



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT of
EDUCATION

WHY A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA MATTERS

The Importance of a High School Diploma

A high school diploma is so much more than a piece of paper for our Indiana students. Simply having a high school diploma opens so many doors for students when it comes to life after graduation...whether a student is seeking enrollment, employment, or enlistment leading to service, obtaining a high school diploma is an essential first step. Today's competitive job market continues to prioritize candidates with additional education post high school, with 99% of the jobs since 2010 going to employees with at least some postsecondary education, an option that is not available for students without a high school diploma. Students considering not completing high school risk not earning a high school diploma and have significantly less opportunities than those who graduate high school and earn a high school diploma.

High school graduates are more likely to be employed, make higher taxable income, and aid in job generation.

According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, high school graduates earn a national average of \$9,204 more annually compared to those who do not have a high school diploma.

HEALTH AND CRIME OUTCOMES

Research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Health Statistics shows that high school graduates have better health and longer life expectancy.

According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, high school graduates are less likely to engage in criminal behavior or require social services.

OBTAINING A DRIVER'S LICENSE

Per Indiana law, a driver's license or learner's permit may not be issued to an individual less than 18 years of age who is considered a dropout. A driver's license or learner's permit may be revoked and an employment certificate may be revoked or denied if a student drops out.

SOURCES

www.americaspromise.org

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics

National Bureau of Economic Research