

DROPOUTS: THEY'RE OUR BUSINESS

6 Things You Need to Know About Dropping Out of School



The first step to almost every dream is to stay in school. And while most students don't like every aspect of the classroom, the truth is that school is a lot like practice. Think of the most successful athletes or performers you know. Chances are, their success happened after months or maybe even years of practice. They might have been tempted to quit several times, but they kept going. They didn't give up. And eventually their hard work (their practice) paid off.

The same is true for school. It may not seem as much fun as what you envision yourself doing down the road, but it is exactly what you need to get there. It will pay off! Just like a professional athlete who drags himself to practice early in the morning, focus on why you're doing the hard work now. Picture yourself at graduation, in college, or cashing that first big paycheck. When you focus on why you're in school it's a little easier to stay motivated, study hard and pay attention. School is for you!—the future, successful you!

CPS High School Showcase

January 26, 2012

4-7 p.m.

Cintas Center Concourse
Xavier University

- 1. It will not make your life better or easier.** In fact, the opposite is true. Even if academics are difficult for you, don't give up. Having a high school diploma, regardless of your final GPA, will make it easier for you to get a job, job training or even into college.
- 2. Dropping out takes away options.** Though you might think there's no chance you'll be interested in college, dropping out will take away that option if you later change your mind. Many people who don't do well in high school end up doing just fine in college, where they can concentrate on subjects they like.
- 3. Dropping out gives you a lot of free time—**too much free time!—which can lead to self-destructive behavior, including drug and/or alcohol abuse. A higher percentage of dropouts end up in trouble and even in jail than people with a high school diploma.
- 4. Pregnancy is not a good reason to drop out!** Talk to your school counselor or GEARUP specialist before you take such a drastic step. Many schools provide assistance to help pregnant teens and teen mothers stay in school.
- 5. Being a dropout is hard.** Going back to school as an adult is not easy and it often costs you money—high school can be free.
- 6. Dropping out is not cool,** it does not make you a tough guy, nor does it mean you are grown up or more mature. True adults do the right thing for themselves and their families, and the right thing isn't always the easiest thing.