

K-12 and Postsecondary Transitions Update

Angel McAllister, *State Director for Financial Aid*

Caitlin Mahoney, *Director of Financial Aid Support Center*

Jessica Barrett, *Director of Academic Affairs and Transfer*

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2024 K-12 & POSTSECONDARY TRANSITIONS STRATEGY

**21st Century Scholars
Automatic Enrollment**

ScholarTrack Accounts

**Indiana College Core
Career & Technical Education**

Pre-Admissions



**Middle School
Graduation**



**High School
Graduation**

**21st Century Scholars
Pledge**

**Scholar Success
Program**

FAFSA

**Frank O'Bannon Grant
Next Generation Hoosier Educators
Other Financial Aid**



K-12 AND POSTSECONDARY TRANSITIONS UPDATE

21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS AUTO-ENROLLMENT

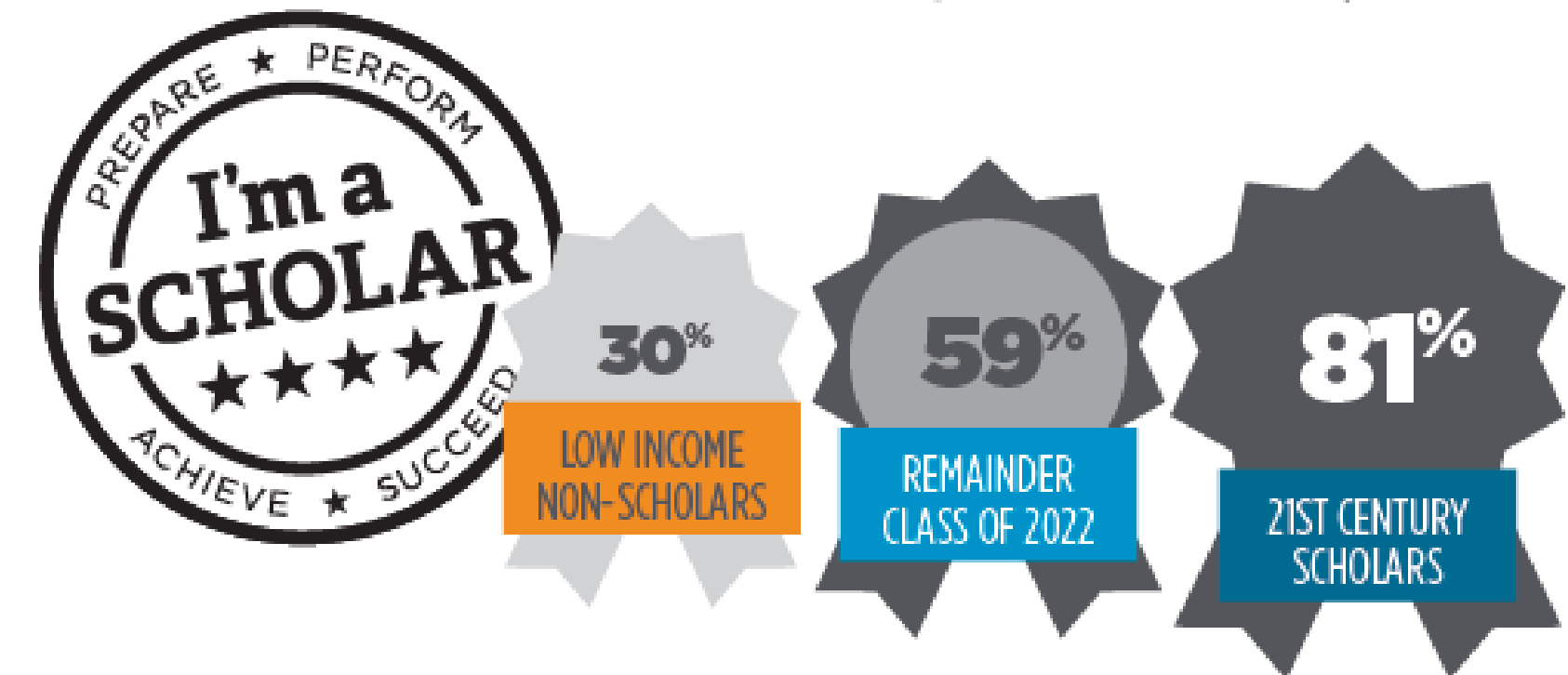


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21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS

- ▶ The 21st Century Scholars Program began in 1990.
- ▶ It is designed to provide financial and college readiness support to Indiana's financially eligible students.
- ▶ **Across all races and ethnicities** Scholars are more likely to go to college than their low-income peers.
- ▶ **Less than half of financially eligible students** were enrolling in the program.

21st Century Scholars are more likely to attend college than their peers.



21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS

- ▶ HEA 1449-2023 requires the Commission, in partnership with the Indiana Department of Education **to identify and automatically enroll** eligible students into the 21st Century Scholars program.
- ▶ Automatically enrolling all income-eligible students into the program removes the application barrier students and families faced.
- ▶ The Commission is required to mail letters to families of students who were automatically enrolled with the option to opt out of the program.
- ▶ In the 2027 cohort, the number of students who self-enrolled was 19,000. After switching to automatic enrollment, that number grew to **nearly 46,000**. Currently, the 2028 cohort has over **50,000** enrolled.

21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS

- ▶ To activate and utilize the full scholarship, students must:
 - ▶ Create a student ScholarTrack account.
 - ▶ Sign the Scholar Pledge.
 - ▶ Complete 12 Scholar Success Program activities while in high school.
 - ▶ Meet the program's graduation requirements (GPA and diploma).
 - ▶ Matriculate to college within 1 year of graduating high school.
 - ▶ File a FAFSA by the state priority deadline, April 15th.



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FAFSA COMPLETION



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2024-2025 FAFSA CHALLENGES

- ▶ FAFSA Simplification Act: Significant changes to FAFSA form:
 - ▶ FAFSA opened on December 31, 2023, instead of October 1, 2023.
 - ▶ Significant technical problems with the website and electronic FAFSA form caused delays and disruptions for students trying to submit their application and make corrections.
 - ▶ Parents without social security numbers faced various challenges trying to submit their portions of the applications.
 - ▶ Limited access to support services and guidance during peak submission periods exacerbated the difficulties, making it harder for students to get timely help.



UNIVERSAL FAFSA

- ▶ SEA 167-2023 made FAFSA filing a **default option** for high school seniors beginning with the class of 2024.
- ▶ It includes broad **opt-out provisions**:
 - ▶ Parents or emancipated students can opt out of filing.
 - ▶ A high school can waive the requirement if the school has made two reasonable attempts to contact the student and/or parent.

OUR 2024-2025 JOURNEY

- ▶ Indiana rank 1st for low-income high schools at +0.5% and is the only state to have closed the gap.
- ▶ Indiana ranks 4th for high-minority high schools at +0.5%, alongside Maine, Vermont, and Minnesota, as one of the states that have closed the gap.

JOURNEY TO TOP 10 (factor out Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico)		
State	Current Ranking	Year/Year % Change for Completions
Indiana	1	-0.9%
North Dakota	2	-4.0%
Minnesota	3	-7.6%
Oregon	4	-8.7%
New Hampshire	5	-9.9%
New Jersey	6	-9.9%
Virginia	7	-10.0%
Ohio	8	-10.5%
Utah	9	-10.8%
Rhode Island	10	-10.9%



FAFSA COMPLETION CAMPAIGN

The Commission launched several statewide FAFSA completion campaigns:

- ▶ FAFSA Completion Emails
- ▶ FAFSA Completion Social Media Posts
- ▶ FAFSA Live Events on Facebook
- ▶ State of Indiana Employee Newsletters
- ▶ Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation: *College Matters*
- ▶ Media Interviews
- ▶ FAFSA Live Event on Facebook
- ▶ Press Releases
- ▶ FAFSA Completion Letters

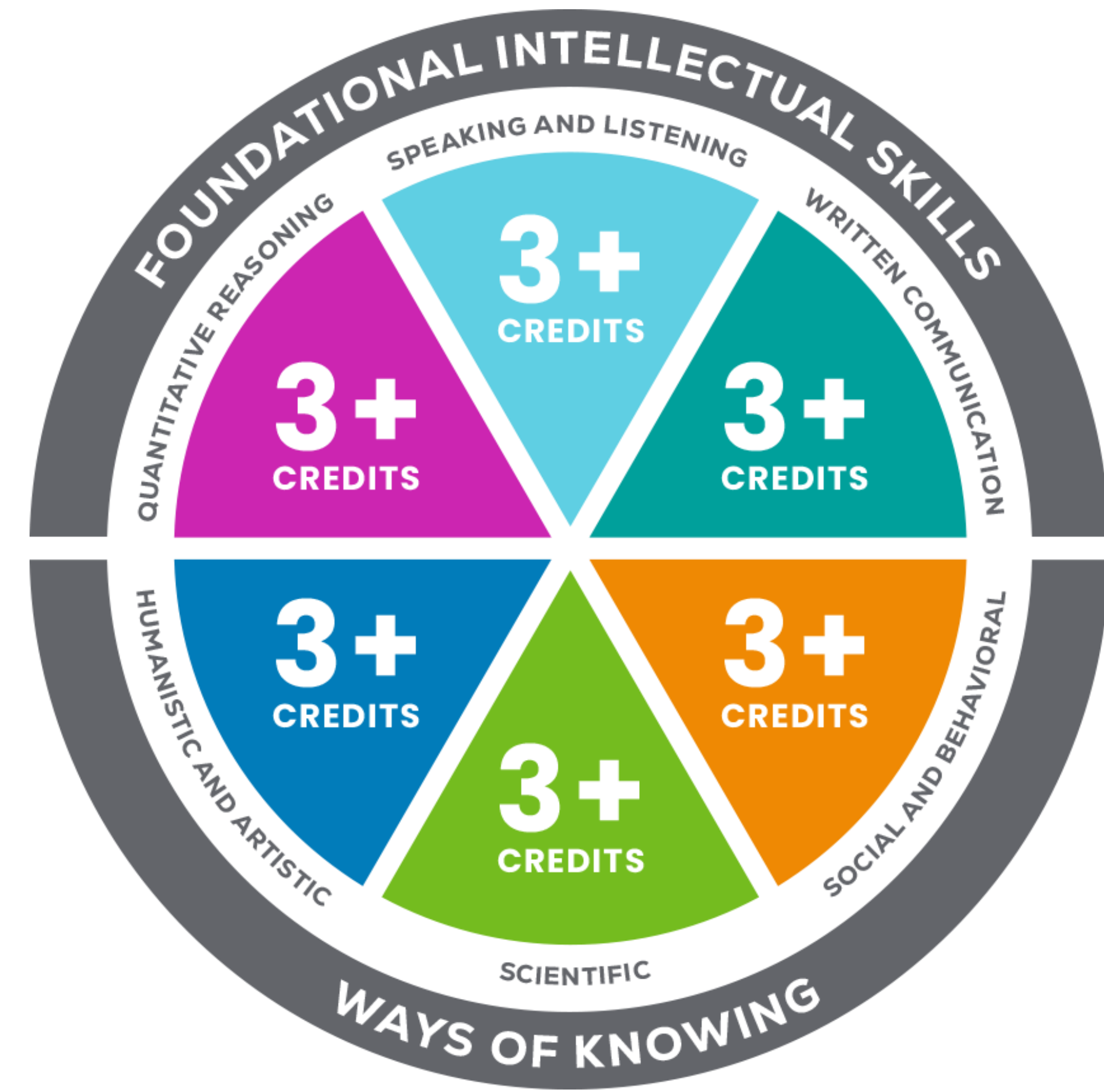
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INDIANA COLLEGE CORE



WHAT IS THE INDIANA COLLEGE CORE?

- ▶ A block of 30 college-level general education credits students can earn while in high school required to be accepted at all Indiana public institutions.
- ▶ Currently 6 private institutions accept the ICC.
- ▶ **Competency-Based**
 - ▶ 3 Foundational Intellectual Skills
 - ▶ 3 Ways of Knowing



INDIANA COLLEGE CORE IN HIGH SCHOOL

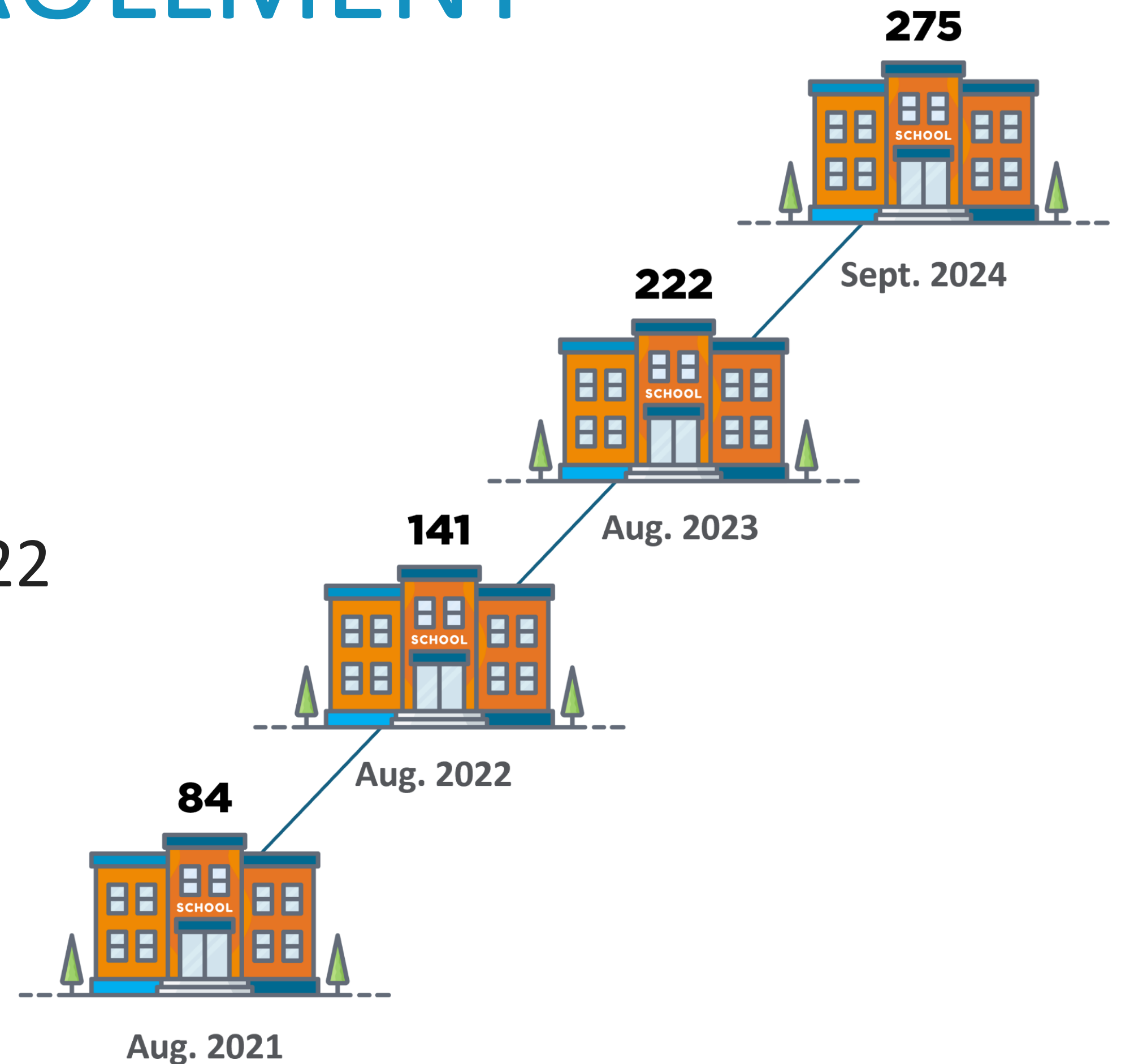
- ▶ High schools partner with a postsecondary institution to award the Indiana College Core certificate.
- ▶ The Indiana College Core is offered by most of Indiana's public institutions.
- ▶ Postsecondary partners are responsible for:
 - ▶ Tracking and reporting data to the Commission
 - ▶ Delivering at least 15 of the 30 credit hours of ICC coursework
 - ▶ Coordinating courses with secondary providers
 - ▶ Maintenance of courses on My College Core



HOPE AGENDA GOAL 1: ENROLLMENT

Indiana College Core (ICC)

- ▶ 275 high schools currently offer the ICC
- ▶ 2,371 high school students earned the ICC in 2022
- ▶ 92% of ICC earners enrolled in college



EXPANDING THE INDIANA COLLEGE CORE

- ▶ SEA 8-2024 Legislation
 - ▶ High schools must offer the ICC by AY 2024-2025, or
 - ▶ Submit an implementation plan to offer the ICC by AY 2026-2027, or
 - ▶ Submit a feasibility report by AY 2026-2027.
- ▶ Survey of all high schools due to Commission on October 1, 2024



MY COLLEGE CORE WEBSITE & PLANNING TOOL

- ▶ Launched in August 2023 to be a one-stop shop for earning the ICC in high school
- ▶ Planning tool allows students to choose the available coursework, including dual credit, dual enrollment, AP and CLEP
- ▶ Students can save, edit, and share plans with counselors and family members.
- ▶ High school counselors and postsecondary partners can view saved plans and track student progress.
- ▶ Site contains a toolkit of resources for high schools such as handouts, posters, and presentations



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PRE-ADMISSIONS: YOUR PATH TO COLLEGE



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INDIANA PRE-ADMISSIONS: YOUR PATH TO COLLEGE

- ▶ A **statewide initiative** of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, in partnership with Indiana's higher education institutions
- ▶ The Commission is using high school GPAs and SAT scores to inform students of their postsecondary options.
- ▶ The Commission mails two letters to students and their parents:
 - ▶ The August letter informs students of the Pre-Admissions initiative.
 - ▶ The September letter is the official letter with institutional pre-admissions decisions listed.

2024 COHORT

VS.

2025 COHORT

- ▶ Participating schools:
 - ▶ 327 high schools
 - ▶ 38 of 48 (79%) campuses
 - ▶ 15 public campuses
 - ▶ 23 private campuses
 - ▶ 56,426 decision letters were mailed in 2023.
 - ▶ Data Breakdown
 - ▶ On average, students were pre-admitted to 24 schools.
 - ▶ 28% of students received all 38 schools (16,000+).
- ▶ Participating school:
 - ▶ 390 high schools
 - ▶ 39 of 48 (81%) campuses
 - ▶ 16 public campuses
 - ▶ 23 private campuses
 - ▶ More than 67,000 decision letters are anticipated for 2024.
 - ▶ Data Breakdown
 - ▶ We expect the average number of pre-admitted schools to be 24.
 - ▶ 24% of students are currently receiving all 39 schools (16,000+).

The background features a large, faint, circular seal of the State of Indiana. The seal contains the text "SEAL OF THE STATE OF INDIANA" around the top and "1816" at the bottom. The central image of the seal depicts a landscape with a rising sun, a plow, a sheaf of wheat, and a Native American figure.

QUESTIONS

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