The Economic Imperative for More Adults to Complete College
New York

Higher Skills Needed for Today’s Economic Recovery
And Tomorrow’s Economic Growth

New York Unemployment Rates (%) by Level of Education (2009)

- Less Than High School: 13.1%
- High School Graduate or GED: 8.5%
- Some College - No Degree: 8.8%
- Associate’s Degree: 6.1%
- Bachelor’s Degree: 6.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey (Public Use Microdata Sample)

Demand for College-Educated Workers will Keep Rising Over the Next Ten Years

- Between 2008 and 2018, demand for workers with postsecondary education will rise by 6.2 percent in New York, while demand for other workers will grow more slowly at 4.0 percent.
- Between 2008 and 2018, state labor demand will increase over twice as much for college-educated workers (359,000 additional jobs) as for high school graduates and dropouts (137,000 additional jobs).
- By 2018, over 63 percent of jobs in New York (and nearly two-thirds of jobs in the nation) will require some postsecondary education or training.

Less Educated Workers are More Likely to Be Out of Work

- Even during tough economic times, skills and credentials matter for labor market success.
- In New York, adults without a high school credential are 1.5 times as likely to be out of work as adults with some college education (13.1 percent vs. 8.8 percent).
- New Yorkers who have completed high school fare much better than dropouts, but even these workers face unemployment rates that are one-third higher than adults with an associate’s or bachelor’s degree (8.5 percent vs. 6.3 percent).

Educational Distribution of New York Jobs in 2008 and 2018 (projected) (in thousands)

- High School Graduates and Dropouts
- Some College or Better

2008
- High School Graduates and Dropouts: 3440
- Some College or Better: 5775

2018
- High School Graduates and Dropouts: 3577
- Some College or Better: 6134

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Aging Population Means No Future Growth in High School Graduates, and Sharply Rising College Enrollment Among Adults


Number of High School Graduates Will Level Off, But Trends Split by Race/Ethnicity

- From 2010 to 2020 there will be a steep drop in the number of high school graduates in New York, with a projected statewide decline of 15.0 percent. This is significantly worse than the trend in most states. (The nationwide trend is flat.)
- Different racial/ethnic groups will experience varied rates of growth and decline in public high school graduates statewide. In particular, the number of Asian/Pacific Islander graduates will rise, while the number of graduates from other racial/ethnic groups will stay constant or fall.

Projected Change between 2010 and 2020 in Total High School Graduates, by State


Prepared by the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) and the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) June 2011