**Educational Attainment**

**Why Is It Important? Tab Text**

Over the last several decades, the Greater Philadelphia economy has shifted away from manufacturing and toward the service and information sectors. An educated workforce is required to unlock future growth and higher wages. Closing regional gaps in educational attainment is also an important factor in achieving *Connections 2050* long-range plan goals for an equitable economy, such as fostering a high-skilled workforce, reducing poverty and the wealth gap, and improving school quality for all residents. Discrepancies in educational attainment may be reinforced by inequities in educational funding and the lack of access to support services in many low-income communities.