

## Improving the Education of High School Students

“Let’s also make sure that a high school diploma puts our kids on a path to a good job... Now at schools like P-Tech in Brooklyn, a collaboration between New York Public Schools and City University of New York and IBM, students will graduate with a high school diploma and an associate’s degree in computers or engineering. We need to give every American student opportunities like this.”

- President Barack Obama

President Obama has encouraged all Americans to commit to at least one year of higher education or career training and has set the ambitious goal that America will have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020. This year’s high school freshmen will be the college graduating class of 2020. Yet far too many high school students are not engaged in or motivated by their academic experiences. Nearly one in four students in this country fails to graduate from high school on time, while many of the students who graduate have not been adequately prepared to succeed in college and the workforce. The President’s 2014 budget request proposes the following investments that will help America once again lead the world in college attainment and ensure that all high school students graduate ready for college and career success.

- **High School Redesign (\$300 million).** The budget supports a new competition that will fund district partnerships with (i) postsecondary institutions and (ii) business, industry, non-profits or community based organizations to redesign high schools. Redesigned high schools will ensure that students graduate from high school with college credit and career-related experience, putting them on a path to career and college success. Special consideration will be given to partnerships that focus on areas with limited access to quality career and college opportunities, such as high poverty and rural districts, as well as to partnerships with employers that can provide students with career-related experience or career-related credentials.
- **Reauthorized Perkins Career and Technical Education program (\$1.1 billion).** The President’s budget would fund a reauthorized Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. The reauthorization proposal will strengthen alignment among secondary and postsecondary CTE programs and business and industry; create a better accountability system for improving academic outcomes, technical skills, and employability outcomes; and provide competitive funding to promote innovation and reform in CTE.
- **Dual Enrollment Program (\$42 million).** This program will provide grants to establish or expand dual-enrollment programs for students in high school or adult education programs. The initiative will promote dual-enrollment programs that are aligned with career pathways and target local workforce needs. Research has shown that participation in dual-enrollment programs is linked to increased high school graduation, higher rates of college enrollment and persistence, and higher college credit accrual rates.
- **College Pathways and Accelerated Learning (\$102 million).** This program will increase graduation rates and college enrollment and success by providing college-level and other accelerated courses and instruction in low-income middle schools and high schools, including Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses.

- **Getting students through middle school and into college (\$1.1 billion).** This investment will support the GEAR UP and TRIO programs, which provide intensive services to students in middle school through college. GEAR UP, which serves students beginning in the middle grades, provides early college preparation and awareness activities to entire cohorts of students at individual schools to help them set on a path to higher education. The TRIO programs, which include Upward Bound and Talent Search, provide intensive support, including summer learning opportunities, for students in high school to help more low-income, first generation students access and succeed in higher education.
- **School Turnaround Grants (\$659 million).** The program will continue to fund grants to states and subgrants from States to districts to help low-performing schools implement rigorous interventions that bring about dramatic improvements in student achievement and school performance. Since 2009, approximately 40 percent of the over 1,400 schools that have received funds to implement rigorous intervention models have been high schools. The President's 2014 budget request increases funding for the program by \$125 million. These additional funds will be used to strengthen the capacity of school districts to reform low-performing schools. Up to \$25 million would be available to expand the School Turnaround AmeriCorps Program, which places AmeriCorps members in low-performing schools to support their school turnaround efforts.
- **Promise Neighborhoods (\$300 million).** This program funds neighborhood initiatives that significantly improve the educational and developmental outcomes of low-income children by providing them a birth-to-career continuum of services, including high-quality education and strong systems of family and community support – with high quality schools at the center. The comprehensive services provided by grantees will also help engage disconnected youth and keep them in school until graduation. The President's proposed \$240 million increase would significantly expand the number of communities that would benefit from the program.
- **Investing in Innovation (\$215 million).** This program provides competitive grants to develop, evaluate, and scale up evidence-based programs and strategies that improve student achievement and close achievement gaps. In its first three competitions, the program has funded innovative projects aimed at turning around schools with high dropout rates. For example, the Talent Development Secondary Program at Johns Hopkins University received \$30 million in 2010 to provide greater student support, including college mentoring, in 14 districts across the country. In 2012, the AVID Center received a \$3 million grant to develop an aligned system between middle schools, high schools and colleges to improve access to rigorous classes, increase high school completion rates, and prepare students for college.