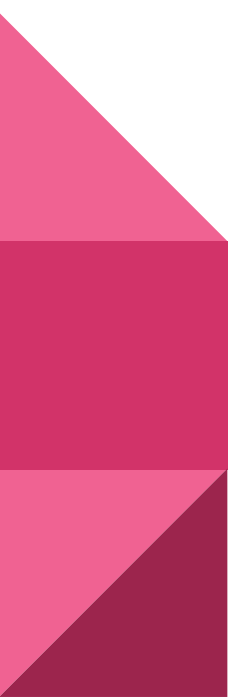


Chapter 1: Dropout Rates

Madeline Campbell - November, 2018 - Urban Politics

Current Numbers

- In April of 2013 the graduation rate in the United States was at 80%
- This means 1 in 5 students were dropping out every year
- 718,000 students a year
- 4,000 students a day



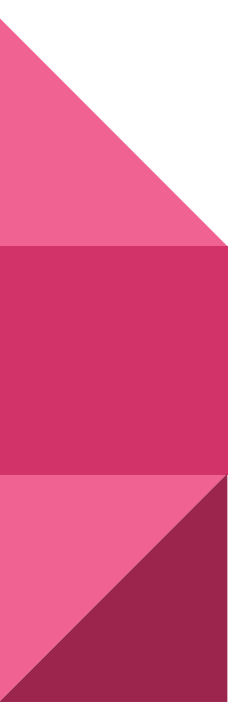
4 Year Graduation Rates (2011-2012)

- US total = 80%
- Asian American = 88%
- White = 86%
- Hispanic = 73%
- Black = 69%
- American Indian / Native American = 67%



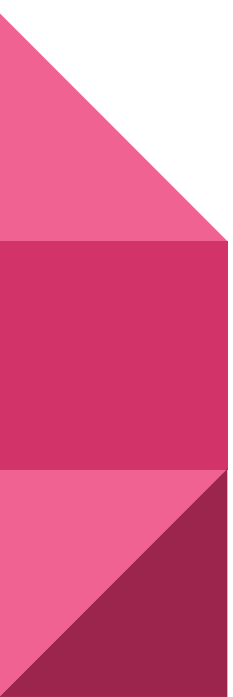
Differences in Graduation Rate Causes

- Low income students fall far behind their peers
- English learners and special education students have below average graduation rates
- Black and Hispanic students graduate with less frequency than White and Asian American students
- Graduation rates vary among states



Consequences

- Earn \$260,000 less in their lifetime than a graduate
- Live shorter lives by 6 to 9 years
- 80% depend on government for health care assistance
- Make up 67% of state prison population
- 56% of federal inmates
- 69% of population in local jails



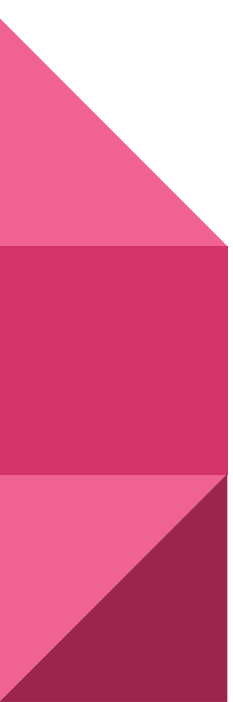
Economically Speaking

- If all dropouts graduated an additional \$50 billion would be added to the federal income tax annually
- If all students were brought up to the minimum proficiency level the US would add \$72 trillion to its GDP over the lifetime of a child born in 2010



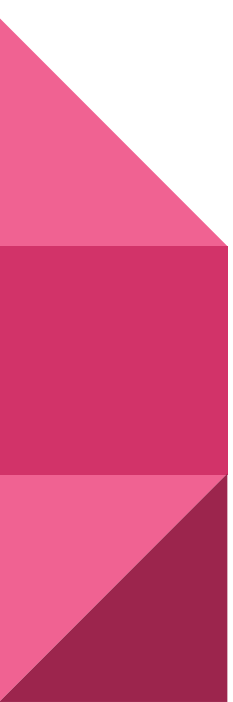
So why does drop out happen?

- Poverty
- Crime
- Special needs
- Gang influence
- Street Violence
- Boredom
- Family Health Issues
- Lack of support from parents and teachers



Successful State Programs

- **Council Bluffs, Iowa**
 - Appointed graduation coaches to at risk students
 - Attendance facilitator worked with each school to increase attendance
 - Enlisted the help of concerned parents as volunteers
- **Darlington County, South Carolina**
 - One on one intervention for struggling students
 - Dropout prevention facilitator
 - Comprehensive k-12 reading curriculum
 - Self directed learning at high school level
 - Strict attendance policy



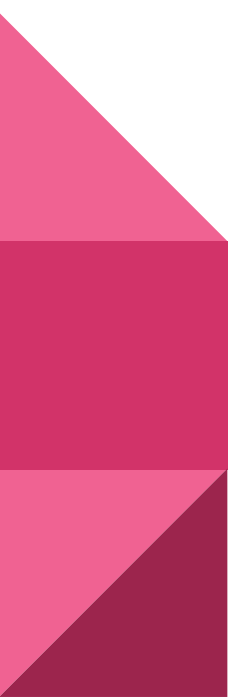
Presidential Proposals

- JFK initiates campaign to publicize the dropout issue (1963)
- George HW Bush vows to be the “education president” (1988)
 - 90% graduation rate by year 2000
 - National performance goals be reached by 2000
- Bill Clinton focuses on education as well (1992)
 - Goals 2000 initiative is passed in 1994
 - Educate america act
 - Improving America’s schools act



Presidential Proposals

- George W Bush announced No Child Left Behind three days after being inaugurated (2001)
 - Signed in to law in January 2002
 - Primary objective was again, to increase high school graduation rates
- Barack Obama addressed drop out rates for the first time in his 2009 State of the Union Address
 - Race to the Top was approved in February 2009



So What to do?

- Graduation rates are still continuing to increase after being at a stand still for many years
- Arguments in Congress over whether education is a federal or state issue
- Education “failure” can’t be fully fixed without also fixing the social and economic problems that cause it



Exam Questions

- What group of students graduates at the lowest percentage in the United States?
 - American indian / native american at a rate of 67%
- How much money would be added to the federal income tax annually if all dropouts graduated?
 - \$50 billion
- What is the program called that George W Bush introduced to increase high school graduation rates?
 - No Child Left Behind

