

Key Takeaways – 2020 Progress Report

In 2006, the Nebraska Legislature identified education as key to the state's economic future: "Increasing the number of Nebraskans with high levels of educational attainment is essential to support economic expansion and diversification." (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 85-1428) In 2020, it remains essential, as an estimated 71 percent of Nebraska jobs currently require at least some postsecondary education. This report provides detailed analysis of Nebraska's progress toward increasing its educational attainment. The *Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education*, produced by the Coordinating Commission, includes many of these same metrics within its "Measuring Accomplishments" section.

88.4

Nebraska's 2018-2019 public high school graduation rate. (See Figure 1.1.a.4, page 26.) However, ACT reports that only 22% of Nebraska's ACT-tested high school graduates are sufficiently prepared to succeed in all four common areas of entry-level college coursework in algebra, biology, English, and social sciences. (See Figure 1.1.b.3 on page 36.)

70.6

The college continuation rate for the 2017-2018 Nebraska public high school graduating class. (See Figure 1.1.c.5, page 51.)

83.0

The percentage of ACE Scholarship recipients from public high schools who have gone on to college. The comparable college continuation rates were 53.7% for low-income public high school graduates who did not receive ACE and 77.0% for non-low-income public high school graduates. (See Figure 1.5.8, page 86.)

40.5

68.1

The six-year completion rates for Nebraska public two-year institutions (40.5%) and four-year public institutions (68.1%), compared to national rates of 39.2% and 65.7%, respectively. (Fall 2012 cohort.) (See Figure 2.3.1, page 109.)

45.4

For every 10,000 working-age (22 to 64) Nebraskans with a bachelor's degree or higher, there was an average annual net *out*-migration of 45.4 people from 2014 to 2018, meaning that Nebraska continues to lose more residents with a bachelor's degree than it attracts from other states. (See page 121.)

32.9

The percentage of Nebraskans ages 22 to 64 who have a bachelor's degree or higher for the period 2014-2018, according to the American Community Survey. This is up from 30.8% for the period 2009-2013. The percentage of Nebraskans ages 22 to 64 who have some college or an associate's degree is 35.3%, down from 36.5%. (See Figure 3.1, page 119.)

25.7

The percentage difference in college attainment between whites and minorities ages 25 to 44, which ranks third worst in the country. (See page S19.)