

Local News

> [News](#) > [Local News](#)

Print this Page

[←-back to story](#)

Programs aim to get dropouts back on track

By GREG HAYES - ghayes@sungazette.com

POSTED: March 14, 2010

At least two area programs are reconnecting high school dropouts with educational opportunities - an effort that aligns with the state's newest initiative to use similar systems as a launching pad for success for dropouts ages 16 to 24.

The initiative "Operation Restart: Getting Dropouts Back on Track" is detailed in a recent report by the Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children that highlights the economic benefits the state could reap by plugging young dropouts back into educational systems to achieve degrees.

The new initiative is dedicated to making dropout re-engagement a public policy for the state in 2010 and beyond, according to the partnership.

The report, "Re-engaging High School Dropouts as a Growth Strategy for Pennsylvania," states the 120,000 dropouts cost the state, local and federal governments money through lost revenue, increased crime and social spending on government programs.

A dropout in Pennsylvania consumes \$683 more annually in publicly funded programs than he or she contributes in taxes, according to the report.

Those who possess either a high school diploma or some degree pay \$9,485 more annually in taxes than they consume in government spending.

Should dropouts up to age 25 reconnect to their education and earn a high school credential plus receive some post-secondary education, they would contribute more than \$1.1 billion, instead of costing governments some \$81 million each year in publicly funded programs, according to the report.

"This report clearly shows that high school dropouts are a drain on Pennsylvania's economy," said Joan L. Benso, president and CEO of the partnership. "But by re-engaging high school dropouts in their education and the work force and helping them earn family-sustaining wages that contribute to the revenue base, we can help not only this population - but the commonwealth - get back on track."

Based on data collected from 2005 to 2007 by the U.S. Census Bureau, 12.9 percent of people ages 25 to 64 in Lycoming County have less than a high school diploma, and 744 high school dropouts ages 16 to 24 were reported.

Of the high school dropouts ages 25 to 64 living in Lycoming County, 29.4 percent live in poverty, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

More than 70 percent of jobs in the state require workers with education beyond high school, and good jobs for dropouts that pay self- and family-sustaining wages are scarce, the partnership said.


[Subscribe to Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

Share:

[Facebook](#)
[MySpace](#)
[Digg](#)
[Stumble](#)
[Buzz up!](#)
[Mixx](#)
[Fark](#)
[del.icio.us](#)
[LiveSpaces](#)

Tonight in Prime Time

	8:00 PM	8:30 PM	9:00 PM	9:30 PM	10:00 PM	10:30 PM
	20/20 New				Castle	
	How I Met Your Mother	Rules of Engagement New	Two and a Half Men	The Big Bang Theory	CSI: Miami	
	Chuck New		Trauma New		Law & Order New	
	House New		24 New		FOX 56 News at Ten New	
	Life Unexpected New		Gossip Girl New		Friends	That '70s Show

	8:00 PM	8:30 PM	9:00 PM	9:30 PM	10:00 PM	10:30 PM
 WVIA	Antiques Roadshow			Doo Wop 50		
View complete TV Listings						
