More Likely Than Their Low-Income Peers to Graduate from College, But Less Likely Than All Students to Graduate from College



72% of students from **high-income** families complete college by age 24,

Only **10%** of students from **low-income** families complete college by this age.



Source: Postsecondary Education Opportunity, June 2007.

**Sustained leadership
focused on ensuring college and
workforce success**

**Indiana's Education Roundtable
P-16**



INDIANA'S EDUCATION
ROUNDTABLE

Indiana's Education Roundtable

- Created in 1998
- Co-chaired by the Governor and State Superintendent
- Business, K-12, higher education, and legislative representation
- 2003 P-16 Plan
- Provide sustained, bipartisan support

28

Roundtable's P-16 premise:

The complexity of today's world calls for an education system that ensures the vast majority of students successfully complete education beyond high school.

(Education beyond high school = apprenticeships, military training, 2 year- and 4-year college degrees+)


Setting students up for college success

Without a solid high school academic foundation, students are not prepared to succeed at the college-level...

- 28% of college students take a remedial math or English course or both
- 76% of remedial reading students and 63% of remedial math do not complete a degree
- 35% of students at a public university receive low grades (D or F) in or withdrawal from their first college-level math course

Source: Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Data Warehouse, Student Information Systems, annual data provided by Indiana's public colleges and universities.

30



Effects of high school math completion on college success

- Completing one additional unit of intensive high school math (algebra II, trigonometry, pre-calculus, or calculus) increased the odds of completing a bachelor's degree by 73%.

Source: Trusty, Jerry. "Effects of Students' Middle-School and High-School Experiences on Completion of the Bachelor's Degree." Research Monograph, Number 1. Center for School Counseling Outcome Research, School of Education, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, January 2004.

31

College access without the preparation necessary to succeed is not true college opportunity...

Expectations of the workforce and college have converged...

Good progress – so...

What about the 35% of Indiana students still wandering around in the general track?

- Indiana Education Roundtable's P-16 public forum on ensuring college and workforce success held August 2002.
- Roundtable's *P-16 Plan for Improving Student Achievement* completed and adopted October 2003. Plan outlined next steps for Indiana in 10 key areas including "Ensuring College and Workforce Success".

33

**Indiana Core 40 Revisited –
Second wave of key policy changes**

Indiana Core 40 (Revisited...)

- 2004 – Implementing P-16 Plan, **Education Roundtable called for Core 40 to be the “default” high school curriculum** and other changes to diploma requirements following comprehensive evaluation. State Board adopts curriculum changes.
- 2005 - Indiana General Assembly adopts **Core 40 as the required curriculum for all students** with an opt-out provision; and
- Makes Core 40 the **minimum course requirement for admission to Indiana four-year public universities** beginning with the graduating class of 2011.

35

INDIANA CORE40

Course and credit requirements

English/Language Arts	8 credits (Must include literature, composition and speech.)
Mathematics (All students must take a math or physics course during junior or senior year.)	6 credits (Must include either Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II or Integrated Math series I, II and III.)
Science	6 credits (Must include Biology I; Chemistry I, Physics I or Integrated Chemistry-Physics; and any Core 40 science course.)
Social Studies	6 credits (Must include U.S. History; U.S. Government; Economics; and either World History/Civilization or Geography/History of the World.)
Directed Electives	5 credits (world language, fine arts, career/technical)
Physical Education	2 credits
Health and Wellness	1 credit
Electives	6 credits
Total	40 credits

36

Core 40 with Academic Honors

All Core 40 requirements

Choose/complete one:*

- AP courses/exams
- Dual high school/college courses from Core Transfer library
- Combination dual credit and AP courses/exams
- Score of 1200 or higher on SAT
- Score of 26 or higher on ACT
- IB courses/exams

Plus ...

- 2 additional Core 40 math credits
- 6-8 Core 40 world language credits
- 2 Core 40 fine arts credits
- Grade of C or better in all required courses
- GPA of B or better

37

Core 40 with Technical Honors

All Core 40 requirements

Choose/complete two (one must be A or B):*

- A. WorkKeys assessment/scores
- B. Dual high school/college credit in career-technical area
- C. Professional career internship
- D. Cooperative education
- E. Industry-based work experience
- F. State-approved industry-recognized certification

Plus ...

- Related sequence of 8+ career-technical credits
- Grade of C or better in all required courses
- GPA of B or better

38



Core 40 End-of Course Assessments (ECAs)

- Development by higher education/K-12 began in 1997 focused on helping schools **ensure quality, consistency and rigor in Core 40 courses** – (voluntary for schools to administer).
- Algebra I, English 11 **operational since 2003-4**. Algebra I and English 10 ECAs become Indiana’s Graduation Qualify Exam 2009. Additional ECAs operational in Algebra II and Biology.

39



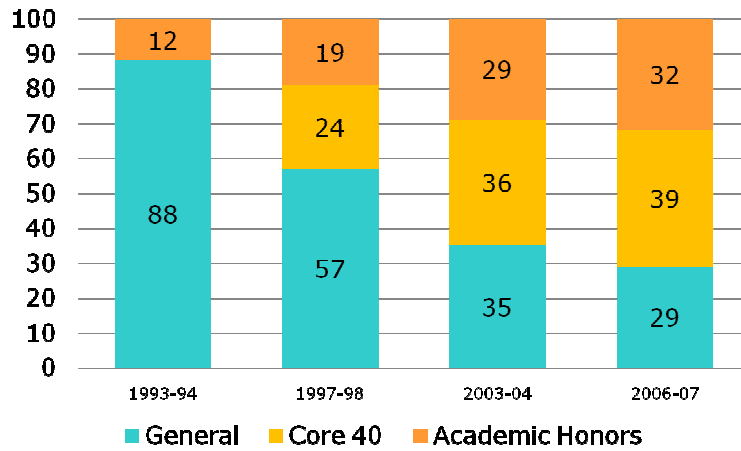
Core 40 End-of Course Assessments (ECAs)

- Development, experimentation and piloting continues with multiple-goals:
 - ensuring student knowledge of Core 40 academic standards;
 - **sending understandable and dependable signals** of whether or not a student is on track with **college readiness**; and
 - **using the senior year** to correct any academic deficiencies.
- CHE’s “Reaching Higher” calls for **defining of common college readiness metric** (assessment and passing score range) that will be **used consistently to determine if students are ready to start credit-bearing coursework** – and also used to determine remediation needs.

40

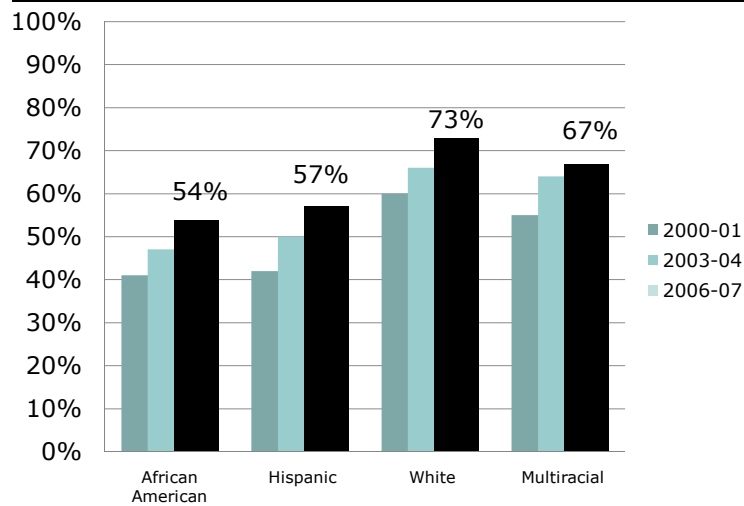
INDIANA CORE40

Today 70%+ are completing



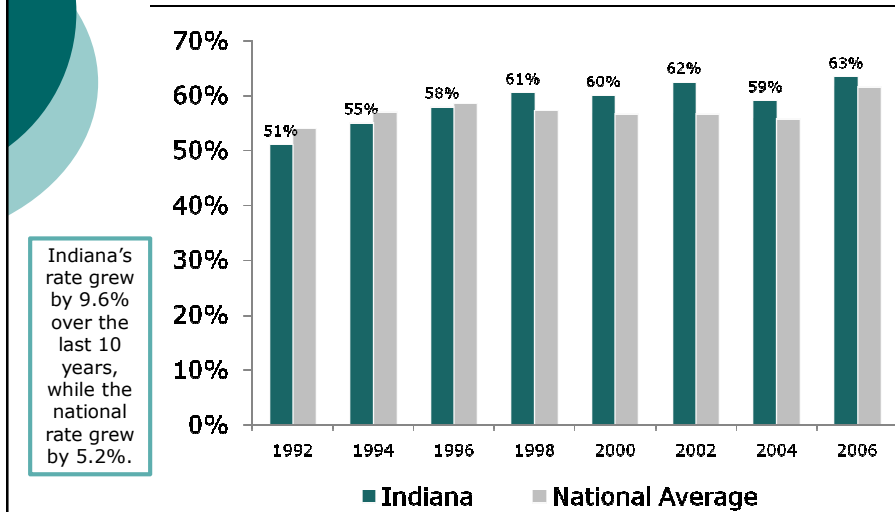
41

Core 40 Diplomas: By Race



Source: Indiana Department of Education.

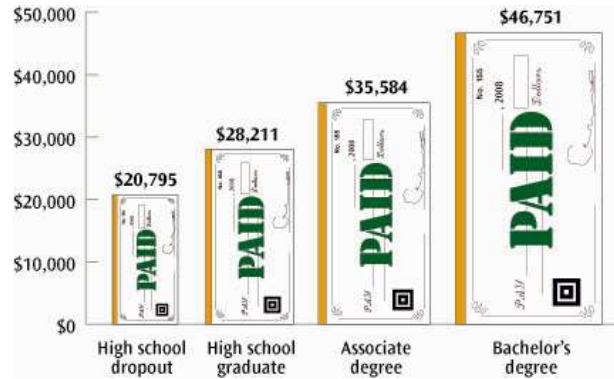
College-Going Rate of Recent High School Graduates



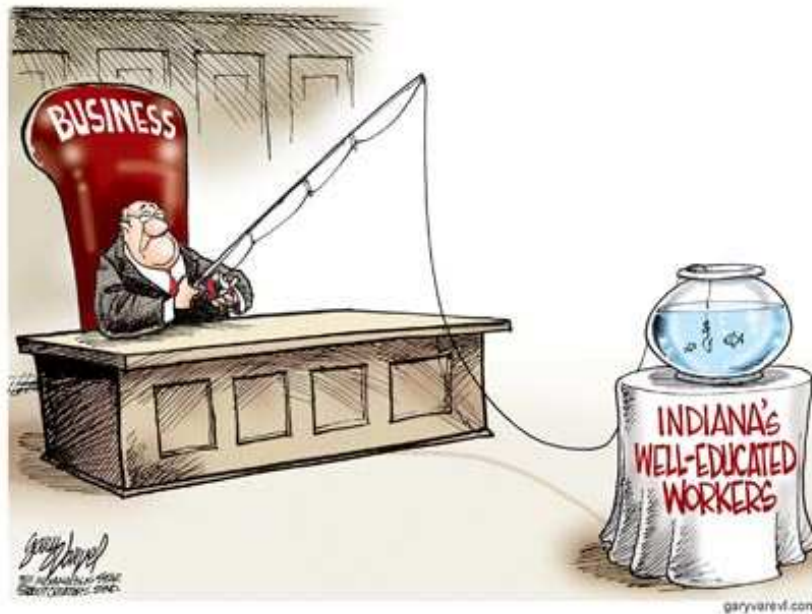
More work ahead...

Education Pays: Completion Matters

- **Average Annual Earnings of Full-time Workers by Degree, 2007**
- **College Graduates:**
 - Earn More
 - Use Fewer Social Services
 - Contribute to a Larger Tax Base

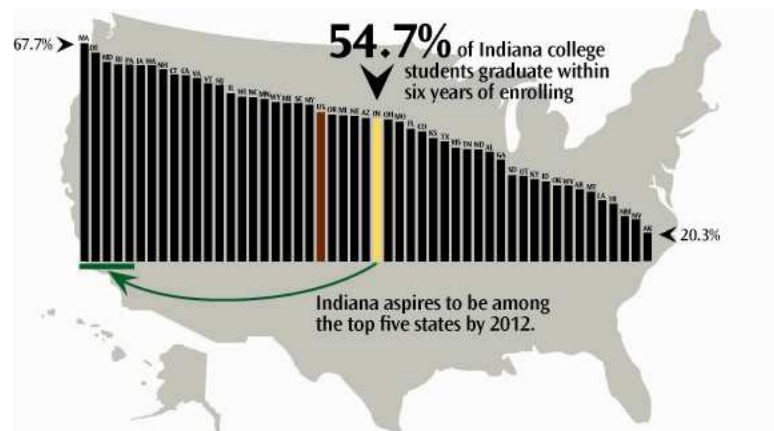


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Survey 2007, Annual Social and Economic Supplement*



College Enrollment Increasing, College Completion Must too...

Six-Year Graduation Rates at Four-Year Colleges, 2005



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS Graduation Rate Survey.

REACHING HIGHER

Strategic Initiatives for Higher Education in Indiana

- Next steps for Indiana's Higher Education System
- College Completion at the Center
- Aggressive plan to add 10,000 more college degrees a year...

www.che.in.gov



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