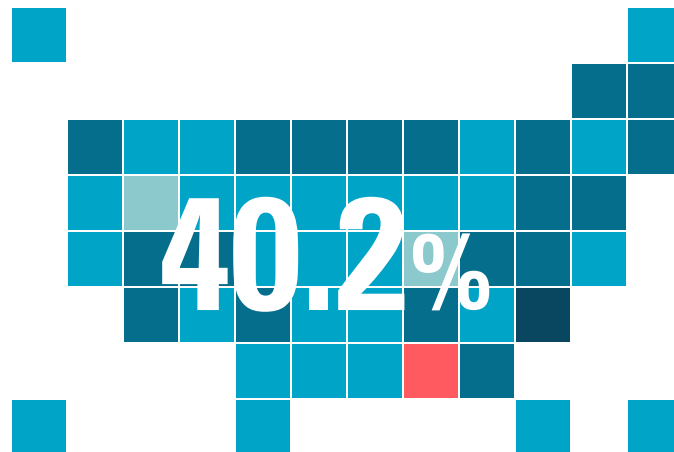


A STRONGER NATION

Learning beyond high school builds American talent



Alabama's Report 2019



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Alabama's progress toward the goal

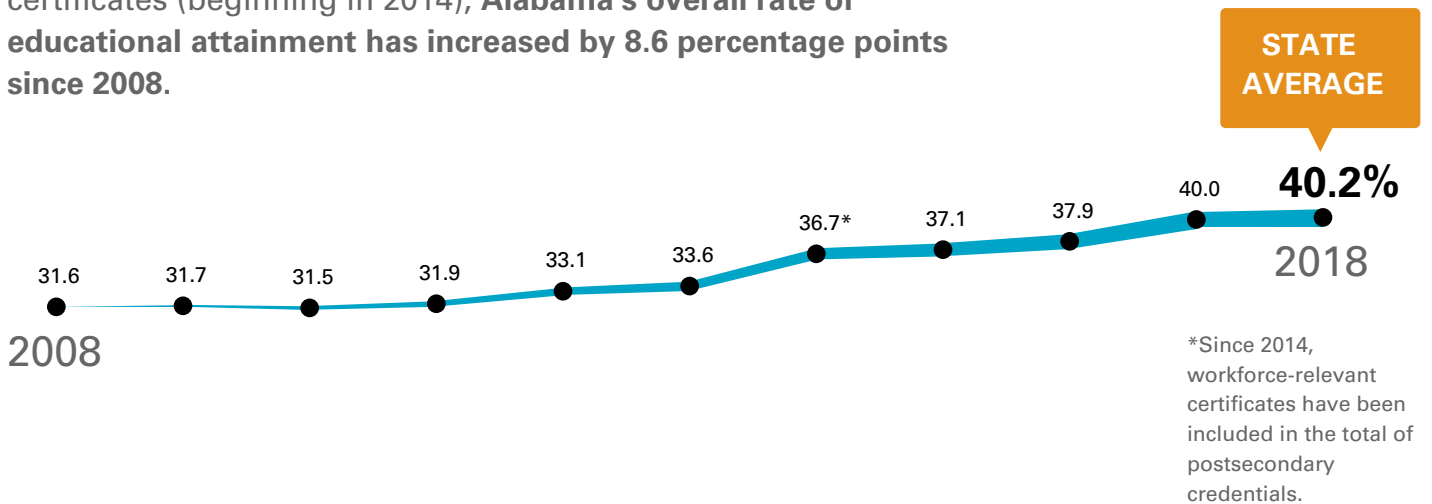
By 2025, 60 percent of Americans will need some type of high-quality credential beyond high school. To count toward this important goal, any credential must have clear and transparent learning outcomes that lead to further education and employment. **Alabama's attainment rate is 40 percent, and the state is working toward its attainment goal of 60 percent by 2025.**

Alabama is making progress in increasing educational attainment, but still lags when compared to the national average.



Alabama's progress

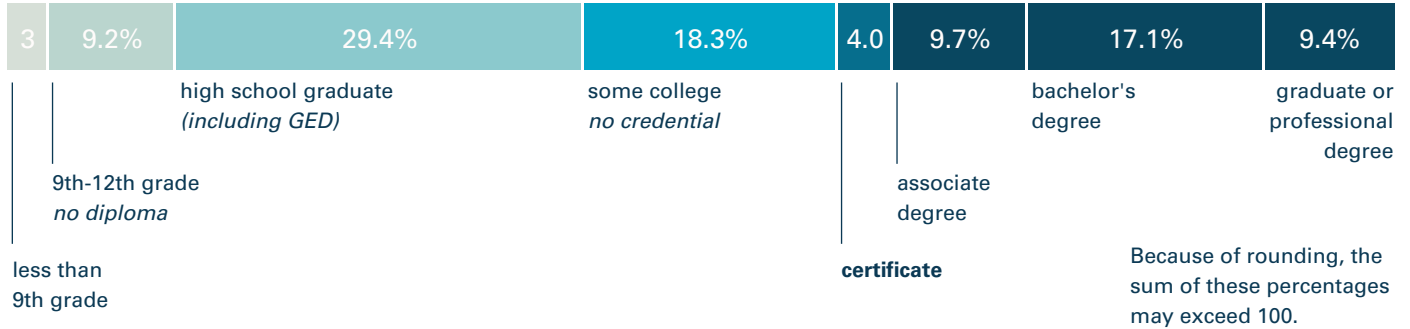
To reach state goals, the state will not only have to maintain current rates of attainment but also significantly increase the number of people who enroll in programs and earn all types of credentials beyond high school. With the inclusion of workforce certificates (beginning in 2014), **Alabama's overall rate of educational attainment has increased by 8.6 percentage points since 2008.**



Highest Education Level Across Alabama

ALABAMA AGES 25-64

40.2% attainment



Alabama's racial and ethnic disparities

There are **significant gaps** in educational attainment that must be closed – specifically, **gaps linked to race and ethnicity. These gaps persist in every state.** Because educational attainment beyond high school has become the key determinant of economic opportunity and social mobility, **closing these gaps is crucial.**






































Comparing Alabama Counties

Exploring educational attainment at the local level can be especially helpful to local leaders as they work on talent development. For example, by pinpointing counties or regions where attainment lags, resources can be targeted where they're needed most. Conversely, in areas of high attainment, other regions may find practices or processes they can emulate.

Compare degree attainment rates across Alabama's 67 counties. Attainment is shown here as the percentage of people ages 25-64 with at least an associate degree.*

sorted by NAME ▼▲

Attainment	County	Population	Pop. Rank	Attainment	County	Population	Pop. Rank
38.3%	Autauga	55,504	24	37.6%	Coffee	51,874	27
42.2%	Baldwin	212,628	6	28.0%	Colbert	54,500	25
20.2%	Barbour	25,270	41	21.1%	Conecuh	12,469	61
18.6%	Bibb	22,668	45	18.3%	Coosa	10,754	62
26.9%	Blount	58,013	22	27.6%	Covington	37,092	33
17.6%	Bullock	10,309	64	24.1%	Crenshaw	13,871	57
24.1%	Butler	19,825	48	26.1%	Cullman	82,755	17
26.9%	Calhoun	114,728	10	28.7%	Dale	49,226	28
23.4%	Chambers	33,713	34	25.5%	Dallas	39,215	31
23.1%	Cherokee	25,857	40	23.9%	DeKalb	71,617	20
21.9%	Chilton	44,067	29	34.6%	Elmore	81,677	18
27.1%	Choctaw	12,945	59	20.4%	Escambia	37,447	32
20.7%	Clarke	24,083	42	27.9%	Etowah	102,755	12
21.7%	Clay	13,367	58	22.5%	Fayette	16,468	53
20.1%	Cleburne	14,900	54	22.7%	Franklin	31,495	37

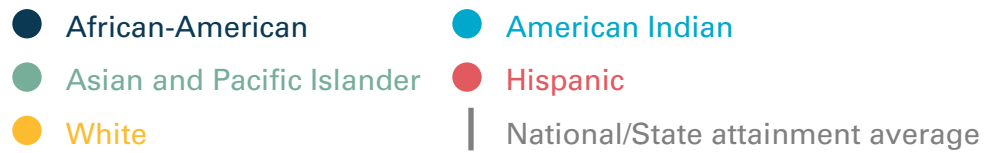
 22.2% Geneva	26,421	39	 23.0% Monroe	21,327	46
 18.3% Greene	8,330	67	 40.2% Montgomery	226,646	4
 23.7% Hale	14,812	55	 32.0% Morgan	118,818	9
 26.7% Henry	17,147	51	 21.6% Perry	9,339	66
 32.3% Houston	104,346	11	 22.1% Pickens	20,176	47
 25.0% Jackson	51,909	26	 31.8% Pike	33,267	35
 43.1% Jefferson	659,197	1	 24.5% Randolph	22,670	44
 24.6% Lamar	13,946	56	 27.8% Russell	57,045	23
 32.6% Lauderdale	92,538	15	 52.2% Shelby	213,605	5
 20.8% Lawrence	33,049	36	 27.7% St. Clair	88,199	16
 44.7% Lee	161,604	8	 31.6% Sumter	12,687	60
 35.3% Limestone	94,402	14	 24.1% Talladega	80,065	19
 22.6% Lowndes	10,076	65	 29.2% Tallapoosa	40,681	30
 26.2% Macon	18,755	50	 39.4% Tuscaloosa	207,811	7
 52.2% Madison	361,046	3	 24.3% Walker	64,058	21
 27.7% Marengo	19,375	49	 20.6% Washington	16,531	52
 25.6% Marion	29,833	38	 16.7% Wilcox	10,719	63
 28.1% Marshall	95,548	13	 22.3% Winston	23,722	43
 32.7% Mobile	413,955	2			

Results by race and ethnicity in Alabama

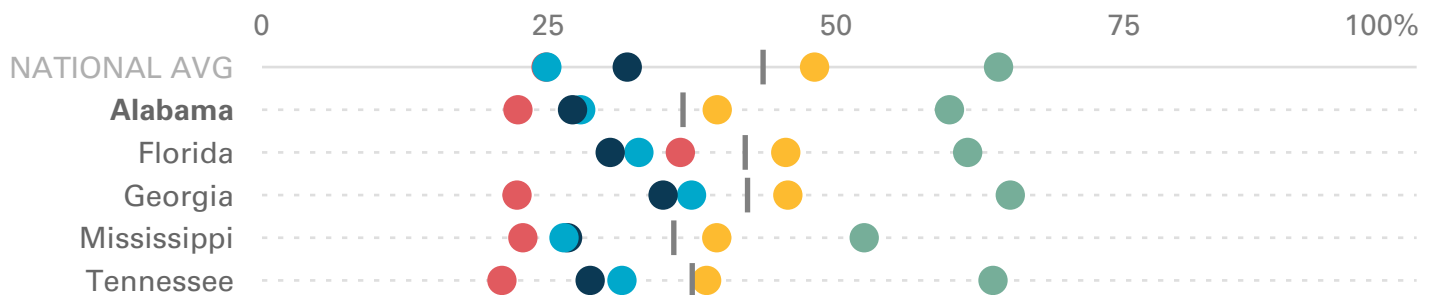
A growing proportion of today’s learners are African-American, Hispanic, and American Indian; and data show persistent and troubling gaps between their attainment levels and those of their white peers. Addressing these gaps – and expanding post-high-school learning opportunities for all – is essential to reducing the inequality that influences much of American life.

Explore **Alabama's attainment rates across five racial and ethnic groups**, and see how it performs relative to other states. Attainment is shown here as the percentage of residents, ages 25-64 with at least an associate degree.*

filtered by RACE AND ETHNICITY



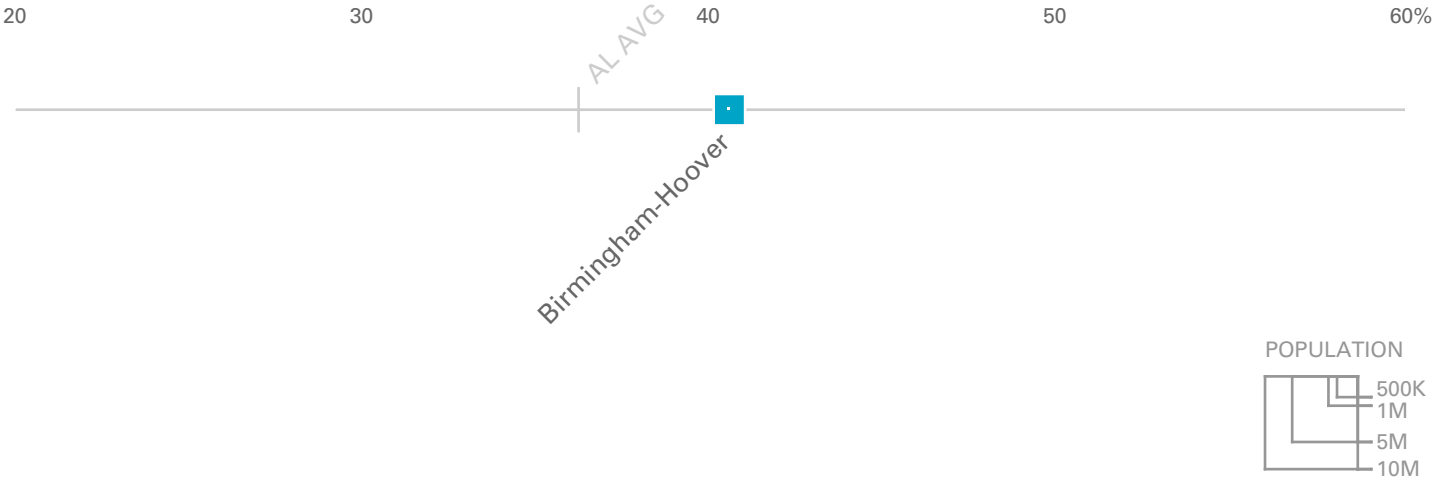
sorted by STATE NAME ▼▲



Alabama's metro areas

Metropolitan areas are important talent hubs, because the majority of the nation's population lives within these areas.

Explore attainment rates in Alabama's Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). Attainment is shown here as the percentage of residents, ages 25-64, with at least an associate degree.



Data sources

Data sources for *A Stronger Nation* are listed below, along with links and additional information.

Attainment and enrollment rates

U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS): One-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS). County-level and metro-regional data are from ACS five-year estimates (2013-2017). College enrollment percentages reflect the enrollment of non-degree-holding students, ages 18-57, at public and private two- and four-year institutions.

- U.S. Census Bureau: <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs>

Persistence and completion rates

Student retention rates (persistence) and degree-completion rates were collected by the National Student Clearinghouse. Graduate degrees awarded were analyzed by the National Center for Education Statistics and IPEDS.

- National Student Clearinghouse, 2016: <http://www.studentclearinghouse.org/>
- National Center for Education Statistics: <https://nces.ed.gov/>
- Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Completion Survey 2014-2015: <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/Home/UseTheData>

Awareness

Data that track public opinion about the importance of earning credentials come from a Gallup-Lumina Foundation survey conducted in 2016.

Population

U.S. Census Bureau Population Division: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population April 1, 2010, to July 1, 2017.

- U.S. Census Bureau Annual Population Estimates: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=PEP_2017_PEPANNRES&prodType=table

Inclusion of certificates

Attainment rates for 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 include the estimated percentage of working-age Americans who have earned high-value postsecondary certificates – not just associate degrees and above, as *A Stronger Nation* reported in previous years. This estimated percentage was derived by polling a nationally representative sample of Americans ages 25-64. The surveys were conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago, an independent research institution. See the [methodology for certificate estimates](#).

At the state level, the estimated percentage of state residents who have earned high-value certificates was derived by labor market experts at Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce.

- The [National Education and Attainment Survey](#) (NEAS) from NORC at the University of Chicago
- [Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System](#)
- Georgetown University's [Center on Education and the Workforce](#)

Defining metro areas

Metro-area data in *A Stronger Nation* are those that apply to the nation's Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). The term MSA refers to "a large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities having a high degree of social and economic integration with that core." MSAs comprise one or more entire counties, except in New England, where cities and towns are the basic geographic units. The federal Office of Management and Budget defines MSAs by applying published standards to Census Bureau data.

Lumina Foundation is an independent, private foundation in Indianapolis that is committed to making opportunities for learning beyond high school available to all. We envision a system that is easy to navigate, delivers fair results, and meets the nation's need for talent through a broad range of credentials. Our goal is to prepare people for informed citizenship and for success in a global economy.



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