

Indiana Vision 2025: Advancing the Vision

DRIVER 1: OUTSTANDING TALENT	
GOAL	SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS
Increase the proficiency of Indiana students in math, science and reading to “Top 5” status nationally.	Continued strong improvements in NAEP reading and math rankings
Increase to 90% the proportion of Indiana students who graduate from high school ready for college and/or career training.	Keeping assessments aligned to new standards; Chamber Foundation partners in Postsecondary Pathways events and serves as school counseling initiative resource to connect education and business; graduation pathways included in new ILEARN assessment
Eliminate the educational achievement gaps at all levels, from pre-school through college, for disadvantaged populations.	Significantly expanded funding (2017) for high-quality preschool program for low-income children; establishment of more balanced school funding formula
Increase to 60% the proportion of Indiana residents with high quality postsecondary credentials.	Primary entities aligned on goal
Increase the proportion of Indiana residents with bachelor’s degrees or higher to “Top 10” status nationally.	
Increase the proportion of Indiana residents with associate’s degrees to “Top 10” status nationally.	
Increase the proportion of Indiana residents with postsecondary credentials in STEM-related fields to “Top 5” status nationally.	Large number of public and private sector initiatives in place; focus will hopefully yield future results
Develop, implement and fully fund a comprehensive plan for addressing the skills shortages of adult and incumbent workers who lack minimum basic skills.	2017 legislation provides workforce ready grants and better coordination of career and technical education efforts
Improve Indiana’s per-capita income ranking to “Top 25” nationally	Cost of living adjustment lifts Indiana from 38th to 20th in rankings

DRIVER 2: ATTRACTIVE BUSINESS CLIMATE	
GOAL	SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS
Adopt a right-to-work statute.	Passed February 2012
Enact comprehensive government reform at the state and local levels to increase efficiency and effectiveness in delivery of services.	Repeal of common construction wage law in 2015
Reform public pension systems to ensure Indiana’s are competitive and actuarially sound according to industry standards.	Moderate cost containment passed in 2014
Preserve and enhance a “Top 5” ranking among all states for Indiana’s legal environment.	Legal climate generally regarded as fair and effective. Commercial courts pilot program instituted in 2016
Attain a “Top 5” ranking among all states for Indiana’s business regulatory environment.	Continued strong rankings in these metrics
Eliminate the business personal property tax.	2015 legislation eliminates tax for more than 150,000 small businesses
Eliminate the state inheritance tax.	Phase-out passed in 2012/tax eliminated in 2013
Promote the enactment of a federal solution to the internet sales/use tax dilemma.	2017 legislation shifts focus from physical presence to economic activity; sets stage for Indiana to collect tax when federal or court action taken
Streamline and make consistent the administration of the state’s tax code.	Several moderate procedural improvements passed in 2015 and 2017
Establish government funding mechanisms to more closely approximate “user fee” model.	2017 road funding legislation utilizes user fee approach
Contain health care costs through patient-directed access and outcomes-based incentives.	Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP) 2.0 went into effect in 2015
Reduce smoking levels to less than 15% of the population.	First statewide smoking ban passed in 2012; smoking rate declined from 25.6% (2011 data) to 20.6% (current); continued efforts required
Return obesity levels to less than 20% of the population.	Wellness Council of Indiana and partners working directly with employers and communities on healthy cultures/improving outcomes; Chamber a partner in Alliance for a Healthier Indiana

DRIVER 3: SUPERIOR INFRASTRUCTURE	
GOAL	SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS
State development and implementation of a strategic energy resource plan that helps ensure Indiana is one of the “Top 10” most affordable states for electricity.	2017 legislation begins to address issues between ratepayers and utilities – a necessary step toward energy policy creation; expands self-generation opportunities; IURC rate reviews now made public
Diversify Indiana’s energy mix with an emphasis on clean coal, natural gas, nuclear power and renewables.	Integrated Resource Planning process for utilities put into place in 2016
Identify and implement workable energy conservation strategies.	2015 legislation requires utilities to submit efficiency plans
Develop and implement a strategic water resource plan that ensures adequate fresh water for citizens and business.	Indiana Chamber Foundation water resource study (August 2014); 2015-2017 legislation directs collection of additional resource data
Develop and implement new fiscal systems to support the array of transportation infrastructure projects critical to economic growth.	2017 legislation establishes comprehensive long-term transportation infrastructure funding plan
Aggressively build out the state’s advanced telecommunications networks.	2017 legislation helps to more rapidly deploy technology via small cell towers
Ensure strong security measures (both physical and cyber) are in place for all of Indiana’s critical infrastructure.	Regular IURC-utility meetings focus on preparedness, mitigation and resiliency in the event of cyberattacks

DRIVER 4: DYNAMIC & CREATIVE CULTURE	
GOAL	SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS
Drive strategic entrepreneurship and innovation formation for new and existing firms.	Indiana Technology & Innovation Council partners in policy and program advancements
Increase intellectual property commercialization from higher education and business and attain “Top 5” ranking per capita among all states.	
Achieve “Top 12” ranking among all states in number of patents per worker.	
Achieve “Top 12” ranking among all states in venture capital invested per capita.	2017 legislation establishes Next Level Fund for state investments in high-growth companies; 2020 expiration date on VC tax credit removed
Strategically recruit foreign direct investment (FDI) and achieve “Top 5” ranking among all states in FDI as a percent of gross state product.	
Increase Indiana exports to achieve “Top 5” ranking per capita among all states.	State consistent in achieving top 10 rankings throughout Report Cards
Promote a diverse and civil culture that attracts and retains talented individuals.	Additional funding in 2017 to continue Regional Cities Initiative discussions with focus on quality of place; protections for LGBT community passed into law for the first time in 2015

Report Card Only Part of the Story

The Indiana Chamber released its latest *Indiana Vision 2025* Report Card in June (see July-August issue or www.indianachamber.com/2025). That important update evaluated Indiana compared to the other 49 states on 62 metrics related to the plan’s 36 goals.

That is not the only analysis taking place. Each of the 36 goals are listed on these two pages, with a snapshot of progress that has taken place. This primarily includes legislative achievements, but also identifies programs, research, consistent performance or other initiatives that have helped move the state forward.

The majority of the goals are works in progress – and will remain that way throughout the life of the plan. That work, which began with the 2010-2011 formation of *Indiana Vision 2025*, will continue for the next eight years and beyond. But keeping score is essential.

To learn more about *Indiana Vision 2025*, the current Report Card or other Chamber economic development efforts, contact R. Mark Lawrance at mlawrance@indianachamber.com.