

Toplines:

Increasing the number of people with higher educational attainment would improve Georgia's communities.

- In the U.S. more than 13%⁵ of people with high school degrees but no college attainment are living below the poverty line, compared to only 4% of college graduates.
- Studies find that individuals who attain higher education are more likely to be active in their communities⁷ through voting, volunteer efforts, and donations.

Sources:

- ¹ <https://lcfga.info/3xxNT6R>
- ² <https://lcfga.info/43XEvW1>
- ³ <https://lcfga.info/49H3WNa>
- ⁴ <https://lcfga.info/4aOlh6l>
- ⁵ <https://lcfga.info/3UfPgje>
- ⁶ <https://lcfga.info/3JhuQQY>
- ⁷ <https://lcfga.info/3xwbogH>

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Policy Priority:

Equitable access to in-state tuition rates for all K-12 students in Georgia



Key Message:

The failure to provide fair and equitable access to higher education to all Georgians is preventing hard working young people from achieving their full potential and holding Georgia's economy back from additional job creation and growth.

Expanding higher education opportunities for all those who graduate high-school or get a GED in Georgia is integral to filling the skills gap and key labor shortages across all sectors, from aerospace, to construction, and manufacturing.

Building a prosperous and quality workforce; ensures sustained economic growth for our state and is the best path to break the cycle of poverty in our communities.

Access to quality and affordable higher education is also a key component supporting any youth development and educational attainment efforts, confirming to our young Georgians that the state sees and invests in their potential.

While Georgia already offers in-state tuition to from neighboring states, it has failed to include all students within its limits. Any further delay in expanding in-state tuition to all Georgians only prolongs the stream of talented students leaving for one of the twenty-three states and the District of Columbia that have already incorporated this strategy as part of their economic development agenda.



Toplines:

Providing all students that graduate from high-school or get a GED from Georgia with access to in-state tuition rates is an economic opportunity

- The state can add an estimated \$10 million per year to state and local coffers¹ through a more skilled, higher earning workforce if it allows Georgians to pay in-state tuition at any public college or university if they are eligible to work.
- At least 60% of Georgia's future jobs² will require post-secondary education. Policies that provide access to higher education for all Georgian's strengthens our economy and job opportunities.
- In Georgia, there are only 54 available workers for 100 job openings³. Investing in educational access for all would bridge the labor shortage in the state and fortify our economy.

Tuition equity measures would keep talented immigrants in Georgia to join crucial industries

- More than 23 million⁴ immigrants work essential jobs across the country. Any policy that encourages more essential workers to live, study, and work in Georgia fortifies our economy
- In Georgia, more than 10%⁵ of all nurses and 18%⁵ of all health aides are foreign-born.
- At least 20 states across the country have passed tuition equity, giving them a competitive advantage over Georgia, in terms of retaining talent. This includes states like Arizona, Florida, Kentucky, and Texas.
- Immigrants make up large portions⁵ of industries that power the day to day lives of Georgians — 53% of personal care services, 33% of animal processing, and 31% of building services workers are immigrants.

Thousands⁵ of immigrants with diverse documentation status have lived the majority of their lives in Georgia. They work, pay taxes, and contribute to our communities. They should be eligible for the same in-state tuition rates as other individuals who have established residency.

- More than one million⁵ immigrants call Georgia home and contribute almost \$10 billion⁵ in federal, state and local taxes annually. DACA recipients alone account for more than \$61 million⁵ in state and local tax revenue.
- The high cost of out-of-state tuition is a major factor discouraging Georgia immigrants from attending college, hurting the state's economic competitiveness and wasting potential talent for the state.

