Out of the 11.6 million jobs created in the post-recession economy, 11.5 million went to workers with at least some college education.
Beyond Graduation: A Quality Diploma

**College- and Career-Ready (CCR) Diploma:**
A diploma that satisfies a state’s content standards for English/language arts (ELA) and mathematics by twelfth-grade graduation, generally requiring students to complete, at minimum, four years of grade-level ELA and three years of math through Algebra II or Integrated Math III.

Source: Alliance for Excellent Education, Paper Thin? Why All High School Diplomas Are Not Created Equal
The Graduation Effect: Every Student’s Potential to Impact a Community

What are the short- and long-term benefits to Illinois of a 90% high school graduation rate? The findings below are based on the Class of 2015, which reported 131,180 high school graduates—a graduation rate of 85.6%.

If Illinois’s high school graduation rate had reached 90%:

- The state would have gained 6,740 additional graduates.
- These graduates would have earned $80.4 million annually in additional income.

Of these additional graduates, 53% likely would have enrolled in higher education.

Within 10 years, a new graduate in Illinois who completes at least an associate’s degree likely will earn $16,000 more a year than a high school dropout.

This additional income means more money flowing into state and local economies annually...