

Targets:

Defiance City Schools - 7th through 9th grade target of 25 students per grade per year (Life Skill/Career Exploration Introduction) = 75 students per year

10th through 12th grade target of 10 students per grade per year (Targeted Career Path Study for Higher Risk Students) = 30 students per year

Economic Impact ROI:

The lifetime cost to taxpayers per student that drops out of high school exceeds \$300,000. A high school student who graduates from our program, is placed into a local job, earns an average of \$50,000 a year (current median income for our area, but probably low for lifetime future earnings based on inflation) over their lifetime (20-65) will earn approximately \$2.25M, most of which will go directly back into the economy through spending and paying taxes.

So even if we don't take into consideration the \$300,000 drop out burden represented above each year we will have a huge impact if only half of the above students launch into successful skilled trade or high demand jobs upon graduation. Each year with a target of 105 students, half of which is 53 students, we could conservatively hope to infuse over \$2.65MM (53 x 50,000) into the local economy through taxes and local spending. That is a one year impact! The first few years impact will not be as high as years four and beyond because the larger numbers reached are in 7th through 9th grade. We know it is critical to start offering this career exploration option at a younger age so that by the time students are juniors and seniors they know their options and are ready to decide on career focus.

In addition to the \$2.28M economic swing for the cost of the DDC program, there are additional intangible benefits to a student not dropping out, but learning a trade, and finding hope and a purpose.

Superintendent Morton has told us that less than 55% of Defiance high school graduates go to college.

A study recently published showed that only 16.7% of Defiance County residence have a bachelor's degree or higher.

Over half of high school dropouts are on public assistance.

Nearly 83% of incarcerated persons dropped out of high school.

Between 1979 and 2013 local and state spending on prisons increased three times the rate of funding for K-12 public schools.

Over 60% of individuals who dropped out of high school are rearrested for repeat criminal activity.