



## Why A High School Diploma Alone No Longer Guarantees Career Success

Students in the United States are graduating from high school and completing college at the highest rates in decades. On the surface, these growing education levels seem to offer reason to celebrate. But a closer look reveals a widening income and employment gap between high school graduates and their peers who pursue and complete postsecondary education.

[Read More](#)

 [Click to Tweet:](#) Why A High School Diploma Alone No Longer Guarantees Career

Success [bit.ly/2os22Nt](https://bit.ly/2os22Nt)



## Access to Arts Education: An Overlooked Tool for Social-Emotional Learning and Positive School Climate

The passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) reaffirmed the status of arts classes as "core academic subjects" alongside English, math, social studies, science, and other content areas—a positive inclusion considering the power of the arts to foster social-emotional learning, combat absenteeism, and generate an engaged, positive school community.

[Read More](#)

 [Click to Tweet:](#) Arts Education: An Overlooked Tool for Social-Emotional Learning and Positive [#SchoolClimate](#) [#SEL](#)  
[bit.ly/2nyEFT4](https://bit.ly/2nyEFT4)



## GradNation Leaders Urge Education Secretary Betsy DeVos to Monitor Potential High School Graduation Rate "Loophole" Under Every Student Succeeds Act

As states begin to submit accountability and improvement systems under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Alliance for Excellent Education, America's Promise Alliance, Civic Enterprises, and the Everyone Graduates Center, outlined steps that U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos could take to continue to close high school graduation gaps between white students and students of color, students from low-income families, and other traditionally underserved groups of students. Read more about this issue in the *Education Week* article linked below.

[Read the Letter](#)

[Click to Tweet](#): #GradNation Leaders Urge DeVos to Monitor Potential HS Grad Rate "Loophole" Under #ESSA bit.ly/2nVWQ0d



## 150 School District Superintendents Urge Congress to Fully Fund Flexible Education Spending Program

More than 150 school district superintendents from nearly forty states urged the U.S. Congress to fully fund the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grant program. Created under the Every Student Succeeds Act, SSAE grants support three areas of student learning: (1) a well-rounded education for students; (2) a safe and healthy school climate; and (3) the effective use of schoolwide technology.

[Read the Letter](#)

[Click to Tweet](#): 150 School District Superintendents Urge Congress to Fully Fund Flexible Education Spending Program #ESSA bit.ly/2p00zeT

## Coming Soon

### Today! Future Ready Librarians: Leading Beyond the Library

**TUESDAY**  
**APRIL 11, 2017**  
4:00 - 5:00 P.M.  
(EDT)

How can school librarians support Future Ready Schools®? Future Ready Librarians (FRL) responds to this challenge by identifying specific ways that librarians can lead, teach, and support personalized student learning. This webinar will examine how librarians can support collaborative leadership by leading beyond the library. Hear from district and library leaders how school librarians are extending their leadership beyond their libraries to benefit their schools and district.

[Register Now](#)

### Paper Thin? Why All High School Diplomas Are Not Created Equal

**WEDNESDAY**  
**APRIL 26, 2017**  
2:00 - 2:45 P.M.  
(EDT)

This webinar will highlight key findings from a forthcoming report, *Paper Thin? Why All High School Diplomas Are Not Created Equal*, which analyzes the degree to which traditionally underserved students graduate from high school having earned a college- and career-ready diploma in comparison with their peers in the twenty-three states that offered students multiple pathways to a diploma for the Class of 2014.

[Register Now](#)

### Creating a Culture of High Expectations and Improvement for Students, Teachers, and Leaders

**TUESDAY**  
**MAY 11, 2017**  
3:00 - 4:00 P.M.  
(EDT)

This webinar will examine how Asbury Park has become one of the most innovative districts in New Jersey. In a few short years, its graduation rate has improved by 24 percentage points; less than 10 percent of students now drop out of school, compared with almost half previously; and teachers and leaders report a high level of collaboration, communication, and engagement with the district improvement process. The webinar will also explore how some of Asbury Park's turnaround efforts align with some best practices internationally, as determined

by the recent Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report, *School Leadership for Learning*.

[Register Now](#)

## In Case You Missed It



### Federal Flash: States Submit ESSA Plans; How Trump's Immigration Policies Impact Education

States began submitting their plans to develop accountability and improvement systems under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). We're reading those plans and we have unearthed some promising policies—and worrisome ones—that states are including. Additionally, President Trump's immigration enforcement policies and media reports of immigration enforcement actions near schools have led to a spike in fear among immigrant children and their families. How is Congress responding?

[Watch the Video](#)

## Alliance in the News

The Alliance is joining Bellwether Education Partners, Collaborative for Student Success, and 27 other experts to review state ESSA plans, in a process that is meant to look beyond minimum requirements of the law to ensure states are doing what's right for kids

[Learn more in \*The 74\*](#)

"I hope states don't look at this as an opportunity to game the system" said Phillip Lovell, vice president of policy development and government relations at the Alliance, about a loophole opened by Congress that could allow states to avoid naming "dropout factories."

[Find out more in \*Education Week\*](#)

One million students who enter ninth grade do not graduate four years later with their peers, and about 7,000 high school students drop out each day. So how are states working to ensure at-risk students graduate from high school?

[Check out \*Education Dive\* for more](#)

## New Faces at the Alliance

## Avril A. Smart

Research and Engagement Manager for Future Ready Schools®

Avril A. Smart, PhD, joined the Alliance in March 2017 as research and engagement manager for Future Ready Schools® (FRS), for which she will provide leadership on the planning, design, and analysis of research that measures the impact of FRS. In addition, her work will explore the intersection between digital equity and personalized learning.

Prior to joining the Alliance, Dr. Smart was a research scholar at the [William and Ida Friday Institute for Educational Innovation](#) where she specialized in research, evaluation, and policy analysis and worked on several mixed methods studies focused on innovations in teaching, learning, and leadership, including initiatives at the local school and district levels. Dr. Smart's work also emphasized the role of for-profit and nonprofit educational service agencies that provide effective and complementary instructional support outside of school.

[Read more about Avril](#)

## Elyse Eshelman

Policy and Advocacy Intern

Elyse Eshelman joined the Alliance in March 2017 as a policy and advocacy intern. She is a junior at American University's School of Public Affairs and is pursuing a degree in interdisciplinary studies in communications, legal institutions, economics, and government.

Ms. Eshelman previously worked as a legislative intern in the Office of Senator Robert P. Casey Jr., where she primarily focused on education policy in Pennsylvania. Prior to that, she worked as a public policy intern for the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities and focused on special education and students with disabilities.

## [Get Social](#)

Follow the Alliance on Twitter and Facebook

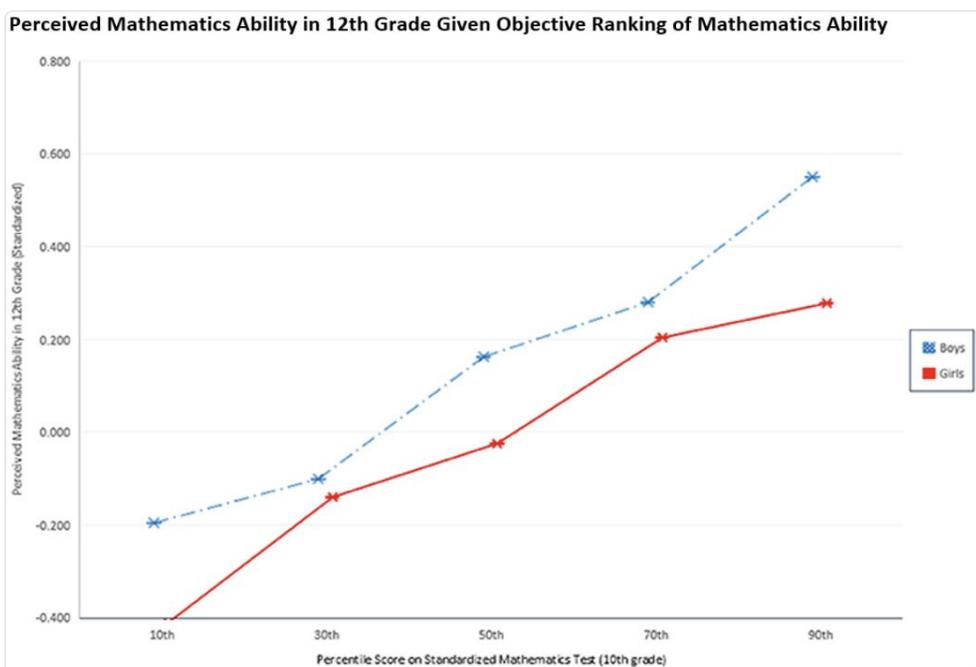
[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)



All4Ed  
@All4Ed

[Follow](#)

New report: Girls think they're not as good at math as boys – even when they are. Implications for #STEM careers: [journal.frontiersin.org/article/10.338...](http://journal.frontiersin.org/article/10.338...)



RETWEET

1

LIKES

2



7:02 AM - 7 Apr 2017



1



1



2



**Learning Policy Inst**

@LPI\_Learning

[Follow](#)



Here's what investing in high-quality schools looks like. Op-ed via [@DavidKirp](#) [@nytimes](#)



**Who Needs Charters When You Have Public Schools Like These?**

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, a fan of charters, should book her ticket to Tulsa, Okla., now.

[nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com)

RETWEETS

6

LIKES

10



10:46 AM - 2 Apr 2017



1



6



10



**Jenna Tomasello**

@jenna\_tomasello

[Follow](#)



Dr. Wood-Garnett [@All4Ed](#): In order to gain trust of African American students & parents, reform must involve resource equity [#AchievementGap](#)

RETWEETS

3

LIKES

3



11:42 AM - 3 Apr 2017 from [Washington, DC](#)



3



3

1201 Connecticut Avenue, NW

Suite 901

Washington, DC 20036

[Manage your email preferences](#) | [Visit our Website](#)