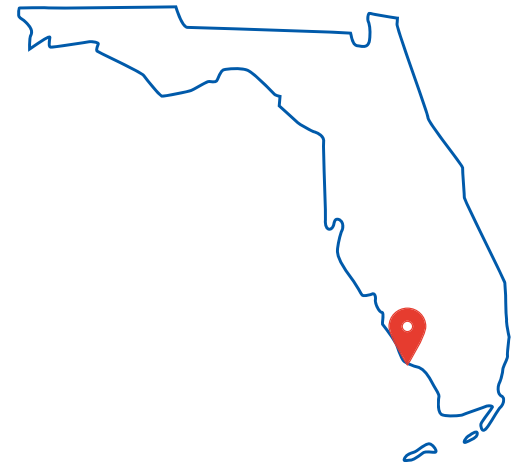


Sail to 60 - Opportunities and Challenges

Recent estimates suggest that Florida is just under 800,000 people away from achieving its "Sail to 60" goal to have 60% of Floridians possess a postsecondary degree or credential by 2030. Despite great progress, there are still significant challenges associated with closing this gap:

- Approximately 1.2 million Floridians will age out of the workforce within the next ten years.
- More specialized workers (i.e., those with a college degree) will be needed every year to accommodate the state's growing population.
- Currently, Hispanic and Black Floridians attain degrees at lower rates (38% and 31%, respectively) than Asian and White Floridians (63% and 46%, respectively).

If postsecondary achievement does not increase across all populations, Florida will not have the number of specialized workers that it needs to support its growing population.



800,000 people is roughly the size of Lee County, FL.

The Effect of Equitable Achievement

Education beyond high school positively affects everyone's bottom line. When the "Sail to 60" goal is met and achievement increases throughout the Florida population, every year the state can enjoy:



\$53.6 billion
More dollars earned by workers



\$58.9 billion
Increase to Florida's GDP



\$4.7 billion
Additional tax revenue generated

Additional Benefits of Equitable Achievement



Economic self-sufficiency



Higher levels of civic engagement (e.g. voting, volunteering)



Better health outcomes



Decreased reliance on safety net programs (e.g. SNAP, TANF)



Generational achievement

Promising Practices to Expand Postsecondary ROI²

- Although Florida has some of the most affordable postsecondary education in the country, that doesn't mean tuition is the only college cost Floridians pay. Students must also balance textbooks, lab fees, transportation, rent, daycare, and other needs to further their education. Need-based aid is essential for low-income students to afford their education.
- Schools, colleges, and universities can strengthen career-connected learning (CCL), ensuring work-based learning opportunities are available early and often. This means more career exposure, job shadowing opportunities, information and guidance on top career fields in their communities, and relevant career experience. Strengthening CCL programs is our best chance to give students opportunities to build careers and fruitful lives on their own terms.
- Florida should expand accelerated coursework opportunities to students from all backgrounds. Although Florida has successfully expanded access to accelerated coursework, disparities for Black and low-income students remain.

Returning to college is a high ROI-activity for adults in the workforce. Returning to college can result in a 22% greater chance of upward mobility, and a 140% increase in earnings compared to adults who do not return to college.

¹ As part of FCAN's commitment to leveraging partnerships that enhance our research and data practice, this research was conducted in partnership with Florida TaxWatch. Access Florida TaxWatch's full report, "[The Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Education and Training Beyond High School in Florida](#)".

² Developed by FCAN based on the findings in the Florida TaxWatch report.