



THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION'S EDUCATION

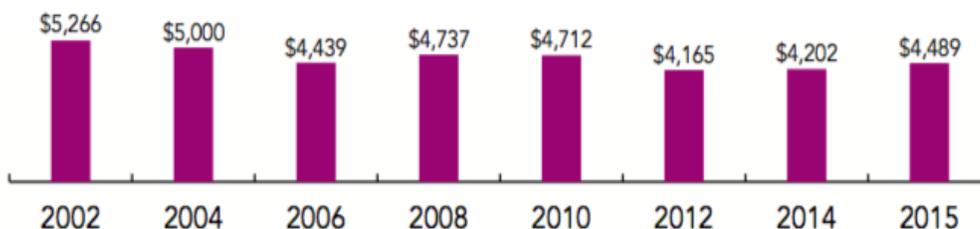
In 2016, the outlay for federal spending in education was only 2% of the federal budget. In fact, the percentage of federal funding for education has remained stagnant since 2010. However, the need for education resources has continued to increase as more students are enrolled in high-poverty public schools, and the quality of education has become a critical factor in lifelong success. By 2020, an estimated 65% of all jobs will require postsecondary education and training, compared to just 28% of jobs in 1973. If we expect our economy to grow and prosper, the next president of the United States will need to prioritize investments in education to improve access to high-quality education for all our nation's students.

INVESTING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Providing students with high-quality early learning opportunities improves their long-term outcomes. Research on language acquisition indicates that the achievement gap starts when a child is as young as 18 months and grows over time. State funding for preschool has decreased since 2002, but the return on investment for enrolling more children in early childhood education continues to grow, as the need for more costly remediation is reduced later in a child's academic career.

- Positive outcomes associated with high-quality early learning include increased graduation rates, higher educational attainment, and lower incarceration rates.
- By 2050, the federal government's return on investment would be \$9 for every \$1 spent on universal prekindergarten programs.
- High-quality universal prekindergarten has the potential to reduce the achievement gap for African American and Hispanic children in math and reading.

AVERAGE STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED
(2015 DOLLARS)



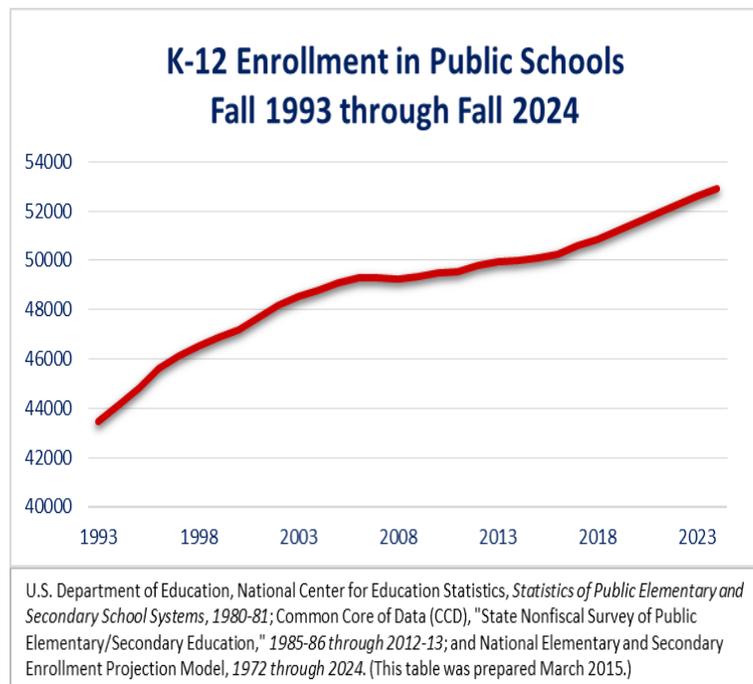
Source: *The State of Preschool 2015: State Preschool Yearbook*; *The National Institute for Early Education Research*



INVESTING IN K–12 EDUCATION

More students than ever are graduating from U.S. high schools, with increases seen across major demographic groups. The rise in high school graduation rates began in school year 2009–2010, at the same time that discretionary funding for education rose to a record high of \$46.6 billion (along with \$20.5 billion for Pell grants). Yet 20% of students still do not graduate from high school and are therefore prevented from achieving their full potential. At the same time, the United States has seen a rise in the number of students classified as low income and concentrated in high-poverty schools. For K–12 education to continue to be the great equalizer of opportunity in America, all children should be provided with the supports they need to succeed and to offer their contributions to a prosperous American society.

- Nationwide, 23% of children (16.4 million) live in families with incomes below the poverty line.
- The enrollment in our public elementary and secondary schools is projected to rise above 51 million students by 2024.
- The unemployment rate for those without a high school degree is 8.6%, compared to 5.4% for graduates.
- Obtaining a high school degree adds 33% to an individual's lifetime earnings.



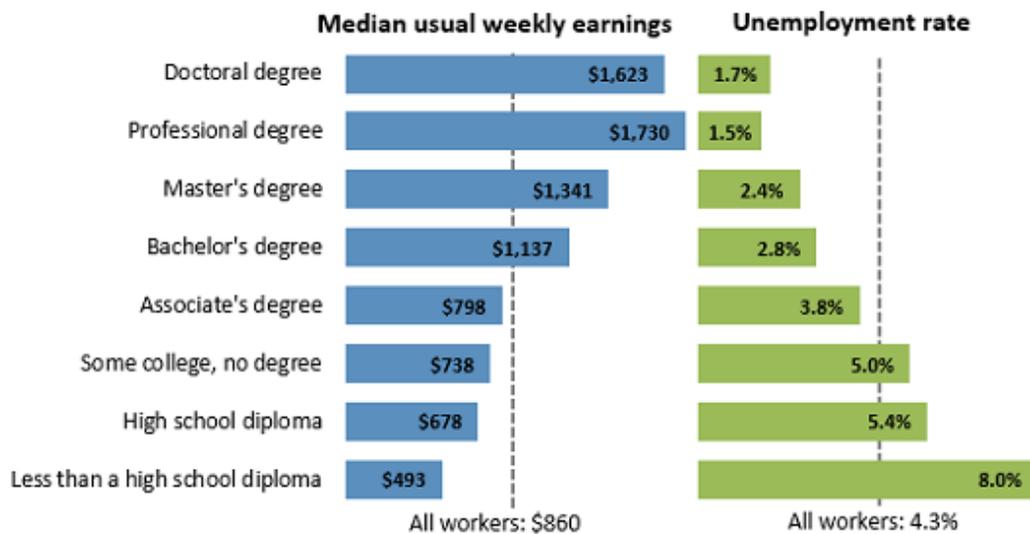


INVESTING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Attaining a postsecondary credential has increasingly become the baseline standard for competing in the growing knowledge economy. More than ever before, higher education serves as a gateway to economic opportunity. To ensure that access is equitable and completion is attainable, the appropriate investments must be made to support students. Advancing this mission requires sufficient federal investment in financial aid, institutional innovation, and opportunities that enhance student success.

- Student loan debt is the second-largest source of personal debt in the United States, totaling \$1.3 trillion.
- Postsecondary enrollment has nearly doubled since 2000, with more than a 62% increase in students applying for federal financial assistance.
- More than 27 million students and families, with a majority of recipients reporting family incomes below \$30,000, rely on federal student financial aid programs.
- Median annual earnings are two times higher and unemployment rates are cut in half for individuals who attain a postsecondary credential, compared to individuals with a high school diploma or less.

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2015



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey



INVESTING IN CAREERS AND LIFELONG LEARNING

The United States is facing a skills gap, and many employers are in need of individuals with workforce and technical competencies. At the same time, as many as 22 million Americans are considered underemployed, and youth unemployment is twice the national average. In addition to early childhood, K–12, and postsecondary education, the need exists for credentials and certificates that indicate workers have targeted skills to succeed in the workforce.

- Funding for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act has declined by 23% since 2007, despite being the sole federal investment in state career and technical education (CTE) systems and the largest federal investment in our nation's high schools.
- Over 13 million people nationwide seek assistance from programs in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

INVESTING IN EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS

Research and statistics provide the foundation for understanding teaching and learning in every aspect of education. In K–12 education, the Every Student Succeeds Act will increase demands on schools to implement evidence-based strategies to improve instruction leading to greater student achievement. The federal investment in research, data collection, and technical assistance to support state and local decisions should follow the same trajectory.

- The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) is the nation's main source of federally funded education research and statistics.
- Funding for education research represents less than 1% of discretionary appropriations at the Department of Education.
- Federal funding for IES in FY 2016 was level with FY 2009 appropriations.

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION FUNDING

The Committee for Education Funding (CEF) is America's oldest and largest education coalition, reflecting the broad spectrum of the education community. Founded in 1969, CEF and its more than 115 member organizations have worked toward the common goal of maximizing federal support for our nation's education system. Annually, CEF releases a comprehensive summary of the President's proposed budget with additional information on federal funding for education programs, titled *Education Matters: Investing in America's Future*. Additional information can be found at [CEF.org](http://www.cef.org).