

## **If conditions stay the same...**

. . . our high school dropout will earn 33 cents for every dollar that our college graduate will earn.

United States Census Bureau (2006)

. . . our high school dropout will be more prone to ill health and will live a shorter life. Education is the one factor linked to longer lives in every country where it has been studied.

. . . A few extra years of school is associated with extra years of life and vastly improved health.”

New York Times (2007)

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## **If conditions stay the same...**

. . . our high school dropout will be less employable in a volatile job market.

Today, the average worker in the United States has been with the same employer less than 4 years.

Frequent job and career changes will represent the norm for the children we serve.

Those who have not learned how to learn will be at a terrible disadvantage.

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## **Essential Skills of the 21st Century**

The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those unable to read and write, but those who can not learn, unlearn and relearn.

- Alvin Toffler

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**But conditions won't stay the same. . .they are likely to get worse**

“The move from an industrial economy to a knowledge economy, access to technology, and globalization represent a powerful triple force fueling the most pressing problem in the United States today - growing inequality.”

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**Closing the Door to the American Dream**

The story of Rick's father was not only possible, but was typical in previous generations because education was just one door that gave an individual access to the American Dream.

Today those other doors are closing!

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**The Importance of Education in Our Global Economy**

In a global economy where the most valuable skill you can sell is your knowledge, a good education is no longer just a *pathway* to opportunity - it is a *prerequisite*.

President Barack Obama, February 24, 2009

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## Unless we resolve this issue...

...we will continue to create 1.23 million new drop outs each year

...a student will continue to drop out of school every 26 seconds

Diplomas Count 2008

... we will perpetuate the cycle because our high school dropout's children will have less than a 1 in 17 chance of earning a bachelor's degree.

David Brooks, New York Times, October 6, 2006

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## American Public Opinion

9 out of 10 believe it is important to close the achievement gap that currently exists among students of different socio-economic status.

4 out of 5 believe the gap is not caused by schools, but larger societal problems.

6 out of 10 believe the responsibility for closing the gap lies with schools.

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## So Why Bother Creating Highly Effective Schools?

- For the sake of our students' ability to support themselves and their families health and longevity employability access to the American Dream and their own unique dreams
- Because it is the right thing to do!

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