

4 POLICIES THAT INDIANA NEEDS IN 2015

Indiana needs to support adult skills training and education. Here is how – and why.

HOW?

The Indiana Skills2Compete Coalition recommends that Indiana lawmakers enact these policies in an effort to improve Hoosier adults' attainment of middle-skill credentials and prepare them for the workforce.

1

Increase support and services for part-time adult students

to ensure that adult students who attend part-time due to family and financial obligations receive adequate financial aid and braided services necessary for success.

2

Create an adult literacy tax credit

to encourage donations to organizations that provide up to 1.5 million low-literacy Hoosier adults with essential foundational skills.

3

Establish a work-sharing program in Indiana

to provide a voluntary, cost-equivalent alternative to unemployment benefits. Work sharing protects Hoosier jobs – including wages and benefits – by allowing employers to keep their skilled workforce during temporary decreases in demand.

4

Promote a statewide prior learning assessment (PLA) policy

through a convening of Indiana's higher education stakeholders with the purpose of creating a statewide PLA policy to be incorporated into the state's completion, articulation and transfer strategies.

WHY?

BECAUSE OUR FUTURE SUCCESS IS DEPENDENT ON TODAY'S ADULTS.

Indiana's economic recovery is being hampered by a persistent skills gap and a lack of credential attainment among the state's workforce.

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education has committed to "increase higher education attainment of Hoosier adults to 60 percent of Indiana's population by 2025."* But the Indiana Skills2Compete Coalition's research shows that **nearly two-thirds of those who will be working in 2025 were already adults by 2010** – suggesting that focusing skills training on high school students alone will only yield minimal successes.**

Without policies specifically designed to provide adults with additional education and training, it will be impossible for Indiana to reach its goals for a powerful workforce.

What is the Indiana Skills2Compete Coalition? Who are its members?

The coalition is an organization whose goal is to close Indiana's skills gap and be an available resource to policymakers working toward that end. The coalition's 28 members represent 22 organizations and include a bipartisan group of state legislators; education policymakers; and business, labor and community leaders.

INDIANA SKILLS2COMPETE COALITION | incap.org/indianaskills2compete.html

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