

Reasons for Dropping Out

While youth and young adults shared many valuable comments about their experiences in high schools, one of the most insightful responses came from the question, “why did you dropout?” Focus group participants seemed guarded at times in sharing their personal stories. The anonymity of the survey provided the opportunity to learn more about why some young people choose to dropout of high school.

The chart below outlines the reasons survey respondents said contributed to their dropping out of school. The “reasons” are listed from most to least commonly selected. Respondents were able to choose as many “reasons” as they felt applied.

	A Major Reason	Somewhat a Reason	Not a Reason
Personal or family problems	20.7%	50.0%	29.3%
Got in trouble in school	31.0%	31.0%	37.9%
Bored in school	29.3%	31.0%	39.7%
Could not keep up with the work	12.1%	34.5%	53.4%
No one encouraged me to stay	13.8%	29.3%	56.9%
Money problems	15.5%	25.9%	58.6%
Classes were too hard	6.9%	32.8%	60.3%
Learning is hard for me	8.6%	27.6%	63.8%
To get a full time job	15.5%	19.0%	65.5%
Became a parent	15.5%	19.0%	65.5%
School environment	17.2%	17.2%	65.5%
Didn't fit in	5.2%	25.9%	69.0%
Discriminated against	12.1%	17.2%	70.7%
Parents needed me	12.1%	15.5%	72.4%
Housing	6.9%	20.7%	72.4%
Substance abuse problems	5.2%	20.7%	74.1%
Legal problems	12.1%	12.1%	75.9%
Illness or injury	5.2%	17.2%	77.6%
School did not have the courses I needed	6.9%	15.5%	77.6%
Physical disability	5.2%	13.8%	81.0%
Victim of a crime	6.9%	12.1%	81.0%
School was too easy	3.4%	15.5%	81.0%
Don't need school for what I want to do	5.2%	13.8%	81.0%
Criminal conviction	3.4%	15.5%	81.0%
Concerns about personal safety at school	5.2%	12.1%	82.8%
Friends encouraged me to drop out	5.2%	12.1%	82.8%
Family encouraged me to drop out	3.4%	12.1%	84.5%
Teachers encouraged me to drop out	6.9%	8.6%	84.5%