



Tab 13

## Adult Learner Strategic Planning Update

Coordinating Board for Higher Education

December 6, 2023

### BACKGROUND

At the beginning of the year, the Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development (MDHEWD) entered into a partnership with the Missouri College & Career Attainment Network (MOCAN) and Education Strategy Group (ESG) to develop an adult learner strategic plan that supports the state's educational attainment goal and closes opportunity gaps for Black, Hispanic, and rural Missourians. Three objectives were developed:

1. Integrate equity more explicitly into an adult learner attainment goal
2. Align the work of the Adult Learner Network and the Attainment Academy with an established framework
3. Identify actions Missouri should take to meet the adult attainment goal

When the Coordinating Board for Higher Education adopted its strategic plan, Missouri needed to credential an additional 243,000 Missourians to meet its educational attainment goal. After analysis, ESG found 150,000 of those credentials will need to be awarded to adult learners – specifically, 30,000 Black adults, 15,000 Hispanic adults, and 105,000 rural adults – by 2028. Meeting this progress goal would see Missouri well on its way to becoming the best among other Midwestern states in educational attainment and labor force participation by 2030.

The progress goal was shared with approximately 80 stakeholders during an in-person Adult Learner Strategic Planning session in April; and over the summer, ESG conducted interviews with individuals across the state to identify Missouri's assets and opportunities. Based on those conversations, three focus areas emerged: (1) improve postsecondary access, (2) improve postsecondary completion, and (3) improve workforce alignment.

### CURRENT STATUS

Within each focus area, ESG has identified a number of tactics that would significantly move the needle toward the progress goal. On November 16, these tactics were presented at an in-person convening to partners across the state who prioritized a number of tactics for further development and implementation in 2024.

### NEXT STEPS

While the executive summary of the strategic plan has been released (Attachment A), the full report will be available later this month. MDHEWD staff will publish the report online and disseminate to the CBHE, presidents and chancellors, chief academic officers, members of the Adult Learner Network, and other interested stakeholders.

Staff will also create new subcommittees of the Adult Learner Network based on the three focus areas. Members of the subcommittees will be partners dedicated to making actionable progress on the tactics identified during the November convening.

**RECOMMENDATION**

This is an information item only.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment A: Adult Learner Strategic Plan Executive Summary