

GradMinnesota

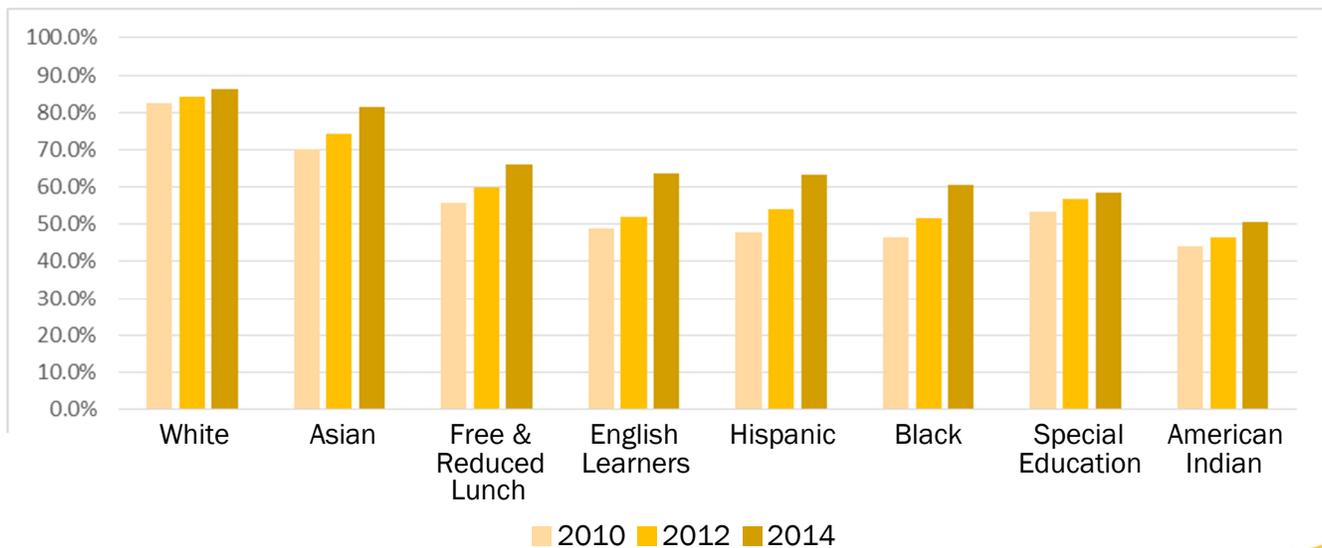
Statistics, Dollars & Sense of a Diploma



Minnesota Graduation Rates

The achievement gap between white and students of color in Minnesota remains one of the worst in the nation. While progress is being made, MN continues to have an alarming difference in high school graduation rates based on race, special needs and socio-economic factors. This gap has a tremendous impact on our states youth. In 2014, 3,266 students (or 5% of all public high school students) dropped out, while an additional 1,898 students (2.9%) had “unknown” status.

Minnesota Public High School Student Graduation Rates



Dropping out of High School has Negative Consequences for Individuals and for Society

Income: The median income of dropouts' ages 18 through 67 nationally was roughly \$25,000 in 2009. By comparison, the median income of people in the same age range who earned at least a high school credential, including a General Education Development (GED) certificate, was approximately \$43,000. Over a lifetime, this translates into a loss of approximately \$630,000 in income for individuals without a high school diploma compared to people with one¹.

Labor Force Participation: Fewer dropouts compared to graduates – ages 25 and older – are in the labor force. Among those in the labor force, a higher percentage of individuals without a high school diploma are unemployed².

Health: The Center for Disease Control reports that “more formal education is consistently associated with lower death rates, while less education predicts earlier death³.” Adults with low levels of completed education are more likely to die prematurely from cardiovascular disease, cancer, infection, lung disease, and diabetes⁴, creating a phenomenon where, on average, a high school graduate lives six to nine years longer than a high school dropout⁵.

Correctional System: Our nation's prisons include disproportionately higher percentages of youth who have dropped out of high school. On any given day, about one in every 10 young male high school dropouts is in jail or juvenile detention, compared with one in 35 young male high school graduates⁶.

Cost to Society: Compared to a high school graduate (on average), an individual who drops out is associated with costs to the economy of approximately \$240,000 over his/her lifetime in terms of lower tax contributions, higher reliance on Medicaid and Medicare, higher rates of criminal activity and higher reliance on welfare⁷.

¹ Trends in High School Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States: 1972–2009], U.S. Department of Education and Institute of Education Sciences, October 2011.

² Freudenberg and Ruglis, “Reframing School Dropout as a Public Health Issue.” Center for Disease Control, 2007.

³ P. Muennig, Health Returns to Education Interventions, paper prepared for the Symposium on the Social Costs of Inadequate Education, October 24–25, New York; M. A. Winkleby et al., “Socioeconomic Status and Health: How Education, Income, and Occupation Contribute to Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Disease,” American Journal of Public Health 82, no. 6 (1992): 816–20.

⁴ M. D. Wong et al., “Contribution of Major Diseases to Disparities in Mortality,” New England Journal of Medicine 347 (2002): 1585–92.

⁵ The Consequences of Dropping Out of High School, Center for Labor Market Studies, 2009.

⁶ Smart Investments in Minnesota's Students, A Research-Based Investment Proposal, Growth and Justice, 2008.