



Instate Tuition Equity Bill

Impact on Elementary and Secondary Education

The mission of the R.I. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) is “to lead and support schools and communities in ensuring that **all students** achieve at the high levels needed to lead fulfilling and productive lives, to compete in academic and employment settings, and to contribute to society.”

There many undocumented students who face the dilemma of knowing they will be unable to further their education beyond high school become discouraged and perform poorly or drop out of school.

Motivated by the opportunity to access higher education at affordable rates, these students will perform better, stay in school, and graduate with their classmates. Recent studies show that first-generation immigrants in U.S. high schools, motivated by the American dream of success through education, perform better, on the average, than other students.

Higher educational attainment increases the likelihood of individual success and leads to positive economic and social outcomes for families and communities. A Rhode Island where ALL of its students have aspirations to graduate high school and pursue higher education is a stronger state.

The Fiscal Consequences of Dropping Out of High School in Rhode Island

Rhode Island ranks 35th among states on high school graduation rate, with 1st being best and 50th worst.¹ In 2009, adults without a high school diploma in Rhode Island were more than three times as likely to be unemployed as those with a bachelor’s degree.²

A recent analysis from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce predicts that by 2018, almost two-thirds (61%) of Rhode Island jobs will require some post-secondary education.³

According to an analysis by the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University, the projected lifetime earnings of a Rhode Island high school dropout are \$827,438, compared with \$1,206,250 for high school graduates and \$2,150,076 for those with a bachelor’s degree.⁴

Based on savings from reduced use of public services, lower incarceration rates and increased tax payments, the report estimates that federal, state and local governments would potentially gain \$389,000 for each successful graduate who would otherwise have been a dropout.

¹ Editorial Projects in Education Research Center. (2011). *Diplomas Count 2011 – Rhode Island state graduation report*. www.edweek.org

² U. S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 2009. Table B23006.

³ Carnevale, A. P., Smith, N. & Strohl, J. (2010). *Help Wanted: Projections for jobs and education requirements through 2018*. Washington, DC:Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.

⁴ Harrington, P. E., Fogg, N. P. & Khatiwada, I. (2009). *The fiscal consequences of dropping out of high school in Rhode Island*. Providence, RI: Prepared by the Center for Labor Market Studies, Northeastern University for the RI Board of Governors for Higher Education, the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of RI, & the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce.