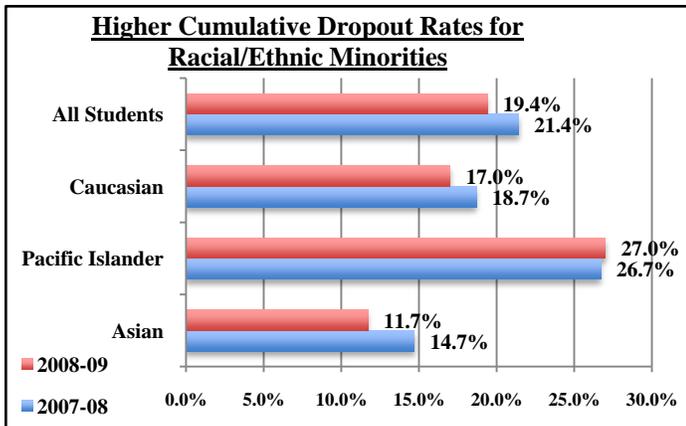


The Impact of Asian American & Pacific Islander Graduation Rates on Our Economy

GRADUATION RATES WITHIN THE ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER POPULATIONS

Young adults in Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in Washington and nationally are disproportionately represented in the total number of high school dropouts and this number not only affects Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, but the state and economy as a whole.



* OSPI Graduation and Dropout Statistics for Washington in 2008-09

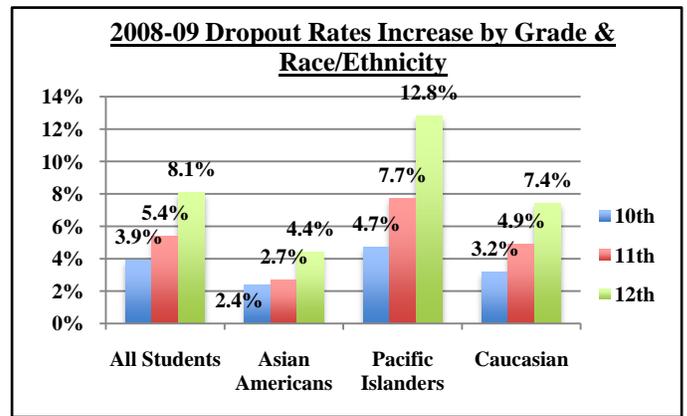
The rate of Pacific Islander students that dropout of school before graduation is nearly 10% higher than the rate for all students. These percentages represent approximately 1,026 Asian American and Pacific Islander students that will dropout of school. The repercussions of this single piece of data are astounding and affect not only the individuals and their families and communities, but also the state economy and the national economy.

Fewer On-Time Graduations 2008-09

Race/Ethnicity	Graduation Rate
Asian	83.6%
Pacific Islander	59.8%
Caucasian	76.4%

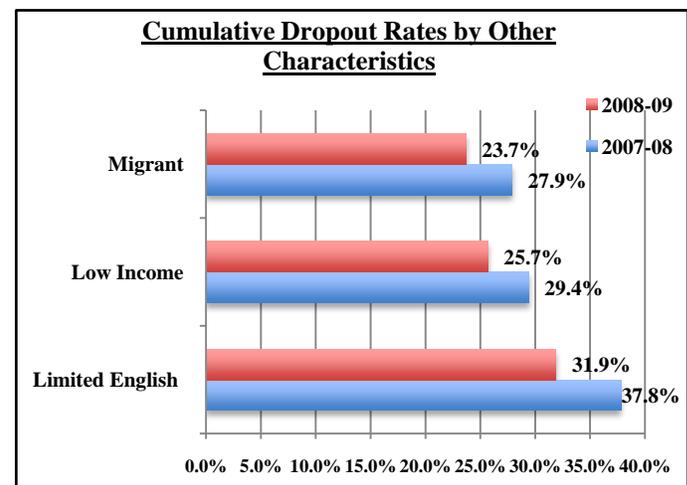
* OSPI Graduation and Dropout Statistics for Washington in 2008-09

Moreover, as a student gets closer to graduation, he/she is more likely to dropout of high school and give up on pursuing a high school diploma. In 2009, an additional 297 Asian American and Pacific Islander students dropped out with less than a year to go. This is especially disheartening and devastating, because with just a little more support, these students would have graduated with a degree and would have been better qualified to enter the workforce.



* OSPI Graduation and Dropout Statistics for Washington in 2008-09

It is important to recognize that other characteristics that lead to increased dropout rates also disproportionately affect ethnic communities. This only compounds the issue of high rates of dropouts for the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Migrant students are those who have moved with their families within the last 36 months to obtain temporary or seasonal agricultural work.



* OSPI Graduation and Dropout Statistics for Washington in 2008-09

Unfortunately, major data collection systems do not account for the diversity within the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, so it is difficult to know which races and ethnicities within these groups are the most affected. However, detailed data from a single school district indicates that most at risk are the Filipino, East Indian, Vietnamese, Samoan, and Southeast Asian communities. This more detailed data can be used to focus time and resources; it would be extremely useful and efficient if available statewide.

Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs

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Mission: To improve the well-being of APAs by ensuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas.

Special Thanks to: Kathryn Kuhlenberg • Legislative Lawyering Project • Seattle University School of Law • Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law & Equality

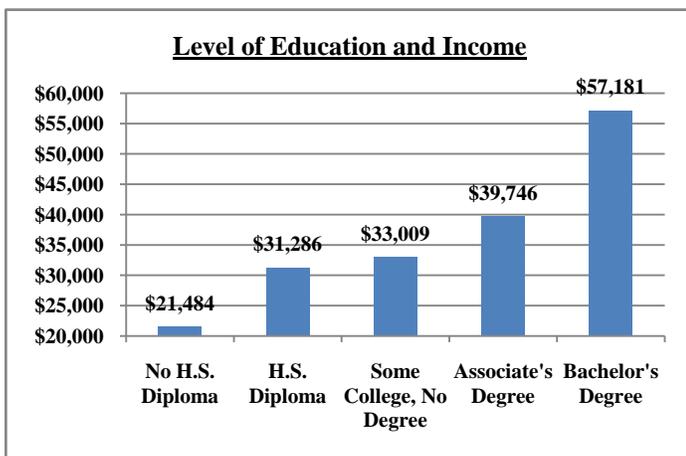
The Impact of Asian American & Pacific Islander Graduation Rates on Our Economy

HOW MUCH DO HIGH DROPOUT RATES COST WASHINGTON STATE?

Young adults with a high school diploma will earn more money, have wider opportunities for employment, and will be more civically responsible and engaged citizens throughout their lives. In contrast, students who fail to graduate high school will cost Washington a huge amount over their lifetimes in lost taxes, lost buying power because of lower income, and expenditures on social welfare programs and benefits. In addition, there is a link between dropout rates and incarceration rates. Thus, students who dropout will cost the state in terms of both costs of incarceration and procedural costs of detaining and prosecuting the crime.

IN LOST INCOME AND TAXES...

Nationally, the unemployment rate for people with a high school diploma only is 15.7%. The rate for dropouts is 25.8%. These dropouts are unable to contribute taxes, have much smaller buying power, and are much more likely to need assistance through social welfare programs. Nationally, if the students who dropped out of the class of 2007 had graduated, the nation's economy would have benefited from an additional \$329 billion in income over their lifetimes. Increases like this would undoubtedly benefit Washington's economy.



*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics April 2009

Moreover, a high school dropout contributes approximately \$60,000 less in taxes over their lifetime than a high school graduate and the U.S. could save an

estimated \$17 billion in Medicaid and expenditures for health care for the uninsured by graduating all students. These increased revenues and decreased expenditures would greatly contribute to balancing the budget in Washington.

Estimated Increase in Lifetime Income if 2008-09 Dropouts Graduated in Washington

Race/Ethnicity	Number of Dropouts 2009	Additional Lifetime Income if Dropouts Graduated H.S.	Additional Lifetime Income if Graduated w/ Bachelor's
Asian Americans	866	\$389,700,000	\$1,424,570,000
Pacific Islanders	160	\$72,000,000	\$263,200,000
All	18,197	\$8,188,650,000	\$29,934,070,000

* Based on additional lifetime earnings (47 years of work) and 2008-09 OPSI graduation data.

IN INCARCERATION COSTS...

Astoundingly, high school dropouts represent an estimated 75% of inmates in America's state prisons, 59% of federal inmates, and 69% of jail inmates. One year of basic education in Washington costs \$5,033.34; one year of incarceration costs on average \$22,600.

Moreover, high school graduation results in a 21.1% reduction in criminal outcomes, which translates into a savings of \$5,915 of taxpayer dollars for every graduate. And, for each incarcerated individual that obtains secondary education, there is a \$17,636 benefit to society.

Impact of a 5% Increase in Male Graduation Rates in Washington

Annual Crime-Related Savings	Additional Annual Earnings	Total Benefit to State Economy
\$50,235,943	\$60,499,296	\$110,735,239

*Calculated Based on Lochner, L., & Moretti, E. (2004). The effect of education on crime: Evidence from prison inmates, arrests and self-reports. *American Economic Review*, 94(1), 155-189. An Alliance for Excellent Education Report

Increased graduation is imperative to ensuring that Washington has a strong and able workforce, and that Washington does not needlessly lose revenue and increase expenditures, when those losses can be so easily avoided. By expanding opportunities to the individual, through education, Washington can benefit economically and socially.

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