

SETTING A STATE ATTAINMENT GOAL

The state attainment goal serves as the overarching framework for the state's postsecondary/strategic plan, budgeting practices and policy initiatives.

Has Kansas set an ambitious education attainment goal? Does Kansas have a plan for how to reach this goal?

GOAL 2025

Lumina's goal is to increase the proportion of Americans with high-quality college degrees, certificates or other credentials to 60% by the year 2025.

- There is an *economic* imperative for increased educational attainment. Research projects that 65 percent of job openings will require some postsecondary education by 2025. At the current rate, the supply of educated workers will fall short by 5 million.
- Increased education attainment also generates significant societal benefits, including greater civic and social engagement, healthier lifestyles, and less dependence on public assistance.

STATE POLICY AGENDA

Lumina Foundation, in consultation with state and national partners, has developed a state policy agenda with 20 evidence-based policies and practices to engage key state stakeholders to advance Goal 2025. Setting a statewide attainment goal is a key component in improving student outcomes.

SETTING KANSAS' GOAL

An effective statewide goal should be:

- ✓ quantifiable—a number or percent that can be measured over time.
- ✓ challenging in that it cannot be easily achieved through population increases.
- ✓ include a long-term target date to demonstrate commitment and drive expectation.
- ✓ address closing attainment gaps for underrepresented populations.
- ✓ articulated in statute and/or the state's strategic plan for postsecondary education.
- ✓ based on an analysis of state workforce needs so that institutions can produce graduates who meet local workforce demand.
- ✓ embraced by many stakeholders including K-12 and the workforce.

Attainment goal and completion goal

are terms that are often used interchangeably but are actually different.

Attainment goal refers to the educational levels of a state's population. Completion goals are the total credentials awarded annually to reach the attainment goal.

NATIONAL & KANSAS DATA

Research supports the economic imperative for Goal 2025.

Nationally:

There will be 55 million job openings through 2020.

- 35% of the job openings will require at least a bachelor's degree.
 - 30% of the job openings will require some college or an associate's degree.
- STEM, healthcare professions, and community services are among the fastest growing occupations that require high levels of postsecondary education.
- Employers will seek cognitive skills such as communication and analytics from job applicants.

In Kansas:

Between 2010 and 2020, there will be an estimated 553,000 total job openings. (Growth rate = 15%)

41.3% of the state's 1.5 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to the 2012 Census data.

Sources: Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, *Recovery: Job growth and Education Requirements through 2020* (<http://www.georgetown.edu/education2020/>); Lumina Foundation, *A Stronger Nation Through Higher Education*; <https://strongernation.luminafoundation.org/report/#kansas>

For more information on Lumina's state policy agenda, please visit strategylabs.luminafoundation.org. As a private foundation, Lumina does not support or oppose any specific legislation. Lumina provides information and resources on a nonpartisan basis to advance Goal 2025.