



The High Cost of Dropping Out

Why should you care about dropout prevention?

A CALL TO COMMUNITY ACTION

Every year in Pamlico County, between 25 and 30 students do not graduate school. Whatever reason causes a student to drop out, our community and our nation can no longer afford to have students leaving school without their high school diploma. The financial impacts are real and long-lasting. We must work together as a community- schools, businesses, churches, nonprofit organizations, healthcare and mental health providers, higher education, everyone-to help students succeed and to help ensure that they receive the excellent education that will prepare them for college or work and to be productive members of society.

GET INVOLVED

If you would like to be a part of the effort in Pamlico County to graduate every student, every year, join us! There is a place for you help address this need. Contact us using the information below and let us help you get involved.

HeartWorks
252-745-9703
info@heartworksonline.org
www.heartworksonline.org

Every school day, almost 7000 students drop out of school nationwide. That adds up to 1.2 million students a year. The lifelong impact on the student is great, but the community where that student lives is also profoundly affected.

Read on to learn more about why *you* should care about reducing the dropout rate in Pamlico County.

- Students who dropout have a significantly reduced earning potential over the course of their lifetime. This translates to lower tax revenues for local, state and federal governments as well as lower spending rates in private businesses. On average, students who dropout of high school contribute \$60,000 less in taxes over their lifetime than high school graduates. **Nationwide, if every student who dropped out of the class of 2008 had graduated, the nation's economy would have benefited from at least an additional \$319 billion in income over their lifetimes.**
- It is more difficult for state and local governments and agencies to attract new business investments when they have less-educated populations, further impacting those economies.
- In addition to earning higher wages, high school graduates statistically live longer, are less likely to be teen parents, and are more likely to raise healthier, better-educated children. High school graduates are also much less likely to commit crimes and rely on government services. **For example, if the male graduation rate were to increase by only 5% nationwide, it is estimated that the United States would see an annual savings of \$4.9 billion in crime-related costs. It is also estimated that America could save more than \$17 billion annually in Medicaid and expenditures for health care for the uninsured by graduating all students.**



The strength of the United States is not the gold at Fort Knox or the weapons of mass destruction that we have, but the sum total of the education and the character of our people.

Claiborne Pell (1918 -)