



# Grantmaking Areas of Emphasis

June 2024

## Population-level indicators

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CFEC approaches grantmaking in two ways: 1) responding to ideas from the community and 2) co-leading initiatives to address specific targets: early childhood success, youth well prepared for their next step, and a connected network of bike/pedestrian trails.

For the areas of emphasis, data is tracked at the population level. Population-level indicators serve as a directional guide for the work. There is an important distinction between *population* and *performance* accountability. In population accountability, the entire community, including the public and private sectors, shares responsibility for achieving the desired community conditions. Performance accountability, by comparison, is held at a program, agency, or service level and determines whether the clients or customers of the program or service are better off. This distinction ensures that appropriate responsibility is attached to programs and services and avoids the expectation that one single program can produce large population-level results.

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### Kids and Families

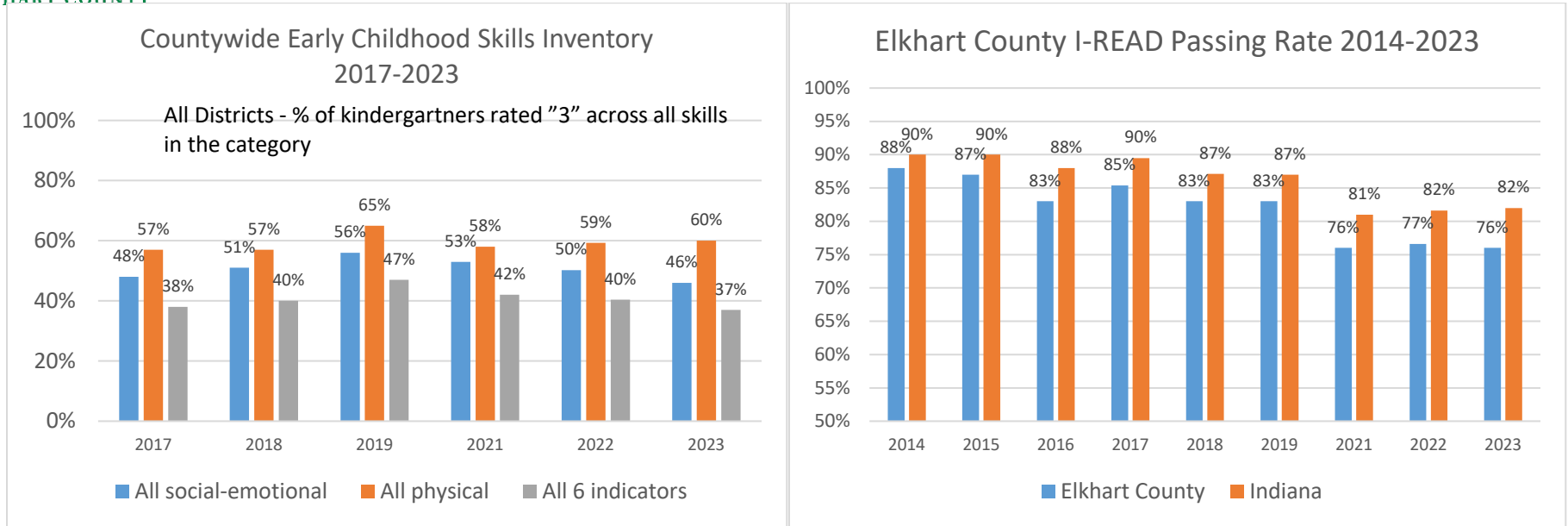
#### *FOCUS: Early Childhood Development and Education*

Kindergarten readiness assessment scores provide a proxy for learning readiness at the beginning of kindergarten. Elkhart County Kindergarten teachers and researchers developed the Early Childhood Skills Inventory. The state reading assessment (I-READ) measures students' reading level in 3rd grade. Both measures are highly correlated with students' long-term success.

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### Career Pathways

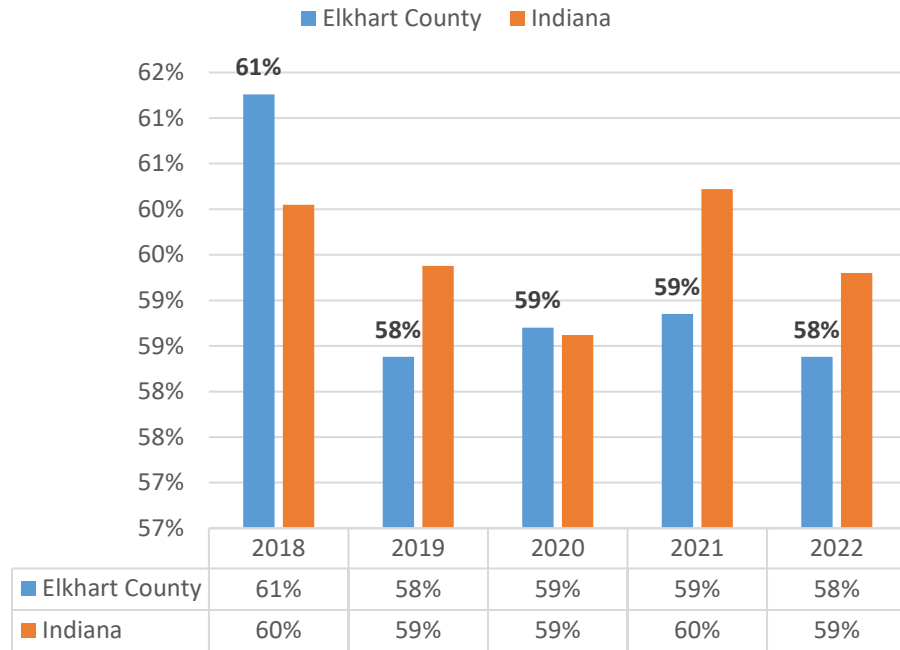
***FOCUS: Career Awareness, Exploration & Employability Skills; Internships & Apprenticeships (Grades 4<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup>)***

Almost 8% of the County's population have dropped out of high school without completing 9th grade, and nearly 20% of our population has not completed high school. According to a recent survey, only about one-third of our youth report being engaged in school and feeling hopeful for their future. This lack of engagement and success leaves most of the youth unprepared for the future and directly impacts the long-term financial viability and prosperity of Elkhart County. In response to this challenge, a coalition of educators, business leaders, and training providers has formed to address the current education-to-employment system and explore changes that will help Elkhart County experience long-term success. Earning credentials and dual credit (high school and college credits) are measures of engagement and preparation for success.

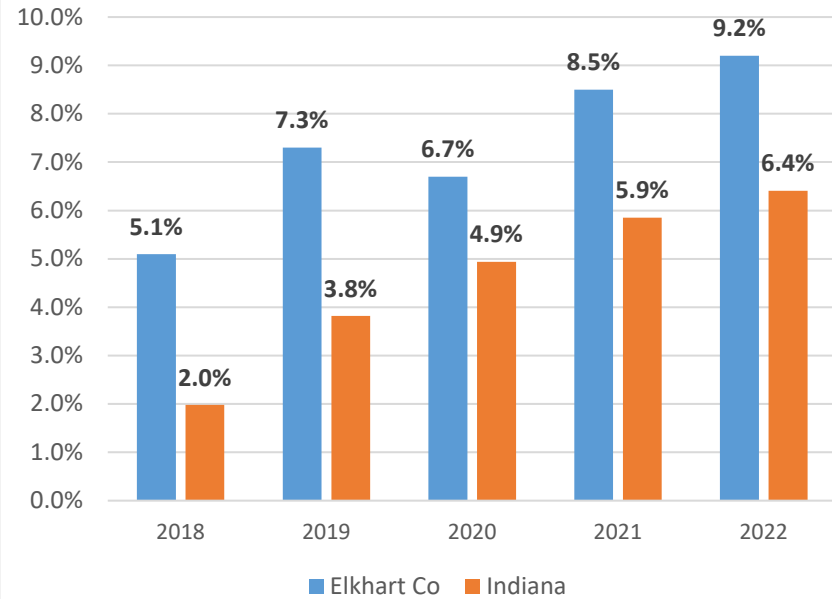
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### High School Graduates that Earned Dual Credit, Elkhart County & Indiana, 2012-2022



### High School Graduates that Earned a Credential while in High School, Elkhart County & Indiana, 2015-2022

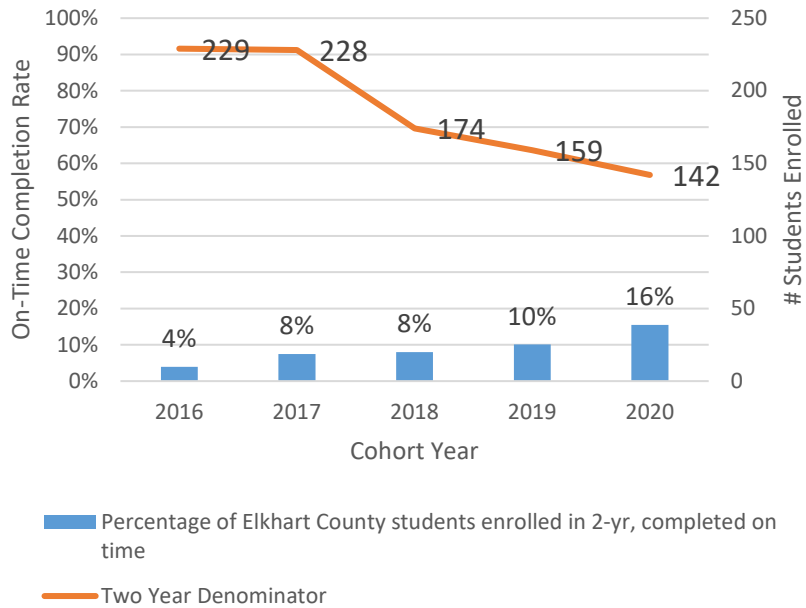


Between 2020 and 2030, the U.S. Bureau of Labor projects that about 60 percent of new jobs in the economy will be in occupations that don't typically require a traditional associate's, bachelor's, or graduate degree. These jobs will require certifications and work-based learning experience.

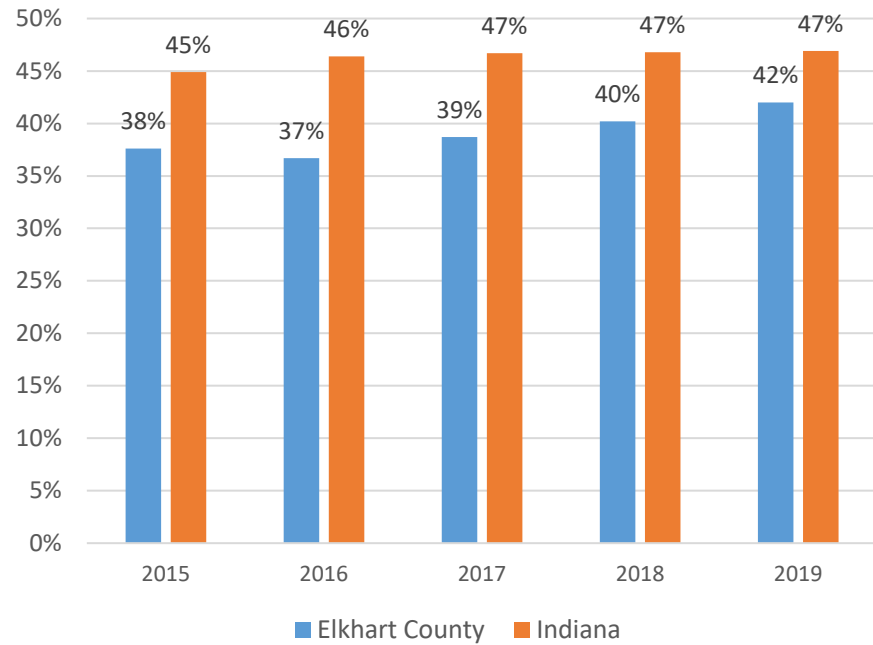
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Count of Elkhart County Students Enrolled in a 2-year Indiana Public College and Percentage that Completed On-Time, Cohort Years 2013-2020



Students Enrolled in a 4-year Indiana Public College that Completed On-Time, Elkhart County & Indiana, 2008-2019





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*FOCUS: Trails, Parks, and Vibrant Downtowns*

Building on existing plans for trails in Elkhart County, CFEC is partnering with Elkhart County, cities, and towns to create a world-class connected network of bike/pedestrian trails for recreation, transportation, and economic development.

This graph reflects Elkhart County's trails in 2022. As plans are developed and executed, future graphs will display changes year over year. With the completion of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and River Greenway trail in 2023, low-stress trails have increased by two miles.

