The Latino Dropout Dilemma

Dr. Watson Scott Swail
wswail@educationalpolicy.org
President, Educational Policy Institute
Washington, DC

April 5, 2004

The Sixth Annual Latino Education Conference
Atlantic City, NJ
High School Completion by 2000

- Asian Americans: 96.6%
- African Americans: 90.9%
- Latinos: 86.7%
- Whites: 93.3%
- All: 92.5%
High School Completion by 2000

- **Asian Americans**: 3.4% No high school credential, 0.4% GED or other high school equivalency, 0.1% Certificate of attendance
- **African Americans**: 9% No high school credential, 14% GED or other high school equivalency, 0.4% Certificate of attendance
- **Latinos**: 13.3% No high school credential, 9.8% GED or other high school equivalency, 0.3% Certificate of attendance
- **Whites**: 6.7% No high school credential, 6.8% GED or other high school equivalency, 0.1% Certificate of attendance
- **All**: 7.6% No high school credential, 7.9% GED or other high school equivalency, 0.2% Certificate of attendance

High School Completion by 2000

Improving educational policy and practice through research

[www.educationalpolicy.org](http://www.educationalpolicy.org)
First PSE Institution Attended by 2000

- **Asian Americans**
  - No attendance: 2.5%
  - Less than a 2-year institution: 10.0%
  - 2-year: 35.9%
  - 4-year: 51.6%

- **African Americans**
  - No attendance: 36.8%
  - Less than a 2-year institution: 7.9%
  - 2-year: 29.4%
  - 4-year: 25.8%

- **Latinos**
  - No attendance: 34.4%
  - Less than a 2-year institution: 3.4%
  - 2-year: 40.0%
  - 4-year: 22.1%

- **Whites**
  - No attendance: 25.5%
  - Less than a 2-year institution: 2.2%
  - 2-year: 31.5%
  - 4-year: 40.8%

- **All**
  - No attendance: 27.4%
  - Less than a 2-year institution: 3.1%
  - 2-year: 32.3%
  - 4-year: 37.3%
Highest PSE Degree by 2000

- **Asian Americans**
  - None: 45.1%
  - Certificate/License: 4.6%
  - Associate's Degree: 30.2%
  - BA: 15.5%
  - Graduate Studies: 4.9%

- **African Americans**
  - None: 71.5%
  - Certificate/License: 4.3%
  - Associate's Degree: 4.2%
  - BA: 15%
  - Graduate Studies: 4.9%

- **Latinos**
  - None: 76.4%
  - Certificate/License: 5.0%
  - Associate's Degree: 3.3%
  - BA: 10.6%
  - Graduate Studies: 6.4%

- **Whites**
  - None: 54.7%
  - Certificate/License: 3.6%
  - Associate's Degree: 24.5%
  - BA: 11.2%

- **All**
  - None: 58.5%
  - Certificate/License: 3.7%
  - Associate's Degree: 22.2%
  - BA: 10%
  - Graduate Studies: 0%
Improving educational policy and practice through research

Cognitive Factors

Social Factors

The Student Experience

Institutional Factors

www.educationalpolicy.org
www.educationalpolicy.org