

Understanding the Teacher Pipeline for Indiana's K–12 Public Schools

Leaders at the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and the Indiana Department of Education are concerned about teacher shortages and want a better understanding of the teacher pipeline for the state's K–12 public schools. This study tracked 11,080 students who first enrolled in an Indiana public college or university in 2010/11, 2011/12, or 2012/13 and pursued a bachelor's degree in education at any point in college. The study examined the demographic characteristics and high school academic preparation of these students. It also examined the percentages of students who completed a bachelor's degree in education, who earned an initial instructional license, and who entered teaching in an Indiana K–12 public school, along with their characteristics. Finally, the study explored factors (such as student demographic characteristics and the characteristics of the colleges or universities that students attended) related to completion of a bachelor's degree.

Key findings

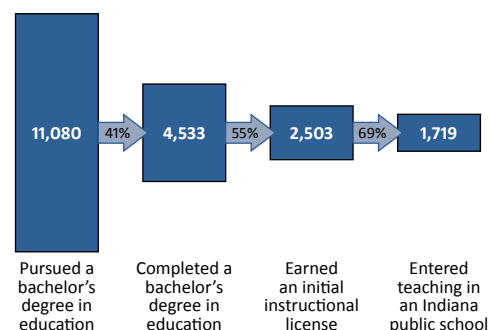
- **About 41 percent of undergraduate education students completed a bachelor's degree in education by 2017/18.** Among those degree completers, 55 percent earned an initial instructional license by 2017/18, and among those licensed, 69 percent entered teaching in an Indiana public school by 2018/19 (see figure).
- **Compared with the initial group of students entering education programs, students who completed a bachelor's degree, those who earned an initial instructional license, and those who entered teaching in an Indiana public school were less likely to be from a racial/ethnic minority group or to have been eligible for the national school lunch program in high school.**

After other factors were adjusted for,

- **Students who entered an education program in their third year of college or later were less likely to complete a bachelor's degree in education than students who entered in their first year.**
- **Students who received an Indiana 21st Century Scholarship in their first year of college or who received financial aid beyond their first year were more likely to complete a bachelor's degree in education.** However, students who received a Pell Grant were less likely to complete a bachelor's degree in education.
- **Students who started at a two-year college and transferred to a four-year college were more likely to complete a bachelor's degree in education than students who started at a four-year college.**

Fewer than half of undergraduate education students in the 2010/11–2012/13 cohorts completed a bachelor's degree in education by 2017/18

Number of students



Note: The values shown in the arrows are percentages of the number in the box preceding the arrow.

Source: Authors' analysis of data provided by the Indiana Department of Education and the Indiana Commission for Higher Education.