

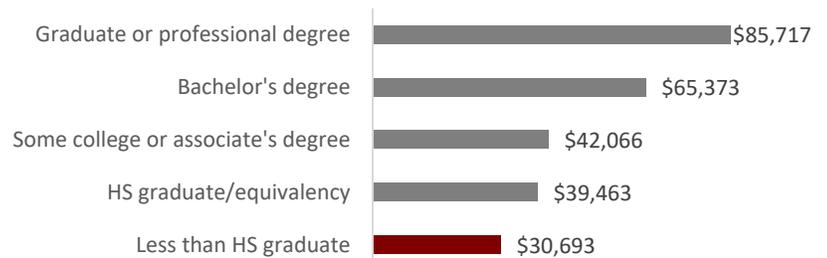
EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO ECONOMIC SECURITY

Massachusetts adults without a high school credential...

Education is a key determinant for economic security, especially in times of uncertainty and with more and more jobs requiring specialized skills, knowledge, and training. Not surprisingly, 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, and contributing far less to the state's economy. **Massachusetts must continue its recent progress in supporting adult basic education in order to build and sustain an economy to which everyone can contribute and in which everyone can succeed.**

...earn less than their peers...

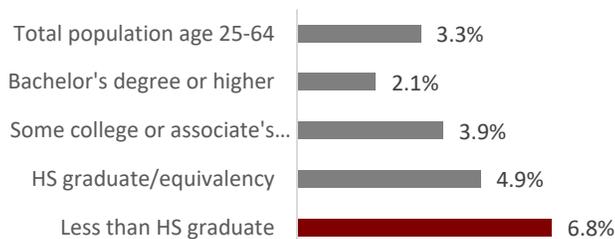
Adults in Massachusetts who have yet to obtain a high school credential typically earn far less than adults who have completed high school or college. In fact, adults aged 25 and older who lack a high school credential had median earnings of just \$30,693 in 2019; median earnings for adults who had achieved such a credential were nearly 30 percent higher.



Average earnings by educational attainment
Massachusetts adults age 25-64, 2019
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

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

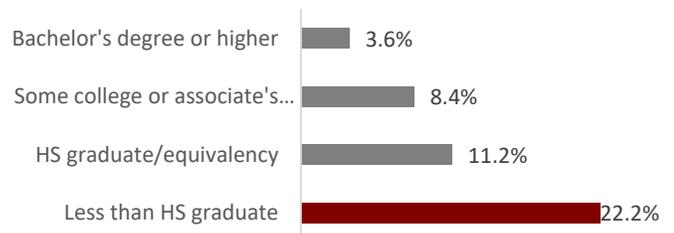
Similarly, the chances of being out of work are much higher for less-educated workers in the Commonwealth. In 2019, 6.8 percent of adults aged 25 and older who lack a high school credential were unemployed in Massachusetts – more than twice the overall unemployment rate of 3.3 percent.



Unemployment rate by educational attainment
Massachusetts adults age 25-64, 2019
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

...and face higher poverty rates.

In 2019, 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 half that figure.



Poverty rate by educational attainment
Massachusetts adults age 25-64, 2019
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

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.

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