

Transforming Lives and Communities: Building Public and Private Will to Overcome the Dropout Crisis

Bob Wise, President

Alliance for Excellent Education

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Every Child a Graduate



ALLIANCE FOR
EXCELLENT EDUCATION

The Challenge for Chicago and the Nation



Three out of every ten students in our nation do not graduate from high school.

Five out of every ten students in Chicago do not graduate.



The Challenge for Chicago & the Nation

8th Grade NAEP Reading Scores

Nationwide, 70% of all 8th grade students read below grade level.

In Chicago, 83% of all 8th grade students read below grade level.

Graduation Rates

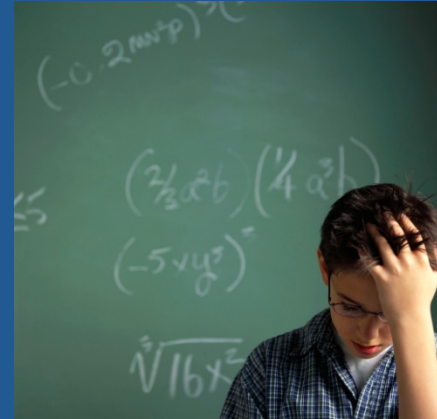
Nationwide, 70% of all students graduate from high school in four years with a regular diploma.

In Chicago, approximately 50% of all students graduate from high school in four years with a regular diploma.



Who Pays When Students Fail to Graduate?

- The Students Themselves



- The Rest of Us...



Educational Attainment & Annual Salary (2,000 hour/year)



Bachelor's Degree (\$25/hr)



HS Graduate (\$13/hr)

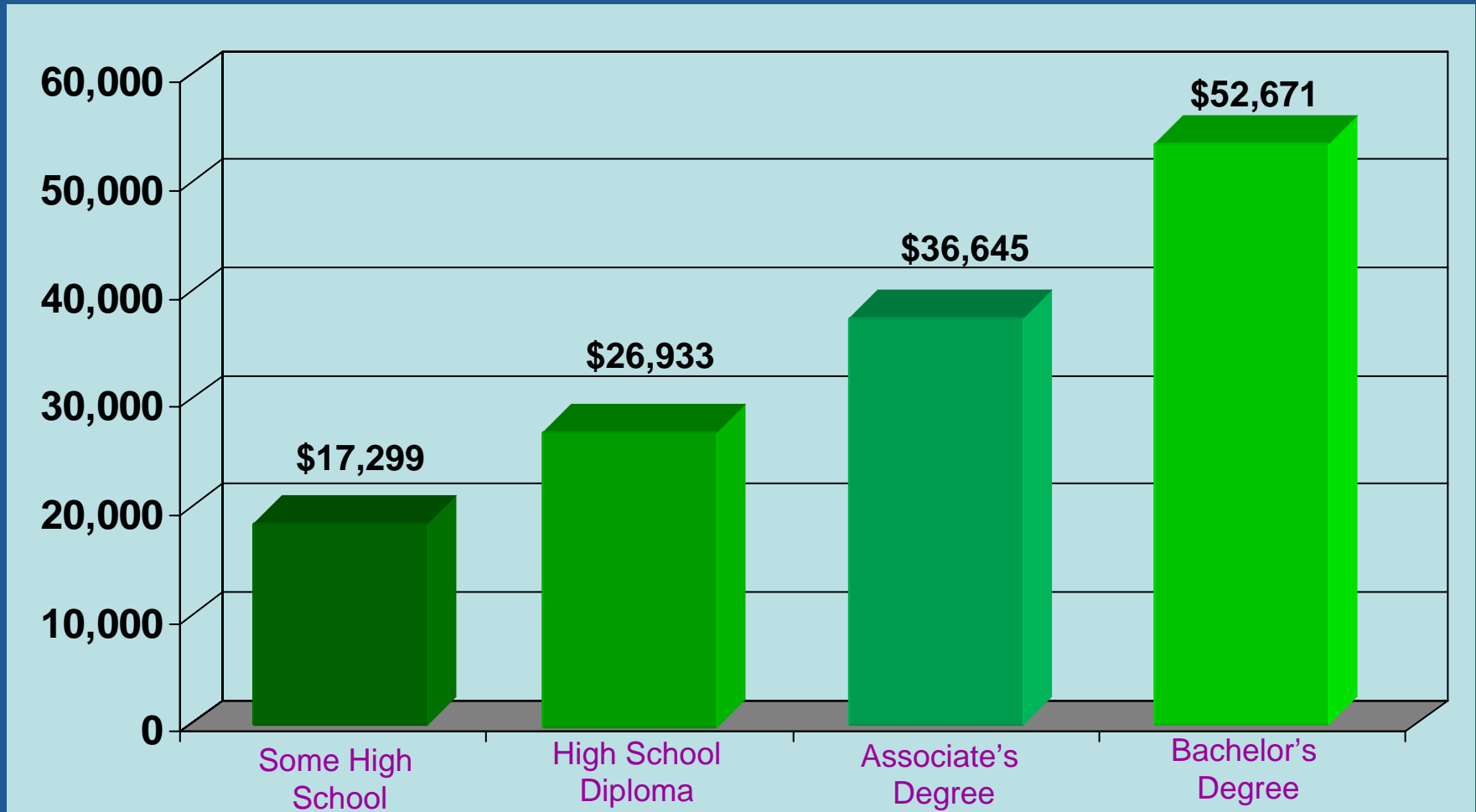


HS Drop Out (\$8/hr)



The Economic Impact: Earnings Projections

Who Makes the Money?
2005 Average Income by Educational Attainment



The Economic Impact: Society's Bill

Each class of high school dropouts costs the **IL** economy:

- Nearly \$11 billion in lost wages over the students' lifetime
- About \$647 million in Medicaid and uninsured medical costs over their lifetime

A 5% increase in male graduation rate would save more than \$379 million in incarceration expenses and lost wages per year.



The best economic stimulus package is a diploma.

- About 17,000 Chicago public school students did not graduate with their class in 2007. The lost lifetime earnings in Chicago for this class of dropouts totals more than \$4.5 billion.
- Each class of dropouts from the Chicago Public School district would save the city more than \$280 million in reduced health care costs over the course of their lifetimes if they graduate.
- If 1,000 additional Chicago students were to graduate, it is estimated they would earn approximately \$20 million in increased income a year (based on median annual income by level of education).



To solve this crisis, we need the following at the local and national level:

- Prioritization of the issue
- Research and best practice to guide reform and policy
- Commitment of the necessary resources



Chicago leaders have prioritized dropout prevention and high school reform.

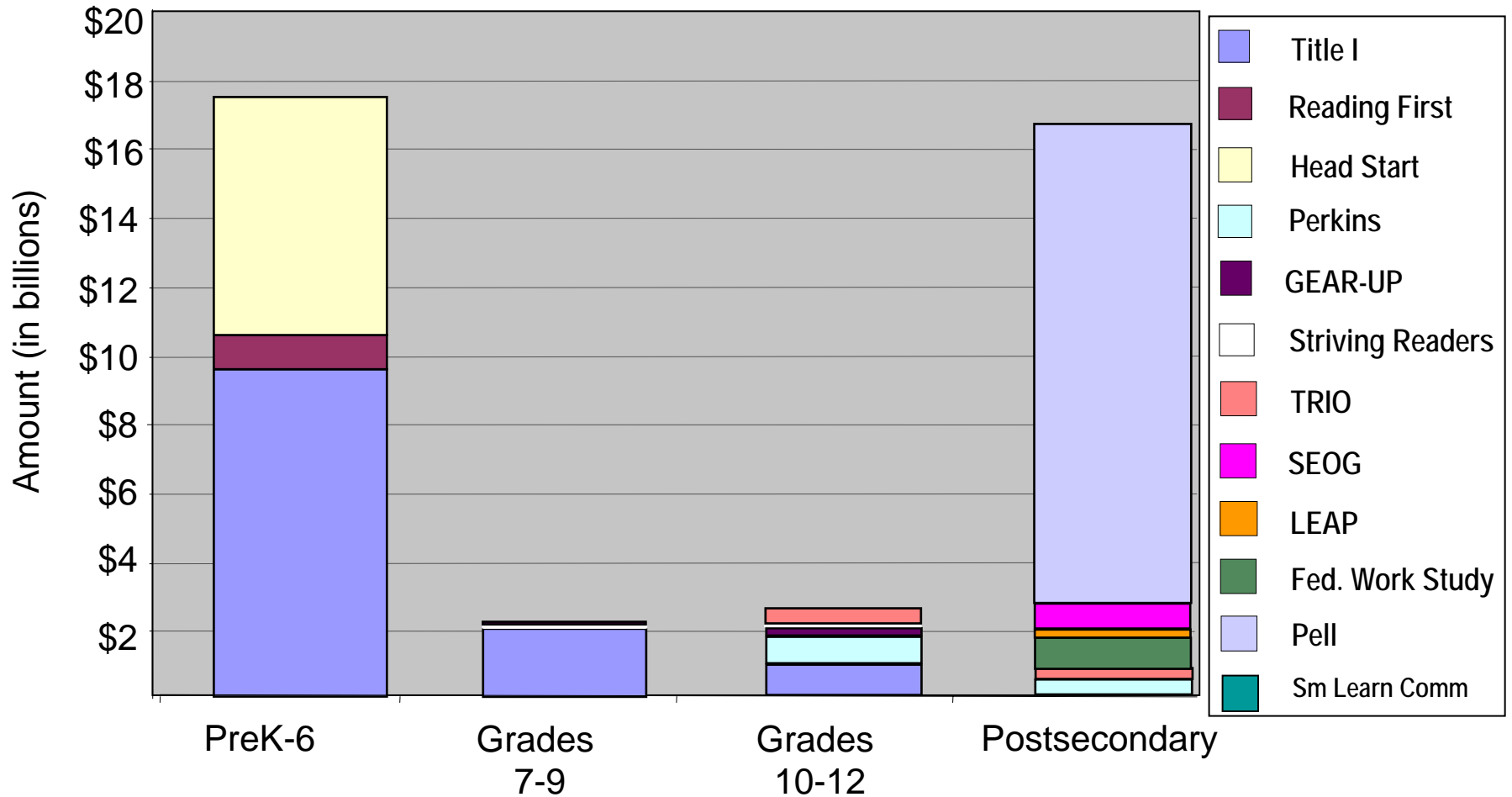
- Renaissance 2010
- High School Transformation Initiative
- Graduation Pathways Summit

The Chicago community working on the issue and coming together to form alliances to support at-risk students.



The Missing Middle

FY2007 Education Appropriations The Missing Middle



NCLB Not Aligned with Leading High School Reform and Research

- NCLB and Title I not effective for high school improvement
- **Graduation Promise Act (Cosponsored by Reps. Davis, Gutierrez, Jackson & Rush)**
- No meaningful graduation rate accountability
- **Every Student Counts Act (Cosponsored by Reps. Davis & Hare)**
- Lack of emphasis on building robust data systems
- **METRICS Act (Cosponsored by Reps. Davis and Hare)**
- Adolescent literacy deficits unaddressed
- **Striving Readers Act (Cosponsored by Senator Durbin and Reps. Davis, Hare & Schakowsky)**
- Doesn't spur innovation
- **GRADUATES Act (Cosponsored by Rep. Hare)**



What Can You Do?

- Join local leaders in citywide action plan to ensure that every child graduates.
- Insist that local, state and federal policy reflect best practice and research.
- Insist that our nation's leaders prioritize the dropout crisis and provide financial support for reform.





Governor Bob Wise
Alliance for Excellent Education

www.all4ed.org

“Raising the Grade: How High School Reform Can Save Our Youth and Our Nation”
available at amazon.com

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