

**stay** in  
**school**

Mechanic, Fashion Designer, Musician,

Artist, Nurse,

Pilot, Computer Programmer, Soldier, Cosmetologist

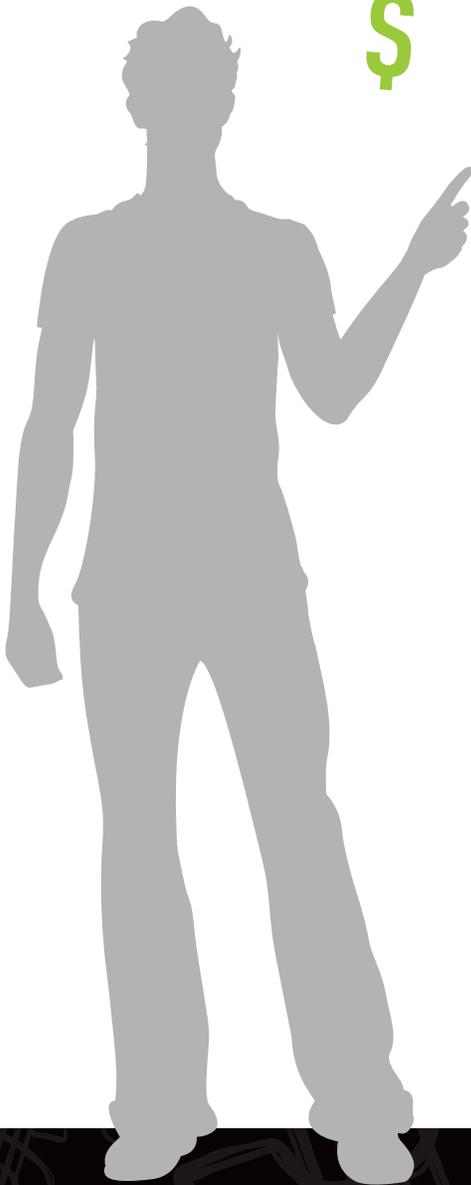
Would you Turn down an extra  
**\$172.00/week?**

# the more you learn, the more you earn

AVG. WEEKLY INCOME BY EDUCATION LEVEL FOR PEOPLE 25 AND OVER

EDUCATION LEVEL	WEEKLY
Less Than High School Diploma	\$ 454
High School Diploma	\$ 626
Some College, No Degree	\$ 700
Associate Degree	\$ 761
Bachelor's Degree	\$ 1025

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, Current Population Study, 2009



## Why should you stay in school when you don't want to be there?

Things will be fine for a while, but what about the rest of your life?

### Think about it.

Hanging out, watching TV, and riding around all day will get boring. And besides, where will you get the money you'll need to put gas in the car or shop at the mall?

## On average, high school dropouts make about \$454 a week.

That sounds like good money—and it is when you're only 16 or 18 years old.

## But what about when you're 30 or 40?

That's what you have to look forward to if you drop out of school—\$454 per week. That's just \$23,608 per year. Not bad for an 18 year old kid, but it's near poverty for a household of four.\*

\* According to the US Census Bureau

## Now what happens if you finish high school?

Well, on average, high school graduates earn about \$626 per week. How does an extra \$172 per week sound? Not great? No big deal? Think again.

You can earn an extra quarter million dollars, in your lifetime, just by staying in high school and graduating. Since high school graduates have more job opportunities than dropouts, you'll also have a better chance of getting a job that interests you. Now, doesn't that beat living your life in poverty and working at a job you hate?

Yes, school can be hard. It's a lot of work, and there are lots of rules that you may not like.

But understand this— education is your key to financial security and dropping out of school now will affect you for the rest of your life. And don't bet on getting your GED—that's even harder to get than a diploma!

# ADVICE FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE THINKING OF DROPPING OUT

## So Play it Smart. Stay in School.

And while you're at it, think about going on to higher education.

People who pursue a higher education, even just for two years, have more job opportunities and higher wages than the average high school graduates.

And, yes! You can afford it. So, are you still thinking of dropping out?

Think again! Dropping out is not a very good option. Talk with a parent, teacher, counselor, coach, minister, friend, or anyone else you can trust to help you make a good decision.

Do what you need to do and get the help you need to finish high school.

## The more you learn, the more you earn.

The resources below are web links to information to increase your awareness on the consequences of dropping out of high school and why it is in your best interest to stay in school.

[EducationPlanner.org](http://EducationPlanner.org)

[PHEAA.org](http://PHEAA.org) | 800.692.7392

[DropOutPrevention.org](http://DropOutPrevention.org)



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