The Economic Benefits from Halving the Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO BUSINESSES IN THE NATION’S LARGEST METROPOLITAN AREAS

January 2010
Few people realize the impact that high school dropouts have on a community’s economic, social, and civic health. Business owners and residents—in particular, those without school-aged children—may not be aware that they have much at stake in the success of their local high schools. Indeed, everyone—from car dealers and realtors to bank managers and local business owners—benefits when more students graduate from high school.

Nationally, more than seven thousand students become dropouts every school day.\(^1\) That adds up to almost 1.3 million students annually who will not graduate from high school with their peers as scheduled. In addition to the moral imperative to provide every student with an equal opportunity to pursue the American dream, there is also an economic argument for helping more students graduate from high school.

To better understand the various economic benefits that a particular community could expect if it were to reduce its number of high school dropouts, the Alliance for Excellent Education (the Alliance), with the generous support of State Farm®, analyzed the local economies of the nation’s fifty largest cities and their surrounding areas. Using a sophisticated economic model developed by Economic Modeling Specialists Inc., an Idaho-based economics firm specializing in socioeconomic impact tools, the Alliance calculated economic projections tailored to each of these metro regions. These projections estimate the gross increase in important local economic factors such as individual earnings, home and auto sales, job and economic growth, spending and investment, tax revenue, and human capital based on two scenarios:

1) Reducing by half the number of local students from the Class of 2008 who failed to graduate with their class.

2) Reducing by one thousand the number of local students from the Class of 2008 who failed to graduate with their class.

The following pages present the findings for each of the forty-five metropolitan areas that together encompass the nation’s fifty largest cities, as well as aggregated findings across these areas. These findings are powerful reminders that entire communities are impacted by the educational outcomes of their youth, and they underscore the notion that the best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.

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# The Economic Benefits from Halving the Dropout Rate

**A Boom to Businesses in the Nation’s Largest Metropolitan Areas**

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The Economic Benefits from Halving the Dropout Rate

In the nation’s fifty largest cities and the forty-five metropolitan areas that surround them, an estimated 600,000 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to these regions. Below, see the combined likely contributions that these 300,000 “new graduates” would make to their local economies:

$4.1 BILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $4.1 billion in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

AN ADDITIONAL $2.8 BILLION IN SPENDING AND $1.1 BILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $2.8 billion and invest an additional $1.1 billion during the average year.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $10.5 BILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $340 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $10.5 billion more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $340 million on vehicle purchases each year.

30,000 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $5.3 BILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 30,000 new jobs and increase the gross regional products of these areas by a total of up to $5.3 billion by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

$536 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within these regions would likely grow by a total of up to $536 million during the average year.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 65 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

30,000 NEW JOBS AND $5.3 BILLION IN ECONOMIC GROWTH

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated in each of these forty-five metro areas. These 45,000 new graduates would likely:

• earn $584 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $50 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $1.5 billion more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
• support 4,000 new jobs, increase gross regional products by a total of $740 million, and pour an additional $74 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Metro Areas

• Forty-five metro areas together encompass the fifty largest cities in the country (see map above).
• These areas are home to 4,900 high schools. Over 900 of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Thirty percent of high school students in these areas do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.

Visit www.all4ed.org to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
In the Albuquerque metropolitan area, an estimated 6,200 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Albuquerque region. Below, see the likely contributions these 3,100 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

**$38 Million in Increased Earnings**

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $38 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

**Increased Home Sales of $87 Million and Auto Sales of $3 Million**

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $87 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $3 million on vehicle purchases each year.

**$5 Million in Increased Tax Revenue**

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $5 million during the average year.

**Increased Human Capital**

After earning a high school diploma, 64 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

**AN ADDITIONAL $26 Million in Spending and $9 Million in Investing**

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $26 million and invest an additional $9 million during the average year.

**300 New Jobs and Economic Growth of $46 Million**

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 300 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $46 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

**Every Student Counts**

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely:

- earn $12 million in additional earnings each year;
- spend an additional $1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $28 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
- support 100 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $15 million, and pour an additional $1.7 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

**About the Albuquerque Metro Area**

- Albuquerque’s metro area includes the city and four surrounding counties (see map above).
- The Albuquerque metro area is home to thirty-four high schools. Twenty-three of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
- Fifty-one percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

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1. These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.

Visit [www.all4ed.org](http://www.all4ed.org) to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Atlanta’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION
January 2010

In the Atlanta metropolitan area, an estimated 27,900 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Atlanta region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 14,000 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$160 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $160 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

AN ADDITIONAL $110 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $40 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $110 million and invest an additional $40 million during the average year.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $349 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $14 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $349 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $14 million on vehicle purchases each year.

1,200 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $204 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 1,200 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $204 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

$19 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $19 million during the average year.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 57 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

• earn $11 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $25 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
• support 90 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $15 million, and pour an additional $1.4 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Atlanta Metro Area

• Atlanta’s metro area includes the city and twenty-eight surrounding counties (see map above).
• The Atlanta metro area is home to 149 high schools. Forty-two of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Thirty-seven percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

*These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.

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January 2010

In the Austin metropolitan area, an estimated 5,700 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Austin region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 2,900 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$29 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $29 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $47 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $3 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $47 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $3 million on vehicle purchases each year.

$3 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $3 million during the average year.

AN ADDITIONAL $21 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $8 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $21 million and invest an additional $8 million during the average year.

250 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $39 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 250 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $39 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 69 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

• earn $10 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $1.1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $17 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
• support 80 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $14 million, and pour an additional $900,000 annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Austin Metro Area

• Austin’s metro area includes the city and five surrounding counties (see map above).
• The Austin metro area is home to forty-five high schools. Six of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Twenty-eight percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

1These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.

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The Economic Benefits from Halving Baltimore’s Dropout Rate

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January 2010

In the Baltimore metropolitan area, an estimated 9,700 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Baltimore region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 4,800 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

• $77 MILLION in increased earnings

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $77 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

• AN ADDITIONAL $51 MILLION in spending and $21 MILLION in investing

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $51 million and invest an additional $21 million during the average year.

• INCREASED HOME SALES OF $263 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $6 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $263 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $6 million on vehicle purchases each year.

• 500 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $95 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 500 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $95 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

• $12 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $12 million during the average year.

• INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 68 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

1 These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.

Visit www.all4ed.org to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Boston’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

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GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Boston metropolitan area, an estimated 10,400 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Boston region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 5,200 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$78 million in increased earnings

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $78 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $52 million and invest an additional $21 million during the average year.

AN ADDITIONAL $52 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $21 MILLION IN INVESTING

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $279 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $7 million on vehicle purchases each year.

450 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $99 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 450 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $99 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

$9 million in increased tax revenue

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $9 million during the average year.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 69 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely:

• earn $15 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $1.4 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $53 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
• support 90 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $19 million, and pour an additional $1.8 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Boston Metro Area

• Boston’s metro area includes the city and seven surrounding counties (see map above).
• The Boston metro area is home to 169 high schools. Twenty of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Twenty-two percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

1These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Charlotte’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

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GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Charlotte metropolitan area, an estimated 7,700 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Charlotte region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 3,900 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$36 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $36 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $87 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $4 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $87 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $4 million on vehicle purchases each year.

AN ADDITIONAL $25 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $9 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $25 million and invest an additional $9 million during the average year.

250 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $45 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 250 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $45 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

$5 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $5 million during the average year.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 57 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

• earn $9 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $23 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and

• support 70 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $12 million, and pour an additional $1.4 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Charlotte Metro Area

• Charlotte’s metro area includes the city and six surrounding counties (see map above).
• The Charlotte metro area is home to fifty-two high schools. Fourteen of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Thirty-four percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

1 These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Chicago’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

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GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION  January 2010

In the Chicago metropolitan area, an estimated 32,100 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Chicago region. Below, see the likely contributions1 that these 16,100 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$211 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $211 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $577 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $18 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $577 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $18 million on vehicle purchases each year.

$25 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $25 million during the average year.

AN ADDITIONAL $147 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $57 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $147 million and invest an additional $57 million during the average year.

1,750 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $290 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 1,750 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $290 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 64 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

• earn $13 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $1.1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $36 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
• support 110 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $18 million, and pour an additional $1.5 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Chicago Metro Area

• Chicago’s metro area includes the city and fourteen surrounding counties (see map above).
• The Chicago metro area is home to 273 high schools. Fifty-four of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Twenty-four percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

1 These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Cleveland’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Cleveland metropolitan area, an estimated 8,100 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Cleveland region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 4,000 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$52 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $52 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $121 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $4 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $121 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $4 million on vehicle purchases each year.

$8 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $8 million during the average year.

AN ADDITIONAL $36 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $12 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $36 million and invest an additional $12 million during the average year.

450 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $66 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 450 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $66 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

INCIDENTAL HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 61 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

• earn $13 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $1.1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $30 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
• support 110 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $16 million, and pour an additional $1.9 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Cleveland Metro Area

• Cleveland’s metro area includes the city and five surrounding counties (see map above).
• The Cleveland metro area is home to ninety-six high schools. Fourteen of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Twenty-eight percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

1 These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.
In the Colorado Springs metropolitan area, an estimated 2,100 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Colorado Springs region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 1,000 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

**$16 Million in Increased Earnings**

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $16 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

**AN ADDITIONAL $11 Million in Spending AND $4 Million in Investing**

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $11 million and invest an additional $4 million during the average year.

**INCREASED HOME SALES OF $54 Million AND AUTO SALES OF $1 Million**

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $54 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $1 million on vehicle purchases each year.

**100 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $19 Million**

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 100 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $19 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

**$2 Million in Increased Tax Revenue**

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $2 million during the average year.

**INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL**

After earning a high school diploma, 80 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

*These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.*

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**Every Student Counts**

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely:

- earn $15 million in additional earnings each year;
- spend an additional $1.1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $52 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
- support 110 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $18 million, and pour an additional $1.6 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

**About the Colorado Springs Metro Area**

- Colorado Springs’s metro area includes the city and two surrounding counties (see map above).
- The Colorado Springs metro area is home to thirty high schools. One of these is considered a dropout factory, i.e., a school where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
- Twenty-five percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.
In the Columbus metropolitan area, an estimated 5,900 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Columbus region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 3,000 "new graduates" would make to their regional economy:

The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION
January 2010

Every Student Counts
Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

- earn $13 million in additional earnings each year;
- spend an additional $1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $30 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
- support 110 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by as much as $49 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

About the Columbus Metro Area

- Columbus’s metro area includes the city and eight surrounding counties (see map above).
- The Columbus metro area is home to ninety-seven high schools. Nineteen of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
- Twenty-five percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

1 These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Dallas–Fort Worth–Arlington’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Dallas–Fort Worth–Arlington metropolitan area, an estimated 29,000 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Dallas–Fort Worth–Arlington region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 14,500 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

“...the best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

- earn $14 million in additional earnings each year;
- spend an additional $1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $21 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
- support 120 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $19 million, and pour an additional $1.3 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Dallas–Fort Worth–Arlington Metro Area

The Dallas–Fort Worth–Arlington metro area includes the three cities and twelve surrounding counties (see map above).

The region is home to 191 high schools. Fifty of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.

Thirty-two percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

Visit www.all4ed.org to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Denver’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Denver metropolitan area, an estimated 8,800 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Denver region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 4,400 "new graduates" would make to their regional economy:

$69 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $69 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

AN ADDITIONAL $47 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $18 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $47 million and invest an additional $18 million during the average year.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $251 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $5 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $251 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $5 million on vehicle purchases each year.

450 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $87 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 450 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $87 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

$8 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $8 million during the average year.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 77 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

• earn $16 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $1.2 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $57 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
• support 110 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $20 million, and pour an additional $1.8 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Denver Metro Area

• Denver’s metro area includes the city and ten surrounding counties (see map above).
• The Denver metro area is home to eighty-four high schools. Fifteen of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Twenty-seven percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

1These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.

Visit www.all4ed.org to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
In the Detroit metropolitan area, an estimated 21,900 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Detroit region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 11,000 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

“This best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”
GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION
January 2010

AN ADDITIONAL $98 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $36 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $98 million and invest an additional $36 million during the average year.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $417 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $11 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $417 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $11 million on vehicle purchases each year.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 59 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

$145 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $145 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

$24 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $24 million during the average year.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

- earn $13 million in additional earnings each year;
- spend an additional $1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $38 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
- support 100 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $17 million, and pour an additional $2.2 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Detroit Metro Area

- Detroit’s metro area includes the city and six surrounding counties (see map above).
- The Detroit metro area is home to 190 high schools. Forty-one of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
- Thirty-one percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

1These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.
The Economic Benefits from Halving El Paso’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the El Paso metropolitan area, an estimated 5,500 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the El Paso region. Below, see the likely contributions of these 2,800 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

AN ADDITIONAL $25 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $7 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $25 million and invest an additional $7 million during the average year.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $43 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $3 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $43 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $3 million on vehicle purchases each year.

AN ADDITIONAL $12 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $33 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

$33 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 65 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

$3 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $3 million during the average year.

INCREASED HOME SALES

$3 MILLION IN INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $43 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $3 million on vehicle purchases each year.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely:

• earn $12 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $1.1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $16 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
• support 110 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $15 million, and pour an additional $1.1 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

300 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $42 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 300 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $42 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

$3 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $3 million during the average year.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 65 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

$3 MILLION IN INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

About the El Paso Metro Area

• El Paso’s metro area includes the city and all of El Paso County (see map above).
• The El Paso metro area is home to thirty high schools. Eight of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Thirty-six percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

300 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $42 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 300 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $42 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

$3 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $3 million during the average year.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 65 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

$3 MILLION IN INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

About the El Paso Metro Area

• El Paso’s metro area includes the city and all of El Paso County (see map above).
• The El Paso metro area is home to thirty high schools. Eight of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Thirty-six percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

1 These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Fresno’s Dropout Rate

“A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES”

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Fresno metropolitan area, an estimated 5,600 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Fresno region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 2,800 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

"The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”
GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

Every Student Counts
Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely:

- earn $14 million in additional earnings each year;
- spend an additional $1.2 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $42 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
- support 130 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $18 million, and pour an additional $2 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Fresno Metro Area

- Fresno’s metro area includes the city and all of Fresno County (see map above).
- The Fresno metro area is home to thirty-eight high schools. Eight of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
- Thirty-four percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

1These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.

Visit www.all4ed.org to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Honolulu’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Honolulu metropolitan area, an estimated 5,500 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Honolulu region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 2,800 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$32 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $32 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $144 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $4 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $144 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $4 million on vehicle purchases each year.

$5 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $5 million during the average year.

AN ADDITIONAL $21 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $8 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $21 million and invest an additional $8 million during the average year.

200 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $36 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 200 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $36 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 84 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

• earn $12 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $1.6 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $52 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
• support 70 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $13 million, and pour an additional $1.7 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Honolulu Metro Area

• Honolulu’s metro area includes the city and all of Honolulu County (see map above).
• The Honolulu metro area is home to forty-one high schools. Nine of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Thirty-three percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

Visit www.all4ed.org to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Houston’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Houston metropolitan area, an estimated 26,900 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Houston region. Below, see the likely contributions i that these 13,500 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$165 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $165 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $257 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $13 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $257 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $13 million on vehicle purchases each year.

$16 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $16 million during the average year.

AN ADDITIONAL $120 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $44 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $120 million and invest an additional $44 million during the average year.

1,150 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $218 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 1,150 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $218 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 59 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

• earn $12 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $19 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
• support 90 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $16 million, and pour an additional $1.2 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Houston Metro Area

• Houston’s metro area includes the city and ten surrounding counties (see map above).
• The Houston metro area is home to 143 high schools. Forty-two of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Thirty percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

1These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.

Visit www.all4ed.org to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Indianapolis’s Dropout Rate

**A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES**

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE

PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Indianapolis metropolitan area, an estimated 6,700 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Indianapolis region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 3,400 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$42 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $42 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $95 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $3 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $95 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $3 million on vehicle purchases each year.

$5 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $5 million during the average year.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

- earn $13 million in additional earnings each year;
- spend an additional $1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $28 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
- support 100 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $16 million, and pour an additional $1.4 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

350 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $55 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 350 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $55 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 61 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

About the Indianapolis Metro Area

- Indianapolis’s metro area includes the city and ten surrounding counties (see map above).
- The Indianapolis metro area is home to sixty high schools. Ten of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
- Twenty-nine percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

1 These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Jacksonville’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION
January 2010

In the Jacksonville metropolitan area, an estimated 7,700 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Jacksonville region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 3,900 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$48 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $48 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $113 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $4 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $113 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $4 million on vehicle purchases each year.

AN ADDITIONAL $36 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $13 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $36 million and invest an additional $13 million during the average year.

400 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $65 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 400 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $65 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

$3 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $3 million during the average year.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 62 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

• earn $13 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $1.1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $29 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
• support 110 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $17 million, and pour an additional $900,000 annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Jacksonville Metro Area

• Jacksonville’s metro area includes the city and five surrounding counties (see map above).
• The Jacksonville metro area is home to thirty-three high schools. Fifteen of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Forty-one percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

Visit www.all4ed.org to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Kansas City’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”
GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION
January 2010

In the Kansas City, Missouri metropolitan area, an estimated 5,800 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Kansas City region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 2,900 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$34 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $34 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

AN ADDITIONAL $24 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $8 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $24 million and invest an additional $8 million during the average year.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $65 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $3 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $65 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $3 million on vehicle purchases each year.

300 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $43 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 300 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $43 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

$5 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $5 million during the average year.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 53 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely
• earn $12 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $22 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
• support 100 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $15 million, and pour an additional $1.7 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Kansas City Metro Area

• Kansas City’s metro area includes the city and fifteen surrounding counties (see map above).
• The Kansas City metro area is home to 117 high schools. Nine of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Twenty-one percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

Visit www.all4ed.org to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Las Vegas’s Dropout Rate

**A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES**

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION
January 2010

In the Las Vegas metropolitan area, an estimated 13,600 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Las Vegas region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 6,800 "new graduates" would make to their regional economy:

$70 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $70 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

AN ADDITIONAL $51 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $20 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $51 million and invest an additional $20 million during the average year.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $194 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $7 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $194 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $7 million on vehicle purchases each year.

450 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $91 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 450 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $91 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

$5 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $5 million during the average year.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 56 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely:

- earn $10 million in additional earnings each year;
- spend an additional $1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $29 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
- support 70 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $13 million, and pour an additional $700,000 annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Las Vegas Metro Area

- Las Vegas’s metro area includes the city and all of Clark County (see map above).
- The Las Vegas metro area is home to thirty-nine high schools. Seventeen of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
- Fifty-six percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

1These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.

Visit www.all4ed.org to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
In the Los Angeles–Long Beach metropolitan area, an estimated 70,900 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Los Angeles–Long Beach region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 35,500 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

*The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.*

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION
January 2010

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $575 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $390 million and invest an additional $151 million during the average year.

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $1.8 billion more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $42 million on vehicle purchases each year.

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 4,700 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $772 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $79 million during the average year.

After earning a high school diploma, 74 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

- earn $16 million in additional earnings each year;
- spend an additional $1.2 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $50 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
- support 130 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $22 million, and pour an additional $2.2 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Los Angeles–Long Beach Metro Area

- The Los Angeles–Long Beach metro area includes the two cities and two surrounding counties (see map above).
- The region is home to 286 high schools. Sixty-three of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
- Thirty-six percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

[1] These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.

Visit [www.all4ed.org](http://www.all4ed.org) to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Louisville’s Dropout Rate

**A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES**

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Louisville metropolitan area, an estimated 4,700 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Louisville region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 2,300 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

**$27 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS**

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $27 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

**INCREASED HOME SALES OF $49 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $2 MILLION**

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $49 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $2 million on vehicle purchases each year.

**$4 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE**

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $4 million during the average year.

**AN ADDITIONAL $19 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $6 MILLION IN INVESTING**

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $19 million and invest an additional $6 million during the average year.

**200 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $33 MILLION**

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 200 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $33 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

**INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL**

After earning a high school diploma, 48 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

**Every Student Counts**

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

- earn $12 million in additional earnings each year;
- spend an additional $1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $21 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
- support 100 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $14 million, and pour an additional $1.6 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

**About the Louisville Metro Area**

- Louisville’s metro area includes the city and thirteen surrounding counties (see map above).
- The Louisville metro area is home to thirty-six high schools. Five of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
- Thirty percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

*These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.*
The Economic Benefits from Halving Memphis’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Memphis metropolitan area, an estimated 8,100 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Memphis region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 4,000 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$41 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $41 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $75 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $4 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $75 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $4 million on vehicle purchases each year.

$4 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $4 million during the average year.

AN ADDITIONAL $31 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $10 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $31 million and invest an additional $10 million during the average year.

350 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $55 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 350 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $55 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 47 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

About the Memphis Metro Area

• Memphis’s metro area includes the city and eight surrounding counties (see map above).
• The Memphis metro area is home to fifty-eight high schools. Nineteen of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Forty-one percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

• earn $10 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $900,000 each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $19 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
• support 80 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $14 million, and pour an additional $1 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

$4 MILLION in increased tax revenue

Increased human capital as a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $4 million during the average year.

47 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Visit www.all4ed.org to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Miami’s Dropout Rate

**A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES**

“*The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.*”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Miami metropolitan area, an estimated 33,600 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Miami region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 16,800 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

**AN ADDITIONAL $157 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $55 MILLION IN INVESTING**

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $157 million and invest an additional $55 million during the average year.

**INCREASED HOME SALES OF $480 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $19 MILLION**

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $480 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $19 million on vehicle purchases each year.

**$16 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE**

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $16 million during the average year.

**EVERY STUDENT COUNTS**

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely:

- earn $13 million in additional earnings each year;
- spend an additional $1.1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $29 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
- support 120 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $18 million, and pour an additional $1 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

**ABOUT THE MIAMI METRO AREA**

- Miami’s metro area includes the city and three surrounding counties (see map above).
- The Miami metro area is home to 106 high schools. Fifty-two of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
- Forty-three percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

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1These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.

Visit [www.all4ed.org](http://www.all4ed.org) to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Milwaukee’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

February 2010

In the Milwaukee metropolitan area, an estimated 6,500 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Milwaukee region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 3,200 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$41 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $41 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $100 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $3 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $100 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $3 million on vehicle purchases each year.

$7 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $7 million during the average year.

AN ADDITIONAL $28 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $10 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $28 million and invest an additional $10 million during the average year.

300 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $51 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 300 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $51 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 64 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

• earn $13 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $31 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
• support 100 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $16 million, and pour an additional $2 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Milwaukee Metro Area

• Milwaukee’s metro area includes the city and four surrounding counties (see map above).
• The Milwaukee metro area is home to ninety-eight high schools. Twenty-three of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Twenty-nine percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

1 These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.

Visit www.all4ed.org to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Minneapolis’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Minneapolis metropolitan area, an estimated 10,300 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Minneapolis region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 5,100 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$86 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $86 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $256 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $6 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $256 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $6 million on vehicle purchases each year.

$14 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $14 million during the average year.

AN ADDITIONAL $57 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $22 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $57 million and invest an additional $22 million during the average year.

650 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $108 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 650 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $108 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 68 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely:

- earn $17 million in additional earnings each year;
- spend an additional $1.2 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $50 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
- support 130 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $21 million, and pour an additional $2.7 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Minneapolis Metro Area

- Minneapolis’s metro area includes the city and thirteen surrounding counties (see map above).
- The Minneapolis metro area is home to 150 high schools. Six of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
- Twenty-five percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

1These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Nashville’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION
January 2010

In the Nashville metropolitan area, an estimated 6,100 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Nashville region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 3,000 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$30 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $30 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

INCORPORATED
BY

AN ADDITIONAL $22 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $8 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $22 million and invest an additional $8 million during the average year.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $58 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $3 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $58 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $3 million on vehicle purchases each year.

250 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $41 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 250 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $41 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

$3 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $3 million during the average year.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 48 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

• earn $10 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $19 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
• support 80 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $13 million, and pour an additional $900,000 annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Nashville Metro Area

• Nashville’s metro area includes the city and thirteen surrounding counties (see map above).
• The Nashville metro area is home to fifty-seven high schools. Ten of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Thirty-two percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

Visit www.all4ed.org to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
In the New York City metropolitan area, an estimated 66,900 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the New York City region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 33,500 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

The Economic Benefits from Halving New York City’s Dropout Rate

**A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES**

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

$537 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $537 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $1.1 BILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $44 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $1.1 billion more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $44 million on vehicle purchases each year.

$92 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $92 million during the average year.

AN ADDITIONAL $343 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $137 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $343 million and invest an additional $137 million during the average year.

3,050 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $657 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 3,050 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $657 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 66 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely:

- earn $16 million in additional earnings each year;
- spend an additional $1.3 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $34 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
- support 90 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $20 million, and pour an additional $2.7 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the New York City Metro Area

- New York City’s metro area includes the city and twenty-three surrounding counties (see map above).
- The New York City metro area is home to 617 high schools. One hundred three of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
- Twenty-nine percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

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1These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Oklahoma City’s Dropout Rate
A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

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GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Oklahoma City metropolitan area, an estimated 4,800 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Oklahoma City region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 2,400 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$24 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $24 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $32 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $2 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $32 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $2 million on vehicle purchases each year.

$3 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $3 million during the average year.

AN ADDITIONAL $17 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $5 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $17 million and invest an additional $5 million during the average year.

200 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $29 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 200 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $29 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 55 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

• earn $10 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $13 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
• support 90 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $12 million, and pour an additional $1.4 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Oklahoma City Metro Area

• Oklahoma City’s metro area includes the city and seven surrounding counties (see map above).
• The Oklahoma City metro area is home to seventy-one high schools. Eleven of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Thirty-one percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

1 These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.

Visit www.all4ed.org to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Omaha’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Omaha metropolitan area, an estimated 3,200 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Omaha region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 1,600 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$15 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $15 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $27 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $2 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $27 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $2 million on vehicle purchases each year.

$2 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $2 million during the average year.

AN ADDITIONAL $10 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $4 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $10 million and invest an additional $4 million during the average year.

100 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $18 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 100 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $18 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 57 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

• earn $9 million in additional earnings each year;

• spend an additional $900,000 each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $17 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and

• support 70 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $11 million, and pour an additional $1.3 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Omaha Metro Area

• Omaha’s metro area includes the city and eight surrounding counties (see map above).

• The Omaha metro area is home to forty-nine high schools. Seven of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.

• Twenty-six percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

1These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.
In the Philadelphia metropolitan area, an estimated 16,400 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Philadelphia region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 8,200 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$125 Million in Increased Earnings

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $125 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

AN ADDITIONAL $83 Million in Spending and $32 Million in Investing

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $83 million and invest an additional $32 million during the average year.

InCREASED HOME SALES OF $294 Million and AUTO SALES OF $10 Million

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $294 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $10 million on vehicle purchases each year.

900 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $159 Million

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 900 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $159 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

$18 Million in Increased Tax Revenue

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $18 million during the average year.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 65 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

• earn $15 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $1.2 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $36 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
• support 110 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $19 million, and pour an additional $2.2 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Philadelphia Metro Area

• Philadelphia’s metro area includes the city and eleven surrounding counties (see map above).
• The Philadelphia metro area is home to 196 high schools. Forty-one of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Twenty-three percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

Visit www.all4ed.org to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Phoenix–Mesa’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Phoenix–Mesa metropolitan area, an estimated 11,100 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Phoenix–Mesa region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 5,600 "new graduates" would make to their regional economy:

$71 million in increased earnings

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $71 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $50 million and invest an additional $19 million during the average year.

650 new jobs and economic growth of $97 million

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $186 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $6 million on vehicle purchases each year.

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 650 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $97 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

$7 million in increased tax revenue

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $7 million during the average year.

increased human capital

After earning a high school diploma, 66 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

- earn $13 million in additional earnings each year;
- spend an additional $1.1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $33 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
- support 120 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $17 million, and pour an additional $1.3 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Phoenix–Mesa Metro Area

- The Phoenix–Mesa metro area includes the two cities and two surrounding counties (see map above).
- The region is home to 197 high schools. Twenty of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
- Twenty-four percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

1These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Portland’s Dropout Rate
A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area, an estimated 7,200 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Portland region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 3,600 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$38 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $38 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $108 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $4 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $108 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $4 million on vehicle purchases each year.

$4 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $4 million during the average year.

AN ADDITIONAL $25 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $9 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $25 million and invest an additional $9 million during the average year.

300 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $47 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 300 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $47 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 61 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

- earn $10 million in additional earnings each year;
- spend an additional $1.1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $30 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
- support 80 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $13 million, and pour an additional $1.2 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Portland Metro Area

- Portland’s metro area includes the city and seven surrounding counties (see map above).
- The Portland metro area is home to eighty-six high schools. Three of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
- Twenty-seven percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

1These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.

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The Economic Benefits from Halving Sacramento’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

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GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Sacramento metropolitan area, an estimated 7,100 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Sacramento region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 3,600 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$54 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $54 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $181 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $5 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $181 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $5 million on vehicle purchases each year.

$8 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $8 million during the average year.

AN ADDITIONAL $37 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $15 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $37 million and invest an additional $15 million during the average year.

400 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $68 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 400 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $68 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 79 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

• earn $15 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $1.3 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $51 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
• support 110 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $19 million, and pour an additional $2.1 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Sacramento Metro Area

• Sacramento’s metro area includes the city and four surrounding counties (see map above).
• The Sacramento metro area is home to seventy high schools. Fourteen of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Twenty-four percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

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Visit www.all4ed.org to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
The Economic Benefits from Halving San Antonio’s Dropout Rate
A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION
January 2010

In the San Antonio metropolitan area, an estimated 10,500 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the San Antonio region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 5,200 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$56 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $56 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

AN ADDITIONAL $42 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $14 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $42 million and invest an additional $14 million during the average year.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $82 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $5 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $82 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $5 million on vehicle purchases each year.

550 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $77 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 550 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $77 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

$5 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $5 million during the average year.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 61 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

$56 million in combined earnings during the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

• earn $11 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $16 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
• support 110 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $15 million, and pour an additional $1 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the San Antonio Metro Area

• San Antonio’s metro area includes the city and eight surrounding counties (see map above).
• The San Antonio metro area is home to sixty-seven high schools. Nineteen of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Thirty-four percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

1 These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.

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The Economic Benefits from Halving San Diego’s Dropout Rate
A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the San Diego metropolitan area, an estimated 11,600 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the San Diego region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 5,800 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$101 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $101 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $327 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $7 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $327 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $7 million on vehicle purchases each year.

$14 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $14 million during the average year.

AN ADDITIONAL $68 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $27 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $68 million and invest an additional $27 million during the average year.

650 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $124 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 650 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $124 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 78 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

About the San Diego Metro Area

• San Diego’s metro area includes the city and all of San Diego County (see map above).
• The San Diego metro area is home to eighty-eight high schools. Ten of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Twenty-seven percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

• earn $17 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $1.3 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $56 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
• support 110 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $21 million, and pour an additional $2.4 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

1 These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.
In the San Francisco–Oakland metropolitan area, an estimated 11,600 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the San Francisco–Oakland region. Below, see the likely contributions these 5,800 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

"The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma."

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the San Francisco–Oakland metropolitan area, an estimated 11,600 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the San Francisco–Oakland region. Below, see the likely contributions these 5,800 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

**$116 Million in Increased Earnings**

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $116 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

**AN ADDITIONAL $76 Million in Spending and $33 Million in Investing**

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $76 million and invest an additional $33 million during the average year.

**Increased Home Sales of $384 Million and Auto Sales of $9 Million**

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $384 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $9 million on vehicle purchases each year.

**550 New Jobs and Economic Growth of $142 Million**

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 550 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $142 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

**$17 Million in Increased Tax Revenue**

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $17 million during the average year.

**Increased Human Capital**

After earning a high school diploma, 81 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

About the San Francisco–Oakland Metro Area

- The San Francisco–Oakland metro area includes the two cities and five surrounding counties (see map above).
- The region is home to 134 high schools. Fifteen of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
- Twenty-five percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

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1 These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.
The Economic Benefits from Halving San Jose’s Dropout Rate

In the San Jose metropolitan area, an estimated 4,000 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the San Jose region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 2,000 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$38 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $38 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $129 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $3 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $129 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $3 million on vehicle purchases each year.

$5 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $5 million during the average year.

AN ADDITIONAL $25 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $11 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $25 million and invest an additional $11 million during the average year.

150 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $45 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 150 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $45 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 71 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

• earn $19 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $1.3 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $64 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
• support 70 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $22 million, and pour an additional $2.8 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the San Jose Metro Area

• San Jose’s metro area includes the city and two surrounding counties (see map above).
• The San Jose metro area is home to fifty-one high schools. One of these is considered a dropout factory, i.e., a school where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Nineteen percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

Visit www.all4ed.org to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Seattle’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Seattle metropolitan area, an estimated 14,700 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Seattle region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 7,300 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

**$96 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS**

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $96 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

**INCREASED HOME SALES OF $344 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $9 MILLION**

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $344 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $9 million on vehicle purchases each year.

**AN ADDITIONAL $68 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $28 MILLION IN INVESTING**

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $68 million and invest an additional $28 million during the average year.

**700 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $128 MILLION**

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 700 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $128 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

**$9 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE**

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $9 million during the average year.

**INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL**

After earning a high school diploma, 71 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

**EVERY STUDENT COUNTS**

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

- earn $13 million in additional earnings each year;
- spend an additional $1.2 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $47 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
- support 90 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $17 million, and pour an additional $1.2 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

**ABOUT THE SEATTLE METRO AREA**

- Seattle’s metro area includes the city and three surrounding counties (see map above).
- The Seattle metro area is home to 109 high schools. Ten of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
- Thirty-four percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

1 These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Tucson’s Dropout Rate

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Tucson metropolitan area, an estimated 3,300 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Tucson region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 1,600 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

“Every Student Counts”
Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely
- earn $11 million in additional earnings each year;
- spend an additional $1.1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $26 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
- support 90 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by as much as $23 million, and pour an additional $1.2 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Tucson Metro Area
- Tucson’s metro area includes the city and all of Pima County (see map above).
- The Tucson metro area is home to sixty-eight high schools. Fourteen of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
- Twenty-nine percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

“Increased Home Sales of $42 Million and Auto Sales of $2 Million”
By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $42 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $2 million on vehicle purchases each year.

“$18 Million in Increased Earnings”
This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $18 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

“Increased Human Capital”
After earning a high school diploma, 69 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

“$2 Million in Increased Tax Revenue”
As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $2 million during the average year.

1These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Tulsa’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Tulsa metropolitan area, an estimated 4,200 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Tulsa region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 2,100 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$18 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $18 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

AN ADDITIONAL $13 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $4 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $13 million and invest an additional $4 million during the average year.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $26 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $2 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $26 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $2 million on vehicle purchases each year.

150 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $23 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 150 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $23 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

$3 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $3 million during the average year.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 54 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented on the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

• earn $9 million in additional earnings each year;
• spend an additional $1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $13 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
• support 70 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $11 million, and pour an additional $1.3 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Tulsa Metro Area

• Tulsa’s metro area includes the city and seven surrounding counties (see map above).
• The Tulsa metro area is home to sixty-two high schools. Nine of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
• Thirty-three percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

1 These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.

Visit www.all4ed.org to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Virginia Beach’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Virginia Beach metropolitan area, an estimated 9,300 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Virginia Beach region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 4,700 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$51 million in increased earnings

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $51 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

AN ADDITIONAL $35 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $13 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $35 million and invest an additional $13 million during the average year.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $145 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $5 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $145 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $5 million on vehicle purchases each year.

350 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $61 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 350 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $61 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

$6 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $6 million during the average year.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 59 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

- earn $11 million in additional earnings each year;
- spend an additional $1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $31 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
- support 80 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $13 million, and pour an additional $1.2 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Virginia Beach Metro Area

- Virginia Beach’s metro area includes the city, seven counties, and eight other independent cities (see map above).
- The Virginia Beach metro area is home to fifty high schools. Thirteen of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
- Thirty-six percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.

Visit www.all4ed.org to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Washington, DC’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

January 2010

In the Washington, DC metropolitan area, an estimated 18,200 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Washington, DC region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 9,100 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

$157 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $157 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

INCREASED HOME SALES OF $275 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $11 MILLION

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $275 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $11 million on vehicle purchases each year.

$22 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $22 million during the average year.

AN ADDITIONAL $99 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $43 MILLION IN INVESTING

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $99 million and invest an additional $43 million during the average year.

750 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $179 MILLION

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 750 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $179 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL

After earning a high school diploma, 70 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

Every Student Counts

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely

- earn $17 million in additional earnings each year;
- spend an additional $1.2 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $30 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
- support 80 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $20 million, and pour an additional $2.4 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

About the Washington, DC Metro Area

- Washington, DC’s metro area includes the city, sixteen counties, and six other independent cities (see map above).
- The Washington, DC metro area is home to 157 high schools. Sixteen of these are considered dropout factories, i.e., schools where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
- Twenty-five percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

Visit www.all4ed.org to see findings from other regions, view technical notes, and learn about the solutions.
The Economic Benefits from Halving Wichita’s Dropout Rate

A BOOM TO REGIONAL BUSINESSES

“The best economic stimulus package is a high school diploma.”

GOVERNOR BOB WISE
PRESIDENT, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION
January 2010

In the Wichita metropolitan area, an estimated 2,600 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to the Wichita region. Below, see the likely contributions that these 1,300 “new graduates” would make to their regional economy:

**$11 MILLION IN INCREASED EARNINGS**

This single class of new graduates would likely earn as much as $11 million in combined earnings in the average year compared to their likely earnings without a diploma.

**AN ADDITIONAL $8 MILLION IN SPENDING AND $3 MILLION IN INVESTING**

Increased earnings would likely allow new graduates to spend an additional $8 million and invest an additional $3 million during the average year.

**INCREASED HOME SALES OF $21 MILLION AND AUTO SALES OF $1 MILLION**

By the midpoint of their careers, these new graduates would likely purchase homes totaling a value of as much as $21 million more than what they otherwise would have spent without a diploma. In addition, they would likely spend up to an additional $1 million on vehicle purchases each year.

**100 NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF $14 MILLION**

This additional spending and investment would likely be enough to support 100 new jobs and increase the gross regional product by as much as $14 million by the time these new graduates reach the midpoint of their careers.

**$2 MILLION IN INCREASED TAX REVENUE**

As a result of increased wages and higher levels of spending, state and local tax revenue within this region would likely grow by as much as $2 million during the average year.

**INCREASED HUMAN CAPITAL**

After earning a high school diploma, 56 percent of these new graduates would likely continue on to pursue some type of postsecondary education.

**Every Student Counts**

Moving even just one student from dropout status to graduate status will make positive contributions to a local economy. This box offers a scaled-back look at the figures presented to the left, projecting the likely benefits if just 1,000 local dropouts had graduated. These 1,000 new graduates would likely:

- earn $9 million in additional earnings each year;
- spend an additional $1 million each year purchasing vehicles and, by the time they reach the midpoint of their careers, would buy homes worth $16 million more than what they would likely have spent without a diploma; and
- support 70 new jobs in the region, increase the gross regional product by $11 million, and pour an additional $1.2 million annually into state and local coffers, all through their increased spending and investments.

**About the Wichita Metro Area**

- Wichita’s metro area includes the city and four surrounding counties (see map above).
- The Wichita metro area is home to forty-three high schools. None of these is considered a dropout factory, i.e., a school where fewer than 60 percent of freshmen progress to their senior year on time.
- Thirty percent of high school students in the region do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

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*These figures represent estimates of gross benefits to the regional economy and are not intended to reflect the net impact of additional graduates.*

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