

# Clear Pathways to Post-Secondary Success

## The Big Bet for 2033

Building a system of coordinated and aligned post-secondary pathways

### Why This Big Bet?

For Georgia to remain competitive on the global stage, state leaders will need to invest in systems reform to motivate all Georgians – not just traditional college-going students – to earn post-secondary credentials. State leaders should use existing system assets to build a statewide post-secondary and workforce strategy that transcends sector-based decisions and governance. Expanding access to all types of credential programs could provide a way for all Georgians, especially nontraditional students, adult learners, disengaged youth, and low-income residents, to fully participate in the state’s economic prosperity.

### Benefits of a Multiple Pathways System

- **Pre-mapped pathways:** The state’s two post-secondary systems partner to create a seamless student experience. Students can enter the system at any point and earn credentials without losing momentum through lack of credit transfer.
- **Portability:** Students learn content and master skills, resulting in the earning of course credit and post-secondary credentials. A multiple-pathways approach removes structural obstacles to credential attainment by ensuring that credits and experiences are portable to the next institution and the next credential.
- **Improved workforce alignment:** Developing a robust pathways model creates stability in the labor market by ensuring that working adults can re-enter post-secondary education if and when they need to master new skills demanded by private-sector partners.

### Power Strategies State Leaders Should Prioritize

<i>Build Momentum</i>	<i>Remove Barriers</i>	<i>Market Opportunity</i>
Expanding access to accelerated learning options so that students can earn post-secondary credits or credentials while enrolled in high school.	Funding a proactive advising model that enables students to pursue post-secondary options aligning with their career interests.	Expanding and deepening incentives for working adults to earn short-term postsecondary credentials in areas of workforce shortage.
	Creation of a comprehensive statewide need-based financial aid program that makes post-secondary options more accessible for youth and working adults.	Encouraging business and industry leaders to co-develop rigorous pathways curricula and expand access to work-based learning opportunities in high-demand career areas.

## How Can State Leaders Get Involved

### The EdQuest Georgia Coalition recommends:

- State agency and post-secondary system leaders create a statewide system of seamless transfer across the K-12, post-secondary education, and workforce development sectors that awards post-secondary credit for alternative credentials and non-traditional experiences.
- State post-secondary system leaders provide dedicated funding for post-secondary institutions to deliver career advising and non-academic student support services.
- District leaders expand access to early post-secondary and work-based learning opportunities for high school students and career planning and exploration curricula starting in sixth grade.

## Three Ways Practitioners Can Support the Big Bet

### Assemble Working Groups to Create New Strategies or Adapt Existing State Structures

The state advocacy community should convene task forces to develop recommendations for the following:

- Designing and funding a comprehensive state need-based aid program.
- Encouraging greater private-sector involvement and investment in post-secondary programming, e.g., curriculum development and expanded work-based learning.
- Creating pathways anchored in career fields important to Georgia's continued economic growth and global competitiveness.

### Create Skill Maps

The Technical College and University Systems of Georgia have strong transfer and articulation agreements for general education courses. The two systems should leverage these efforts to create skills and credential maps that show how knowledge, skills, and abilities progress from short-term credentials to doctoral degrees. When created, these skill maps will facilitate credit transfer and more efficient progression along post-secondary pathways.

### Strengthen Public Messaging

System leaders and nonprofit and community partners should develop a communications campaign to improve public messaging related to the labor market value of different post-secondary credentials and student incentives that make post-secondary opportunities more accessible and affordable. The plan should debunk the idea that the bachelor's degree is the only pathway to economic prosperity.