THE FACTS

Two-thirds of the public believes that the dropout rates of high school students are increasing and are far greater than they were 25 years ago (1997 Phi Delta Kappa-Gallup Poll). In fact, today dropout rates are lower than they were in the early 1970’s and 1980’s, with the most marked decline occurring among Black youths.

FEWER STUDENTS ARE DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL.

The job market in the United States has changed since the early 1970’s such that those without a high school education are unlikely to secure a well-paying job or have a well-paying career. Indeed, some economists predict that in the future the only way to have a well-paying job and career will be to complete some study beyond high school. More attention needs to be paid to ensuring that all students at least obtain a high school credential.