Implications of the “Paper Thin?” Report Findings

• Need more data & rigorous research on whether CCR diplomas actually live up to their name

• Limited data on college readiness (Indiana)
  • Caution against interpreting Indiana data as strict causal effect of CCR diploma on college readiness

• Much less (if any) data on career readiness
  • Will a CCR diploma send a stronger signal to employers than a regular diploma, yielding better employment and wage outcomes?

• Not clear how much CCR requirements will affect postsecondary & employment disparities faced by traditionally underserved students
  • Full employment
  • Racial discrimination in labor markets
  • Longitudinal nature of achievement gaps
High School and College Completion Has Been Rising for All Groups

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey, public data tables [Table A-2]
Among young black high school graduates, one in five is neither employed nor in college

Share of young high school graduates not enrolled in college or a university and not employed, by race/ethnicity, 1989–2017*

* Data reflect 12-month moving averages; data for 2017 represent 12-month average from March 2016 to February 2017.

Note: Y-axis begins at 5% to increase clarity of data visualization. Shaded areas denote recessions. Data are for high school graduates age 17–20 who may have previous college experience. "Not employed" includes those who are unemployed and those who are not in the labor force.

Source: EPI analysis of basic monthly Current Population Survey microdata

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Even with increased college completion, high school graduates are still a significant share of the workforce.

Young high school graduates of color have higher unemployment rates than their white peers

Unemployment rate of young high school graduates, by race/ethnicity, 1989–2017*

* Data reflect 12-month moving averages; data for 2017 represent 12-month average from March 2016 to February 2017.

Note: Shaded areas denote recessions. Data are for high school graduates age 17–20 who are not enrolled in further schooling. Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive (i.e., white non-Hispanic, black non-Hispanic, and Hispanic any race).

Source: EPI analysis of basic monthly Current Population Survey microdata
Young college graduates of color have higher unemployment rates than their white peers

Unemployment rate of young college graduates, by race and ethnicity, 1989–2017*

* Data reflect 12-month moving averages; data for 2017 represent 12-month average from March 2016 to February 2017.

Note: Data are for college graduates age 21–24 who do not have an advanced degree and are not enrolled in further schooling. Shaded areas denote recessions. Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive (i.e., white non-Hispanic, black non-Hispanic, and Hispanic any race).

Source: EPI analysis of basic monthly Current Population Survey microdata

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