

Pa. Partnerships for Children data: Education tied to economic indicators

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New data shows a large gap between people with less than a high-school diploma and those of other educational levels for economic indicators like median household incomes, poverty rates and unemployment rates in Central Pennsylvania.

The [Pennsylvania Partnerships For Children](#), a Harrisburg-based nonprofit child advocacy group, today released the data to push for increased state and local attention to the issue and to re-engage out-of-school youth, said Joan L. Benso, the group's president and chief executive officer.

[Median Household Income](#) is about \$10,000 more for workers with at least a high-school degree in Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon and York counties, according to the data.

[Poverty Rates](#) were more than triple for those without a high-school diploma. [Unemployment Rates](#) were more than double for those with and those without a high-school diploma, except in Cumberland and Lancaster counties.

"The high-school diploma is a gateway to higher post-secondary training, which produces family-sustaining wages," Benso said, "but a high-school diploma is not enough anymore."

Students need to continue with education and training after high school to be larger contributors to the economy, she said.

The partnership's data is built on information from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2007 [American Community Survey](#).

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