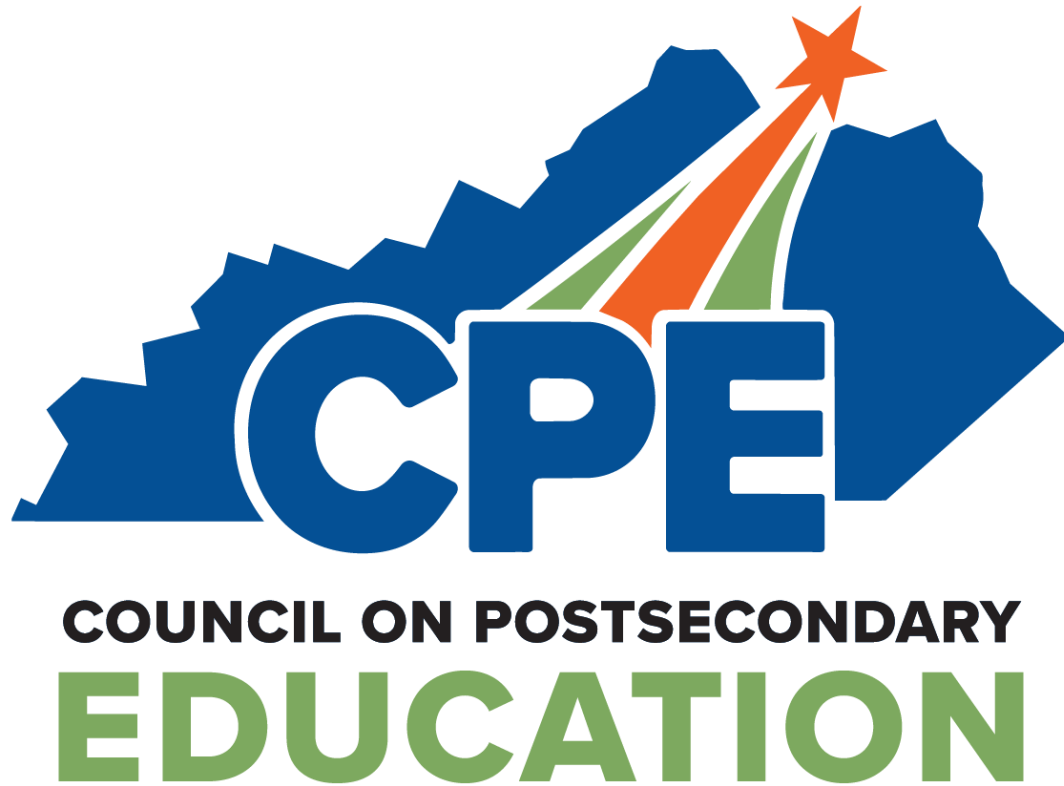




*An Overview of the
Work and Responsibilities of the
Kentucky Council on
Postsecondary Education*

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Success

July 1, 2026



What does CPE do?

The Kentucky General Assembly established the Council on Postsecondary Education (*KRS 164.020*) to serve as the Commonwealth's coordinating agency for postsecondary education.

- **Coordinate** Kentucky's statewide postsecondary education system.
- **Advise** the General Assembly and the Governor on higher education policy, finance, and workforce needs.
- **Encourage investment in** public resources through budget development, performance funding, and strategic initiatives.
- **Measure** progress toward Kentucky's educational attainment and workforce goals.

U.S. Higher Education Governance

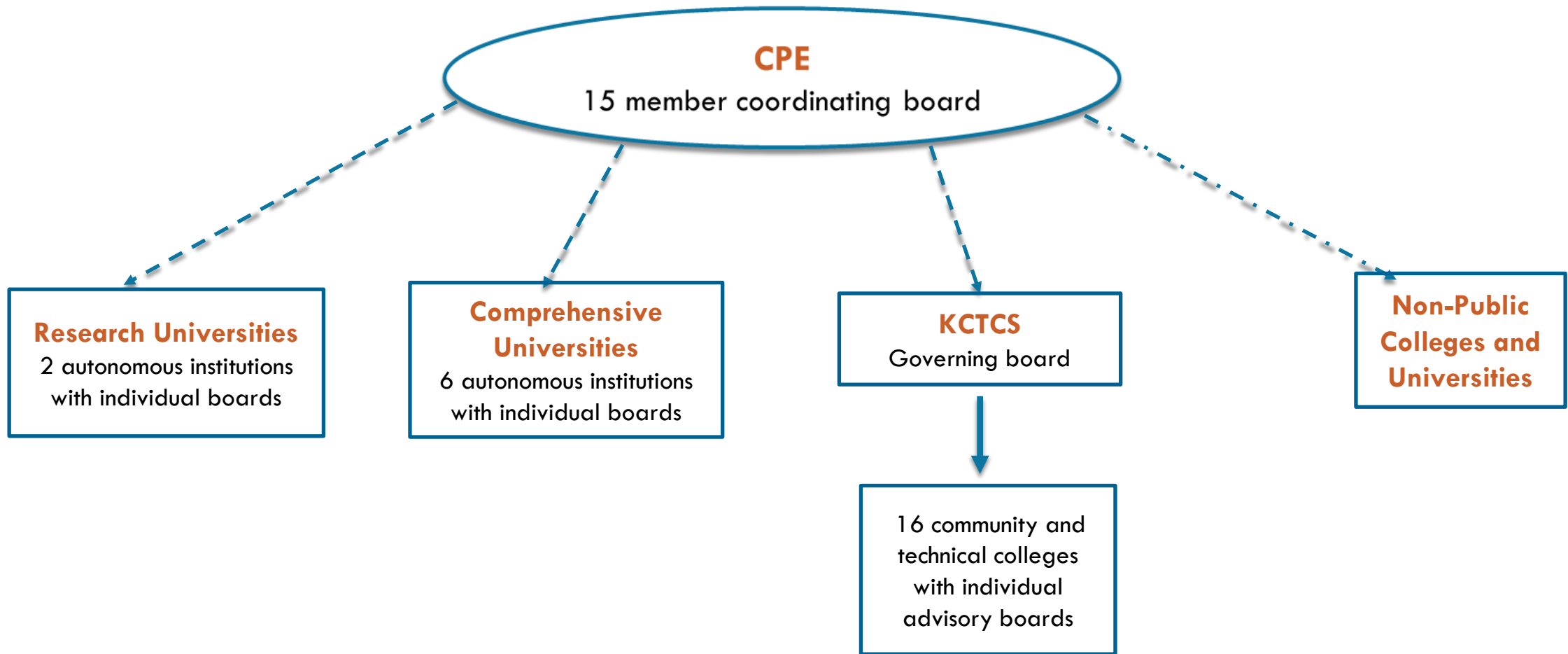


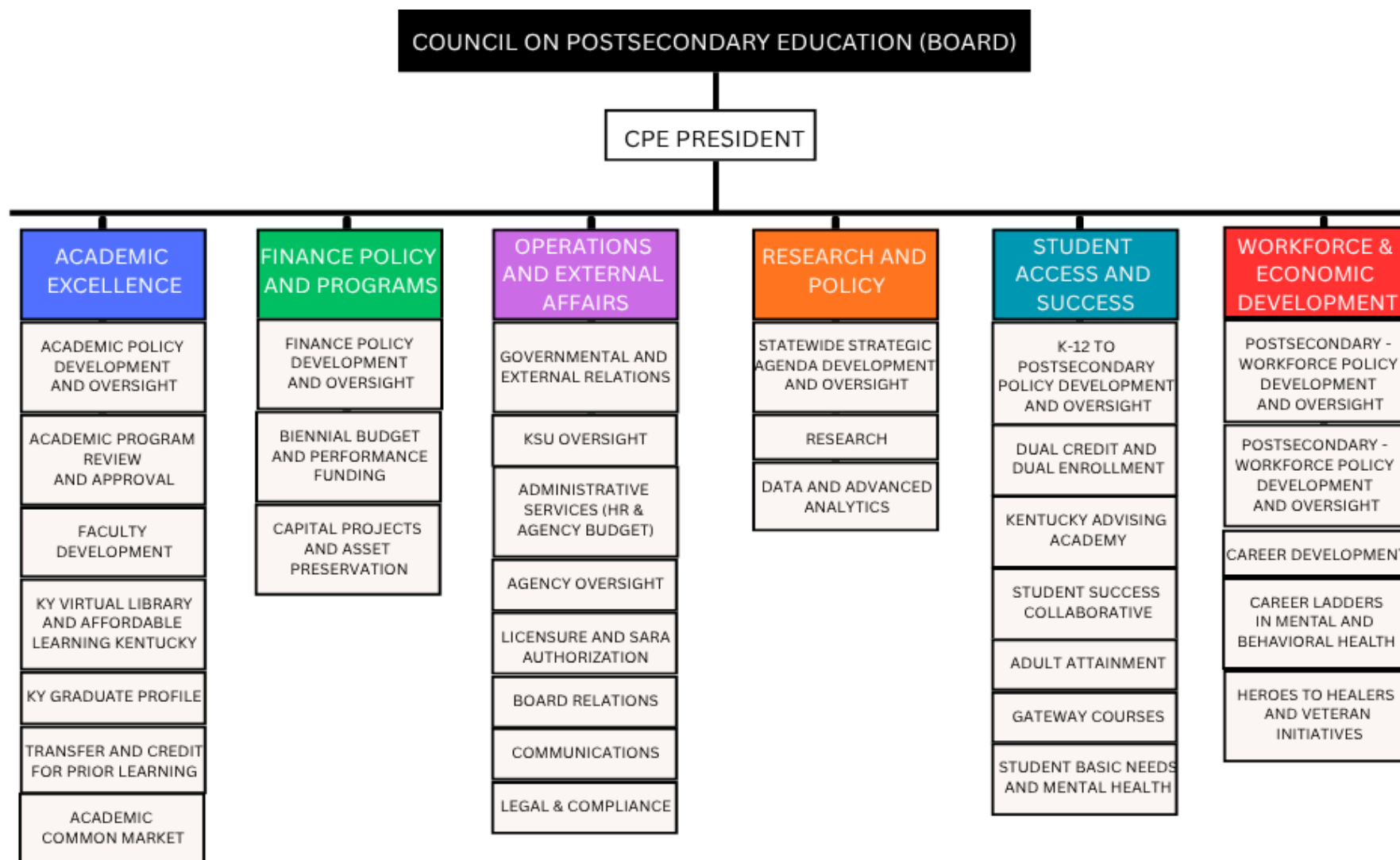
Governing Board: A single statewide board that legally manages and controls the responsibilities of all public institutions of higher education. **28 states** have one or more governing boards.



Coordinating Board: A single agency that has responsibility for the statewide coordination of many policy functions (e.g., planning and policy leadership, program review/approval, and budget development and resource allocation). **22 states** have coordinating boards.

Kentucky Higher Education Coordination





Statewide Strategy, Planning, and Agenda Oversight



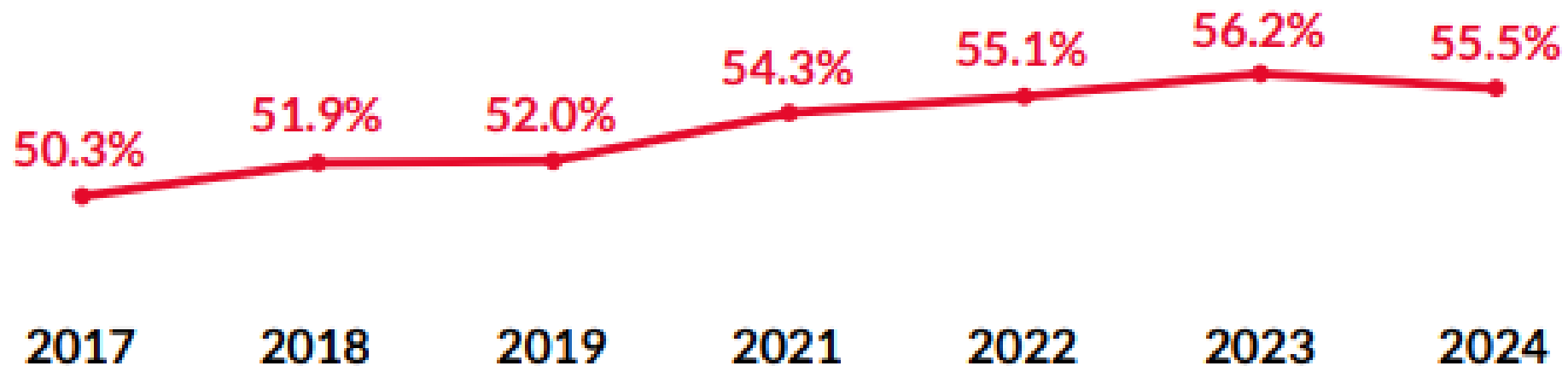
Purpose: Set direction for Kentucky's postsecondary system and ensure coordinated execution.

- Support development and maintenance of the statewide strategic agenda.
- Develop KPIs, targets and reporting structures for the statewide strategic agenda.
- Build and maintain dashboards for strategic priorities and initiatives.
- Conduct research studies, policy white papers and research briefs.
- Plan and execute in-person events, convenings, webinars and statewide meetings.
- Maintain CPE and Futuriti websites, digital content and analytics monitoring.
- Produce newsletters, releases, reports, presentations, graphics, infographics and event communications.

Kentucky will increase the percentage of its adult population with a high-quality postsecondary credential to 60% by 2030.

Statewide Educational Attainment

Goal: 60% by 2030



Note: 2020 omitted because of pandemic-era ACS data suppression

The Statewide Strategic Agenda

In accordance with KRS 164.020, a primary duty of the Council is the development and implementation of a strategic agenda that aligns state and institutional goals and sets the strategies for achieving and resourcing these goals.



Affordability

Ensuring postsecondary education is affordable for all Kentuckians



Transitions

Increasing the number of students who transition to college prepared to succeed.



Success

Expanding the number of students who earn high-quality degrees and credentials.



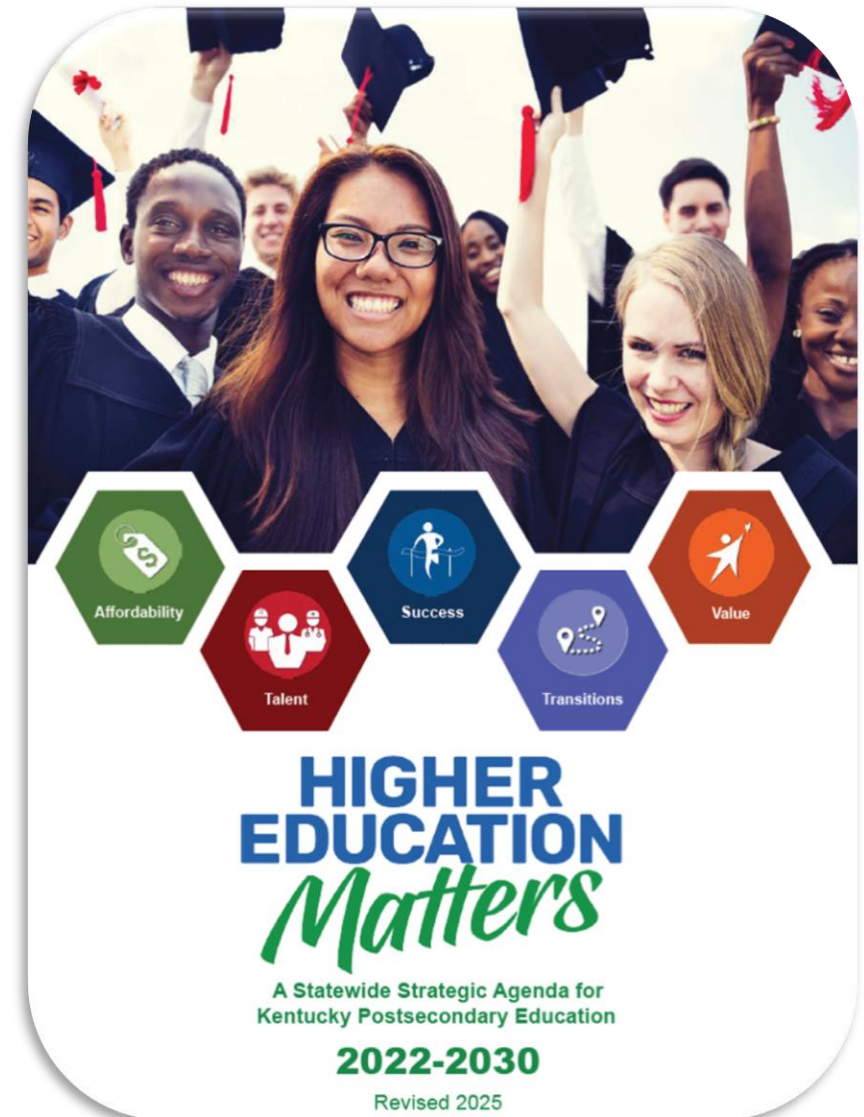
Talent

Growing talent and innovation to support communities, employers and the economy.



Value

Strengthening understanding of the value of postsecondary education for opportunity and growth.





Purpose: Ensure program quality, relevance, access, and compliance with state priorities.

- Oversee academic program approval, review, inventory and alignment with statewide priorities.
- Advance the Graduate Profile through resource development, training and implementation support.
- Ensure academic quality, credential relevance and institutional alignment with state needs.
- License public and private Kentucky colleges and universities.



System Coordination, Transfer, and Integration

Purpose: Maintain a coherent, student-centered statewide system.

- Oversee dual credit and early postsecondary opportunity strategy and system coordination.
- Lead statewide strategies to improve transfer success.
- Maintain student record preservation procedures for closed institutions



Finance, Budgeting, Tuition, and Capital Oversight

Purpose: Steward public resources responsibly and align funding with priorities.

- Lead statewide capital planning, asset management and review of postsecondary capital needs.
- Administer and support performance funding policy, calculations, analysis and reporting.
- Support performance funding analysis and data reporting.
- Review tuition, mandatory fees and affordability issues to support responsible cost-setting.
- Coordinate biennial budget development and funding requests for postsecondary education.
- Provide fiscal research, policy analysis and legislative support.
- Monitor institutional financial health through oversight, analysis and reporting.
- Prepare finance-related data, reports and presentations for CPE, institutions and policymakers.
- Support governance and training related to finance policy and institutional fiscal management.



Federal, State, and Interagency Coordination

Purpose: Align postsecondary education with broader state and federal systems.

- Monitor legislative activity, draft legislation and support compliance with KRS and KAR.
- Coordinate state and federal government relations, legislative meetings and policymaker communications.
- Respond to internal and external data requests and provide research support for policy decisions.
- Support college and career advising in K-12 through the Kentucky Advising Academy
- Support the Commonwealth Education Continuum and cross-sector alignment between K-12, postsecondary and workforce partners.
- Partner with government cabinets, agencies, associations and employers to align postsecondary education with workforce needs.



Workforce, Adult Education, and Literacy

Purpose: Support lifelong learning and workforce readiness.

- Manage and support Kentucky Virtual Library services, member support, outreach, website tools and data systems.
- Lead statewide strategies to improve adult attainment.
- Lead healthcare workforce initiatives, including Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund, CLIMB 2.0, Heroes to Healers and the Healthcare Workforce Collaborative.
- Advance sector-specific workforce strategies, including film industry workforce development and AI training access.
- Strengthen pathways between education, credentials, employment and regional economic development.



Leadership, Board Support, and Capacity Building

Purpose: Strengthen leadership and board effectiveness across the system.

- Support faculty, staff and administrative development through academies, professional development and communities of practice.
- Convene faculty and academic leaders to strengthen teaching, learning and student outcomes.
- Plan and execute CPE board meetings, joint meetings and related board activities.
- Develop, approve, and oversee orientation and continuing education for Council and governing board members.
- Create advisory groups representing system stakeholders

Strategic Initiatives

GEAR UP Kentucky



GEAR UP Kentucky is a federally funded college access program administered by CPE that helps students in underserved communities prepare for and succeed in postsecondary education. The initiative provides academic support, college and career advising, FAFSA assistance, family engagement, and transition services to increase college enrollment and completion.

Student Success Collaborative



The Kentucky
Student Success
Collaborative

The Kentucky Student Success Collaborative is a CPE-led partnership of Kentucky's public colleges and universities focused on improving student retention, graduation, and workforce outcomes. Through shared data, research, and best practices, KSSC helps institutions implement proven strategies that support student success and credential attainment.

Healthcare Workforce Collaborative



A statewide partnership of education leaders, healthcare providers, and policymakers working together to address Kentucky's healthcare workforce shortages. It aligns education, training, and workforce strategies to strengthen the talent pipeline and meet the Commonwealth's healthcare needs.

Kentucky Graduate Profile



The Kentucky Graduate Profile defines the knowledge, skills, and abilities students should develop before earning a postsecondary credential. Led by CPE in partnership with institutions and employers, the initiative helps align academic experiences with workforce needs by emphasizing career readiness, communication, critical thinking, and other durable skills valued by Kentucky employers.



Strategic Initiatives

Kentucky Advising Academy



The Kentucky Advising Academy is a CPE-led professional development initiative that strengthens college and career advising across the Commonwealth. Through training, resources, and communities of practice, KAA equips educators and advisors with the tools needed to help students successfully navigate education and career pathways, increasing postsecondary enrollment and attainment.

Futuriti.org



Futuriti provides Kentuckians with a powerful, homegrown tool that connects education pathways directly to in-demand careers across the Commonwealth. By helping students make informed decisions that align with workforce needs, Futuriti represents a strategic investment in Kentucky's talent pipeline, economic growth, and long-term workforce stability.

Strategic Agenda in Action

How Kentucky's public colleges and universities are delivering results in Affordability, Transitions, Success, Talent, and Value



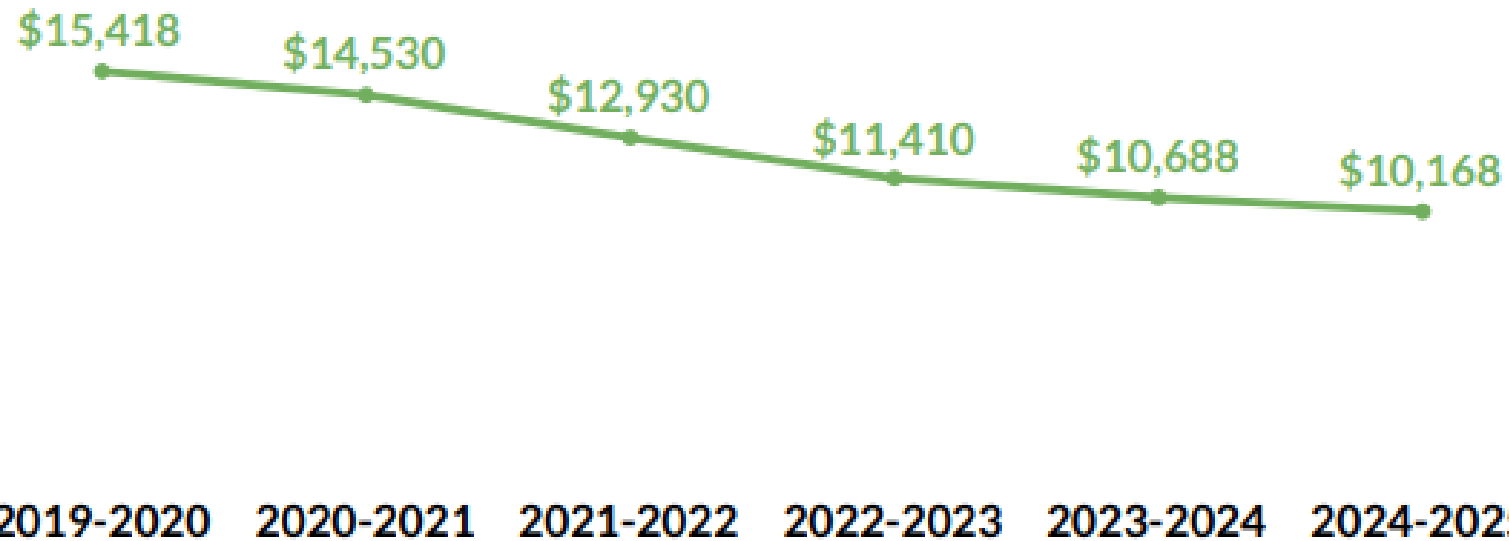


Affordability Progress



6 out of 10 Kentucky undergraduate students are now graduating debt-free, and average loan balances are decreasing.

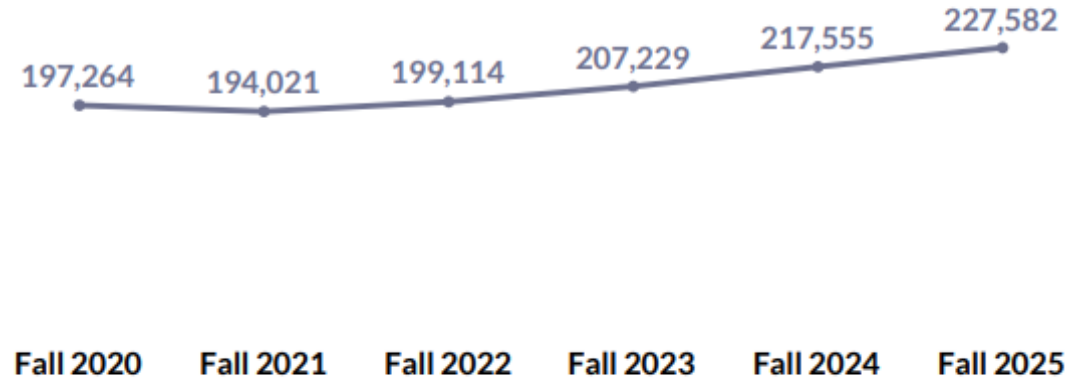
Student Debt Burden at Graduation (All Public Institutions)



Note: Institution- and sector-level breakouts for these data are reported in Appendix C.

Kentucky has shown a **17% increase** in undergraduate enrollment since the pandemic.

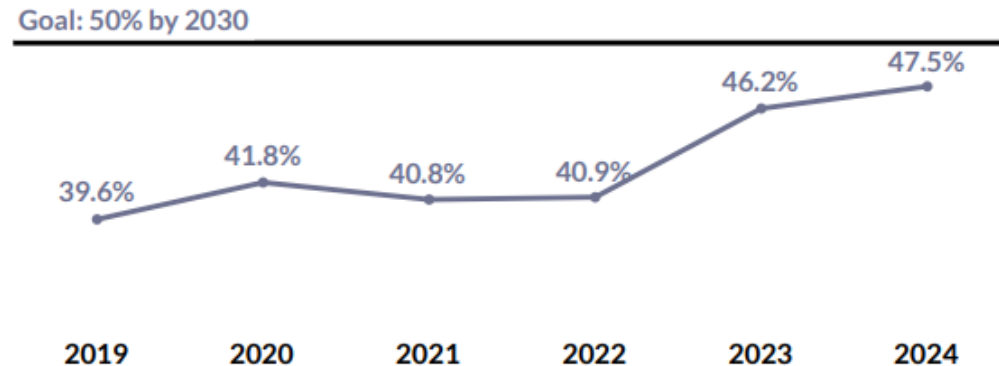
Total Undergraduate Enrollment (All Sectors)



Note: Institution- and sector-level breakouts for these data are reported in Appendix D.

The statewide dual credit completion rate **increased 7.9 percentage points** since 2019.

Dual Credit Attainment of Public High School Graduates



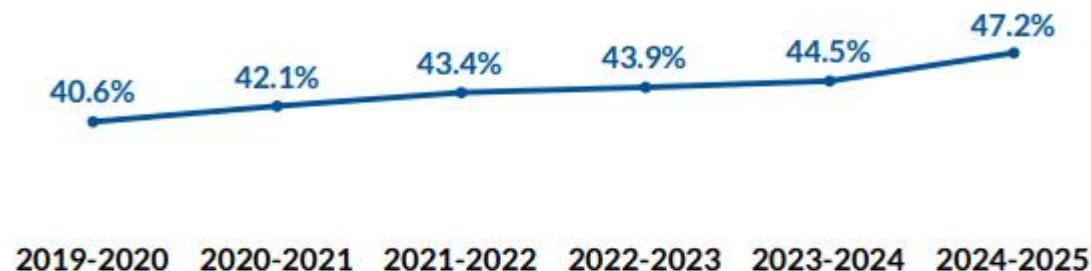


Success Progress



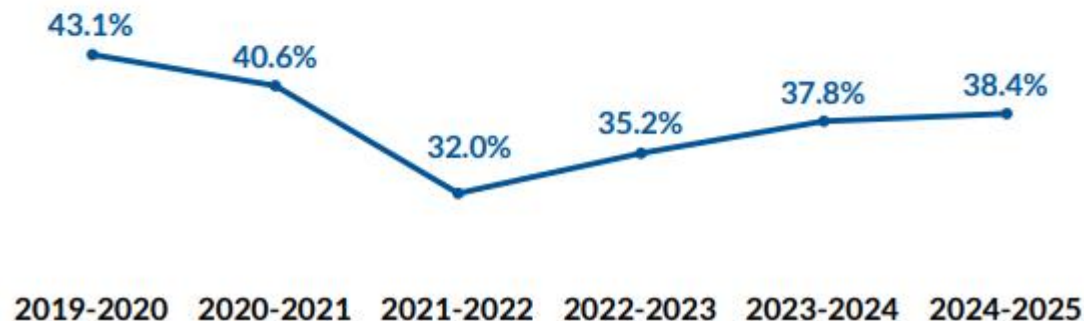
The percentage of students completing bachelor's degrees in 4 years has **increased 6.6 percentage points** since 2020.

Four-Year Public Institution 100% Graduation Rates

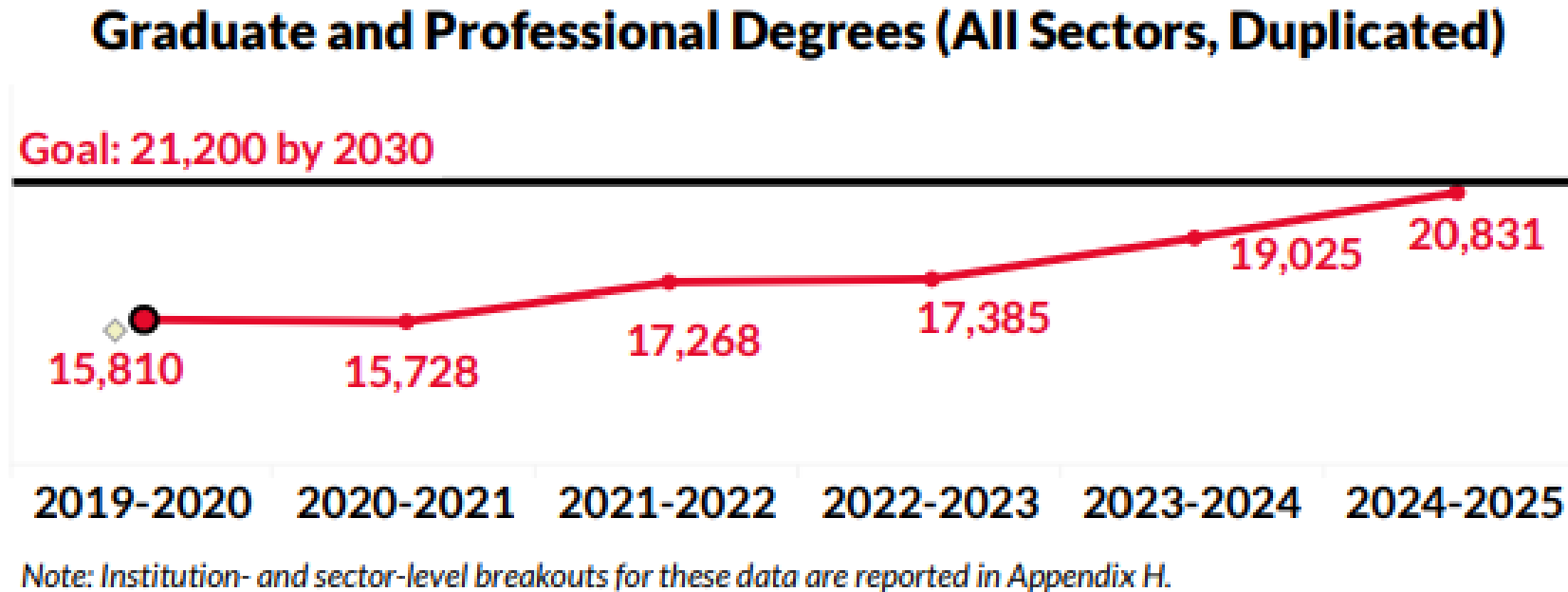


The percentage of KCTCS students completing associates degrees in 2 years has **risen 6.6 percentage points** since the 2021-22 pandemic low.

KCTCS 100% Graduation Rates



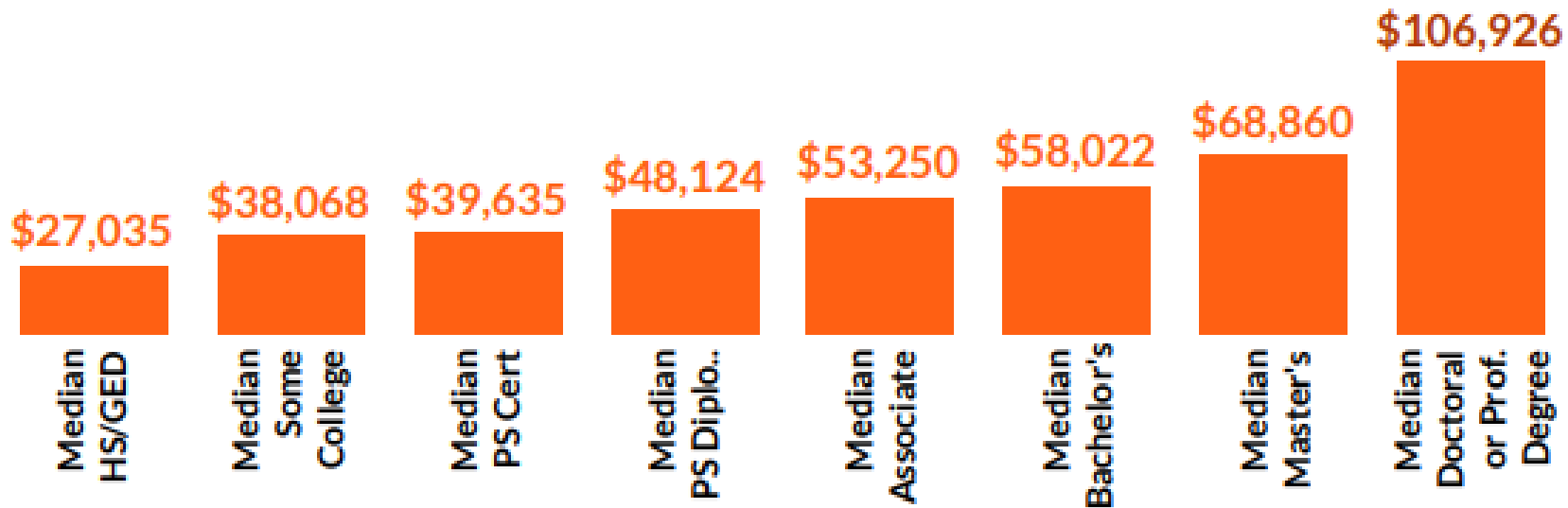
Graduate and professional degree production at 4-year institutions has **increased 32%** since 2019-2020.





\$58K in wages were earned by bachelor's degree holders in 2024-25 – double the wages of workers with a high school diploma and no credential.

Kentucky Median Wages by Attainment Level, SFY 2024-2025



CPE is communicating this value through its education and career platform, Futuriti.org.



HIGHER EDUCATION
Matters



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