

FOCUS AREA: Post-Secondary and Workforce Readiness

PRIORITY: Leverage the “Top State for Talent” initiative to ensure more Georgians can achieve quality of life by earning credentials of value.

Framework 2033 Big Bet

Building a system of coordinated and aligned post-secondary pathways that ensure Georgians acquire skills and earn credentials that meet employers’ needs.

How the 2026 Priority Ensures More Georgians Earn Credentials of Value	Recommended Actions
<p>In 2023, 42.2% of Georgians had earned credentials of value – degrees, certificates, or certifications that produce a 15% income premium above what residents with high school diplomas earn.</p> <p>To reach the North Star goal of 65% credential attainment, Georgia’s leaders should address affordability challenges by drawing on new investments from corporate and community partners.</p> <p>By leveraging the Top State for Talent initiative, communities can develop regional talent strategies that forge greater alignment between post-secondary programs and regional workforce needs, while also accelerating opportunity for the 13% of residents with some college but no credential.</p> <p>State leaders take pride in Georgia being the Number One State for Business. Georgia will retain this important distinction if we also strive to be the Top State for Post-Secondary Opportunity.</p>	<p>The EdQuest Coalition champions a three-part strategy to expand educational opportunity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Affordability</i> <p>State leaders should redesign student aid and institutional funding strategies to ensure investments expand educational opportunity and align with the state’s talent needs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <i>Alignment</i> <p>Building on existing incentives, the General Assembly should fund initiatives that encourage the private sector to hire students as apprentices and interns.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. <i>Acceleration</i> <p>State leaders should create an adult learner initiative that encourages residents with some college experience to earn credentials of value.</p>

Key Outcome

Accelerate attainment rates for underserved groups by at least 30% by 2033.

Georgia’s leaders should invest in strategies that ensure nontraditional students, adult learners, disengaged youth, and low-income residents can access post-secondary education.

EdQuest Resources

[Clear Pathways to Post-Secondary Success](#)

[Leading Indicators](#)