If Portland-area schools were to cut the dropout rate in half, in an average year these "new graduates" would:

• Earn $38 million in additional wages
• Contribute an additional $4 million in state and local taxes

Source: Alliance for Excellent Education.

Median Annual Earnings by Educational Attainment (Multnomah County 2008)

Source: 2008 American Community Survey.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>Median Annual Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not High School Graduate</td>
<td>$19,448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)</td>
<td>$26,365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College or Associate's Degree</td>
<td>$32,499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's Degree</td>
<td>$41,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Degree</td>
<td>$53,355</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not High School Graduate
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)
Some College or Associate's Degree
Bachelor's Degree
Advanced Degree

Success for Every Young Portlander
RESULTS THAT MATTER

Despite the challenges, recent progress shows that the community is well-positioned and committed to helping more youth succeed.

Targeting students early: New research confirms earlier Connected by 25 findings that academic indicators are the most powerful tools to identify students who will drop out. Such indicators give adults the tools needed to intervene early—and local school districts and their partners have put these indicators to work with promising results.

Reconnecting more students: In 2009, the PPS Transition Center was created to offer disconnected students a first point-of-entry for returning to school. The center re-enrolled nearly 100 students in its first year, and the Multnomah Education Service District is now expanding the model throughout Multnomah County.

Investing in youth: In 2008, voters renewed the Portland Children’s Levy, providing $12 million annually for youth programming; continued investments in the SUN System and a host of other public and privately-supported programs help students build the skills they need for school and life.

Leading the way: In 2009, Portland Mayor Sam Adams and former Multnomah County Chair Ted Wheeler placed high school graduation and college access at the top of their agendas, helping to align and launch a broad set of student success strategies.

Summer jobs: In the summer of 2009, at a time of record youth unemployment, federal stimulus dollars helped hundreds of local employers put more than 800 low-income youth to work across Multnomah County (Works Systems Inc. is leading an effort to sustain this initiative). The Mayor’s office led a related initiative in which dozens of businesses and colleges hosted site visits and job shadows for more than 400 at-risk incoming ninth graders.

Empowering youth voices: In 2009, the Multnomah Youth Commission, a diverse group of youth leaders, won support for a program to provide free access to public transportation for 13,000 PPS high school students as part of an effort to connect more of their peers with school, work, and the community.

A follow-up longitudinal study of the PPS class of 2007 shows an increase in on-time graduation rates—from 54% to 58%—between 2004 and 2007. This is good news for the community. Still, more than four in ten local students do not graduate on-time and stark disparities remain based on race, income, and other factors.