



# **Pennsylvania's Master Plan for Higher Education**

## **Building the Roadmap to Increase Postsecondary Attainment in the Commonwealth, 2022-2032**

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Acting Deputy Secretary and Commissioner  
for Postsecondary and Higher Education

September 8, 2021

## Acknowledgment

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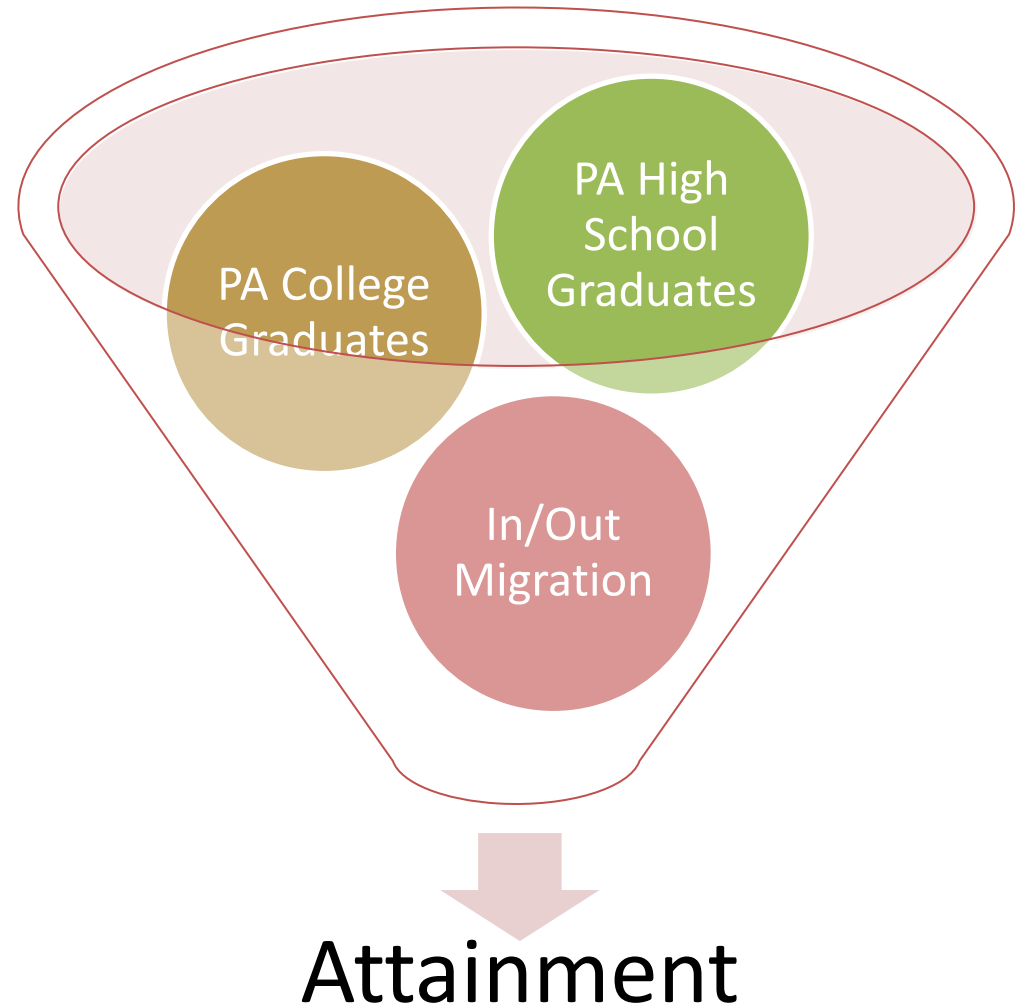
# Objectives

- Show where Pennsylvania is right now
- Determine where we need to go to increase postsecondary attainment

# Defining Postsecondary Attainment

**Attainment refers to the educational levels of state residents.**

Attainment is made up of the number of PA high school graduates, learners earning postsecondary credentials in PA, and migration in and out of state



**Attainment**

# ▶ Pennsylvania's Postsecondary Attainment Goal

## Goal:

60 percent of the population ages 25-64 hold a **postsecondary degree or industry recognized credential** by 2025, with a particular focus on closing **attainment gaps** for historically underrepresented populations

# The National Race for Attainment

**50.7%**  
PA

**54.3%**  
NY

**55.9%**  
MD

**56.6%**  
NJ

The District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and 28 other states have postsecondary attainment rates that are higher than Pennsylvania's

# Pennsylvania by the Numbers

Enrollment

**77%**  
Asians

**46%**  
Whites

**50%**  
Native American

**35%**  
Blacks

**34%**  
Latinx

18-24 year olds enrolled in postsecondary (2019)

Attainment

**65%**  
Asians

**47%**  
Whites

**37%**  
Native American

**30%**  
Blacks

**24%**  
Latinx

25–64-year-olds with a postsecondary credential of value (2019)

**Not all Pennsylvanians are on a path to economic self-sufficiency and intergenerational wealth creation**

## Pennsylvania by the Numbers

**1,068,137**

Pennsylvanians ages 25-64 with some college, no credential

**22%**

Pennsylvanians ages 25-64 enrolled in postsecondary



# Pennsylvania's Challenges



A declining high school population with greater racial, ethnic, income, and geographic diversity



Postsecondary institutions built for enrolling a high school population that is in decline

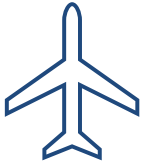


A changing economy increasingly dependent on individuals with postsecondary credentials

# Pennsylvania's To Do List



Cultivate “homegrown” talent

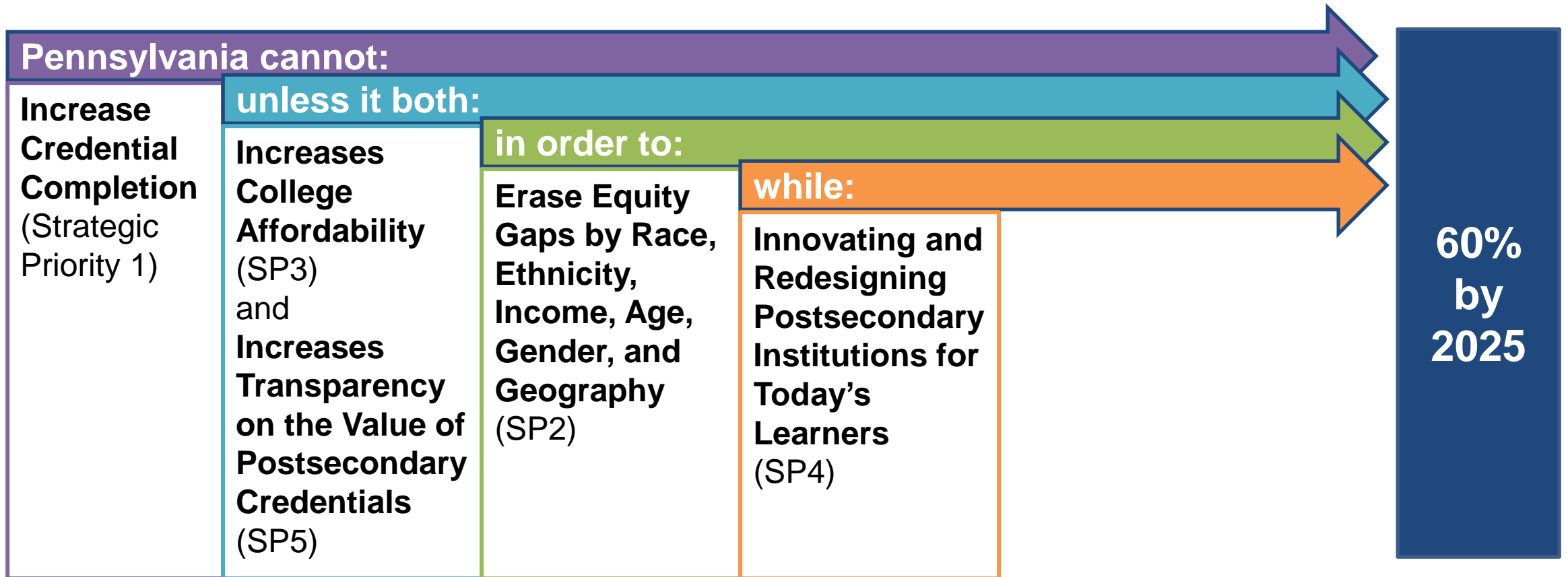


Attract talent grown elsewhere to live and work here



Make our postsecondary institutions talent development engines

# What Next?



*Note:* The Master Plan for Higher Education Table of Contents, which includes these five strategic priorities, was approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Education Council of Higher Education on January 13, 2021.

## Discussion Questions

- 1) What are your reactions to this information?
- 2) What is needed to increase postsecondary attainment by 2025?

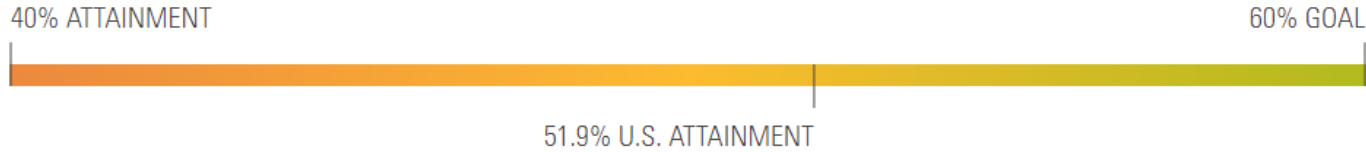


# Background Materials

## Background Materials

- Lumina Foundation, *A Stronger Nation*
- Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, *Knocking on the College Door*
- Colorado and Texas Master Plans

# National Postsecondary Attainment Rates



AK 49.5%										ME 52.6%
									VT 52.6%	NH 55.1%
WA 59.4%	ID 46.5%	MT 52.2%	ND 55.3%	MN 59.0%	IL 55.2%	WI 54.7%	MI 49.1%	NY 54.3%	RI 52.9%	MA 61.6%
OR 51.0%	NV 42.5%	WY 51.6%	SD 49.2%	IA 53.4%	IN 48.3%	OH 49.5%	PA 50.7%	NJ 56.6%	CT 57.1%	
CA 52.0%	UT 55.8%	CO 61.0%	NE 54.9%	MO 47.0%	KY 49.4%	WV 42.6%	VA 57.4%	MD 55.9%	DE 47.9%	
	AZ 53.8%	NM 48.6%	KS 54.9%	AR 43.6%	TN 46.8%	NC 52.1%	SC 47.6%	DC 69.1%		
			OK 46.5%	LA 48.1%	MS 44.4%	AL 45.1%	GA 52.8%			
HI 50.7%			TX 47.9%					FL 52.8%		PR 52.9%

At 50.7%, Pennsylvania has a lower overall postsecondary attainment rate than most of its neighboring states

# National Postsecondary Attainment Rates

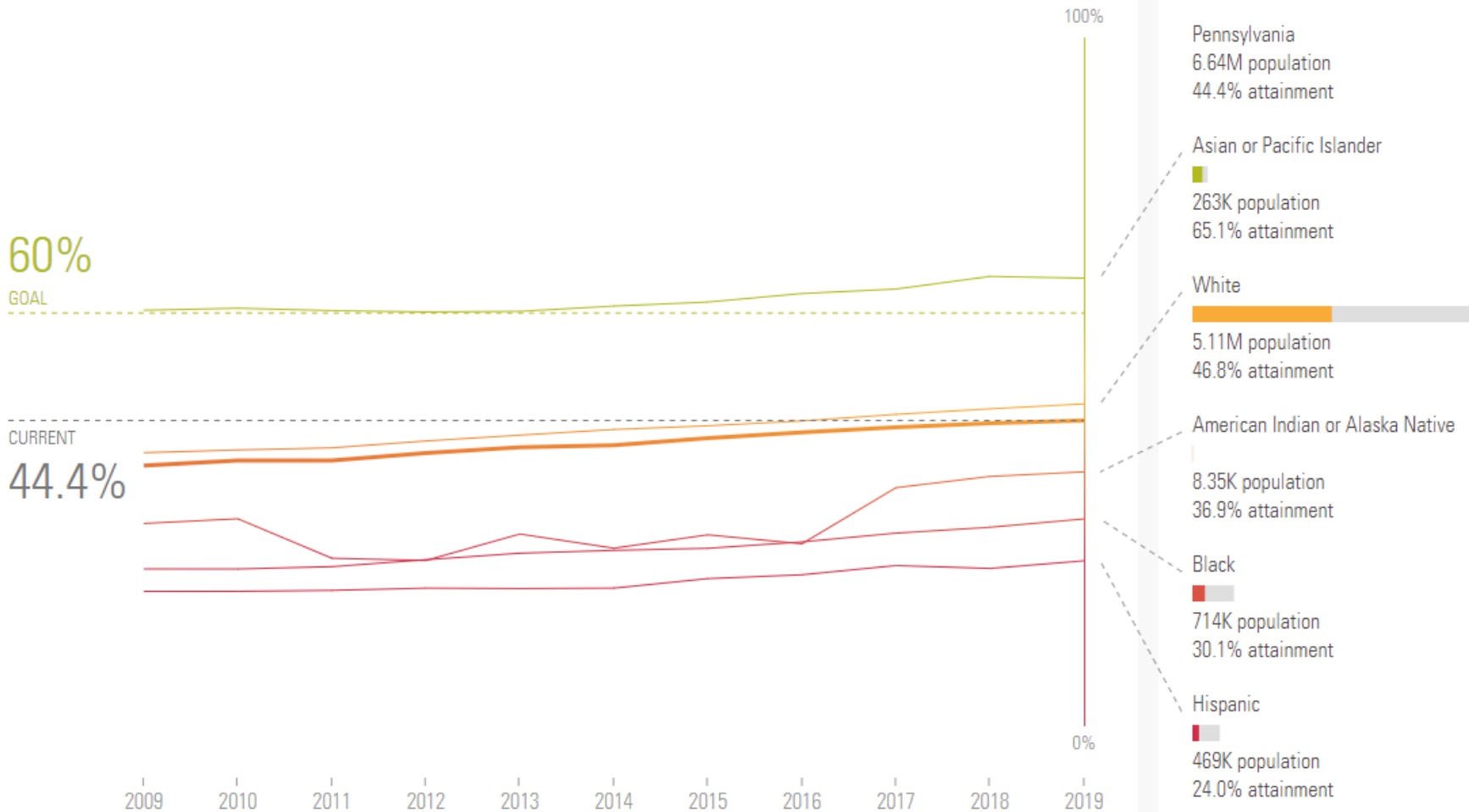
DC 69.1%	MA 61.6%	CO 61.0%	WA 59.4%	MN 59.0%	VA 57.4%	CT 57.1%	NJ 56.6%	MD 55.9%	UT 55.8%	ND 55.3%	IL 55.2%	NH 55.1%
NE 54.9%	KS 54.9%	WI 54.7%	NY 54.3%	AZ 53.8%	IA 53.4%	PR 52.9%	RI 52.9%	GA 52.8%	FL 52.8%	VT 52.6%	ME 52.6%	MT 52.2%
NC 52.1%	CA 52.0%	WY 51.6%	OR 51.0%	HI 50.7%	PA 50.7%	OH 49.5%	AK 49.5%	KY 49.4%	SD 49.2%	MI 49.1%	NM 48.6%	IN 48.3%
LA 48.1%	TX 47.9%	DE 47.9%	SC 47.6%	MO 47.0%	TN 46.8%	OK 46.5%	ID 46.5%	AL 45.1%	MS 44.4%	AR 43.6%	WV 42.6%	NV 42.5%

The District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and 28 other states have postsecondary attainment rates that are higher than Pennsylvania's



# Postsecondary Attainment by Race/Ethnicity in Pennsylvania

PA ATTAINMENT BY RACE AND ETHNICITY 2009-2019



2019 POPULATION STATISTICS

Pennsylvania	6.64M population	44.4% attainment
Asian or Pacific Islander	263K population	65.1% attainment
White	5.11M population	46.8% attainment
American Indian or Alaska Native	8.35K population	36.9% attainment
Black	714K population	30.1% attainment
Hispanic	469K population	24.0% attainment

**25–64-year-old PA residents:**

**65%** Asian

**47%** White

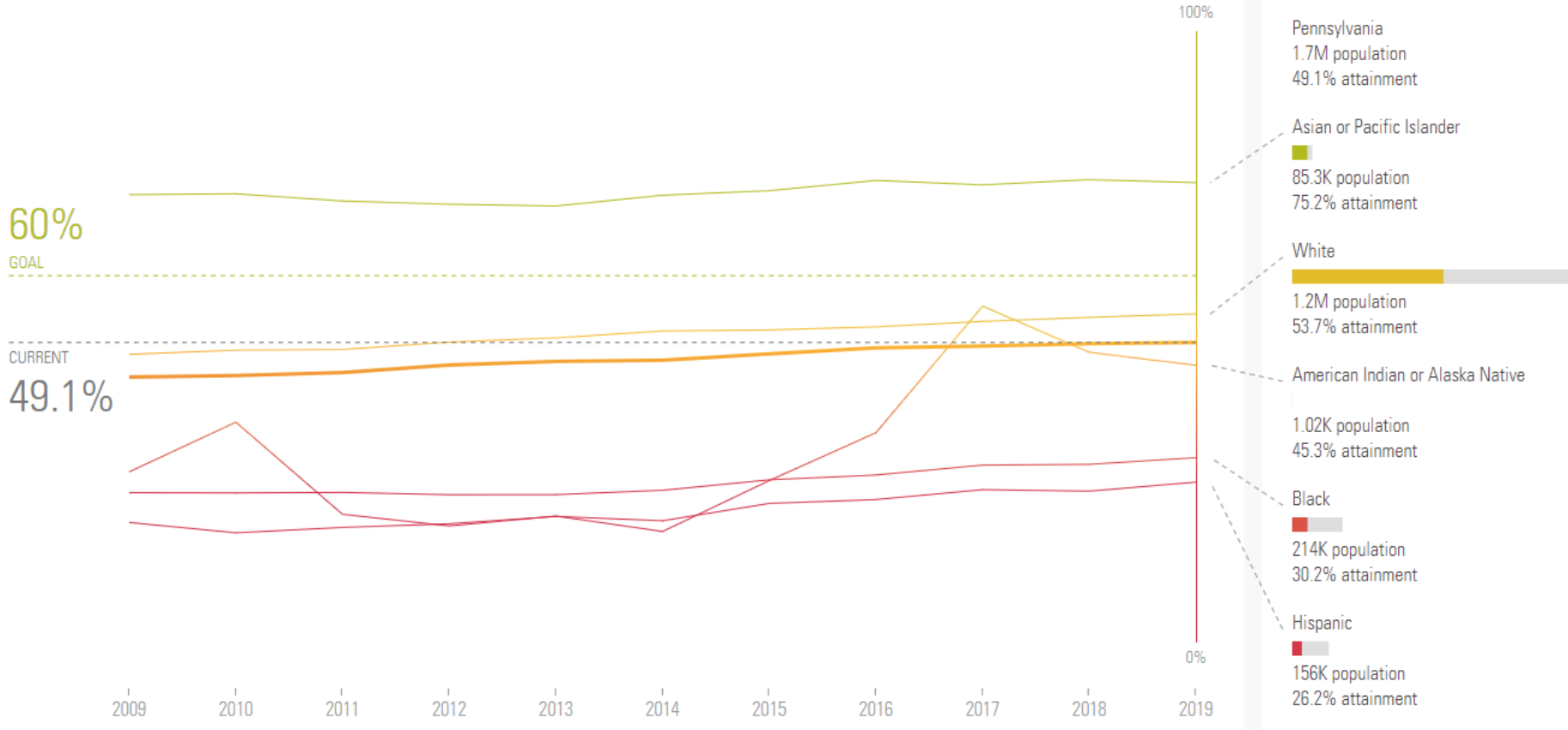
**37%** Indigenous

**30%** Black

**24%** Latinx

# Postsecondary Attainment by Race/Ethnicity in Pennsylvania

PA ATTAINMENT BY RACE AND ETHNICITY 2009-2019



## 25–34-year-old PA residents:

**75%** Asian (+10)

**54%** White (+7)

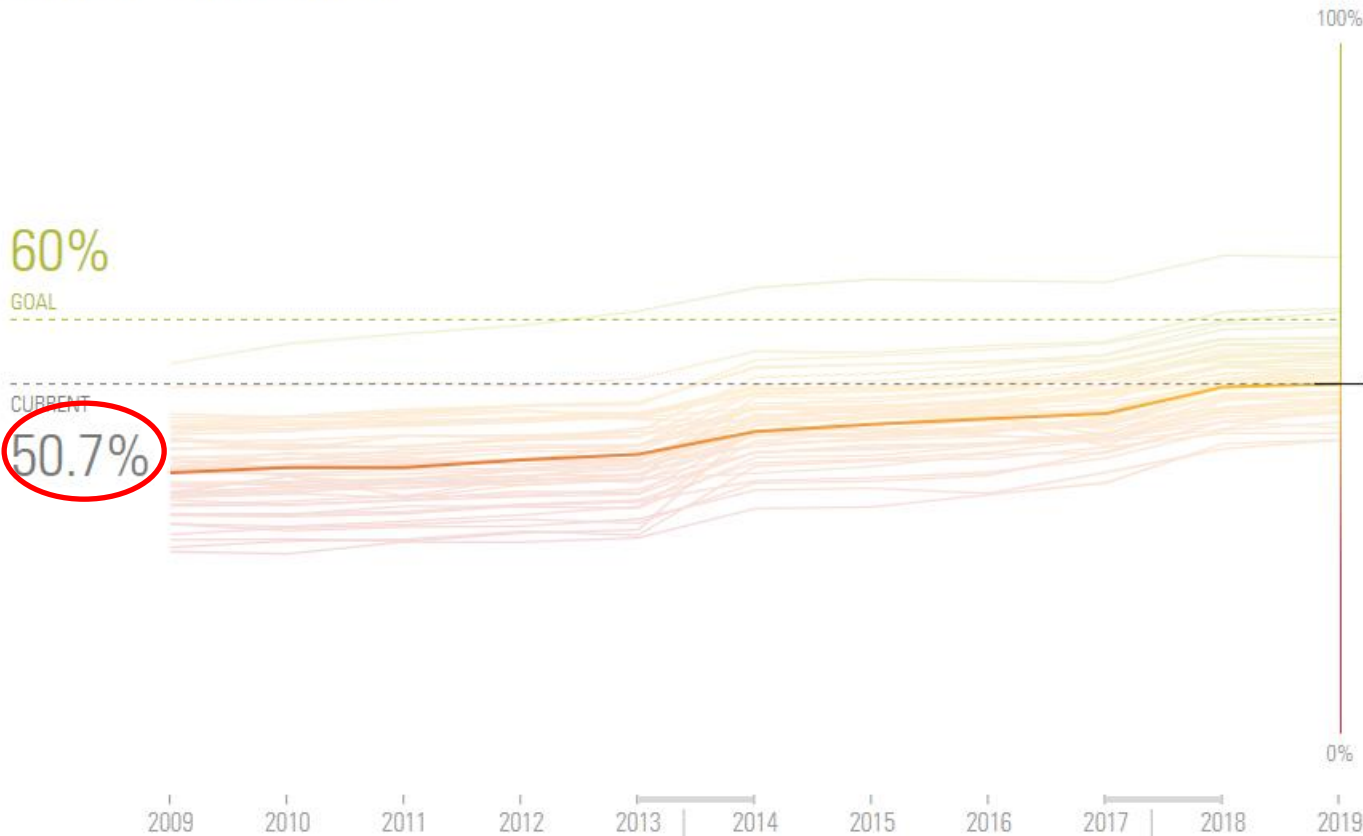
**45%** Indigenous (+8)

**30%** Black (+0)

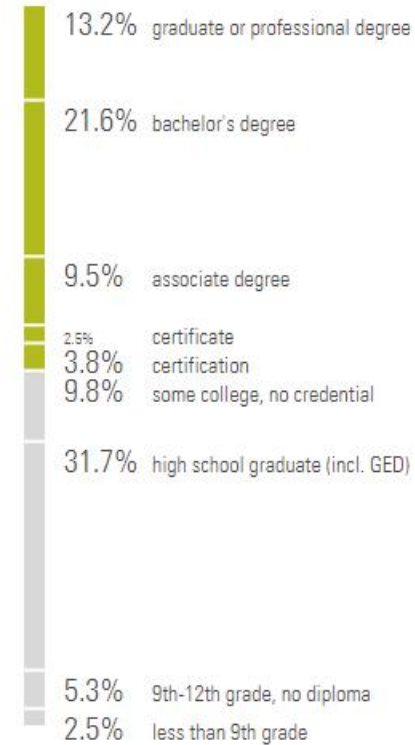
**26%** Latinx (+2)

# Educational Levels in Pennsylvania

PENNSYLVANIA ATTAINMENT 2009-2019



2019 EDUCATION DISTRIBUTION  
PA RESIDENTS AGES 25-64



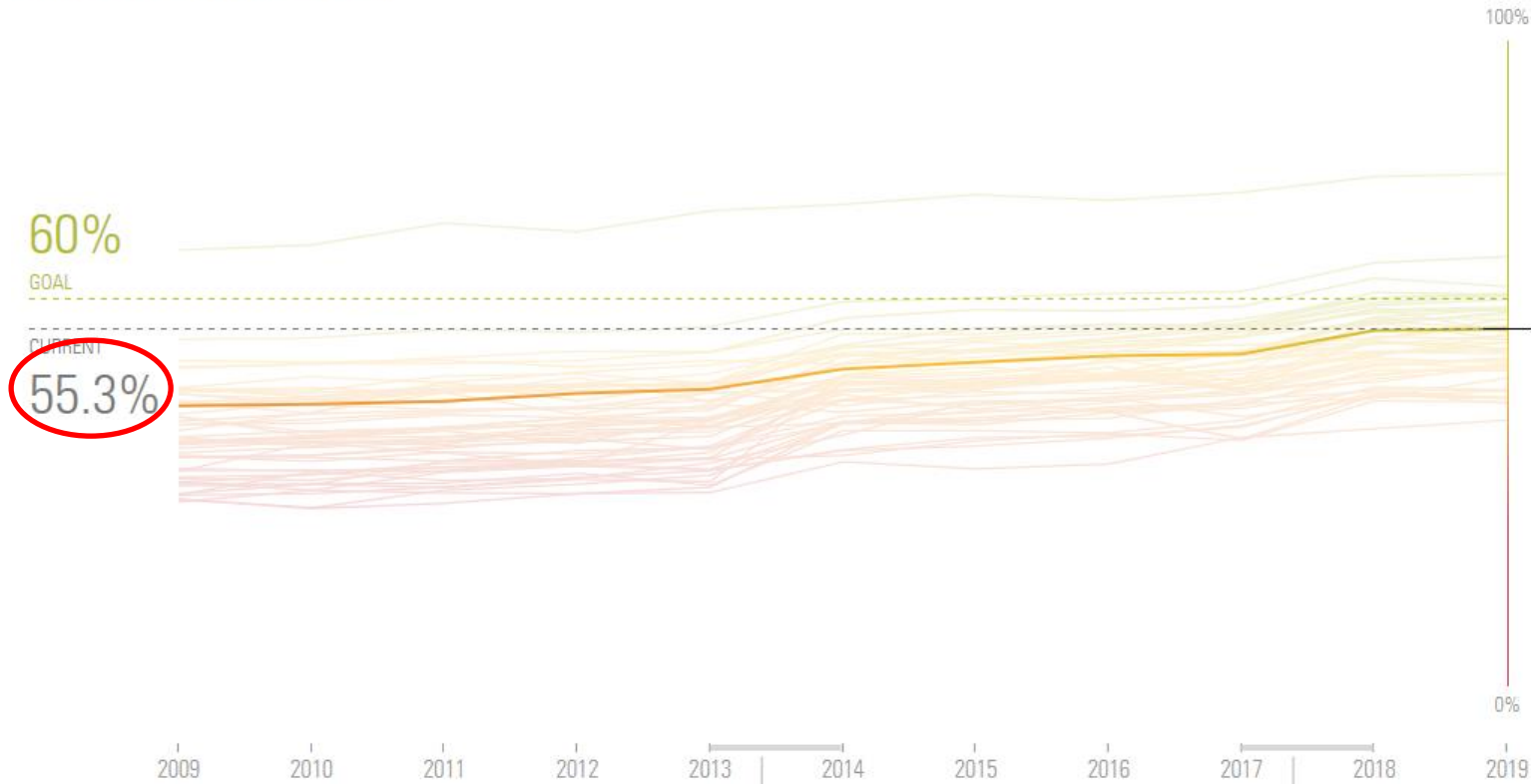
PA has  
6.64 million  
residents  
ages 25-64

Workforce-relevant  
certificates now  
included in  
attainment  
calculations

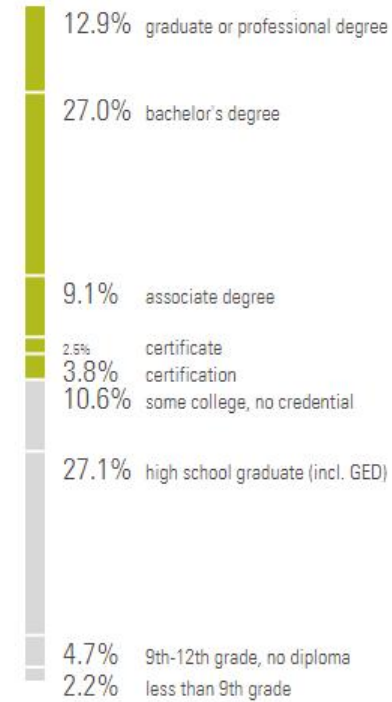
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PENNSYLVANIA ATTAINMENT 2009-2019



2019 EDUCATION DISTRIBUTION  
PA RESIDENTS AGES 25-34



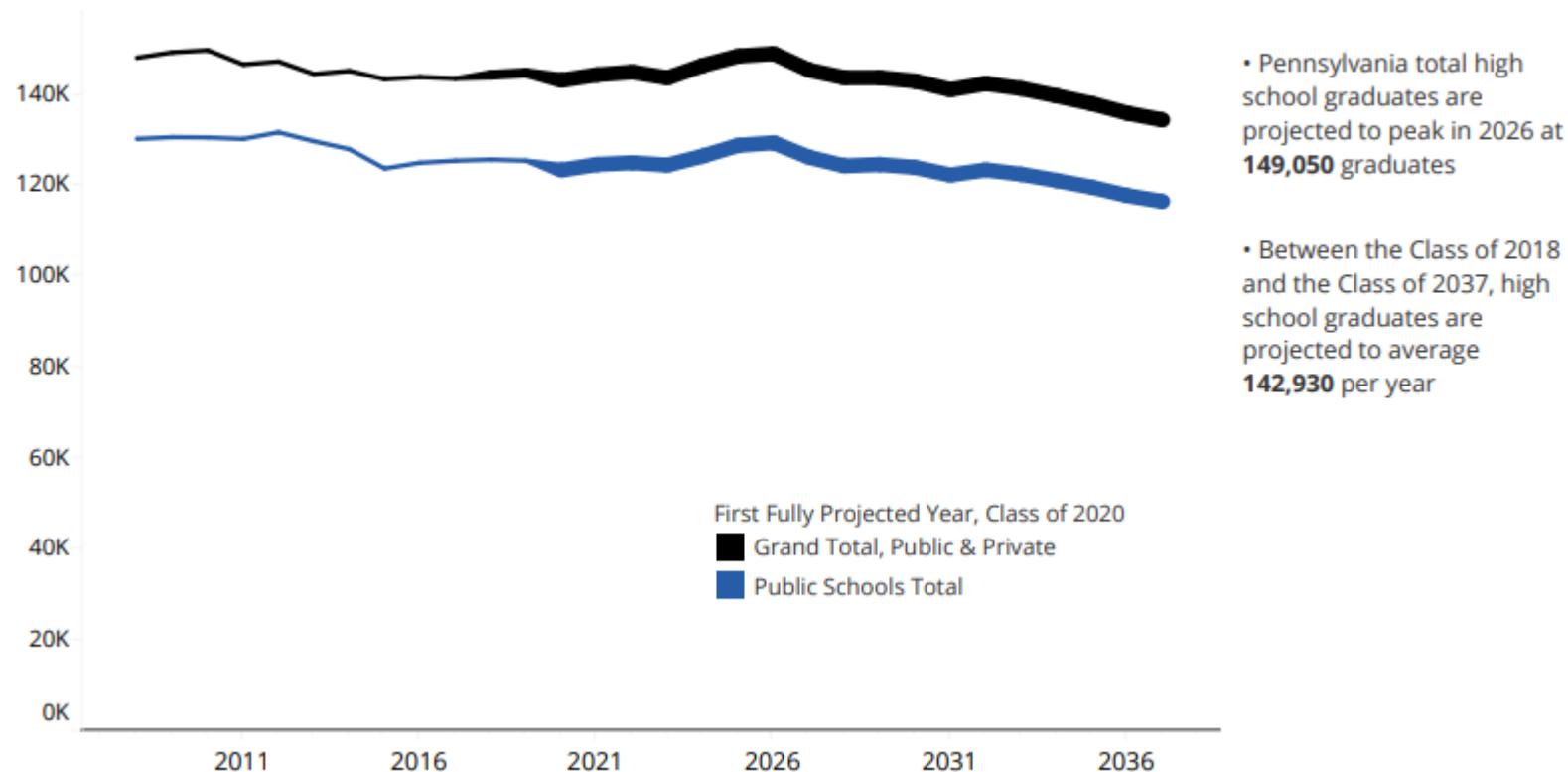
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# Projections of Pennsylvania High School Graduates

Total & Public High School Graduates, Class of 2008 to 2037



Within this decline, the proportion of White public high school graduates will continue to decrease, while the proportion of public high school graduates who are Latinx, Black, Asian, and from two or more races will increase.

# Inspiration for Pennsylvania's Master Plan

Texas Higher Education Strategic Plan:  
2015–2030

## Colorado Rises

ADVANCING EDUCATION AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT



The master plans from Colorado and Texas informed Pennsylvania's

**60x30TX**

#CORises  
masterplan.highered.colorado.gov

Colorado Commission on Higher Education  
Master Plan

Published August 2017



By 2030, at least 60 percent of Texans ages 25-34 will have a certificate or degree.

