

The Student Intervention Department coordinates and implements district efforts related to dropout prevention planning, specialized interventions and partnerships that support Adams 14 students' academic growth and development at all elementary and secondary schools. The office also oversees efforts to reduce the district's dropout rate and ensure that each secondary school has an array of support services and resources that provide students with alternatives to dropping out of school. The department works in collaboration with Adams 14 parents and students, elementary and secondary schools, district offices, and the Commerce City community to diminish and/or remove barriers that hinder students from having a positive educational experience resulting in school completion.

For more information on Drop Out Prevention efforts in Adams 14, Please contact:

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### ***High School Dropouts Cost Everyone Something!***

There are both personal and societal costs of dropping out. The loss of taxes, loss of production and the cost of assistance provided to dropouts make the problem of high school non-completion an issue for every taxpayer. Each year's class of dropouts will cost the country over \$200 billion during their lifetimes in lost earnings and unrealized tax revenue. Dropouts comprise nearly half of the heads of households on welfare and an even higher percentage of the prison population. The average annual cost of maintaining a prisoner is at least three times higher than the annual dollars expended to educate a school-age child. This cost does not take into consideration the costs of adjudicating the crimes that sent these dropouts to prison and the monetary and personal costs of the crimes themselves.

The personal costs of dropping out include earning only half as much annual income as a high school graduate by the time prime working age is reached, while the likelihood of living in poverty is nearly three times higher for high school dropouts than for those who finished high school.

### ***How Big is the Problem?***

Calculating an accurate dropout rate is nearly impossible, since schools differ in their definitions of a dropout, their counting methods, and their methods of following a student who drops and reenters, or those who leave the district and reenter another one. Even with the discrepancies

in data collection methods, it still appears that *no less than 15%* of all persons aged 16 to 24 are not enrolled in school or have not earned a high school diploma or equivalency certificate. The rate of high school non-completers aged 16 to 24 in many urban areas is as high as 35%. The 1994 U.S. Bureau of the Census indicated that 20% of adults over the age of 25 had not completed high school.

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