

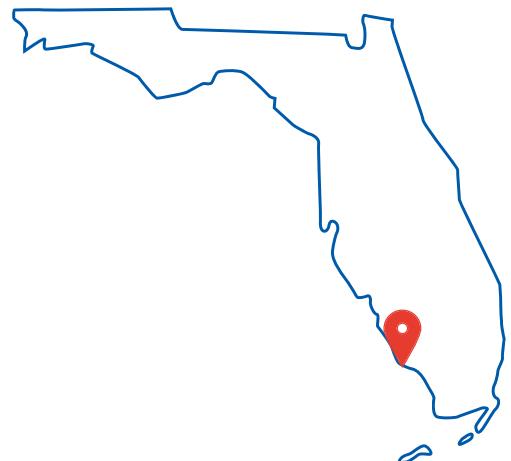
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## Sail to 60 - Opportunities and Challenges

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, every year Florida 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 ROI

- 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.