

2012 Drivers, Goals and Progress

DRIVER 1: OUTSTANDING TALENT

- Increase the proficiency of Indiana students in math, science and reading to “Top 5” status internationally. **Strong improvements in NAEP reading and math scores**
- Increase to 90% the proportion of Indiana students who graduate from high school ready for college and/or career training. **Keeping assessments aligned to new standards; Chamber partners in Postsecondary Pathways events to connect education-business communities**
- Eliminate the educational achievement gaps at all levels, from pre-school through college, for disadvantaged populations. **Continued funding for first publicly-funded preschool program for low-income children; establishment of more balanced school funding formula**
- Increase to 60% the proportion of Indiana residents with high quality postsecondary credentials.
- Increase the proportion of Indiana residents with bachelor’s degrees or higher to “Top 10” status internationally.
- Increase the proportion of Indiana residents with postsecondary credentials in STEM-related fields to “Top 5” status internationally.
- Develop, implement and fully fund a comprehensive plan for addressing the skills shortages of adult and incumbent workers who lack minimum basic skills. **Continued efforts of Indiana Career Council and Indiana Works Councils; significant funding increase for career and technical training**

DRIVER 2: ATTRACTIVE BUSINESS CLIMATE

- Adopt a right-to-work statute. **Passed February 2012**
- Enact comprehensive government reform at the state and local levels to increase efficiency and effectiveness in delivery of services. **Repeal of common construction wage law**
- Reform public pension systems to achieve fairness and cost containment. **Moderate cost containment passed in 2014**
- Preserve and enhance a “Top 5” ranking among all states for Indiana’s legal environment. **Legal climate generally regarded as very fair and effective**
- Attain a “Top 5” ranking among all states for Indiana’s business regulatory environment. **Top ranking in 2013 and 2015 Report Cards**
- Eliminate the business personal property tax. **2015 legislation eliminates tax for more than 150,000 small businesses**
- Eliminate the state inheritance tax. **Phase out passed in 2012/tax eliminated in 2013**
- Promote the enactment of a federal solution to the Internet sales/use tax dilemma. **Marketplace Fairness Act reintroduced in Congress**
- Streamline and make consistent the administration of the state’s tax code. **Several moderate procedural improvements passed in 2015**
- Establish government funding mechanisms to more closely approximate “user fee” model.
- Contain health care costs through patient-directed access and outcomes-based incentives.
- Reduce smoking levels to less than 15% of the population. **First statewide smoking ban passed in 2012; nearly 4% drop in adult smoking rate in 2015 Report Card**
- Return obesity levels to less than 20% of the population. **Wellness Council of Indiana working directly with employers**

DRIVER 3: SUPERIOR INFRASTRUCTURE

- Create and implement a plan to position Indiana as a net exporter of energy.
- Diversify Indiana’s energy mix with an emphasis on clean coal, nuclear power and renewables.
- Identify and implement workable energy conservation strategies. **2015 legislation requires utilities to submit efficiency plans**
- Develop and implement a strategic water resource plan that ensures adequate fresh water for citizens and business. **Indiana Chamber Foundation water resource study (August 2014); 2015-2016 legislation directs collection of additional resource data**
- Develop and implement new fiscal systems to support the array of infrastructure projects critical to economic growth. **2014 Blue Ribbon Commission identified priorities; short-term funding passed in 2016; summer task force to pursue long-term solutions**
- Aggressively build out the state’s advanced telecommunications networks. **2015 Broadband Ready Communities legislation streamlines regulatory hurdles to network expansion/upgrades**

DRIVER 4: DYNAMIC & CREATIVE CULTURE

- Develop entrepreneurship and aggressively promote business start-ups through education, networking, investment and financial support. **2015 developments: Launch Indiana program authorized and funded; 21st Century Fund reauthorized and funded**
- Increase the amount of technology transfer from higher education institutions and attain “Top 5” ranking per capita among all states. **Indiana Biosciences Research Institute created (2013); leadership in place, fund-raising ongoing**
- Achieve “Top 12” ranking among all states in number of utility patents per worker.
- Achieve “Top 12” ranking among all states in venture capital invested per capita. **Crowdfunding legislation passed in 2014**
- Strategically recruit foreign direct investment (FDI) and achieve “Top 12” ranking among all states in FDI as a percent of gross state product. **State maintains 12th-place ranking**
- Increase Indiana exports to achieve “Top 5” ranking per capita among all states. **Top 10 ranking maintained**
- Promote a culture that further values diversity and civility, attracting and retaining talented individuals. **Regional Cities Initiative bill promoting quality of place passed and three programs funded; legislative protections for LGBT community passed into law for first time; further legislation debated in 2016**