THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF INCREASING THE
High School Graduation Rate for Public School Students

WHAT IF …

90% of students from the Class of 2012 in the District of Columbia had earned a high school diploma?

ACTUAL 52% 

GOAL 90% 

An increase of 1,600 graduates

THE BENEFITS WOULD BE HUGE

$21 million in increased annual earnings

$16 million in increased annual spending

$30 million in increased home sales

$2.9 million in increased auto sales

$24 million in increased annual gross state product

$4 million in increased annual federal tax revenue

$1.4 million in increased annual state/local tax revenues

THE BEST ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE IS A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.

The above projections were generated by the Alliance for Excellent Education using an economic model developed by Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc., through the generous support of State Farm®. Graduation rates were provided by Editorial Projects in Education. This document builds on previous work by the Alliance analyzing the economies of more than 200 metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), all 50 states, and the District of Columbia to determine the economic benefits of improving high school and college graduation rates. For more information, visit impact.all4ed.org.

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