

Nation's High Schools

DROPOUTS AND POORLY PREPARED STUDENTS HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY

Nearly 1.3 million students did not graduate from high school in 2009. Dropouts from the Class of 2009 cost the nation nearly **\$335 billion** in lost wages, taxes, and productivity over their lifetimes.¹

The nation would save more than **\$17 billion** in health care costs over the lifetimes of each class of dropouts had they earned their diplomas.²

If all students in the United States graduated high school ready for college, the nation would save almost **\$1.4 billion** a year in community college remediation costs and lost earnings.³

The nation's economy would see a combination of crime-related savings and additional revenue of about **\$8 billion** each year if the male high school graduation rate increased by just 5%.⁴

THE BEST ECONOMIC STIMULUS IS A DIPLOMA

High School Graduation Rates (Class of 2006)

| | U.S. Department of Education-Reported ⁵ | Independently Reported ⁶ |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| | 73% | 69% |

High School Graduation Rates by Race (Class of 2006)⁷

| | Nation |
|-----------------|--------|
| All Students | 69% |
| White | 76% |
| Black | 51% |
| Hispanic | 55% |
| Asian | 79% |
| Native American | 50% |

College Graduation Rates⁸

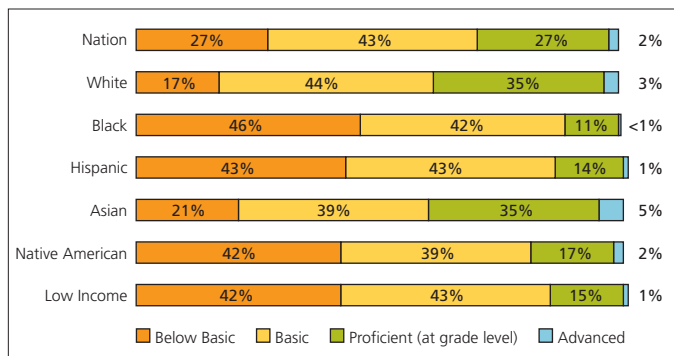
| | National Average* | National Average** |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| All Students | 56% | 32% |
| White | 59% | 33% |
| Black | 41% | 27% |
| Hispanic | 48% | 34% |
| Asian | 66% | 34% |
| Native American | 39% | 29% |

*Graduation within six years of entrance (Cohort from 2000–2006)

**Graduation within three years of entrance (Cohort from 2003–2006)

THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP REMAINS A CHALLENGE

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Reading Scores for Eighth Graders⁹



THE HIGH SCHOOL CRISIS IS CONCENTRATED IN THE NATION'S DROPOUT FACTORIES

Dropout factories are high schools in which the number of seniors is routinely 60% or fewer than the number of freshmen three years earlier. These dropout factories generally have high proportions of minority and/or low-income students.

| | Number of Federally Reported Regular High Schools ¹⁰ | Number of Dropout Factories ¹¹ (three-year average) |
|--------|---|---|
| Nation | 15,813 | 1,907 |

STATE AND FEDERAL PROFICIENCY MEASURES DIFFER

Eighth-Grade Proficiency as Measured by State Tests and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)¹²

The average gap nationally between state- and NAEP-reported reading scores is 39 percentage points.

The average gap nationally between state- and NAEP-reported math scores is 30 percentage points.

COMPREHENSIVE DATA SYSTEMS ARE NEEDED

The national Data Quality Campaign recommends ten elements as the start of a robust P–12 longitudinal data system.¹³

1. The ability to track individual students over time
2. Student-level demographic information
3. The ability to track individual students' test records from year to year to measure academic growth
4. The ability to know which students have not been tested
5. The ability to match teachers to students by classroom and subject
6. Student-level transcript information
7. Information on student performance on college-readiness examinations like the SAT, ACT, and AP
8. Student-level graduation and dropout data
9. The ability to match student records between the K–12 and higher education systems
10. System in place to evaluate data system quality

To date, only six states have all ten elements in place.

1. Alliance for Excellent Education 2009
2. Alliance for Excellent Education 2006
3. Alliance for Excellent Education 2006
4. Alliance for Excellent Education 2006
5. U.S. Department of Education 2007
6. Editorial Projects in Education Research Center 2009
7. Editorial Projects in Education Research Center 2009
8. National Center for Education Statistics 2007
9. National Center for Education Statistics 2008
10. National Center for Education Statistics 2008
11. Center for Social Organization of Schools, Johns Hopkins University 2009
12. National Center for Education Statistics 2007,2007
13. National Center for Education Accountability 2008