



2018 PROGRESS REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Making Progress

- Kentucky is on track to reach our 60x30 educational attainment goal. In 2016-17, the total number of undergraduate degrees and credentials increased 7.4% over the prior year. An average annual increase of 1.7% is needed.
 - KCTCS conferred 9,950 associate degrees in 2016-17, a 3% increase over 2015-16
 - Total bachelor's degrees grew by 2% to 23,189, with an 8% increase in degrees conferred to minority students and a 5% increase in STEM+H degrees.
 - Short-term certificates grew by 16%. This represents over 1,300 additional students who completed a short-term certificate at KCTCS.
- Total master's, professional, and doctoral degrees increased by nearly 3% to 10,639. While graduate degrees at public universities remained flat, independent institutions increased graduate degree production by 13%.
- Kentucky Adult Education awarded 3,299 high school equivalent diplomas (GED®s) in 2016-17, a 7% increase over the previous year. GED® graduates enrolling in postsecondary education increased 7 percentage points.
- Kentucky public institutions remain competitive with other SREB states on average net price (out-of-pocket costs), despite continued declines in net General Fund appropriations. Average net price at Kentucky comprehensive universities has remained essentially unchanged since 2012-13.

Holding Steady

- Graduation rates at Kentucky colleges and universities continue to increase, but at a slower rate.
 - The overall six-year graduation rate for public four-year institutions now exceeds 50%; however, rates for low-income and minority students are significantly lower at 37.1% and 37.4% respectively.
 - At KCTCS, the three-year graduation rate rose to 27.1%. The three-year graduation rate is 23.8% for low-income students and 17.2% for minority students.
- Unlike the graduation rate, which captures only first-time, full-time students who remain at their native institution, Kentucky's completion rate reflects the progress of all freshmen who complete a credential anywhere in Kentucky six years later.
 - The overall completion rate for Kentucky's public universities is 58.5%, four percentage points less than the national average.
 - The 40% completion rate for KCTCS is slightly higher than the national sector average of 39.3%.
- First-year to second-year retention has shown modest improvement, moving to 76.9% at public four-year institutions and 54% at KCTCS.

Challenges Ahead

- Kentucky's in-state college-going rate fell from 54% in 2015 to 53.5% in 2016, marking the second consecutive decline.
- Over the next few years, the number of high school graduates is projected to remain static, but by 2030, a 7% decrease in high school graduates is expected, which will hurt Kentucky's ability to reach the 60x30 goal. Enrolling and graduating a greater percentage of non-traditional adult students (25 and older) will be essential.
- Currently, about 1.2 million working-age Kentuckians do not have a college degree. Enrolling more of these students will be challenging, as the percentage of adult students enrolled has fallen from 4% in fall 2013 to 3 percent in fall 2016.
- State funding per full-time student fell to \$5,848 in 2016-17 and has declined 35% since 2007-08, the start of the Great Recession.