

## Staying in School May Help You Get What You Want in Life

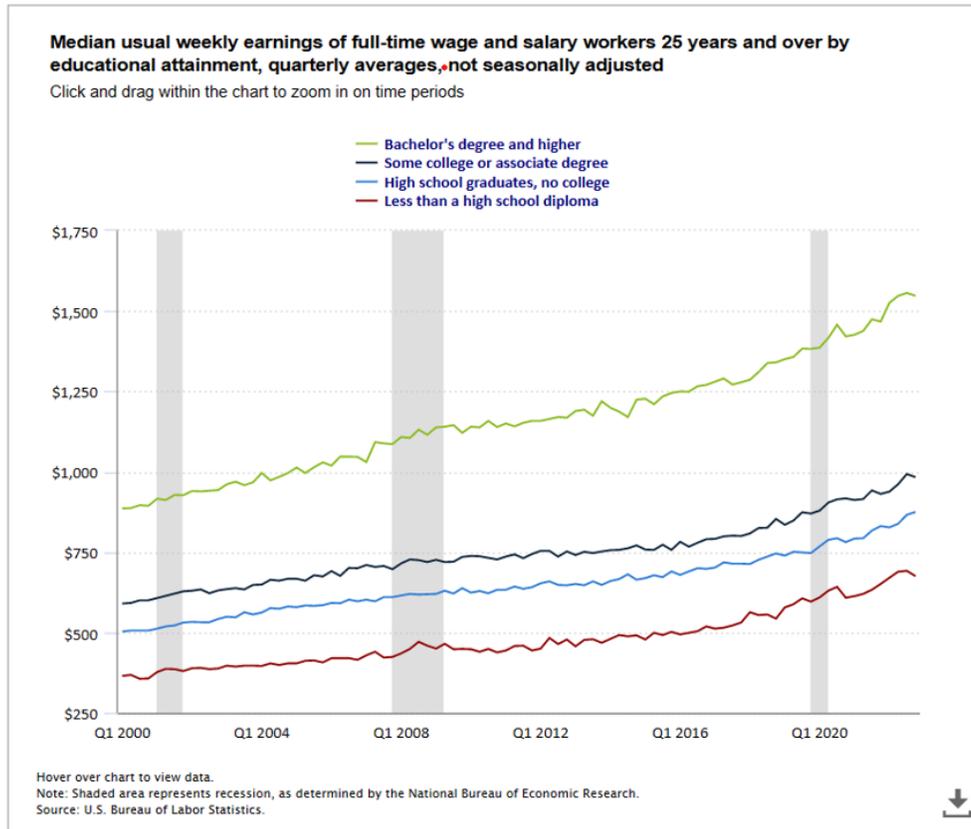
We know school takes a lot of your time and effort. You might feel like teachers don't listen or work with you and you sometimes may feel like fellow students are just unfriendly. Schools can be stressful and you'd rather be doing something else more enjoyable. We understand. However, before making the big decision of giving up on school or not continuing with your education, there is some information you need to know in order for you to make a sound and well informed decision that may help you to achieve your goals and may help you to be able to afford the things you want in life.

### ***The Stats***

***Below are statistics and charts from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (a reputable source)***

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<b>Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2020</b>		
<b>Educational attainment</b>	<b>Median usual weekly earnings</b>	<b>Unemployment rate</b>
Doctoral degree	\$1,885	2.5%
Professional degree	1,893	3.1
Master's degree	1,545	4.1
Bachelor's degree	1,305	5.5
Associate degree	938	7.1
Some college, no degree	877	8.3
High school diploma, no college	781	9.0
Less than a high school diploma	619	11.7

Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.



<b>Amount of School</b>	<b>Annual income</b>	<b>Income over a lifetime (65 years until retirement)</b>
<b>Less than High School Diploma/GED</b>	<b>\$32,000</b>	<b>1.5 Million</b>
<b>High School Diploma/GED</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>	<b>1.9 Million</b>
<b>Some College</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	<b>2.1 Million</b>
<b>Associate Degree</b>	<b>\$48,000</b>	<b>2.2 Million</b>
<b>Bachelor's Degree</b>	<b>\$68,000</b>	<b>3 Million</b>

*It takes at least \$30,000 per year to live in Las Vegas.*

*The average cost of a home in Nevada is \$375,000.*

*The average cost of owning a car for a year in Nevada is \$4,232*

### **Why Staying in School May Be Needed to Achieve Your Goals**

- ✓ **Based on the cost of living in NV, you only have \$2,000 extra expendable income if you don't graduate HS or get a GED (Less than a HS Diploma as mentioned in the above charts). You cannot afford to own a car on this income and \$2,000 is not a lot of money for going out for dinners, entertainment, travel, and buying things you like.**

- ✓ You make \$8,000 more a year just by getting your HS Diploma/GED than you do if have Less than a HS Diploma
- ✓ In comparison to having Less than a HS Diploma, you have \$8,000 extra per year if you get your Diploma/GED; \$13,000 extra per year if you have Some College, \$16,000 if you have an Associates Degree (approx 2 years of college); and \$28,000 extra per year if you get a Bachelor Degree (approx 4 years of college).
- ✓ In 5 years, the extra income from getting your HS Diploma/GED or going to even Some College could mean a nice car or downpayment on a house
- ✓ You can increase your income by 40% if you get your HS Diploma/GED and even take 1 course at community college/trade school/university and by 50% if you get a Bachelor Degree versus just having Less than a HS Diploma/GED.
- ✓ Based on statistical averages, you will spend more 6 years unemployed with Less than a High School Diploma than you will with a Bachelor's Degree over your lifetime. The years you are not employed with a Bachelor's Degree is likely based on being in college. Since you are earning more money in a higher paying job with a Bachelor's Degree, you won't be hurt as much in your unemployed years. If you have Less than a HS Diploma/GED, you are missing out on 6 years of income needed with a lower paying job already and may not be able to meet the cost of living in Las Vegas.

### **You Have Options and Now is the Best Time to Finish Your Education**

- ✓ You don't have to graduate from a typical high school or take all the required classes to go to college. You can take the GED instead of taking high school courses and go to community college.
- ✓ You don't have to attend a typical high school if you want a high school diploma. Most school districts offer: online education; adult education; alternative schools that offer classes at night, in the afternoons, and/or one at a time; or credit retrieval programs if you're behind in credits. These schools want students to graduate and will help you and you don't have to graduate in 4 years.
- ✓ You don't have to attend a college or university. You can attend a trade school or get a certificate. Those are considered "college" as well and can help you get a higher paying job
- ✓ Colleges have financial aid and some have scholarships. In-state community colleges or trade schools are considered great options for lower cost education and you are still considered a college graduate when you complete your program there. You graduate from the last college you attended so if you can't get into a bigger college or university that you want to go to, you

can attend community college and transfer to the bigger college later if you do well at community college.

- ✓ If you take even one class at a community college, you can put down “Some College” on your job application and you will have more opportunities for better jobs/higher pay. Jobs don’t often ask what class you took so you can take any class and still check off the “Some College” box on an application.
- ✓ It is easier to attend college or a school when you are younger and when you don’t have a family or other issues/life situations that come up later on in life that make going to school more difficult. Also going to school is sometimes easier when you just got your HS Diploma/GED as what you learned in HS/on the GED can help you do well in college.

*If you are interested in finding out more about the above,  
talk to your Community Navigator about options.*