



# AT&T Aspire: Connecting Our Youth

## Program Overview

- AT&T Aspire is a \$100 million initiative to address high school success and workforce readiness. The commitment features four primary components:
  - **Grants to schools and nonprofit organizations.** Grants will focus on high school retention and better preparing students for college and/or the workforce.
  - **Job shadowing for 100,000 students.** In conjunction with Junior Achievement, AT&T Aspire gives students the chance to see firsthand the job skills they will need to be successful. This is the largest corporate job-shadowing initiative ever undertaken by Junior Achievement.
  - **Helping to underwrite 100 state and community Dropout Prevention summits.** Organized by America's Promise Alliance, these summits address the high school dropout crisis and look for ways to improve it by engaging educational experts and business, faith, nonprofit and community leaders across all 50 states.
  - **Commissioning the next chapter of major research** on the high school dropout issue. This research, to be conducted by John Bridgeland, author of the landmark study "The Silent Epidemic," will garner the practitioner perspective (teachers, principals, superintendents and school board members) on the root causes and most effective solutions to address the dropout crisis.
- AT&T Aspire is the largest education initiative in AT&T's history, and it is one of the largest corporate investments in high school success and workforce readiness.
- Every 26 seconds, another American student drops out of high school, which adds up to 1.2 million students each year.
- Nearly one-third of all U.S. public high school students fail to graduate — and the rate jumps to nearly one-half for African-American, Hispanic and Native American students.
- Dropouts are far more likely to be unemployed, to live in poverty or be in prison than high school graduates.
- This crisis also means that some new entrants to the workforce lack the basic skills needed to work — particularly in writing and math. This leaves the nation's workforce underskilled and threatens U.S. competitiveness in the global economy.
- The U.S. ranks 16th, behind several other industrial nations, in the percentage of students who complete a secondary-education program. In nations such as Germany, Greece and Japan, the graduation rate is at least 90 percent, but the U.S. remains about 70 percent.
- By helping students graduate from high school and encouraging them to continue their education or start building their careers, we can help them succeed — not just in school, but in life.
- For more information on AT&T Aspire, visit [www.att.com/education](http://www.att.com/education).

