

Dropout Prevention Leadership Summits

AMERICA'S PROMISE ALLIANCE

Who We Are

AMERICA'S PROMISE ALLIANCE
Dropout PREVENTION
COLLEGE. WORK. LIFE.

The America's Promise Alliance is the nation's largest multi-sector collaborative dedicated to the well-being of children and youth. Our Alliance partners dedicate themselves to working together for the success of our young people, using the **Five Promises** framework to shape their efforts and improve the odds for youth

Five Promises:
Caring Adults
Safe Places
Healthy Start
Effective Education
Helping Others

The Facts About Young People

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- One American high school student drops out every 29 seconds; that's **1.1 million** per year
- 50% of African American and Hispanic youth fail to graduate on time
- Of those who do graduate with a high school diploma, **only 1/3 are ready for college**
- Jobs that require a college education will make up more than 2/3 of new jobs

More Facts About Young People

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High School graduation is a strong predictor of adult success

Students who don't graduate are:

- Twice as likely to continue the cycle of poverty
- Three times as likely to be unemployed
- Eight times as likely to go to prison

Why Kids Drop Out

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The top five reasons for leaving school are*:

- Classes were not interesting (47%)
- Missed too many days and could not catch up (43%)
- Spent time with people who were not interested in school (42%)
- Had too much freedom and not enough rules (38%)
- Was failing in school (35%)

When asked, students said the **#1 offering to keep them in school was service learning.**

*Bridgeland, John M. John J. Dilulio, Jr and Karen Burke Morison (2006). *The Silent Epidemic - Perspectives of High School Dropouts*. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Economic Imperative

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U.S. at risk of losing economic edge - workforce not prepared for the global marketplace.


- **Dropouts = Service workers**
 - Earn \$16/hour or less
 - More likely to hold multiple jobs
 - More likely to experience unemployment during economic downturns
- **Graduates = Knowledge workers**
 - Command higher salaries
 - Experience increased employment stability
 - Access to more professional opportunities

Return on Investment




1% increase in high school graduation rates would:

- Yield **\$1.8 billion** in social benefits
- Reduce number of crimes nationwide by **94,000**



Credible Analysis



Every Child, Every Promise —


Children who receive at least 4 of the 5 Promises:


- Twice as likely to complete high school
- 40% more likely to volunteer
- Two-thirds more likely to be socially competent

BUT

- Only 31% experience 4 or 5 Promises
- 21% experience one or zero Promises
- Children of color are half as likely to have enough Promises

Clarion Call to Action






50 state and 50 city drop-out prevention summits by 2010

- Increase public awareness of crisis that too few young people graduate from high school ready for college and careers
- Identify and inspire local leadership to follow-up and seek change
- Secure commitment for integrated, cross-sector, collaborative action to implement research-based solutions that strengthen schools and provide wraparound supports to kids who need them most

Dropout Prevention Leadership Summits




Goal: The Alliance will work to inspire, mobilize and support "dropout prevention summits" in all 50 states and up to 50 cities with the highest concentration of high schools with weak promoting power (identified through research by Robert Ballanz) by 2010.

Result: These summits will strengthen and improve America's schools and result in measurable advances towards effecting policy and program change that will reduce the number of high school drop outs and prepares young people for success in college, work and life.

Pilot Summit Dates	Mississippi's Destination Graduation	**Invited Summit Locations as of Jan 2008 (Dates TBD)
States: (all in 2007) Colorado: Dec. 5-6 Minnesota: Dec. 5 Tennessee: Oct. 9-10 Cities: (all in 2008) Anchorage: April 11-12 Austin, TX: April 12 Chicago: Feb. 25 Cleveland, OH: March 1 Denver: Spring (likely April) Mt. Sterling, KY: Jan 24 Nashville: Feb. 1 New York, NY: Feb. 22 Philadelphia: February 23 Washington, DC: Feb 15 & 22	Youth Summit: January 15 Adult Summit: February 28	States: California, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia Cities: Atlanta, Baltimore, Camden, Detroit, Indianapolis, Louisville, Memphis, Milwaukee, Oklahoma City, St. Louis, Tacoma, Tucson, Washington D.C. **Note that in March 2008 America's Promise will invite the remaining states and targeted cities to hold summits by first quarter 2010

Dropout Prevention Leadership Summit Cities



Cities in which 1/2 or more of high schools have weak "promoting power"


Targeted Cities:

NORTH St. Louis Indianapolis Milwaukee Cleveland Kansas City Rochester New York Akron Detroit Tulsa Chicago Cincinnati Baltimore Pittsburgh Philadelphia Jersey City Minneapolis Columbus Newark Yonkers	SOUTH Atlanta Shreveport (Caddo) Norfolk Jacksonville (Duval) Augusta (Richmond) Louisville (Jefferson) St. Petersburg (Pinellas) Tampa (Hillsborough) Richmond Nashville (Davidson)
SOUTH WEST San Antonio Dallas Houston Austin Oklahoma City Fort Worth Albuquerque Arlington Corpus Christi Tulsa El Paso Tucson Phoenix	WEST Stockton Oakland Tacoma Seattle Denver Los Angeles Fresno

*Weak Promoting Power means they promote 50% or fewer freshmen to senior status on time. Excerpted from "Locating the Dropout Crisis" by Robert Ballanz and Neela Legters of Johns Hopkins University

BOLD = 10 cities with the greatest number of weak "promoting power" high schools

Post Summit Action Plans



- States and cities will create action plans that aim to **improve policy and practice** in order to strengthen schools and provide holistic supports to young people.
- Action plan items will be drawn from a recommended menu of research-based options that are consistent with existing efforts, such as the:
 - America's Promise Alliance's National Action Strategies
 - Silent Epidemic's 10-Point plan
 - American Diploma Project's reform agenda

Driving More Wraparound Supports



Partner-driven National Action Strategies

- **Where the Kids Are** – beginning with schools, wraparound services where at-risk youth and their families already are engaged
- **Ready for the Real World** – service-learning and career exploration for middle school aged youth
- **All Kids Covered** – enrollment of eligible youth in state- and federally-funded health insurance programs

Advocacy - First Focus

The Alliance's advocacy affiliate seeking to make children and families the "first focus" of federal policy

- **Children's health** – especially SCHIP reauthorization
- **Education** – especially No Child Left Behind reauthorization
- **Tax/Budget issues impacting children and families**

Summit Support



We are aiming to provide **3 levels** of support to summit conveners.

Level 1: Web-based and technical assistance

Level 2: Challenge grants to support development of post-summit comprehensive action plans to help more young people graduate ready for college, careers and civic life

Level 3: Promise Zones

- Technical Assistance
- Web Based Resources
- Facilitated Planning
- Local Coordinators
- Implementation plan, including National Action Strategies
- Baseline and follow-up local *ECEP* survey
- Evaluation

Contact Us



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**When our children are stronger,
America is stronger.**



That's a legacy we can all be proud of.

