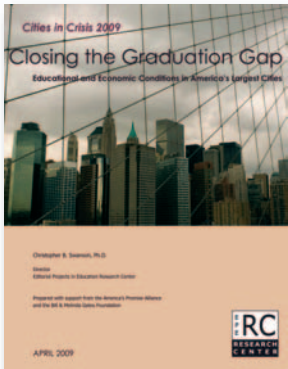


IN SPRING 2009, AMERICA'S PROMISE ALLIANCE RELEASED A REPORT SHOWING THAT ONLY ABOUT HALF (53 PERCENT) OF ALL YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE NATION'S 50 LARGEST CITIES ARE GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL ON TIME.



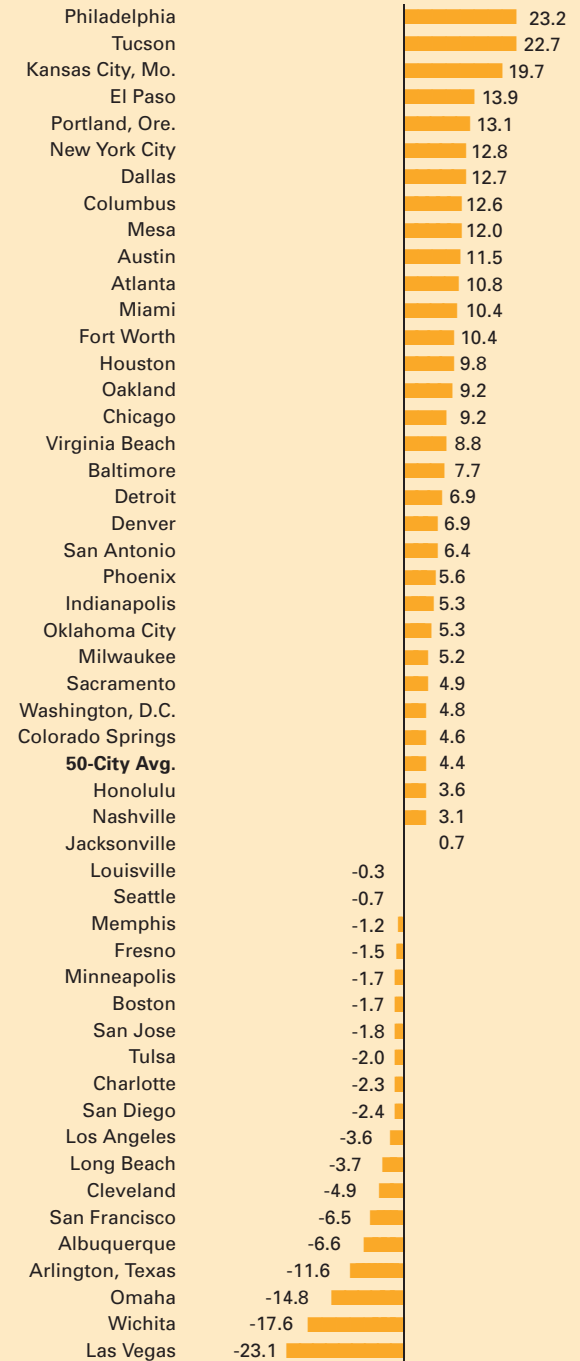
Cities in Crisis 2009: Closing the Graduation Gap, prepared for the Alliance by the Editorial Projects in Education Research Center, found that despite some progress made by several of these cities between 1995-2005, the average graduation rate of the 50 largest cities is well below the national average of 71 percent and graduation rates in suburban schools were on average 18 percentage points higher than urban schools.

Cities in Crisis 2009 also looked at the economic and employment landscape for those with varied educational levels, including those without a high school diploma. The report revealed that:

- Those who drop out of high school are less likely to be steadily employed, and earn less income when they are employed, compared with those who graduate from high school.
- Only one-third (37 percent) of high school dropouts nationwide are steadily employed and they are more than twice as likely to live in poverty.
- High school dropouts are 13 percent of the adult population, but account for less than six percent of all dollars earned in the U.S.
- In the 50 largest cities, the median income for high school dropouts is \$14,000 — significantly lower than the median income of \$24,000 for high school graduates and \$48,000 for college graduates.
- Nationally, high school dropouts were also the only group of workers who saw income levels decline over the last 30 years.

Funded in part by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, *Cities in Crisis 2009* analyzes school district data from the U.S. Department of Education's Common Core of Data (2004-05). The country's 50 largest cities were identified using 2006 data from the U.S. Census Bureau, and economic and employment conditions were gathered from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2007 American Community Survey.

PERCENTAGE-POINT CHANGE IN GRADUATION RATES, 1995 TO 2005



SOURCE: EPE Research Center, 2009. Analysis of data from the Common Core of Data (U.S. Department of Education).

For more information or to download a complete copy of the 30-page report, visit www.americaspromise.org.