

## SCHOOL FAILURE

### Many Americans do not complete high school :

The national graduation rate is 72% for females and 64% for males, according to a 2004 report. Of all students who entered ninth grade in 2000, only 68% will graduate in 2004. Of the 9.6 million 15- to 24-year-olds enrolled in high school, approximately 500,000 dropped out of high school.

### A lack of education correlates with crime rates:

A one-year increase in average education levels reduces arrest rates by 11%, lowers the murder and assault rates by about 30%, motor vehicle theft by 20%, arson by 13%, and burglary and larceny by about 6%.

**Approximately 50% of students labeled with emotional or behavior disorders dropped out of school; only 42% of those who remained in school graduated with a diploma.**

- Children with mental disorders fail more courses, earn lower grade point averages, and miss more days of school than children with other disabilities.
- 11 million children and adolescents in America have psychosocial mental health or developmental problems that contribute to barriers in learning.
- Only 60% of youth with mental illnesses are employed a year after leaving high school and less than 10% move on to post-secondary education.

**10% of children and adolescents suffer from mental illness severe enough to cause impairment, yet nearly 80% do not receive needed services.**

- Currently there are 513 students per school counselor, the recommended ratio is 250:1.
- For nearly half the children with serious emotional disturbances who received services, the school was the only provider.
- A study of 12 special education classrooms found that children with emotional disturbances did not receive appropriate services until they were 10 years old.

**Untreated mental illness among youth leads to school failure, delinquency, substance abuse and entrance into the criminal justice system.**

- 65% of males and 75% of females in the juvenile justice system have at least one psychiatric diagnosis.
- Over 2/3 of all dollars spent on juvenile justice go to housing mentally ill youth in juvenile detention facilities.
- Youth prisons with little or no mental health programs cost more than college tuition - approximately \$37,000 annually per youth.

### The lack of a high school diploma is costly to states and society as a whole:

In 2001, 16% of 20 to 24 year olds without a high school diploma were unemployed. There are \$200 billion in lost earning and unrealized tax revenue for each high school dropout over the course of a lifetime. One state estimated savings of \$130 million annually if high school dropouts had graduated and received public assistance at the same rate as other high school graduates. Adults without a high school diploma had a median income of under \$12,000 in 2001 – only \$3,000 over the federal poverty level.

**Investing in early identification and intervention for serious emotional disturbances, helps children graduate and lead independent and productive lives.**