

Impact of Education on: *Personal Income & Employment*

Six million students throughout America are currently at risk of dropping out of school.

High school dropouts are unable to enter the workforce with the necessary skills to meet the demands of the nation's global economy. Jobs that require advanced skills are growing; students who attain higher levels of education will have better employment opportunities and increased income.

- A college graduate with a bachelor's degree can expect to earn \$650,000 more in a lifetime than he or she would earn with only a high school diploma. The same person would earn \$1 million more with a master's degree and \$1.6 million more with a doctorate. (Purdue Speech of the President, 2003)
- A woman with a high school diploma earns a salary just above the poverty line for a family of three. (National Urban League Report, 2002)
- In 2000, the median earnings for black females with a high school diploma and no college was \$20,000 less than the median earnings for black females with a bachelor's degree or higher. (National Center for Education Statistics, 2003)
- In 2000, the median earnings for black males with a high school diploma and no college were \$17,000 less than the median earnings for black males with a bachelor's degree or higher. (National Center for Education Statistics, 2003)
- A male with a high school diploma will earn nearly \$333,000 more than a high school dropout, and a male with some college will earn \$538,000 more than a high school dropout. A male with a college degree will earn almost \$1 million (\$ 945,670) more than a high school dropout. (U.S. Department of Education, 2000)
- Working mothers with a college degree make an additional \$3.65 per hour relative to the wages of mothers with only a high school diploma. (Adair, 2001)
- The U.S. military no longer accepts high school dropouts. Only 10 percent of army recruits, 6 percent of navy recruits, and less than 1 percent of air force recruits are accepted with a GED. (Kunisch and Kearn, 2003)
- Employment projections indicate that jobs requiring only a high school degree will grow by just 9 percent by the year 2008, while those requiring a bachelor's degree will grow by 25 percent and those requiring an associate's degree will grow by 31 percent. (Center on Education Policy, 2001)

- In 1973, 36 percent of Americans in skilled blue-collar and related fields had not finished high school, while just 17 percent had some college or a degree. By 1998, only 11 percent of Americans in skilled blue-collar and related careers had not finished high school, while 48 percent of such workers had some college or a degree. (Carnevale, 2001)
- The 2000 unemployment rate for adults over age twenty-five was: 6.4 percent for those who has not completed high school, 3.5 percent for those with four years of high school, and 1.7 percent for those with a bachelor's degree or higher. (National Center for Family Literacy, 2003)
- In 2000, the unemployment rate of blacks ages twenty to twenty-four with no high school diploma was 32 percent, compared to 6 percent for those with a bachelor's degree or higher. (National Center for Education Statistics, 2003)
- In today's workplace, only 40 percent of adults who dropped out of high school are employed, compared to 60 percent of adults who completed high school and 80 percent for those with a bachelor's degree. (U.S. Department of Education, 2001)
- Women ages twenty-five to thirty-four with a bachelor's degree or higher who worked full time in 1997 earned 61 percent more than their counterparts with only a high school diploma. (National Center for Education Statistics, 1999)