

October 12, 2023

Higher Education Workgroup

Final Workgroup Recommendations

**GROWING
MICHIGAN
TOGETHER**

The higher education workgroup has two interconnected goals:

Population growth and increased educational attainment



Population growth



Increased educational attainment

Increased population brings more individuals into our learning and working communities

Highly educated talent attracts economic investment that generates new opportunities

What is the source of Michigan's net talent export?

There is not enough in-migration of college-educated talent to offset graduates lost.

Michigan is an appealing undergraduate destination, with net import of approximately 1,700 students...

... though postgraduation, this gain is offset by nearly 5,600 student net "brain-drain"

10,160 Students inbound to Michigan
-8,500 Students outbound from Michigan

1,660 Net inflow of students



1,970 Grads inbound to Michigan
-7,520 Grads outbound from Michigan

-5,550 Net outflow of grads

Note: Does not consider movement of students who fail to complete. Total values rounded; enrollment based on 2020 values due to data availability; neighboring states include Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin; absolute transition snapshot derived from "Grads on the go" state migration percentage x cohort degree completion
Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System; "Grads on the go", Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research

Recommended Strategies

These recommendations will have a significant impact on population growth and higher education attainment, likely reversing the state's current brain drain and bringing us to a top-quartile state in attainment.

Advance Equity



Increase Enrollment

Create a K-14 public education system by providing graduating high school students with two years of tuition at a community college or public university.

Support early college credit uptake and universal Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) or opt-out as a high school requirement.



Improve Transfer/Completion success

Make the transition from community college graduate to university junior status seamless.

Form advisory group to reimagine higher education funding process, led by proper higher education stakeholders, to ensure competitive, sufficient, sustainable funding that enables increased student success and graduate retention.



Enhance Job Placement and Retention

Support, formalize, and grow employer partnerships to enable greater student exposure to real-world, on-the-job experiences for credit and/or payment.

Directly influence reversal of "brain drain" by incentivizing recent graduates to seek employment and live in Michigan.