



Introduction: **Indiana's College Readiness Challenge**

Indiana's College Readiness Reports are produced annually to help local schools and communities understand how their students are performing in college while informing policies that increase college readiness and success.

Access to education beyond high school has never been greater in Indiana. Between the state's public and private colleges and universities, students have an impressive array of choices when it comes to what, where and how to study. That an environment like this exists is a testament to the value Hoosiers place on educational opportunity.

While most students today aspire to earn a college degree, many are not adequately prepared for success when they arrive on campus. Data confirm that about one-fourth of Indiana's recent high school graduates who enroll in the state's public colleges need to complete remedial education in English or mathematics before they can take college-level courses that count toward their degrees.

College remediation in Indiana was estimated in 2013 to cost students and taxpayers nearly \$78 million, though these costs should be declining as college-readiness rates improve. Remediation also extends the time it takes for students to graduate, increases cost of their degrees and reduces the likelihood that they graduate at all. Delayed graduation is even more problematic for students relying on state financial aid, which pays for the remedial coursework but runs out after four years even if the remediation delays graduation.

The College Readiness Reports also show that high school diploma type matters. Indiana's general diploma and waiver

graduates are far more likely to need remediation than Core 40 diploma earners, and Core 40 graduates are more likely to need remediation than those who finish with an Academic Honors diploma. Moreover, rigorous preparation in the form of Advanced Placement courses and related early-college coursework significantly reduces the likelihood that students will need remediation while providing them a jumpstart toward completing their college degree.

The Commission for Higher Education is committed to providing a clearer and more comprehensive picture of college readiness.

Just over a third of Indiana adults today have a college degree or workforce credential, a reality that limits individual opportunity and restrains the state's economic development. Indiana has embraced a goal of increasing the proportion of Hoosiers with quality education and training beyond high school to 60 percent of the state's population by 2025. To reach this ambitious goal, Indiana must better prepare students in the K-12 arena while offering better pathways to success for recent high school graduates and returning adults who enter higher education underprepared.

Overcoming Indiana's college-readiness challenge is a shared responsibility. No education sector is solely responsible and none can solve the problem alone. Indiana's College Readiness Reports are provided with that challenge—and that opportunity—in mind.

