



Illinois State Attainment Working Group

About the Working Group

On March 13, 2026, Governor JB Pritzker signed Executive Order 2026-03 to establish the Illinois State Attainment Working Group. The Working Group is tasked with **recommending a statewide postsecondary attainment goal focused on degrees and credentials of value**. The recommendation must also address feasibility and benefit of establishing regional, institutional and/or disaggregated goals for growth in attainment. To inform the goal recommendation, Working Group activities will include:

- Conducting a landscape analysis of state and regional education and workforce plans
- Projecting workforce needs and the types of credentials required to meet that need
- Defining credentials of value
- Engaging stakeholders across the state

Working Group Members

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE)** • Illinois Community College Board (ICCB)** • Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)** • Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)** • Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) • Representatives of the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board (IWIB) • Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) • Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) • Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) • Representative of the Office of the First Lady |
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** Denotes Working Group Co-Chair

The North Star: A Value-Centered Attainment Goal

What is Attainment?

Attainment refers to the percentage of Illinois adults who have earned a credential beyond high school, where "credential" includes degrees, certificates, and industry-recognized certifications. State attainment includes residents that received credentials from postsecondary institutions in the state, as well as those that moved into the state (in-migration) with a credential.

What is the Role of "Value"?

Value-centered attainment intends to draw clear lines between education attainment and economic benefit for both individuals and the state. Value will be defined during the Working Group process—informed by stakeholder feedback—and could consider measures such as alignment with current and projected labor market demand, societal value, the economic return of a credential, and its potential to support economic mobility for learners and workers.

What are the Objectives for an Illinois Value-Centered Attainment Goal?



Establish a shared North Star to guide policy, practice and investment



Empower strategic partnerships across government, industry and postsecondary institutions



Foster alignment across education and workforce systems to enable economic mobility



Enhance the state's economic development vision and strategy