

THE IMPACT OF DROPPING OUT ON THE INDIVIDUAL, THE NATION AND THE STATE

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

In the United States:

- Every 25 seconds, a student drops out of high school.
- Annually, over 1 million American high school students dropout.

In Texas:

- One in four students left before graduating from high school in 2011-2012.
- While the attrition rates decreased for all groups, the gap in attrition rates between Hispanic students and White students and between African American students and White students is significantly wider than it was over 25 years ago.
- African American and Hispanic students were about two times more likely than White students to leave school before graduating.

In Bexar County:

- Almost one in three students left before earning a high school diploma.
- African American (33%) and Hispanic students (36%) were over two times more likely than White students (16%) to leave before earning a high school diploma.

IMPACT ON THE INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILIES

Students who drop out of high school before graduating and their families face a grim future.

- They are more likely than graduates to be unemployed, live in poverty and receive public assistance.
- They are likely to be teen parents. Their children are likely to drop out of high school.
- They are more likely to die prematurely from cancer, cardiovascular disease, lung disease and diabetes.
- They have a life expectancy of almost 10 years less than high school graduates.
- They are eight times more likely to be incarcerated than graduates.

Even when dropouts are employed, they earn lower wages, work fewer hours and fewer weeks per year. They are concentrated in jobs without health insurance or pension plans. On average, they earn significantly less over their lifetimes than those who graduate.

- \$260,000 less than those with a high school diploma
- Over \$1 million less than those with a four-year degree

The changing nature of the workforce signals an even bleaker future for dropouts. Advances in technology have fueled the demand for skilled workers. In the coming decade, almost two-thirds of job openings will require at least some postsecondary education.

IMPACT ON THE STATE

Texas faces staggering losses in human potential, worker productivity and revenue from tax dollars when high school students fail to graduate.

- For every dollar that a college graduate earns, a dropout in Texas earns 36 cents.

- Texas students who dropped out in 2009 alone will result in over \$34 billion in lost wages to the state over their lifetimes.
- If students of color graduated at the same rate as white peers, the Texas economy would grow by \$46 billion by 2020.

At the same time, the state spends more of its already scarce resources for job training, health, unemployment and criminal justice services:

- If the male high school graduate rate increased by 5%, the state's economy would benefit from \$691 million in increased earning and reduced spending related to crime
- Texas would save over \$1.6 billion in health care expenses over the lifetimes of each cohort of dropouts.

IMPACT ON THE NATION

Cumulatively, the impact on the nation's economy is staggering. If the high school dropouts for the Class of 2010 alone had graduated, our nation's economy would have seen an additional \$337 billion in wages over the course of their lifetimes.

To maintain its competitive edge, the U.S. needs skilled workers. Yet, there is a growing mis-match between those seeking employment and workforce demands:

- In one study, over 50% of business leaders from large corporations reported that it was difficult to hire employees with the training and skills their companies need.
- We need 22 million college students to obtain a college degree by 2018, but expect to fall short of this goal by 3 million.
- At the same time, over 100 million low-skilled job candidates compete for 61 million openings.

The nation's dropout rate takes a toll on democracy. Those with the least education are less civically and politically engaged. High school dropouts are less likely to vote, volunteer and do charitable work.

NONPROFIT AGENCIES OFFERING OST PROGRAMS THAT HELP STUDENTS STAY IN SCHOOL

City Year San Antonio – <http://www.cityyear.org>

YWCA *Mi Carrera* Program – <http://www.ywca.org/sanantonio>

SAN ANTONIO AREA FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION INITIATIVE

The San Antonio Area Foundation is committed to increasing the high school graduation rate in Bexar County. Our High School Completion initiative awards grants to nonprofit organizations providing Out-of-School Time (OST) programs for Bexar County students in the 6th through 9th grades that:

- Address and improve at least one of three dropout indicators – attendance, behavior or course grades
- Enable students to hold leadership roles or that engage families in participation
- Have a relationship with a public school

In addition, the Area Foundation builds the capacity of OST programs through training and technical assistance, convenes stakeholders, engages donors and commissions research to strengthen grantmaking.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Afterschool Alliance - <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/>

Alliance for Excellent Education – <http://www.all4ed.org/>

American Youth Policy Forum - <http://www.aypf.org/>

Center for Public Policy Priorities - <http://www.cppp.org/>

Excel Beyond the Bell SA – <http://beyondthebellsa.org/>

Everyone Graduates Center - <http://new.every1graduates.org/>

Harvard Family Research Project – <http://www.hfrp.org/>

Intercultural Research Development Association – www.idra.org

KIDS COUNT Data Center – <HTTP://DATACENTER.KIDSCOUNT.ORG>

National Institute for Out-of-School Time (NIOST) - <http://www.niost.org/>

Texas Afterschool Association - www.txafterschool.org

Texas State Data Center – <http://www.txscd.utsa.edu/>

Texas Partnership for Out of School Time (TXPOST) - <http://www.txpost.org/>

The Wallace Foundation -

<http://www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/after-school/Pages/default.aspx>

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