

# OVERVIEW OF PILLARS AND STRATEGIC GOALS

The new *Indiana Prosperity 2035* plan was developed around six pillar policy areas with corresponding goals for each pillar:

## Workforce – Building a Talent Pipeline to Meet Workforce Needs

- ◆ Increase to 70% the proportion of Hoosiers having earned a high-quality credential, certifications and/or degrees. Indiana will improve to be in the top half of states.
- ◆ Double the proportion of residents with postsecondary credentials and certifications in STEM-related fields.
- ◆ Increase from 29% to 40% the proportion of Hoosiers with a bachelor's degree or higher.
- ◆ Increase the state's workforce participation rate from 63% to 70%, with special emphasis among disadvantaged and minority populations.
- ◆ Increase the retention rate of college graduates by 25%. Further, raise the percentage of international students with STEM degrees who remain in Indiana by 25%.

## K-12 Education – Building a System That Prepares All Children for Economic Success

- ◆ Increase from 31% to 70% of students proficient in both the math and English/language arts sections of the ILEARN tests.
- ◆ More than 90% of students will be proficient in reading by the third grade.
- ◆ Implement a universal, statewide, publicly funded pre-K educational program to significantly increase access.
- ◆ Reduce by half the number of very small school districts with enrollments below 2,000 students to provide much stronger educational opportunities for rural students and communities.
- ◆ Every eligible student should be automatically enrolled in the 21st Century Scholars program and 75% should complete the requirements of the program.
- ◆ Increase high school graduation rates without the use of waivers for Black students from 73% to 90%.

## Economic Growth, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- ◆ Preserve and continue to improve Indiana's competitive business and regulatory environment to make Indiana one of the best states in the nation to create, locate and grow a business enterprise.
- ◆ Achieve Top 10 status for increases in technology jobs, investment and the number of patents per worker, as well as a Top 5 ranking for the commercialization of intellectual property from higher education institutions.
- ◆ Significantly increase the number of business start-ups to a rate in the top third of states. Double the number of business start-ups by minority entrepreneurs.
- ◆ Improve worker and enterprise productivity to best in the Midwest and the Top 10 among the states.
- ◆ Update the state's incentive and attraction tools to better enable the state to rank in the Top 5 most competitive in the nation.

## Superior Infrastructure and Energy

- ◆ 100% of Indiana communities, schools and business enterprises have access to reliable high-speed communications connectivity.
  - ◆ Develop a comprehensive energy strategy for the state to ensure reliable access to a diverse mix of energy sources, including renewable and sustainable energy.
  - ◆ Incentivize and integrate renewable and carbon-neutral goals to significantly improve Indiana's competitiveness in attracting economic expansion.
  - ◆ Invest in planning and infrastructure to address fresh and wastewater needs on a state and regional basis to meet current and future needs for economic development.
  - ◆ Develop and implement innovative road and highway improvement programs to maximize return on investment, regional partnerships and federal grant support for state and local projects.
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## Making Quality of Place Strategies a Priority

- ◆ Establish quality of place initiatives as a top priority in economic and regional development, with sustainable funding models included.
  - ◆ Achieve Top 25 status nationally and lead the Midwest in population growth and stabilize population levels in Indiana's cities and towns with 10,000 or less residents.
  - ◆ Achieve Top 25 status in air and water quality measurements in the state.
  - ◆ Promote a diverse, inclusive and civil culture that attracts and retains talented individuals.
  - ◆ Remove barriers and develop incentives to increase affordable housing to meet the needs of a growing and prosperous workforce.
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## Healthy, Prosperous Communities and Citizens

- ◆ Reduce smoking levels to less than 15% and obesity levels to less than 20% of the state's population.
- ◆ Reduce opioid and other drug addictions to a level that ranks Indiana best in the Midwest.
- ◆ Develop and implement a state public health strategy to improve access to quality care for Hoosier citizens and communities.
- ◆ Contain health care costs and ensure quality through patient-directed access and outcomes-based incentives to improve Indiana's ranking nationally.
- ◆ Increase civic engagement by Hoosiers, improve public support and involvement in public-private initiatives and increase support for public and community institutions.