

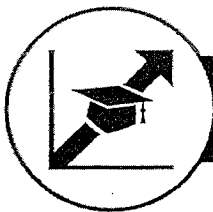
LUMINA FOUNDATION STATE POLICY AGENDA

To reach Goal 2025, states must build student-centered, outcomes-based postsecondary education systems with the capacity to reach much higher levels of attainment. States can build these systems, but only by explicitly defining goals and priorities; ensuring that public resources are aligned with those goals; providing students with clear pathways and institutions with incentives to increase completion; measuring and reporting progress; and ensuring that strong, consistent and accountable leadership is in place to drive a challenging reform agenda.

Many states have set goals to increase attainment that are consistent with Goal 2025. Reaching those goals will require a shift in almost every aspect of state higher education policy, but the results will be worth the effort. Increased attainment will pay enormous dividends to states in terms of both economic prosperity and improved quality of life.

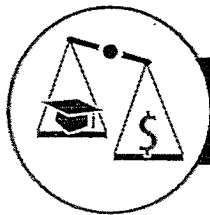
On the other hand, failing to increase attainment will deepen inequality and hamper opportunity for large segments of the population, neutralize state efforts to grow economically, and create greater disparities across states in terms of opportunity and prosperity.

Lumina's state higher education policy agenda reflects the shifts in state policy needed to reach Goal 2025. The agenda consists of three items, and under each are specific policies based on evidence about what works and the experience of many states in strengthening their policies to increase attainment. While these policies are as specific as possible, the policy agenda is also flexible enough to respond to unique conditions and needs. Each state will determine how best to create a policy environment that supports efforts to increase higher education attainment and reach Goal 2025.



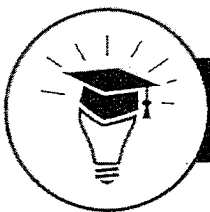
Improve quality of student outcomes in terms of completion, learning and employment

1. Set an ambitious goal for increased attainment and monitor progress toward it. State attainment goals should:
 - be measurable and include a target date;
 - address gaps in attainment across state populations; and
 - be based on analysis of state workforce needs.
2. Develop a statewide plan to focus and sustain necessary changes in policy and practice to reach the state attainment goal.
3. Create a comprehensive data and information system to measure student progression and outcomes, including mobility of students within the system, time and credits to degree, and job placement.
4. Adopt accountability metrics and dashboards to measure progress toward the state attainment goal.
5. Support efforts to define learning outcomes at the degree and certificate level.
6. Create user-friendly public information tools supported by high-quality student information systems, to enable students and families to find the institutions and programs that will best serve their needs.



Align investments with state priorities and student needs

7. To the extent possible, reach a consensus on the financial resources necessary to reach the state goal, including effective and efficient spending of current resources and new investments, focused on student outcomes, to expand the capacity of the system to serve more students.
8. Adopt and sustain outcomes-based funding policies for public higher education institutions that:
 - link to state goals and priorities;
 - address different institutional missions;
 - provide incentives to increase attainment by priority populations, including underrepresented groups;
 - allocate meaningful amounts of funding; and
 - have a long-term political commitment to sustain the effort.
9. Develop lower-cost pathways to degrees, including accelerated (three-year bachelor's and one-year associate) degree programs.
10. Develop and implement a comprehensive approach to student financial aid that:
 - prioritizes access and success for low-income students;
 - provides incentives to students to complete programs as quickly as possible;
 - supports students in competency-based and accelerated programs; and
 - includes incentives for institutions to increase completion.
11. Encourage and support full-time enrollment and progress, and ensure the availability of courses students need to complete programs of study on time.
12. Encourage institutional missions and capacity to evolve to meet state and regional needs.



Create smarter pathways for students

13. Adopt guided pathways to credentials (including requiring students to declare a program of study or major within the first semester), and require institutions to monitor progress toward on-time completion.
14. Adopt statewide policies to guarantee transfer (including reverse transfer) between public institutions, including competency-based, online and open courses.
15. Align statewide K-12 learning assessments with transparent college readiness standards and placement exams, so the junior and senior years of high school can be used for remediation and postsecondary acceleration.
16. Through regulation or funding policy, enact credit hour limits (e.g., 120 credit hours for a baccalaureate degree and 60 credit hours for an associate degree), except in the rare cases in which program accreditation requires otherwise.
17. Establish a statewide system to award and recognize credits through assessment of prior learning.
18. Ensure competency-based programs for adults are available statewide.
19. Expand the availability of online learning by adopting the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA).
20. Create a statewide program to identify adults with college credit but no postsecondary credential and encourage them to re-enroll and complete their degree.