



THE ILLINOIS PUBLIC AGENDA  
FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS

## **2010 ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT**

*GOAL 1: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT*

ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

December 2010

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## Moving Forward:

The *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*, adopted by the Illinois Board of Higher Education in 2008, presents the challenges and opportunities facing Illinois and charts a course to One Illinois, a place where all residents have access to high-quality educational opportunities that prepare them for the jobs of the present and the future.

Today, two years later, it is time to take measure of where we were, where we are, and where we want to be in 2018. This Accountability Report, the first of several performance updates to come, focuses on Goal 1, increasing educational attainment to match best-performing states. This update shows:

- An increase in the proportion of adults age 25-34 with an associate's degree or higher, from 40.8 percent in the baseline year to 45.2 percent two years later;
- An increase in the number of adults, including GED recipients, reentering education and completing a postsecondary credential; and
- A reduction in the geographic disparities in education attainment across the state.

Why does this matter? Because what gets measured gets attention.

And Illinois *must* focus attention on increasing **educational attainment**, improving college **affordability**, building a **skilled workforce** ready for the modern economy, and strengthening **economic development** for the state and its regions. Focused on, in other words, the *Illinois Public Agenda*.

If we are to reach our One Illinois destination, we need to know whether we're making progress.

Therein lies the value of this first Accountability Report, and those to follow: it focuses attention on important measures that show whether we – as a State – are gaining ground in our journey to that one Illinois.

Updates on Goals 2, 3, and 4 of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success* will be forthcoming and will be presented in the same format. As the first in a series of reports, this is a work in progress, and we welcome feedback on how to make these accountability measures more meaningful and relevant to policymakers and the citizens of Illinois.

Send your comments to the Illinois Board of Higher Education at [PublicAgenda@ibhe.org](mailto:PublicAgenda@ibhe.org) or to 431 East Adams Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Springfield, IL 62701-1404.

Donald Sevener  
Interim Executive Director



## Introduction:

This report consists of the performance measures for Goal 1 of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*.

**Goal 1:** Increase educational attainment to match best-performing U.S. states and world countries.

**Recommendations:** This report is divided into the three recommendations for Goal 1.

1. Increase success of students at each stage of the P-20 education pipeline to *eliminate achievement gaps* by race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, and disability.
2. Increase the number of adults, including GED recipients, reentering education and completing a postsecondary credential.
3. Reduce geographic disparities in educational attainment

**Measures:** There are three numbers provided for each performance measure: (1) the *Public Agenda* baseline (where we started); (2) the 2010 number (where we are in year 2); and (3) the 2018 number (where we want to be, the 10-year goal). Some of the measures for Goal 1 do not have data available for the comparisons in 2010 and are noted as such in the table preceding the measures for each of the three recommendations.

**Comparisons:** Each performance measure with available data is presented on one page with one to three charts to show how Illinois compares to world countries, the five best-performing states, and neighboring states.

**Primary Source:** The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) in Boulder, Colorado provided most of the performance measures and data for this report.

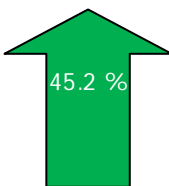
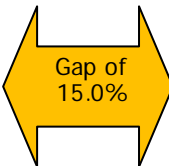
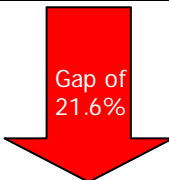
# GOAL I

Increase educational attainment to match best-performing U.S. states and world countries.



## Recommendation I:

Increase success of students at each stage of the P-20 education pipeline to *eliminate achievement gaps* by race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, and disability.

Performance Measures	Public Agenda Baseline	Year 2	2018 Year 10	Benchmarks	Page
<b>Education Level of Adult Population.</b> Proportion of adults age 25-34 with associate's degree or higher.	40.8 %	 45.2 %	51.7 %*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Best-performing world countries;</li> <li>➤ Five best-performing U.S. states; and</li> <li>➤ Selected competitor/ neighboring U.S. states</li> </ul>	2
<b>NEW! Complete College America.</b> All adults (25-64) with a college degree or certificate.	NA	40.8 %	51.6 %*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The 2018 goal is based on the national goal of 60% by 2025</li> </ul>	3
<b>Ethnic/Racial Groups: High School Graduates.</b> Eliminating the gap between white and minority graduates.	Gap of 15.0 %	 Gap of 15.0%	No Gap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Five best-performing states and</li> <li>➤ Selected competitor/ neighboring U.S. states</li> </ul>	4
<b>Ethnic/Racial Groups: College Graduates.</b> Eliminating the gap between white and minority graduates.	Gap of 19.5 %	 Gap of 21.6%	No Gap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Five best-performing states and</li> <li>➤ Selected competitor/ neighboring U.S. states</li> </ul>	5
<b>Students with Disabilities: College Graduation.</b> Trend of students with disabilities with postsecondary credential.	Data by state on students with disabilities and postsecondary credentials are not available for comparisons in 2010.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Five best-performing states and</li> <li>➤ Selected competitor/ neighboring U.S. states</li> </ul>	NA
<b>Remedial Courses.</b> Trend of students in collegiate remedial courses.	Data by state are not available for comparison. The Illinois Community College Board collects data on remedial education courses offered at each community college in Illinois.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Five best-performing states and</li> <li>➤ Selected competitor/ neighboring U.S. states</li> </ul>	NA

\* The number provided for the goal in 2018 is the midpoint between the best-performing and the fifth best-performing world country or U.S. state for the performance measure and may change in the future as performance changes.

# GOAL I

Increase educational attainment to match best-performing U.S. states and world countries.



## Educational Level of Adult Population

Proportion of adults age 25-34 with associate's degree or higher.

Baseline	40.8 %	Year 2		45.2	2018 Year 10	51.7 %
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### Points of Interest

- The U.S. has experienced very slow growth in its attainment rate. But other countries have been increasing their degree attainment rate at much faster rates and these greater rates have carried some of them past the United States in this decade. (Postsecondary Education Opportunity, 2010)
- Illinois ranks slightly above the United States but is below world countries in the percent of adults 25-34 with an associate's degree or higher. (Figure 1.1)
- Illinois is not among the top five best-performing states, yet; but Illinois has **improved** in national ranking from 18<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> and increased the percentage from 40.8 percent to 45.2 percent. (Figure 1.2)

**Goal in 2018:** The midpoint between the best-performing and the fifth best-performing is 51.7 percent (Korea, 57.9, and Norway, 47.6).

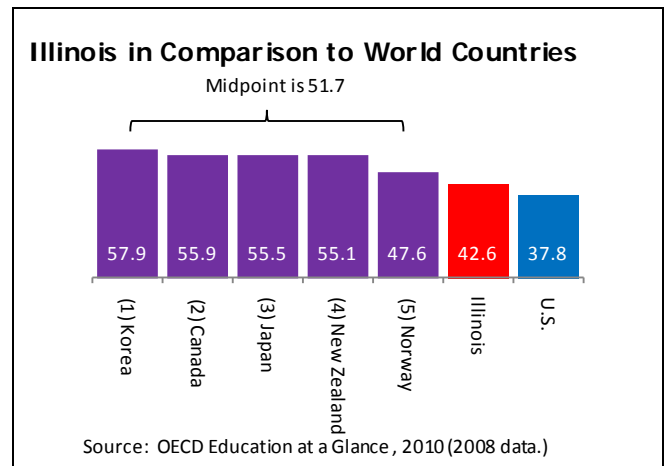


Figure 1.1. Percent of adults 25-34 with associate's degree or higher in the five best-performing OECD Countries, Illinois, and United States.

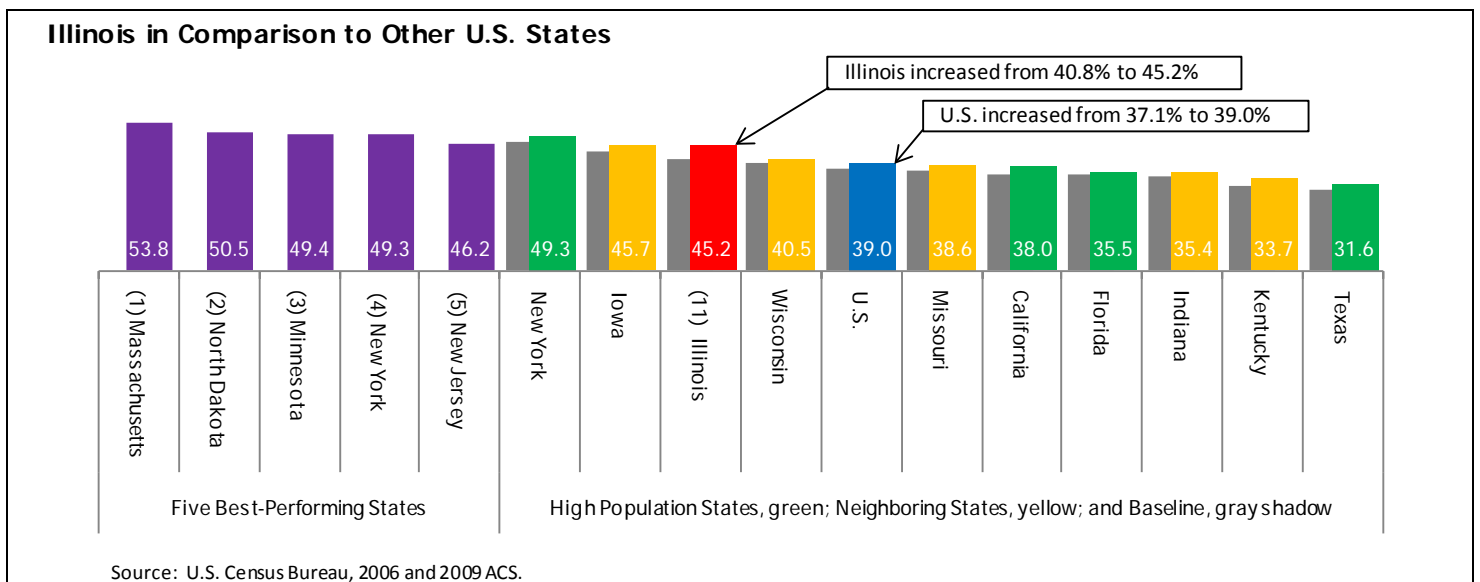


Figure 1.2. Percent of adults 25-34 with associate's degree or higher, five best-performing states, four high population states, five surrounding states, Illinois, and U.S. Shadows represent baseline data.

# GOAL I

Increase educational attainment to match best-performing U.S. states and world countries.



## NEW! Complete College America

All adults (25-64) with a college degree or certificate.

CCA Baseline	40.8%	2018 Goal	51.6%	2025 Goal	60.0%
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### Points of Interest

- Illinois recently endorsed the Complete College America goal of 60% of all Illinois adults (ages 25-64) with a college degree or certificate by 2025. (Figure 1.3)
- Attaining Complete College America's goal would ensure that the U.S. would again be first in the world in the proportion of young adults with a college degree – the goal the President has set for the country. (Complete College America, 2010)
- Illinois is not included in the top five best-performing states, yet. (Figure 1.4)

**Goal in 2018:** The goal of 51.6 percent in 2018 is based on the national goal of 60 percent by 2025.

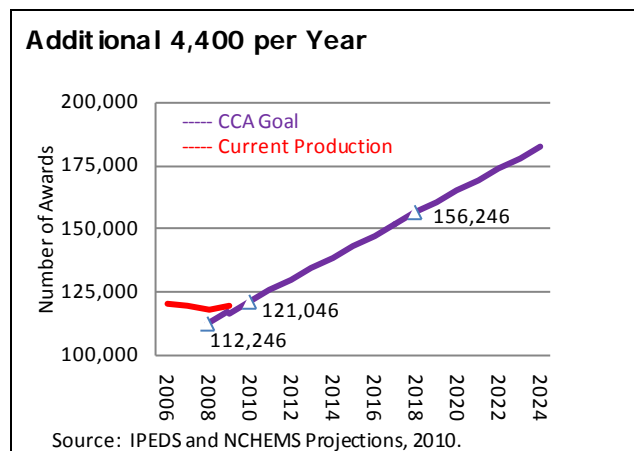


Figure 1.3. College degree and certificates awarded to adults 25-64 (NCHEMS).

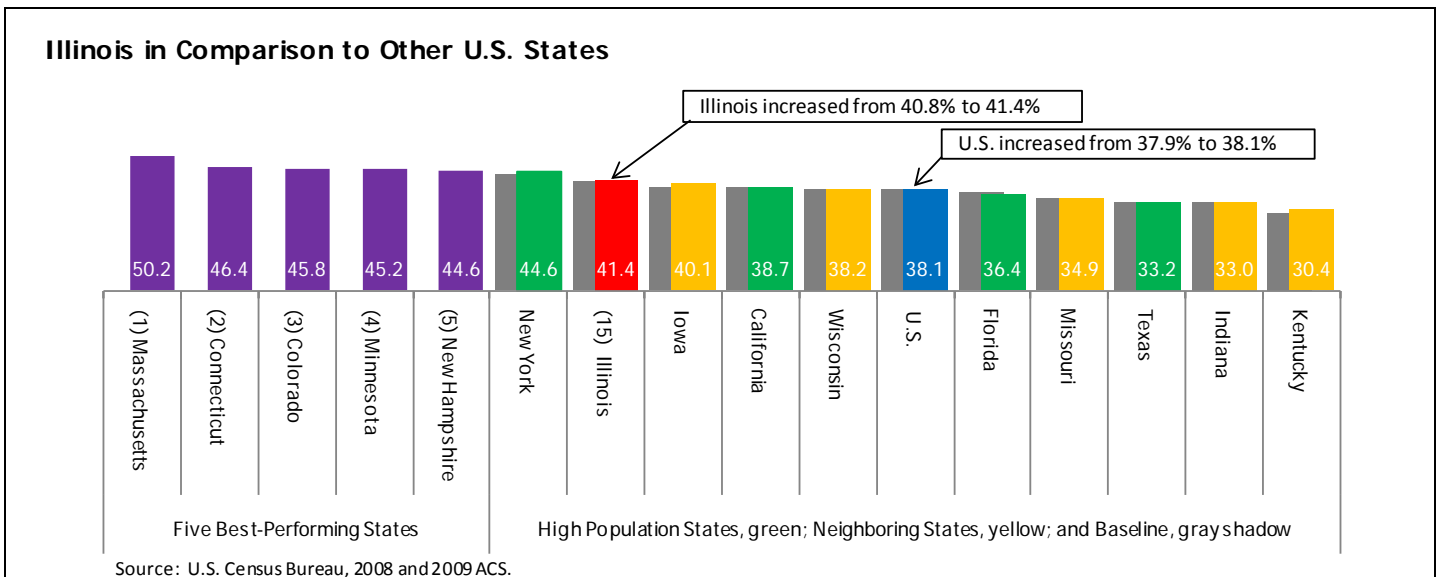


Figure 1.4. Percent of adults 25-64 with associate's degree or higher, five best-performing states, four high population states, five surrounding states, Illinois, and U.S.

# GOAL I

Increase educational attainment to match best-performing U.S. states and world countries.



## Ethnic/Racial Groups: High School Graduates

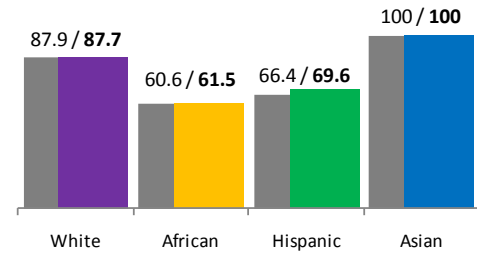
Eliminating the gap between white and minority graduates.



### Points of Interest

- While 87 of every 100 white students graduate from high school, just 6 in 10 Hispanic and African American students leave high school with a diploma. (Figure 1.5)
- The gap between whites and minority adults with high school diplomas has not changed for Illinois; the gap is 15.0 percent (the difference between 92.9 percent of whites and 77.9 percent of minorities with diplomas). (Figure 1.6)
- The Illinois gap between whites and minorities with high school diplomas is larger than the national average and 33 states have a smaller gap than Illinois. (Figure 1.7)

### Illinois Attainment Rates



Source: Illinois State Board of Education; NCES, CCD, School years 2005-06 and 2007-08.

Figure 1.5. Percentage of Illinois 9<sup>th</sup> graders graduating four years later by race/ethnicity, baseline year in gray shadow and current year.

### Illinois in Comparison to Selected States

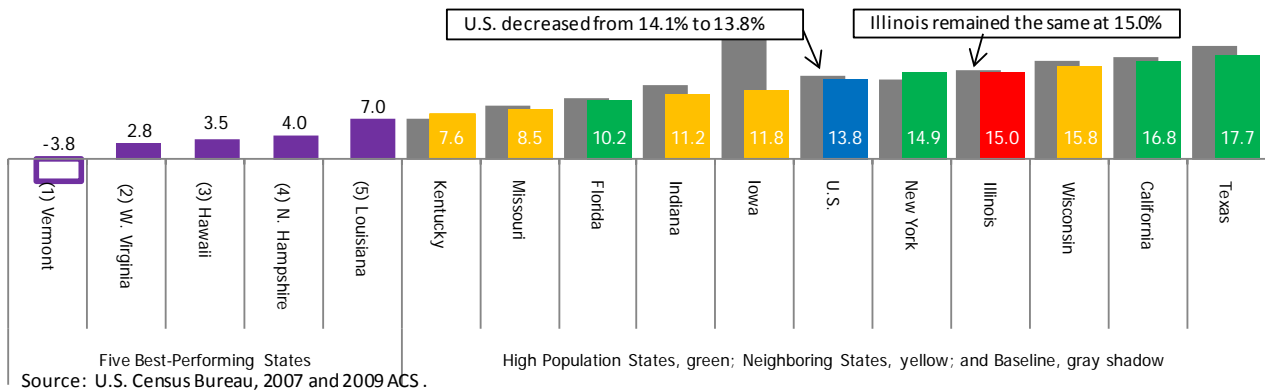


Figure 1.6. Percent of adults 18-34 with a high school diploma – gaps between whites and minorities for the five best-performing states, four high population states, five surrounding states, Illinois, and U.S. Lowest gap is the best.

### Gaps Between Whites and Minorities

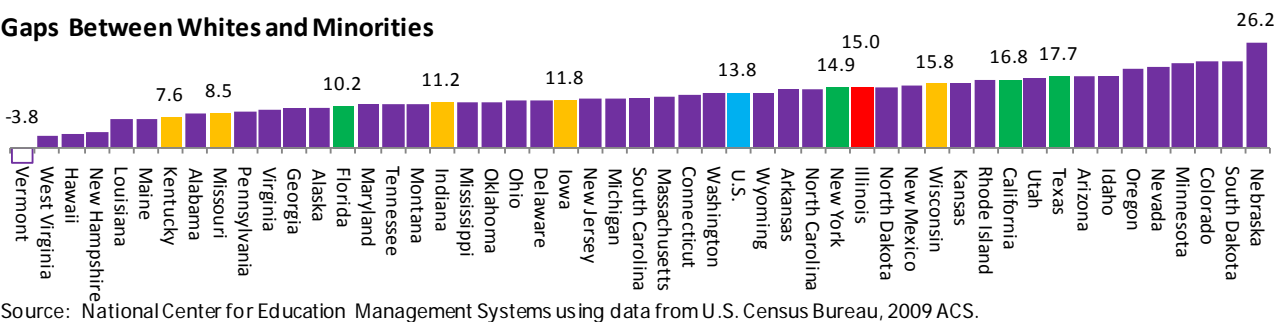


Figure 1.7. Percent of adults 18 to 34 with a high school diploma - gaps between whites and minorities. Lowest gap is the best.



# GOAL I

Increase educational attainment to match best-performing U.S. states and world countries.



## Ethnic/Racial Groups: College Graduates

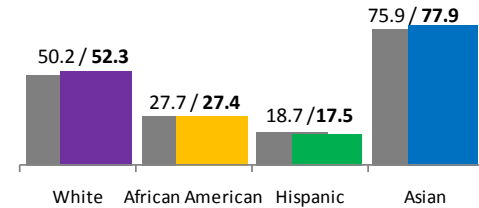
Eliminating the gap between white and minority adults.

Baseline	Gap of 19.5%	Year 2	21.6	2018 Year 10	No Gap
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### Points of Interest

- Illinois rates for Asian and white students have improved, but the African American and Hispanic college graduate percentage has slipped slightly. (Figure 1.8)
- The Illinois gap between whites and minorities has grown larger; the gap is now 21.6 percent (the difference between 52.3 percent of whites and 30.7 percent of minorities). (Figure 1.9)
- The Illinois gap is larger than the national average and 43 states have a smaller gap than Illinois. (Figure 1.10)

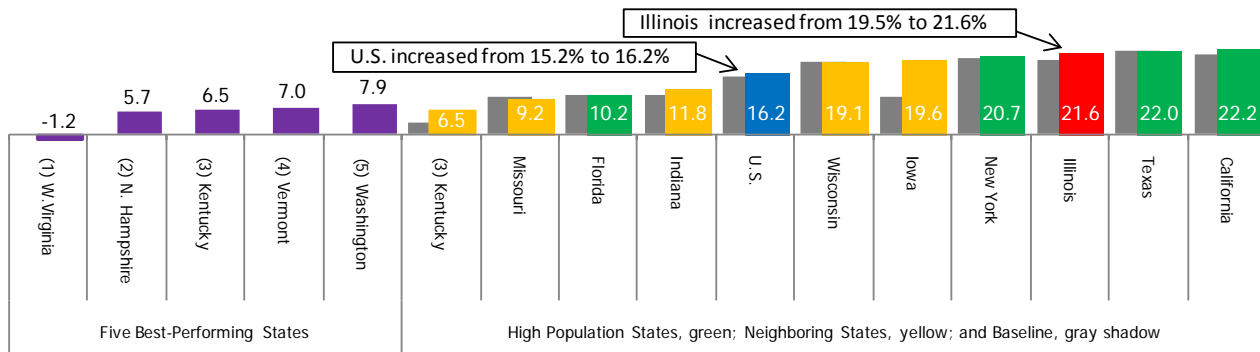
### Illinois Attainment Rates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 and 2009 ACS.

Figure 1.8. Percentage of Illinoisans age 25 to 44 with an associate's degree or higher by race/ethnicity, baseline year in gray shadow and current year.

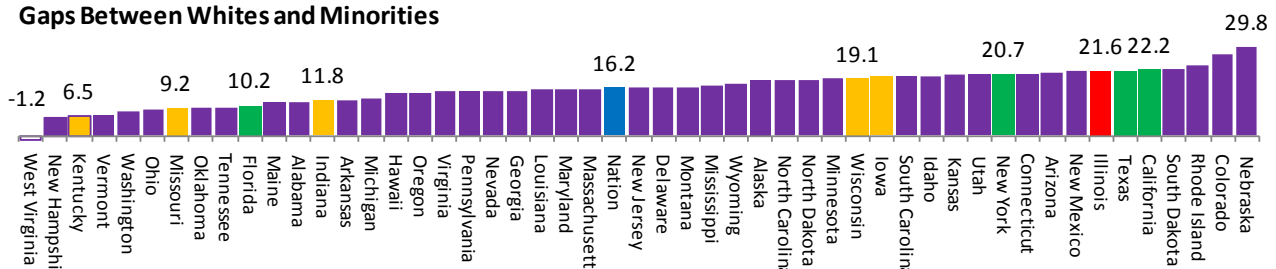
### Illinois in Comparison to Selected States



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 and 2009 ACS.

Figure 1.9. Percent of adults 25-44 with an associate's degree or higher – gaps between whites and minorities for the five best-performing states, four high population states, five surrounding states, Illinois, and U.S. Lowest gap is the best.

### Gaps Between Whites and Minorities



Source: National Center for Education Management Systems using data from U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 ACS.

Figure 1.10. Difference in college attainment of an associate's degree or higher between whites and minorities age 25 to 44. Lowest gap is the best.

# GOAL I

Increase educational attainment to match best-performing U.S. states and world countries.



## Recommendation 2:

Increase the number of adults, including GED recipients, reentering education and completing a postsecondary credential.

Performance Measures	Public Agenda Baseline	Year 2	2018 Year 10*	Benchmarks	Page
<p><b>Adults Earning GEDs.</b> Number of GEDs awarded to adults 19-39 per 1,000 adults age 19-39 with less than a high school diploma.</p> <p><i>(Amended measure to align with available data).</i></p>	20.9 per 1,000		62.6 per 1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Five best-performing U.S. states; and</li> <li>➤ Selected competitor/ neighboring U.S. states</li> </ul>	7
<p><b>Adults Enrolling in College.</b> Enrollment of 25-49 year olds per 1,000 adults 25-49 year olds with just a high school diploma.</p> <p><i>(Amended measure to align with available data).</i></p>	168.3 per 1,000		279.1 per 1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Five best-performing U.S. states; and</li> <li>➤ Selected competitor/ neighboring U.S. states</li> </ul>	8
<p><b>Adults Earning Degrees.</b> Degrees awarded to adults age 18-49 as a proportion of population age 18-49 with no college degree.</p> <p><i>(Amended measure to align with available data).</i></p>	35.9 per 1,000		45.9 per 1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Five best-performing U.S. states; and</li> <li>➤ Selected competitor/ neighboring U.S. states</li> </ul>	9
<p><b>Adult Learners.</b> Annual report on number and trend of adult learners earning certificates or degrees.</p>	Data by state on adult learners earning certificates and degrees are not available for comparisons in 2010.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Five best-performing U.S. states; and</li> <li>➤ Selected competitor/ neighboring U.S. states</li> </ul>	NA

\* The number provided for each goal in 2018 is the midpoint between the best-performing and the fifth best-performing U.S. state for each performance measure and may change in the future as performance changes.


# GOAL I

Increase educational attainment to match best-performing U.S. states and world countries.



## Adults Earning GEDs

Number of GEDs awarded to adults 19-39 as a proportion of adults 19-39 with less than a high school diploma

Baseline	20.9 per 1,000	Year 2	 24.2	2018 Year 10	62.6 per 1,000
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### Points of Interest

- The number of GEDs awarded to Illinoisans age 19-39 has improved but Illinois remains below the national rate. (Figure 1.11)
- Illinois ranks in the bottom quartile of states in the number of adults 19-39 who earn a GED. (Figure 1.12)

**Goal in 2018: 62.6 per 1,000.** The midpoint between the best-performing and the fifth best-performing state with a population size similar to Illinois.

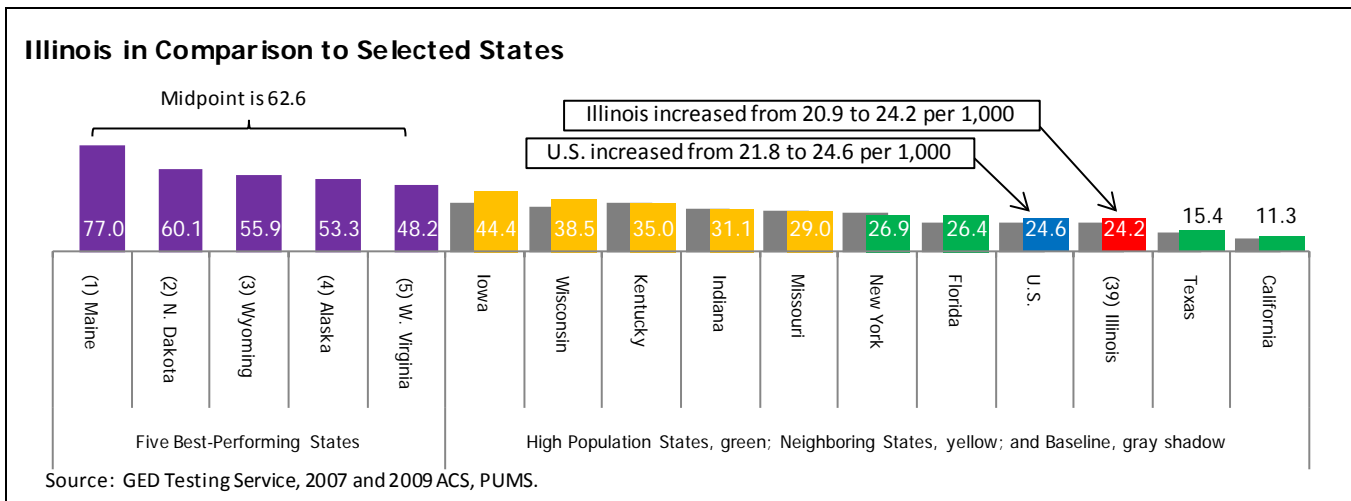


Figure 1.11. GEDs awarded to 19 to 39 year olds per 1,000 19 to 39 year olds with no high school diploma, baseline year and current. Largest number is best.

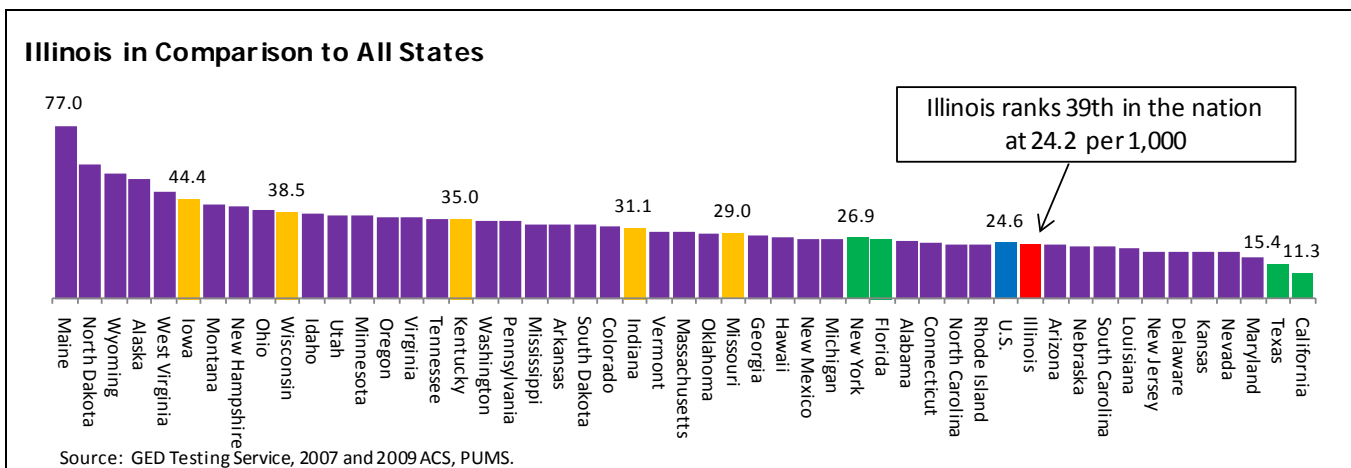


Figure 1.12. GEDs awarded to 19 to 39 year olds per 1,000 19 to 39 year olds with no high school diploma. Largest number is best.


# GOAL 1

Increase educational attainment to match best-performing U.S. states and world countries.



## Adults Enrolling in College

Enrollment of 25-49 year olds per 1,000 adults 25-49 year olds with just a high school diploma

Baseline	168.3 per 1,000	Year 2	 217.5	2018 Year 10	279.1 per 1,000
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### Points of Interest

- Illinois ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation with a rate of 217.5 per 1,000 adults age 25-49 years who are enrolled in college. (Figures 1.13 & 1.14)

**Goal in 2018: 279.1 per 1,000.** The goal is the midpoint between the best-performing and the fifth best-performing state.

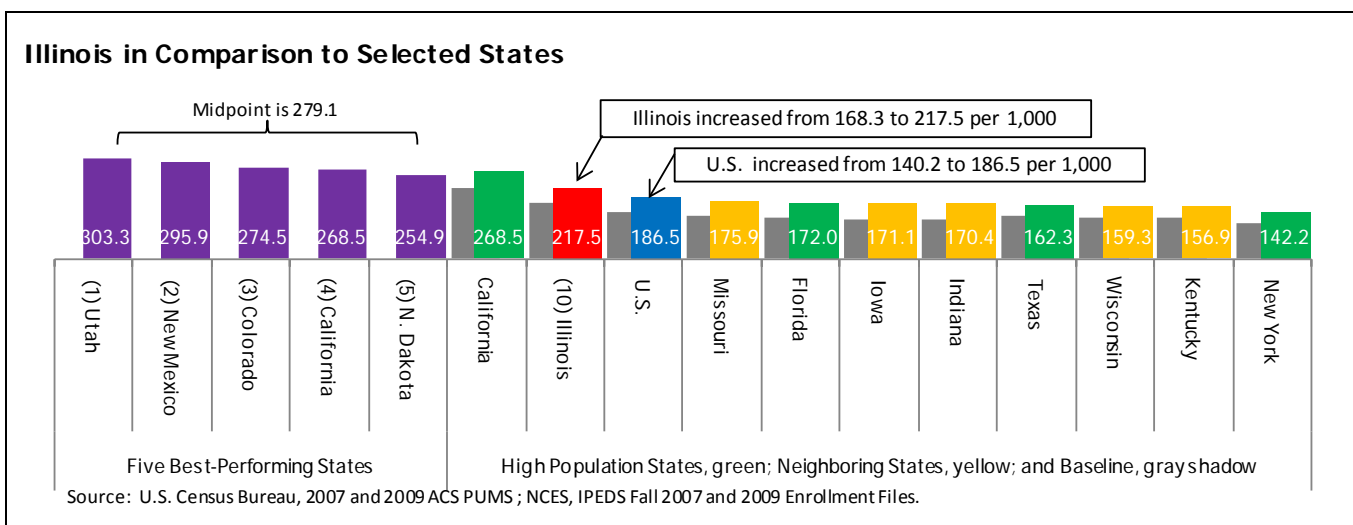


Figure 1.13. Enrollment of 25 to 49 year olds per 1,000 adults 25 to 49 year olds with just a high school diploma, baseline year and current. Largest number is best.

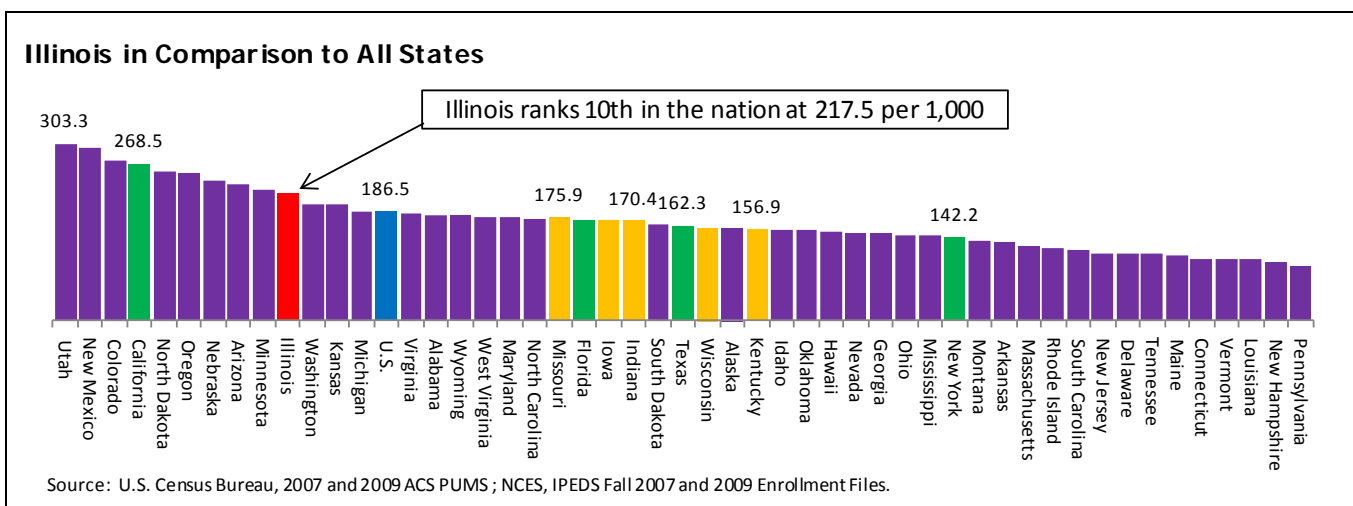


Figure 1.14. Enrollment of 25 to 49 year olds per 1,000 adults 25 to 49 year olds with just a high school diploma. Largest number is best.

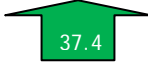
# GOAL I

Increase educational attainment to match best-performing U.S. states and world countries.



## Adults Earning Degrees

Degrees awarded to adults age 18-49 as a proportion of population age 18-49 with no degree.

Baseline	35.9 per 1,000	Year 2	 37.4	2018 Year 10	45.9 per 1,000
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### Points of Interest

- Illinois ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation with a rate of 37.4 undergraduate awards (certificates, associates degrees, and baccalaureate degrees) per 1,000 adults age 18-49 years. (Figures 1.15 & 1.16)

**Goal in 2018: 45.9 per 1,000.** The goal is the midpoint between the best-performing and the fifth best-performing state.

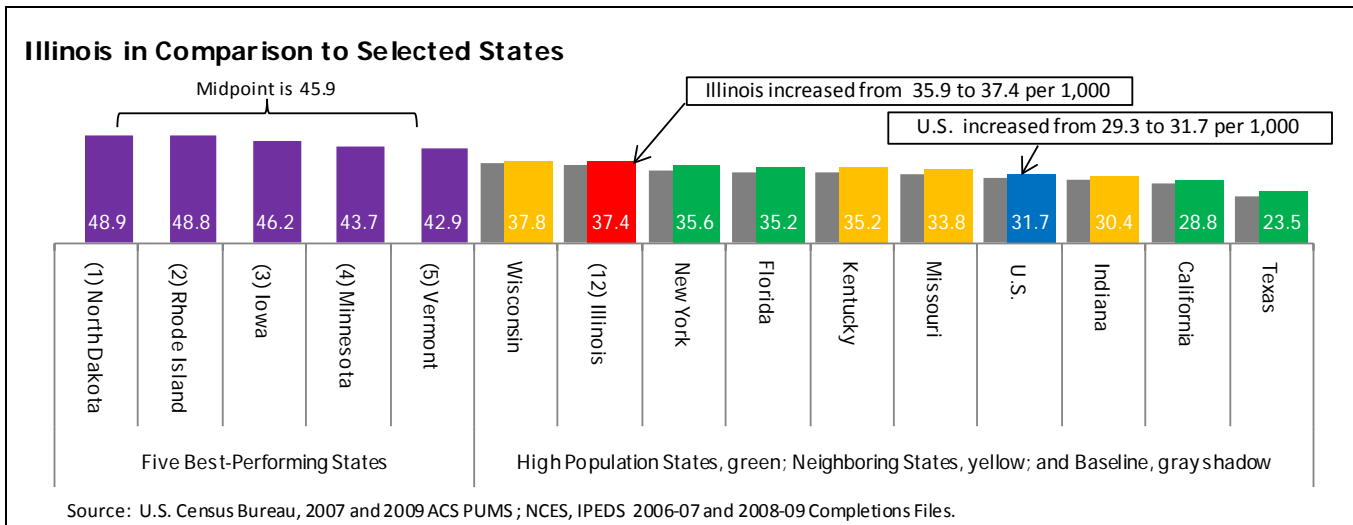


Figure 1.15. Undergraduate awards per 1,000 population age 18-49 with no college degree, baseline year and year two. Largest number is best.

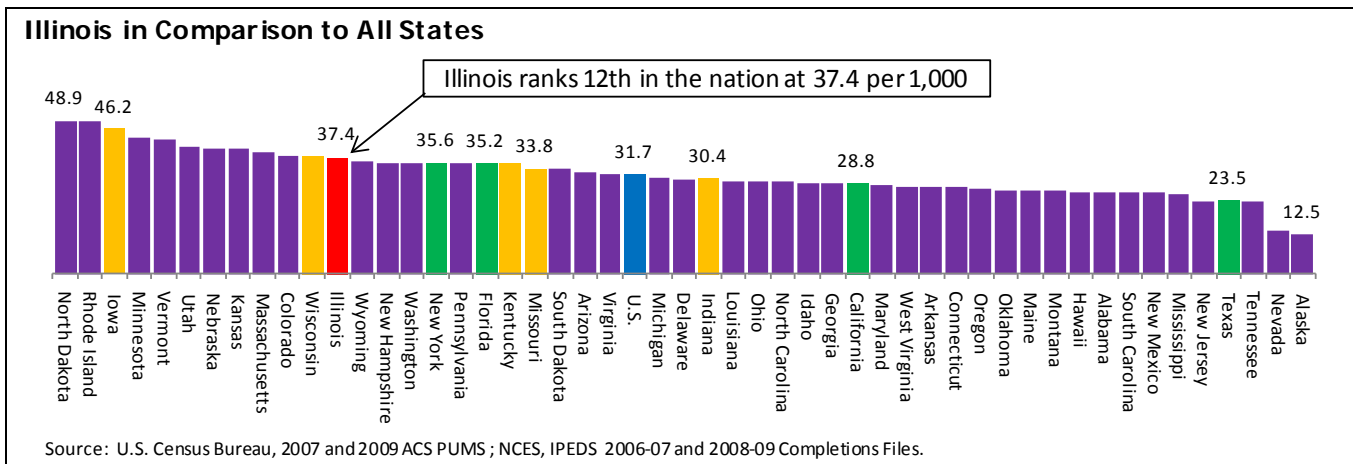


Figure 1.16. Undergraduate awards per 1,000 population age 18-49 with no college degree, year two. Largest number is best.

# GOAL I

Increase educational attainment to match best-performing U.S. states and world countries.



## Recommendation 3:

Reduce geographic disparities in educational attainment.

Performance Measures	Public Agenda Baseline	2010 Year 2	2018 Year 10	Benchmarks	Page
<p><b>No High School Diploma.</b> Percent of population age 18-64 with no high school diploma.</p> <p><i>Reduce number of geographic areas that have 14.5 percent or higher of the population age 18-64 with no high school diploma.</i></p>	22 High Disparity Areas	<p>19 High Disparity Areas</p>	No High Disparity Areas	➤ Best-performing region in Illinois	11
<p><b>Adults with Associate's Degree or Higher.</b> Percent of population age 25-64 with an associate's degree or higher.</p> <p><i>Reduce number of geographic areas that have 28.1 percent or less of the population age 25-64 with an associate's degree or higher.</i></p>	23 High Disparity Areas	<p>21 High Disparity Areas</p>	No High Disparity Areas	➤ Best-performing region in Illinois	12
<p><b>Adults with Bachelor's Degree or Higher.</b> Percent of population age 25-64 with a bachelor's degree or higher.</p> <p><i>Reduce number of geographic areas that have 18.0 percent or less of the population age 25-64 with a bachelor's degree or higher.</i></p>	22 High Disparity Areas	<p>18 High Disparity Areas</p>	No High Disparity Areas	➤ Best-performing region in Illinois	13

An "area" means one of 87 geographic regions in Illinois created by the U.S. Census Bureau and used for sampling the population. Each area has approximately 100,000 persons and is known as a Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA). A PUMA may consist of multiple contiguous low-population counties or a high-density area within a county. For example, in Southeast Illinois there is a PUMA that consists of 13 counties. In contrast, Cook County contains 36 PUMAs.

# GOAL I

Increase educational attainment to match best-performing U.S. states and world countries.



## Adults with No High School Diploma.

Percent of population age 18-64 with no high school diploma.

Baseline	22 Areas	Year 2	19 Areas	2018 Year 10	No Areas
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### Points of Interest

- The goal is to reduce the number of areas where 14.5 percent or more of the population age 18-64 does not have a high school diploma, i.e., high disparity areas.

**Goal in 2018.** No areas in Illinois are high disparity areas.

### High Disparity Areas

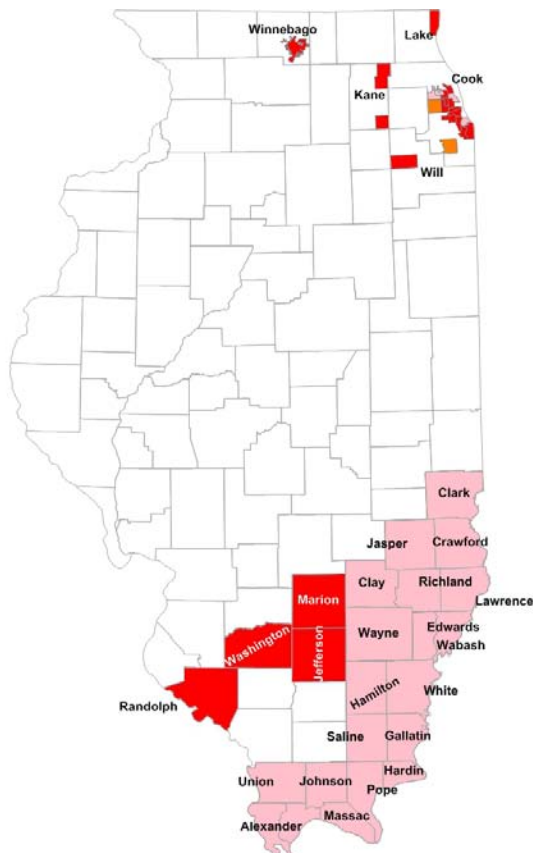
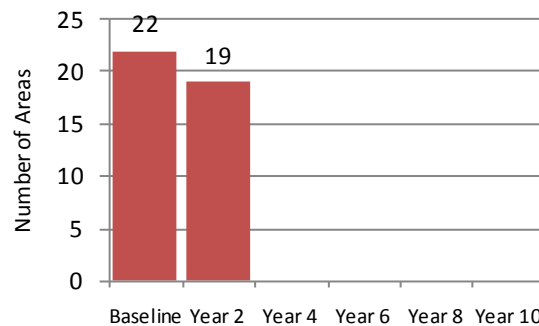


Figure 1.18. The 17 red marks represent areas where at least 14.5 percent of the population 18-64 has no high school diploma in the baseline year and year two. Pink shows the 5 areas that are no longer high disparity areas in year two. Orange shows the 2 areas added to the high disparity quartile in year two.

### Reduction in High Disparity Areas



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 and 2009 ACS PUMA files.

Figure 1.17. The number of high disparity areas has decreased from 22 to 19.

### Baseline Quartiles Used for Comparisons

Best-performing	Less than 7.8 percent
Second	7.8 to 11.2 percent
Third	11.2 to 14.5 percent
High Disparity	14.5 percent and greater

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 and 2009 ACS PUMAs files.

# GOAL I

Increase educational attainment to match best-performing U.S. states and world countries.



## Adults with Associate's Degree or Higher.

Percent of population age 25-64 with an associate's degree or higher.

Baseline	23 Areas	Year 2		2018 Year 10	No Areas
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### Points of Interest

- The goal is to reduce the number of areas where only 28.1 percent or less of the population age 25-64 have an associate's degree or higher.

**Goal in 2018.** No areas in Illinois are high disparity areas.

### High Disparity Areas

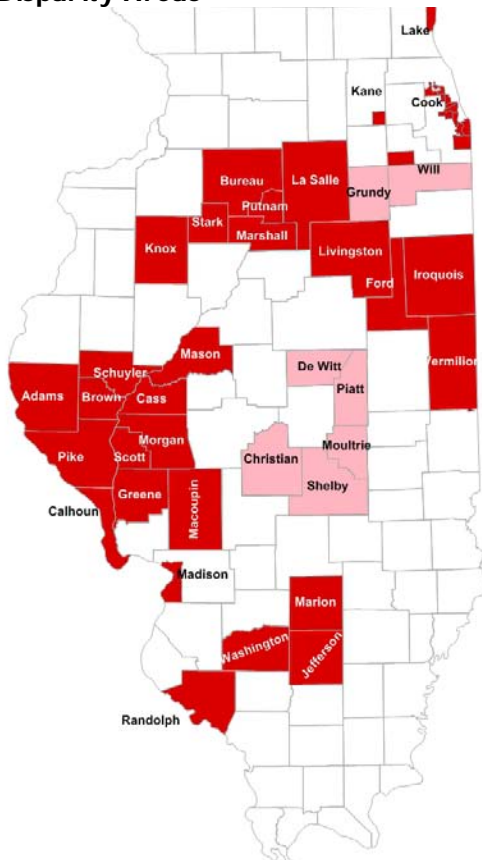
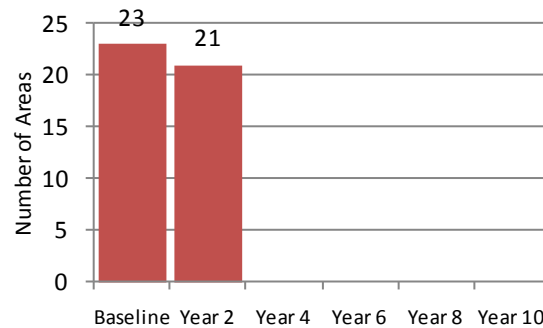


Figure 1.20. The 21 red marks represent areas where only 28.1 percent or less of the population 25-64 have an associate's degree or higher in the baseline year and year two. Pink shows the 2 areas that are no longer high disparity areas in year two.

### Reduction in High Disparity Areas



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 and 2009 ACS PUMA files.

Figure 1.19. The number of high disparity areas has decreased from 23 to 21.

### Baseline Quartiles Used for Comparisons

Best performing	47.1 percent and greater
Second	35.0 to 47.1 percent
Third	28.1 to 35.0 percent
High Disparity	28.1 percent and less

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 and 2009 ACS PUMS files.



# GOAL I

Increase educational attainment to match best-performing U.S. states and world countries.



## Adults with Bachelor's Degree or Higher.

Percent of population age 25-64 with a bachelor's degree or higher.

Baseline	22 Areas	Year 2	18 Areas	2018 Year 10	No Areas
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### Points of Interest

- The goal is to reduce the number of areas where only 18.0 percent or less of the population age 25 to 64 have a bachelor's degree or higher, i.e., reduce the high disparity areas.

**Goal in 2018.** No areas in Illinois are high disparity areas.

### High Disparity Areas

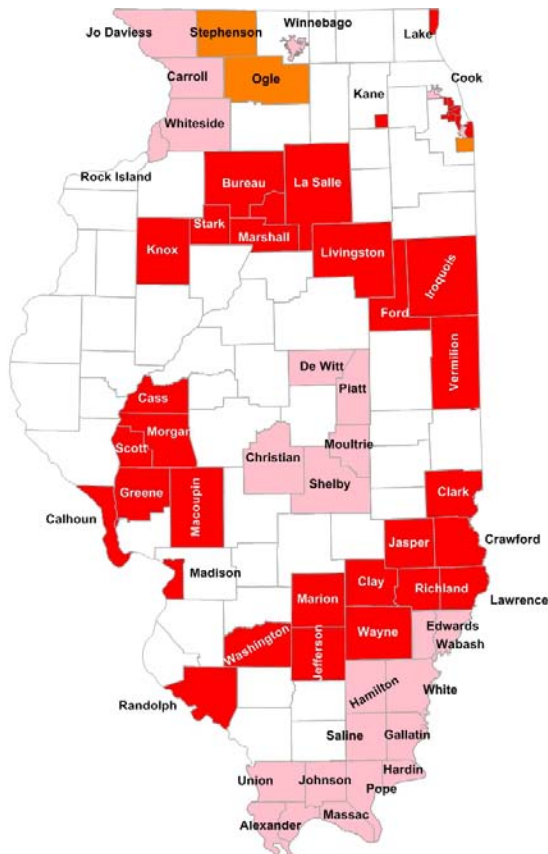
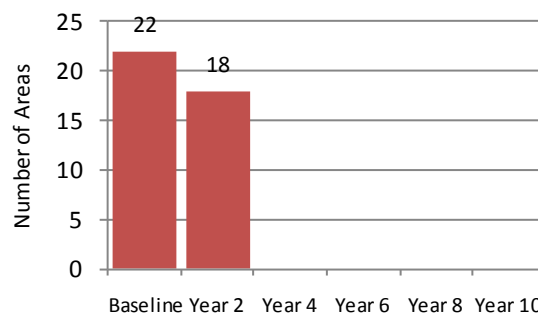


Figure 1.22. The 16 red marks represent areas where only 18.0 percent or less of the population 25-64 have a bachelor's degree or higher in the baseline year and year two. Pink shows the 6 areas that are no longer high disparity areas in year two. Orange shows the 2 areas added to the high disparity quartile in year two.

### Reduction in High Disparity Areas



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 and 2009 ACS PUMA files.

Figure 1.21. The number of high disparity areas has decreased from 22 to 18.

### Baseline Quartiles Used for Comparisons

Best performing	41.7 percent and greater
Second	26.2 to 41.7 percent
Third	18.0 to 26.2 percent
High Disparity	18.0 percent and less

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 and 2009 ACS PUMA files.

