Change and a Promise

Education reform is a top priority for the state as it works to expand quality school opportunities for all residents. Locally, The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven is a partner with New Haven Public Schools in the nationally recognized New Haven School Change Initiative through its work as a major funder and administrator of New Haven Promise.

New Haven Promise promotes college as an aspiration for all students, builds community and parental engagement, and promotes economic development in the City of New Haven. New Haven Promise scholarships to qualifying graduates of New Haven Public Schools cover the full tuition to in-state public colleges and universities and a partial subsidy to in-state private colleges and universities.

A major strategy of New Haven Promise is to establish a college-going culture in the schools by engaging students and parents. Ongoing initiatives supporting that goal include:

• Neighborhood Outreach: The 2012 Summer and Fall canvass reached more than 1,000 parents of incoming kindergartners. Canvass volunteers also spoke with about 500 parents about BOOST! afterschool programs and New Haven Promise.

• Parent University: Free, all-day workshops that give parents strategies for teaching and supporting their kids.

Across the region, The Community Foundation *for* Greater Haven is committed to addressing education disparity and believes that education is the base upon which long-term social progress is built. Our grantmaking history has long reflected this view.

Over the last decade, The Community Foundation has invested more than $11 million in discretionary funds to programs that promote quality early childhood care and education, foster parental involvement in a child's learning, support charter schools, improve high school graduation rates and assist students in pursuing a college degree. Recent investments include $1 million in the Connecticut Center for Arts & Technology (ConnCAT), an education center that teaches urban youth and young adults job skills that are relevant in today's marketplace.

In addition to a 4-year commitment to New Haven Promise of up to $2 million, The Community Foundation also manages approximately 100 separate scholarship funds (including funds of its affiliate the Valley Community Foundation) that distribute nearly $500,000 annually.

Relationship between Educational Attainment and Wellbeing in Greater New Haven

Strengths	< Bachelor's Degree	≥ Bachelor's Degree
Attend school activities with their children	94%	98%
Have health insurance	85%	94%
Satisfied with Greater New Haven	79%	85%
Registered to vote	77%	88%
Satisfied with work they do	76%	83%
Broadband internet at home	75%	93%
Feel people in neighborhood can be trusted	74%	88%
Donated money to local organization	63%	83%
Volunteerism rate	53%	65%
Challenges		
Financial insecurity	39%	20%
Food insecurity	26%	11%
Smoking prevalence	25%	7%
Laid off in the past year	20%	12%
Difficulty getting by financially	19%	11%
Underemployment rate	17%	11%
Often felt down or depressed in past month	15%	7%
Housing insecurity	8%	3%
Have been unemployed for more than a year	6%	2%

DataHaven 2012 Community Wellbeing Survey
September 4 - October 16, 2012
1,307 Residents of Specified Towns in
New Haven County
Margin of error: +/- 2.7%

The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven
70 Audubon Street   New Haven, CT   06510   203-777-2386   www.cfgnh.org

Convening: for education

Improving Lives, Strengthening the Community

Education is the foundation for a successful life. For a child, quality education means better opportunities for employment, higher earnings, and good health. For the community, these benefits compound to result in more employed and engaged citizens. As the great equalizer, education is the surest path toward a share in the American dream. In Greater New Haven, with its high numbers of poor and low-income residents, the challenges are great. But hope is high. School reform is at the center of the public policy agenda at all levels of government. Locally, The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven shares this commitment and is a major investor in school change--because delivering on the promise of a quality education is a strategy that improves lives, strengthens the community and benefits all.

The Challenge

The disparity in educational outcomes in Greater New Haven, like the rest of the nation, tracks closely with income levels. Stresses associated with poverty are known to have a profound impact on early brain development. Without early intervention and quality pre-school experiences, low-income students are at risk of starting kindergarten at a disadvantage that persists throughout their time in school.

• Less than half of the State's kindergartners entering in 2011 consistently demonstrated expected skills in personal/social development, language, literacy and numeracy. Children from low-income families and high-stress environments are less likely to have these skills.[1]

• Low-income students in Connecticut test at three grade levels behind non-low-income students on the 4th-grade reading assessment, a common benchmark of student performance and predictor of graduation from high school. In New Haven, while scores are trending upward, only 46% of the 4th-grade students receiving free lunch were proficient in reading in 2011, as compared to 70% of the non-low income students.[2]

• This gap persists into high school, where too many struggling students drop out before acquiring the skills needed for today's economy. Graduation rates for the class of 2010 in the outer-ring suburban districts such as Cheshire, Madison, Guilford, Woodbridge and Orange are above 90%. The rate ranges from 72%-89% in the Valley and inner-ring suburbs, and is 63% in New Haven.[3]

Better Education = Better Lives

Research has clearly shown that a high performing educational system is the key to a strong economy and a healthy community.

In Connecticut, the unemployment rate of a high school dropout is about twice that of a high school graduate and three times as high as a college graduate. Incarceration rates are three times as high for dropouts as compared to high school graduates. Over a lifetime, a high school graduate will earn on average $500,000 more than a dropout and make an estimated net fiscal contribution of $518,000 to government. An individual with a B.A. will contribute $1.2 million more.[4]

Educational achievement is also linked to high rates of voting and civic engagement, lower rates of divorce and out of wedlock childbirth, better health, lower crime rates, less dependence on social services and longer lives.[5]

1 *First 1000 Days Briefing Paper: Who Are CT's Most Vulnerable Children?* CT Dept. of Children and Families (June 2012)

2 http://sdeportal.ct.gov/Cedar/
3 http://www.csde.state.ct.us/ public/cedar/GraduationRates/ byDistrict.xls

4, 5 Sum, Andrew. Center for Labor Market Studies, Northeastern University. *The Economic, Social, Civic and Fiscal Consequences of Dropping Out of High School: Findings for Connecticut Adults in the 21st Century* (2009).
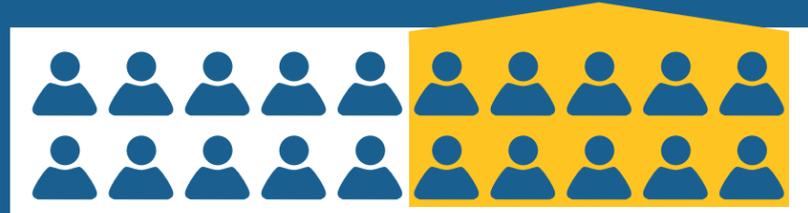
THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF HELPING HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS EARN BOTH HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS AND COLLEGE DEGREES

WHAT IF

What if half of the 2,500 dropouts in the past four years from the 20-town Greater New Haven region had stayed in school and earned a high school diploma?
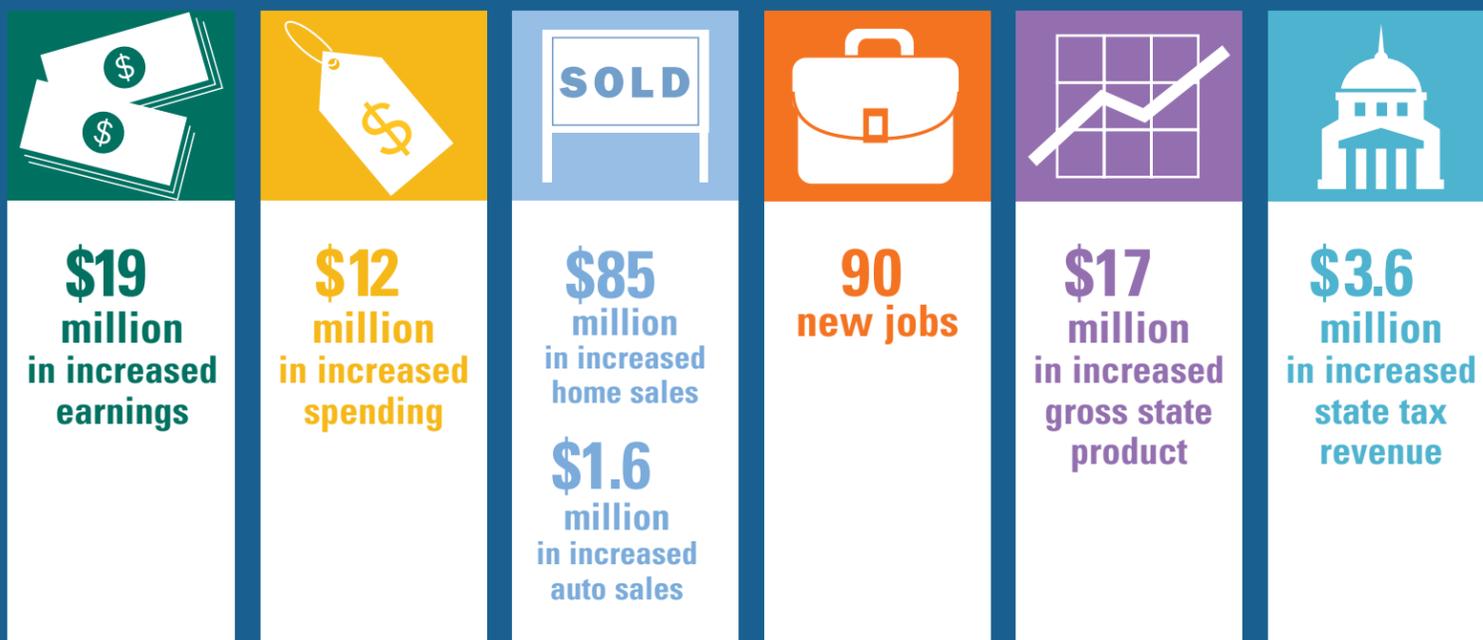
... the reality is high school just isn't enough today. Unfortunately, only 26% of those new graduates would likely earn some type of college degree or credential.
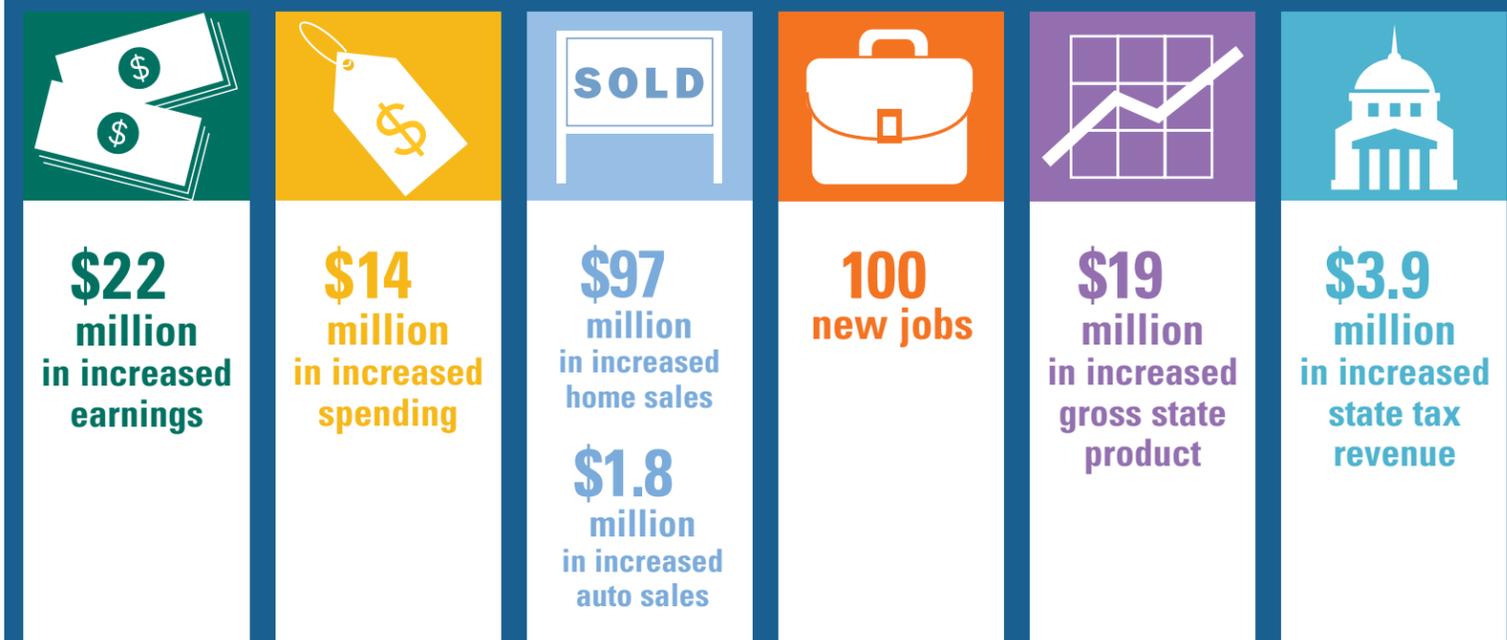
WHAT IF

What if **60%** of those 1,250 new high school graduates earned a college credential or degree?

Vocational certification		2-year degree		4-year degree	
Projected	Goal	Projected	Goal	Projected	Goal
12%	29%	8%	20%	5%	11%

THE BENEFITS WOULD BE HUGE

$19 million in increased earnings	$12 million in increased spending	$85 million in increased home sales / $1.6 million in increased auto sales	90 new jobs	$17 million in increased gross state product	$3.6 million in increased state tax revenue

THE BENEFITS WOULD BE EVEN GREATER

$22 million in increased earnings	$14 million in increased spending	$97 million in increased home sales / $1.8 million in increased auto sales	100 new jobs	$19 million in increased gross state product	$3.9 million in increased state tax revenue

BUT

THE BEST ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE IS A DIPLOMA.