



The Silent Epidemic

- Every 29 seconds another student gives up on school, resulting in more than one million American high school students who drop out every year.

America's high school graduation rate ranks 19th in the world. (Forty years ago we were number one.)





FACT: A high school dropout has a 50% chance of getting a job.

Graduation
MATTERS
IN MISSOURI

Graduation
MATTERS
IN MISSOURI

- On average, high school dropouts are approximately 300% more likely to be unemployed than high school graduates.
- (Extra Fact: Dropouts are twice as likely to live in poverty.)



High School Diploma vs. No Diploma:

\$7,000 difference
in your wallet each year



Graduation
MATTERS
IN MISSOURI

Graduation
MATTERS
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A high school dropout contributes about \$60,000 less in taxes over a lifetime (Rouse, 2005).

The government would reap \$45 billion in extra tax revenues and reduced costs in public health, crime, and welfare payments if the number of high school dropouts among 20-year olds in the U.S. today were cut in half.





No High School Diploma?

You are 8 times more likely
to go to prison.

Graduation
MATTERS
IN MISSOURI

Approximately 80% of prison inmates are high school dropouts.

Graduation
MATTERS
IN MISSOURI



- **Dropouts are four times less likely to volunteer than college graduates, twice less likely to vote or participate in community projects, and represent only 3 percent of actively engaged citizens in the U.S. today.**

FACT: On Average,
High School Graduates Live
2 Years Longer than Dropouts.



Graduation
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