



The Problem

1.3 million kids drop out of high school per year costing our nation more than \$100 billion in lost wages and taxes, plus the increased social costs due to crime and healthcare.

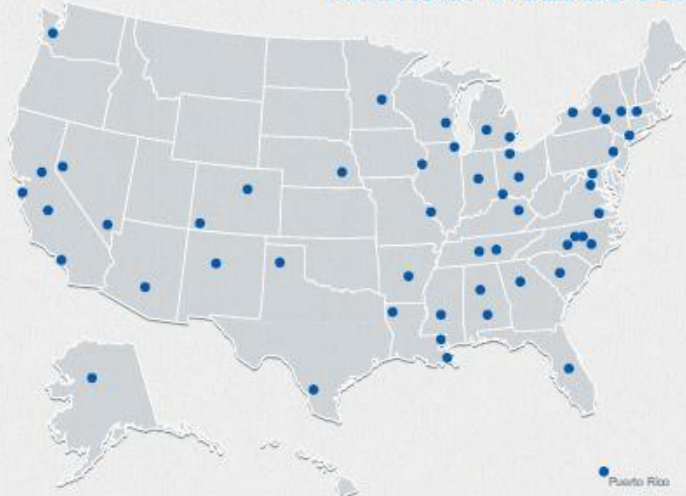
Public Media Response

American Graduate: Let's Make It Happen is a public media initiative, supported by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), to improve high school graduation rates. Public TV and radio stations in 36 states are working with community partners to create understanding and action.

The initiative puts faces on the numbers — the more than 1.3 million young people who fail to graduate each year. Our kids need a strong education for our nation to compete in a global world.

Public media stations across the country are working directly with civic and business leaders, local school districts and other community partners to generate understanding about the risk factors and what caring adults can do to help.

American Graduate Communities



In fact, research shows that we can help keep students on the path to college and careers.

- Start with early reading
- Focus on middle grades
- Harness the power of nonprofits to provide expanded student supports
- Build early warning and intervention systems
- Create a multi-sector and community-based effort
- Elicit perspectives of students, educators, and parents
- Set high expectations and provide engaging coursework

More information at AmericanGraduate.org

Why Public Media?

Public media brings unique assets to the table with the American Graduate: Let's Make It Happen initiative:

- TV and radio programming that spotlights the national issue and also examines specific local impact.
- A long history of successful local civic and community engagement.
- A track record in educating youth — the heart of our mission.
- Through Ready To Learn, public media has a proven record of improving educational outcomes for at-risk kids most likely to drop out of high school.
- Trust as neutral conveners who can bring together relevant parties to collaborate on local solutions.

Success can't be achieved by any one group alone but public media can leverage its capacity, on-air, online, and on-the-ground, to increase understanding of the dropout problem and bring local communities together to develop and implement collaborative solutions.

On-air and Online Content

Public media's trusted producers are creating programs and specials that will raise awareness and increase dialogue about the dropout crisis.

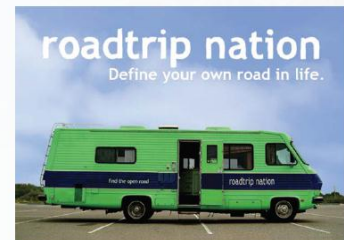
In addition, some public radio and television programs will support teachers by developing educational resources to better engage their students in learning.

- **PBS NewsHour** is working with public media stations in 12 cities to produce locally-driven teacher town hall conversations which will amplify teacher voices and engage the community in problem solving around the dropout crisis. The Teacher Town Halls are funded in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- **PBS NewsHour** Student Reporting Labs teach students to report, problem solve and investigate important topics, with an emphasis on school completion.
- **StoryCorps** recently launched the National Teachers Initiative to collect the stories of America's educators and is also developing a new, story-based curriculum, *StoryCorpsU*, to help students develop literacy skills.
- **Roadtrip Nation** is developing tool kits, locally-customized station community portals and conducting road trips and interviews in Hub markets to establish a clear connection between reaching your career goals and staying in school to achieve that success.
- **Mission US** helps students learn American history and civics while also providing teachers with classroom resources and activities.



STUDENT REPORTING LABS

Think. Create. Inform.



National Partners

More information at
AmericanGraduate.org
Facebook.com/AmericanGraduate

