



In North Dakota graduation pays:

Linking student success
in high school to
economic prosperity.



quality education = student success = economic prosperity



North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, North Dakota University System, North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board, North Dakota Career and Technical Education

CONNECTING EDUCATION WITH 21ST CENTURY JOBS

Global competition

The increased use of technology and the ability to communicate with anyone - anywhere - has escalated the rate of change in North Dakota and around the world. North Dakota's workforce competes, not only with people around the block but nationally; including educated people in developing countries of the world.

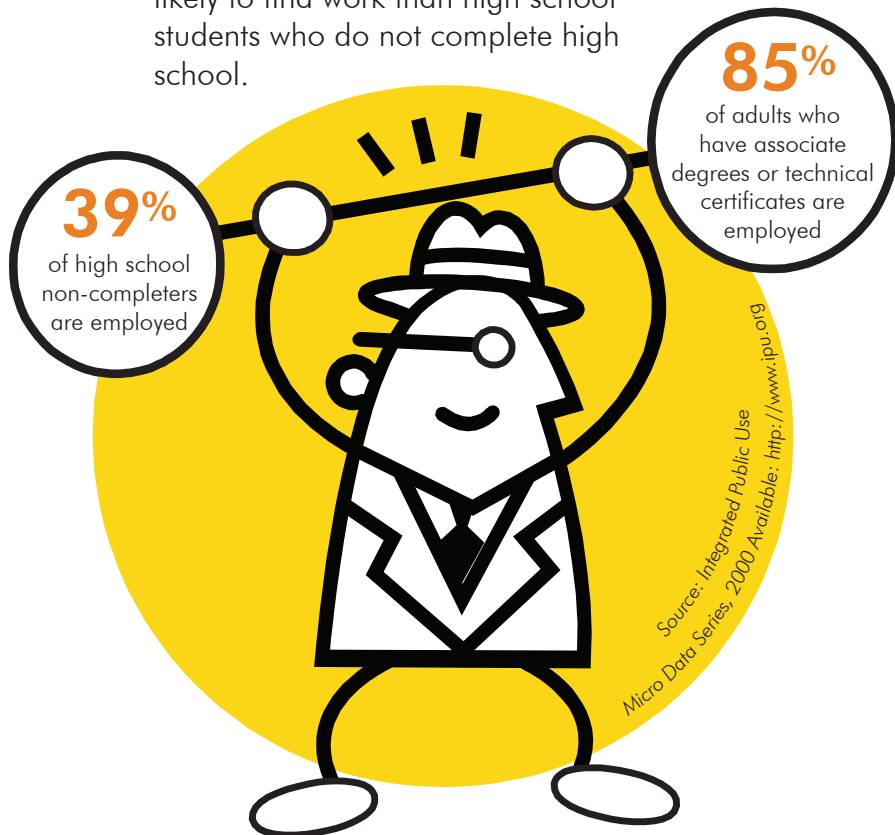
College and work requirements have changed a great deal since the 1960's, yet our high schools have changed little in either environment or curriculum. Scores from current ACT tests indicate that North Dakota students need to be better prepared in math and science to adequately respond to projected labor shortages such as health care and education.

Academic preparation for college is the best predictor for success

Nearly two thirds of North Dakota students who expressed interest in health care, education, information technology, management and engineering are ready for first year college English courses; only one-half are prepared for college-level social science courses; less than one-half are prepared for college math or science courses.

Education is the strength of North Dakota employability

Community college graduates are more likely to find work than high school students who do not complete high school.



Math and science are key engines that drive the 21st Century economy. North Dakota's energy and value-added agricultural industries are especially well-positioned for future growth.

Demand higher college completion rates

36% of 2 year program graduates complete within 3 years, and 47% of 4 year program graduates complete within 6 years

**Community
Colleges (2 Year)**

36%



**Bachelor's Degree
Institutions (4 Year)**

47%

Source: America's Career Information Network, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2004



21st Century employers expect high school graduates to be able to demonstrate skills in communications, writing, problem solving, teamwork, critical thinking and decision making.

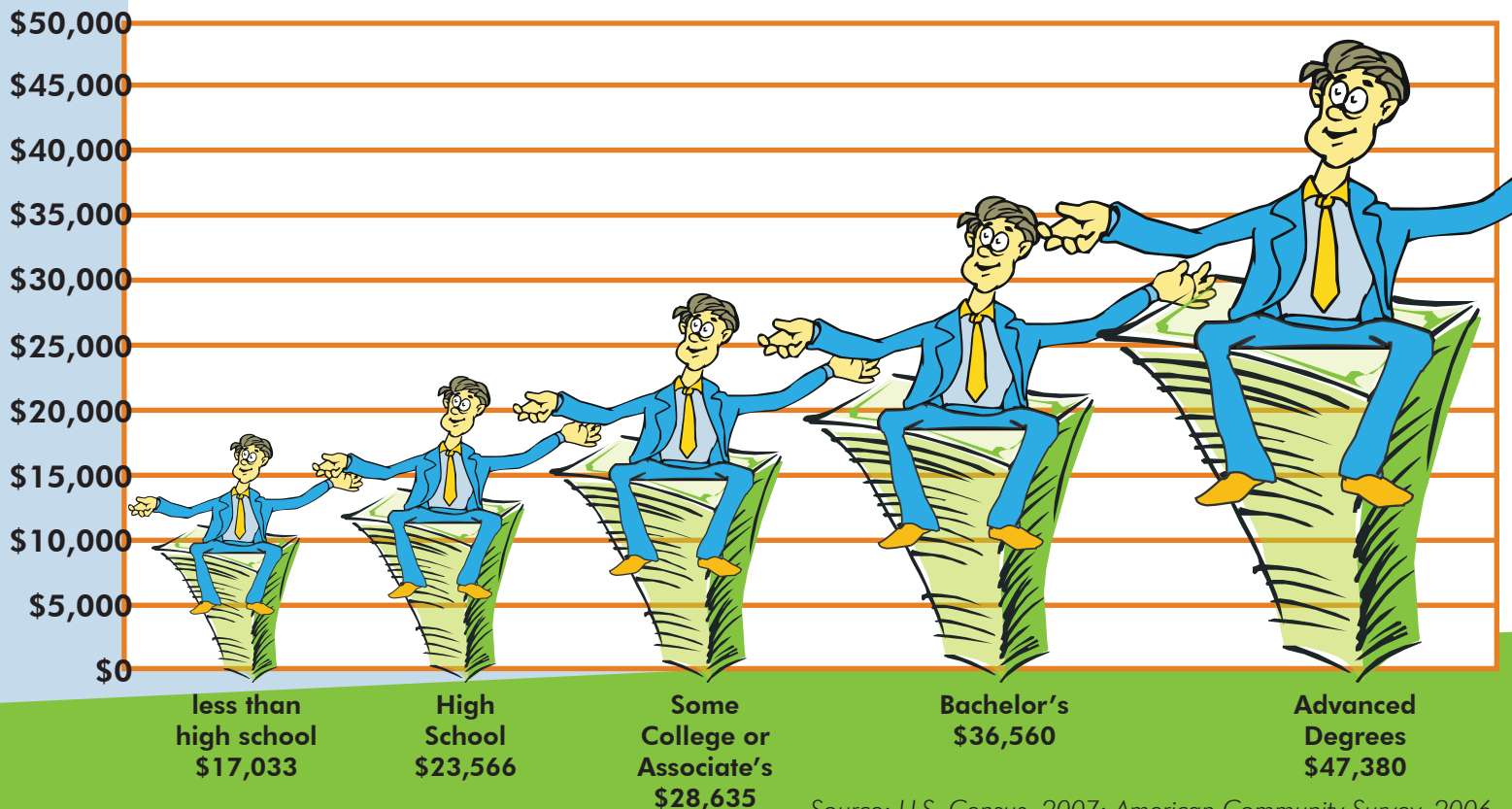
To ensure North Dakota's children can compete, students must have access to a high quality education. High school graduates must meet the challenges of college and the world of work - both choices require the same level of preparation.

For these reasons, it is critical that

- 1) high school students have the knowledge, skills and abilities required for the workforce and college success,
- 2) schools are staffed with well-qualified educators,
- 3) achievable goals are set, progress is measured and institutions are held accountable for student success,
- 4) high schools are designed to provide challenging courses,
- 5) all levels of governance are reviewed and adjusted to remove roadblocks to student success, and
- 6) all students have the necessary support for success, such as tutoring services and career counseling.

The more you learn, the more you earn

In North Dakota, a graduate with a bachelor's degree makes nearly \$20,000 more per year, on average, than a student who does not complete high school.



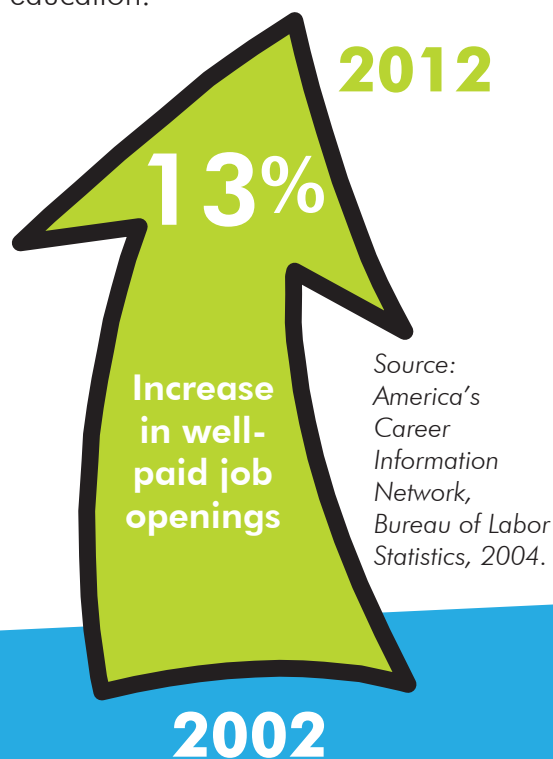
Source: U.S. Census, 2007; American Community Survey, 2006

represents a broad sector of North Dakota state agencies, businesses and educators committed to helping students respond to critical workforce needs and preparing them for a prosperous future in North Dakota.

Although North Dakota's high school graduation rate is high, only 23% of those graduates are prepared for college or work. Research indicates that when expectations are raised, more students stay in high school and graduate prepared for college and work.

Want more for our children? Insist on college-ready graduation

By 2012, North Dakota will see a 13% increase in well-paying jobs for computer and software engineers, nurses and teachers. These jobs require at least some postsecondary education.



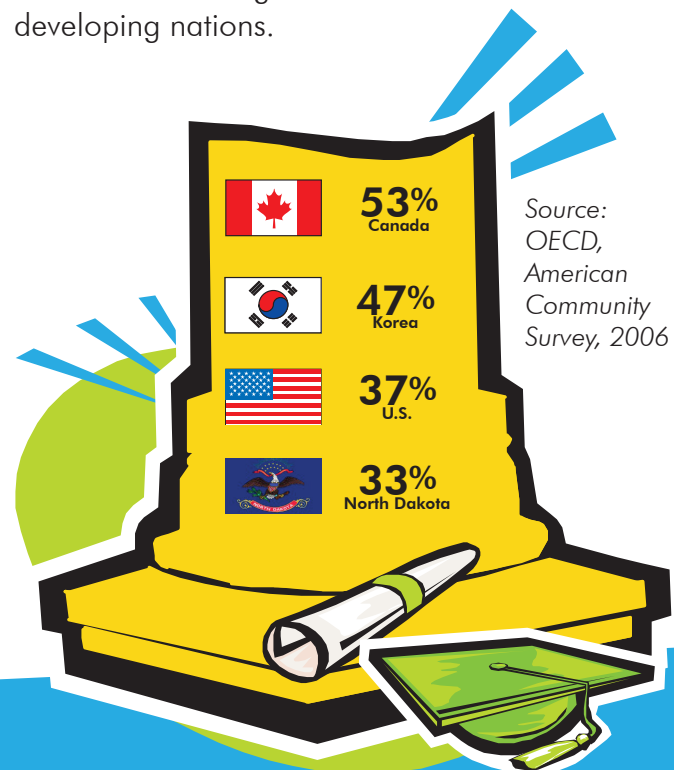
Educated workforce needed

North Dakota's recent economic growth in the advanced manufacturing, technology and energy fields is responsible for the creation of many new businesses and thousands of jobs. Skill shortages in high demand fields have the potential to hamper the state's economy. Current and future labor projections serve as a wake-up call. Education leaders must partner with leaders in government and business and must be proactive and bold in their response to this challenge; all must support meaningful improvement.

There is hard work ahead, but if we choose to support quality education, the benefits will be substantial. Better income and better jobs for our children will be the result!

North Dakota's economic vitality

33% of North Dakota's workforce has at least an associate's degree or higher, which is lower than the US average and that of other developing nations.



What Can You Do...

as a student?

- Know the educational requirements for the career you may choose to pursue
- Take rigorous classes
- Visit a career counselor and develop a career plan

as an educator?

- Continue your education
- Support higher student expectations
- Challenge all students

as a North Dakota citizen?

- Let your school board and your legislators know that high school graduates must be better prepared
- Support your teachers

as a parent?

- Review and understand ACT scores and other standardized tests
- Speak to policy makers about establishing graduation requirements that adequately prepare students for the 21st Century
- Contact your school district about your student's career counseling needs

as a school board?

- Increase high school graduation requirements
- Require more challenging courses
- Provide comprehensive career planning to link academic achievement to careers

Better preparation

ACT core courses include 4 or more years of English; 3 or more years of mathematics; 3 or more years of social studies and; 3 or more years of natural sciences.

62% of high school graduates take challenging, core courses recommended by ACT yet

only 22% of ND students meet or exceed ACT benchmarks, which are indicators of a student's readiness to succeed in college

Source: ACT College Readiness Report, 2008

North Dakota's comparative innovation

North Dakota is producing a smaller share of students with degrees in science, math and engineering which falls below the US average and that of many other nations.

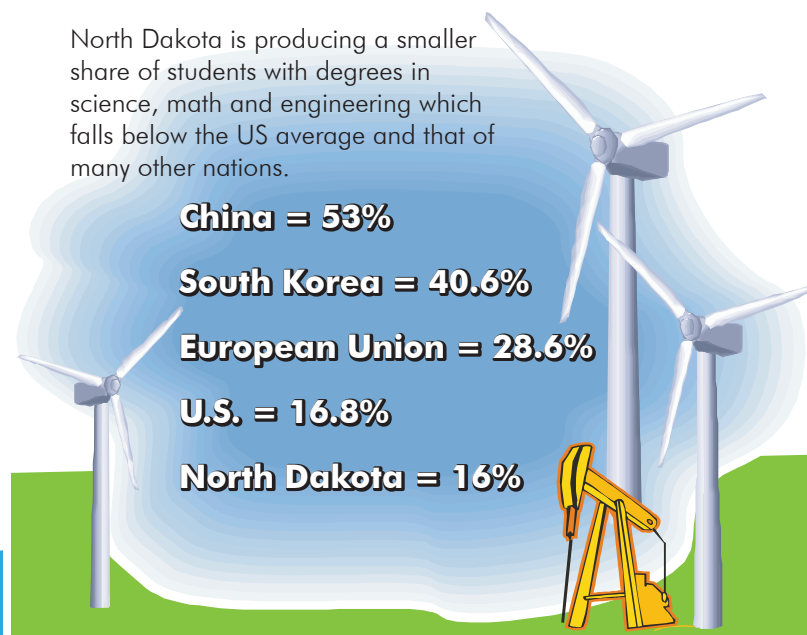
China = 53%

South Korea = 40.6%

European Union = 28.6%

U.S. = 16.8%

North Dakota = 16%



Source: National Science Foundation 2006; U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 2004.

Do you know that...

- ..North Dakota has one of the highest high school graduation rates in the nation and one of the highest rates of high school students going immediately to college, but one of the lowest rates of students completing college?
- ..41% of 4th grade students are proficient or advanced in math and 35% of 8th grade students are proficient or advanced in math (NAEP); and yet by high school, only 23% are prepared for college (ACT)?
- ..27% of incoming college students are taking remedial math and English courses?
- ..for every 100 students in the 9th grade, 27 will not go immediately to college; 32 will not finish college; and only 25 will earn a degree within a reasonable time?
- ..while North Dakota's achievement is stable, regional states are advancing in both ACT composite and sub test scores in math, science, English and reading?
- ..for the first time in 2004, North Dakota's college loan default rate surpassed the national average?
- ..students say they would work harder if their school set higher standards and raised expectations?