GED in Connecticut: A look at the data

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In this presentation

• GED in Connecticut: resources invested
• Who needs the GED in the state?
• How do we compare to the rest of the country?
• Why do we need to get this right?
Connecticut’s investment

State Resources Allocated for Adult Education and Literacy per Adult without High School Degree or GED

Connecticut is ranked first in adult education spending

Connecticut’s investment

Connecticut is ranked 7th in adult education enrollment.

Why we need this investment?

- Percentage of adults at Literacy levels below basic and basic:
  - Connecticut: 41.0%
  - US average: 43.0%

- Percentage of students enrolled in community college requiring remedial education: 61.0%

Source: Population Reference Bureau for the Working Families Project, Complete College America
Connecticut’s needs

Connecticut is ranked 16th for adults 18 to 64 with GED or High School diploma.

Connecticut is ranked 15th for adults 25-54.

Connecticut’s needs

Connecticut is ranked 6th for non-Hispanic whites.

We rank 23rd for minorities, 25th for blacks and 16th for Hispanics.

Source: Population Reference Bureau for the Working Families Project
Connecticut’s needs

Connecticut is ranked 15th for non-Hispanic whites.

We rank 22nd for minorities, 25th for blacks and 20th for Hispanics.

Source: Population Reference Bureau for the Working Families Project
Education creates opportunity:

- Wages for High School graduates are considerably higher.
- Opens the door to further education.
- Improves employment opportunities.

- High School graduates still make more money on average than GED students, though.
Why is this important?

- **Education improves wages:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Annual Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No high school diploma</td>
<td>$23,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma (or GED)</td>
<td>$33,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college no degree</td>
<td>$37,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate degree</td>
<td>$39,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
<td>$54,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master's degree</td>
<td>$65,676</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doctorate degree</td>
<td>$80,652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional degree</td>
<td>$86,580</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why is this important?

- Education improves employment:

![Bar chart showing the unemployment rate and median weekly earnings by education level in 2012.](chart)

**Education Pays**

Unemployment rate in 2012 (%)
- Doctoral degree: 2.5
- Professional degree: 2.1
- Master's degree: 3.5
- Bachelor's degree: 4.5
- Associate's degree: 6.2
- Some college, no degree: 7.7
- High school diploma: 8.3
- Less than a high school diploma: 12.4

Median weekly earnings in 2012 ($)
- Doctoral degree: $1,624
- Professional degree: $1,735
- Master's degree: $1,300
- Bachelor's degree: $1,066
- Associate's degree: $785
- Some college, no degree: $727
- High school diploma: $652
- Less than a high school diploma: $471

Why is this important?

• Some figures:
  – 21.1% of working families in Connecticut are below 200% the Federal Poverty Level
  – The income gap between the top and bottom quintile of working families: 11.5
    • Connecticut is 49th in income equality and the achievement gap has a lot to do with it.
  – Ratio middle/bottom quintiles: 3.3
    • Connecticut ranks 48th
Questions?

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