

# EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO ECONOMIC SECURITY

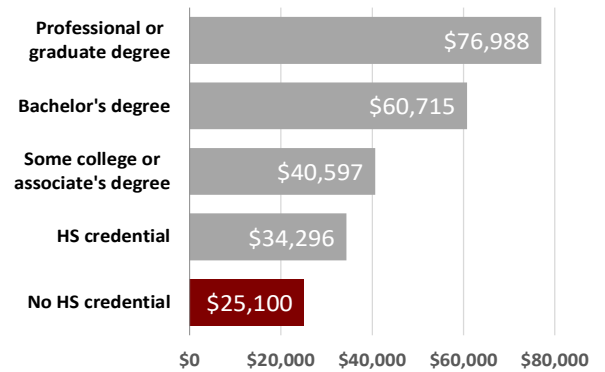
## Massachusetts adults without a high school credential...

The demand for well-educated, highly-skilled workers has never been higher than in today's economy. Not surprisingly, then, adults with low levels of educational attainment tend to fare far worse than their peers across a range of economic measures, leaving them unable to provide fully for themselves or their families.

**Massachusetts must continue its recent progress in restoring support for adult basic education if it is to build an economy to which everyone can contribute and in which everyone can succeed.**

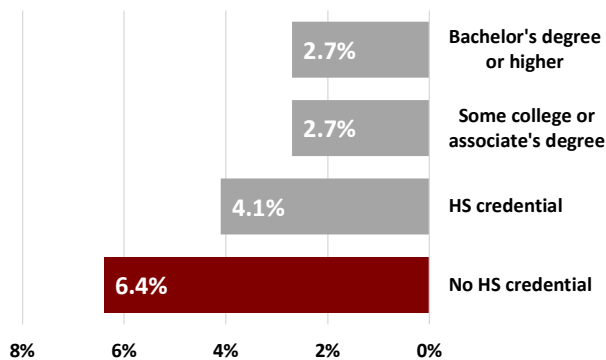
### ...earn less than their peers...

Adults in Massachusetts who have yet to obtain a high school credential typically earn far less than adults who have completed high school or college. In fact, adults aged 25 and older who lack a high school credential had median earnings of just \$25,100 during the 2013-2017 period; median earnings for adults who had achieved such a credential were 37 percent higher – or \$34,296.



Median annual earnings by educational attainment, Massachusetts adults aged 25 and older, 2013-2017

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

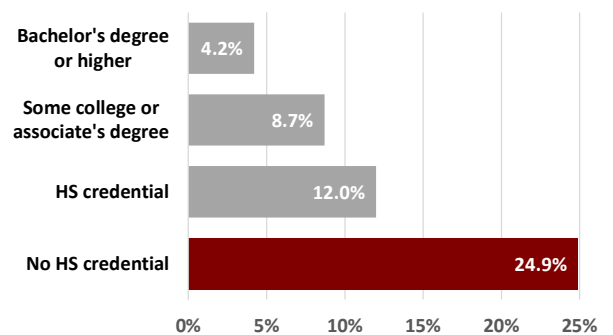


Unemployment rates by educational attainment, Massachusetts adults aged 25 and older, 2017-2018

Source: MA Department of Unemployment Assistance

### ...are less likely to hold a job...

Similarly, the chances of being out of work are much higher for less-educated workers in the Commonwealth. For the year ending August 2018, 6.4 percent of adults aged 25 and older who lack a high school credential were unemployed in Massachusetts – twice the overall unemployment rate of 3.2 percent.



Poverty rates by educational attainment, Massachusetts adults aged 25 and older, 2013-2017

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

### ...and face higher poverty rates.

During the 2013-2017 period, nearly 25 percent of adults aged 25 and older without a high school credential fell below the poverty line, while those with such a credential had a poverty rate of less than half that figure.

## INVEST IN MASSACHUSETTS INVEST IN ADULT BASIC EDUCATION



**MCAE: The Voice of Adult Education in Massachusetts**

For more on adult education in Massachusetts, including a list of sources for this fact sheet, please visit [www.mcae.net](http://www.mcae.net).

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