

Driver 1: Education/Workforce Development

Education and workforce training drive a competitive workforce. Indiana ranks behind other states and nations in many areas of educational achievement. In the four years since Economic Vision 2010 was introduced, legislation dealing with charter schools, increased school choice and alternative teacher licensing has improved the state's standing.

In addition, training of new and current employees cannot be neglected. Economic Vision 2010 has been instrumental in improving the state's ability to provide those services by developing an incumbent worker training program that features business and labor working together to make funding decisions.

Goal 1

Create a world-class K-12 education system

Initiatives

1. Seek funds to fully implement accountability and continuous quality improvement system in all Indiana schools.
2. Ensure implementation of world-class education performance standards by subject and grade level.
3. Increase parental options in education by implementing charter schools and enacting tuition tax credit legislation.
4. Expand the use of alternative teacher licensing for experienced professionals with various areas of specialty (e.g. chemists, lawyers, doctors, accountants).
5. Develop communication tools that encourage employers to review high school transcripts.
6. Raise the level of statewide discussion and decision-making about the value of preschool education.

Goal 2

Improve the quality and quantity of Indiana's future employees through attraction and retention programs and partnerships

Initiatives

1. Provide students and parents with data indicating which areas of the economy are growing in order to make informed decisions regarding educational programs and degrees.
2. Develop and support technology-based tools and programs that match intellectual capital with workplace opportunities. Support the development of effective alumni attraction, retiree attraction and other collaborative efforts to increase the availability of high-skilled employees in Indiana's workforce.
3. Aggressively develop cultural, educational and business alliances to attract highly skilled employees from other states and around the world.
4. Advocate immediate implementation and full funding of career awareness and career development programs in all schools. Track what other groups are doing as a result of Chamber studies on "brain drain" and recent Lilly Endowment grants. Benchmark what colleges and universities throughout the state are doing to make students aware of career opportunities.

Goal 3

Improve the state's ability to educate/retrain existing employees

Initiatives

1. End the necessity for and the practice of remediation of high school students at the postsecondary level.
2. Develop vocational education programs that are targeted at high-demand, high-wage and high-skilled occupations.
3. Create a statewide linkage between secondary and postsecondary enrollment that would allow a student to pursue a degree, apprenticeship or certificate of completion during their secondary education.
4. Work to increase high school graduation rate from 74% to 90% by 2010.
5. Reduce training in secondary education that targets low-demand, low-skill and low-wage occupations. Routinely examine different economic sectors to determine whether they are growing or declining, and then use the data to re-prioritize spending for training-related activities.
6. Advocate higher education and K-12 policies that will decrease "false starts" of students entering postsecondary education and dropping out.
7. Create a competitive process among secondary schools for state and federal funding for technical education programs that create a statewide link to postsecondary education.
8. Expand the delivery of adult education programs to increase participation of postsecondary education and community organizations.
9. Create an equitable balance of adult education funding for postsecondary education and community organizations.
10. Shift the purchase decisions and use of public resources for workforce training, including the training tax credit, from the program providers to customers (Indiana workers and their employers).