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The Education Relevance Gap: Perception vs. reality



Are graduates prepared for work?

 **96%**

of Chief Academic Officers at colleges and universities rate their institution as very/somewhat effective at preparing students for the world of work.

 **14%**

of Americans strongly agree that college graduates are well-prepared for success in the workplace

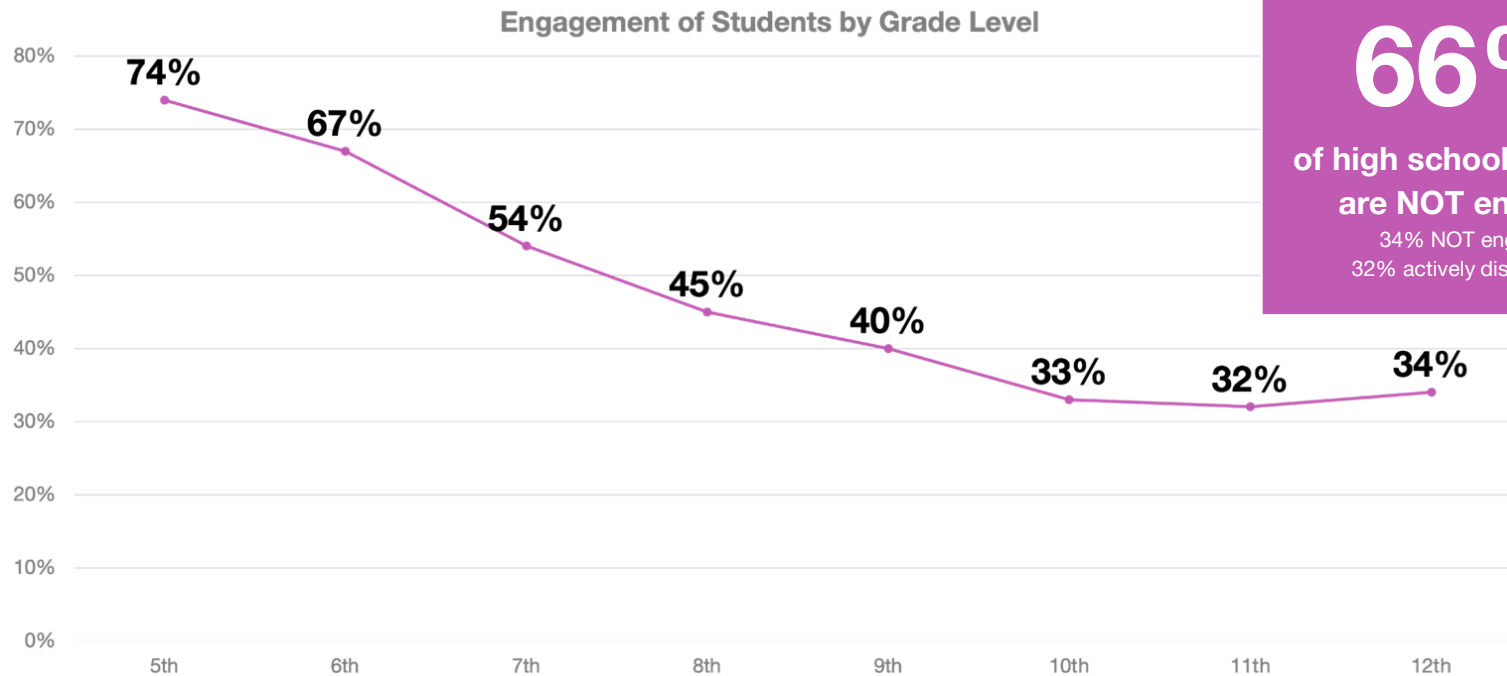
 **11%**

of business leaders strongly agree that graduating students have the skills/competencies that their businesses need



Low student engagement

WHEN YOU HAVE AN EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DISCONNECT, STUDENTS DISCONNECT FROM EDUCATION



66%

of high school students
are **NOT** engaged

34% NOT engaged
32% actively disengaged



Are Americans losing confidence in public schools?



Why?

Students say they dropped out because:

- Classes were not interesting
- High school was boring
- High school was not relevant
- It didn't help them achieve their dreams.

Students don't see a clear, transparent connection between their studies and tangible opportunities/jobs

Pathways to Prosperity: Meeting the Challenge of Preparing Young Americans for the 21st Century. Harvard Graduate School of Education.



Approximate number of high school dropouts...

EVERY YEAR!



1,000,000



42%

college dropout rate

Only 58% percent of college students earned **any** degree or credential after 6-years.



The problem

AN EDUCATION TO WORKFORCE DISCONNECT CREATING A WIDENING SKILLS GAP

ECONOMIC REPORT *to the* GOVERNOR

.....
PREPARED BY THE
UTAH ECONOMIC COUNCIL



2020

Types of Post-Secondary Degrees Earned

22% of all 4-year degrees earned are in **General Studies**

– VS –

.04% of all 4-year degrees earned in **Construction Trades degrees**

Only 27%

of college graduates work in a field related to their major



The impact

70% OF JOBS REQUIRE SOME POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

HIGH DEBT, POOR OUTCOMES

Students

- 3.9 million students dropped out with debt but with no degree
- <50% of Americans 25-35 obtained post-secondary credentials (educationdata.org)

DECLINING ENROLLMENT, HIGH RECRUITING COSTS

Post secondary education

- 67% of students are now considering career or other degree/certificate program options
- Community college enrollment drops 9.6% from 2019 to 2020 (CC Daily)

UNFILLED JOBS, LOW DIVERSITY

Industry & workforce

- 7 Million middle skill jobs unfilled (BLS)
- Gender gaps < 29% of women in IT (NSF/NCESE)



**What do
employers want?**

And why do we care?



The global skills shortage 2019. SHRM.org



83%

of respondents have had trouble recruiting suitable candidates in the past 12 months.



51%

of respondents sat education systems have done little or nothing to help address the skill shortage issue.



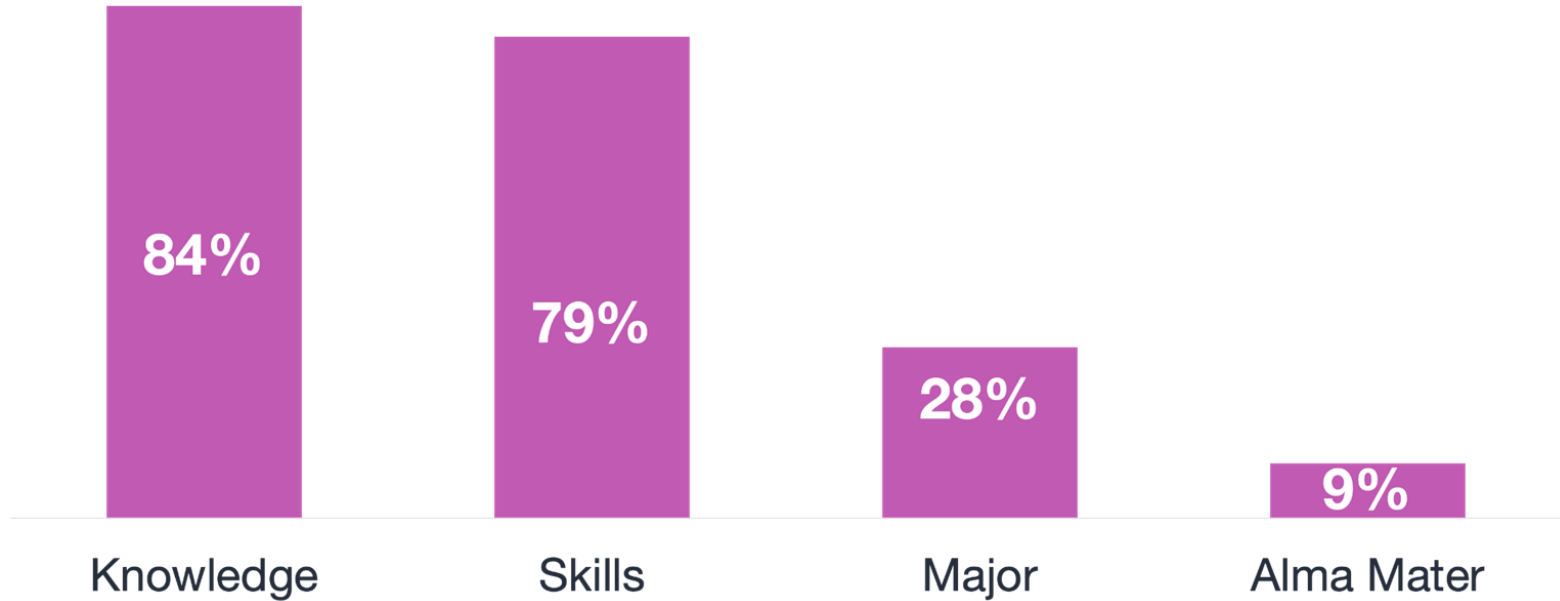


For 60%

of business leaders the limited supply of talent is their top business challenge

How employers view the disconnect

WHAT FACTORS MATTER MOST TO HIRING MANAGERS. . .



Percent responding "very important" – Gallup



**What do
students
want and
need?**



Gallup reported students strongly agreed education was worth the cost if...

1.9X

Had a mentor who encouraged me to pursue my goals and dreams.

1.6X

Worked on a project that took a semester or more to complete.

1.5X

Had an internship or job that allowed me to apply what I was learning in the classroom.

1.2X

Had a paid job or internship.



Getting students into their right programs produces results – period

For example, graduation rates significantly increase when students participate in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs where they can connect their talent to real world opportunities, with the greatest improvements happening for minority and at-risk populations.



Graduation rate increases when participating in career courses

- 13% – All Students (93/80%)
- 22% – African American (95/73%)
- 22% – Native Americans (92/70%)
- 21% – Latinos (95/74%)
- 13% – Pacific Islanders (97/84%)
- 19% – Economically Disadvantaged (94/75%)
- 25% – English Learners (90/65%)



Engagement increases when we connect learning to employment outcomes

Career and Professional Academy Enrollment and Performance Report, 2009-10; Florida Department of Education Division of Career and Adult; 2010

Performance Indicator	Non-CTE	CTE program + Certification	Difference
Average GPA	2.56	3.00	+0.44
Chronically absent	16.70%	11.40%	-5%
At least one disciplinary action	21.30%	11.00%	-10%
12th graders earning standard diploma	78.60%	97.40%	+19%
At least one accelerated course	22.20%	32.90%	+11%
Bright futures scholarship eligible	27.90%	43.70%	+16%



The Proof

→ **Discovery enhances social and emotional well-being**

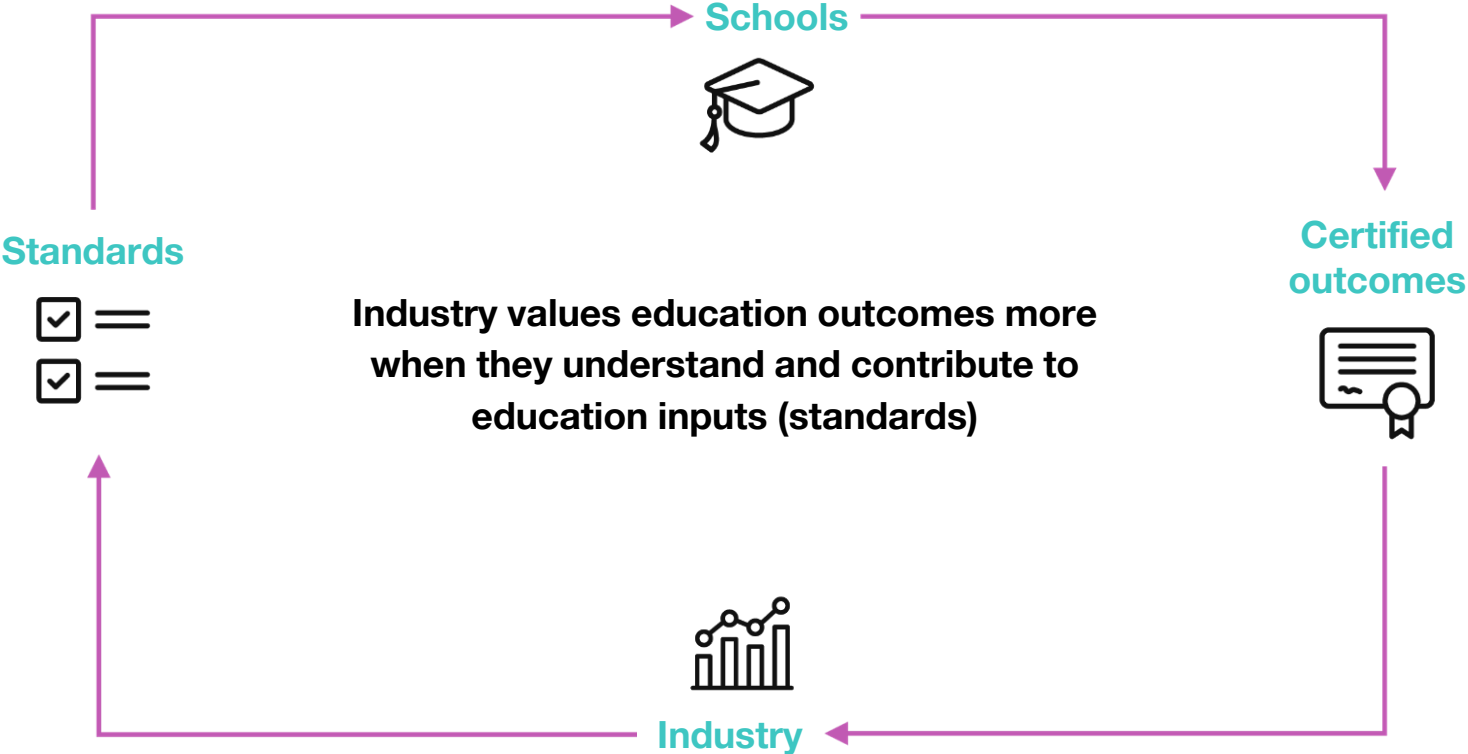
The Georgia Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) conducted a third-party pilot of 8,500 students **across 51 high schools** made up of:

- 54% eligible for free/reduced lunch
- 51% female
- 54% non-white

Results **showed statistically-significant positive improvement** in self-awareness, self-empowerment, intent to persist, career exploration and career decision-making.



Industry engagement in the education ecosystem



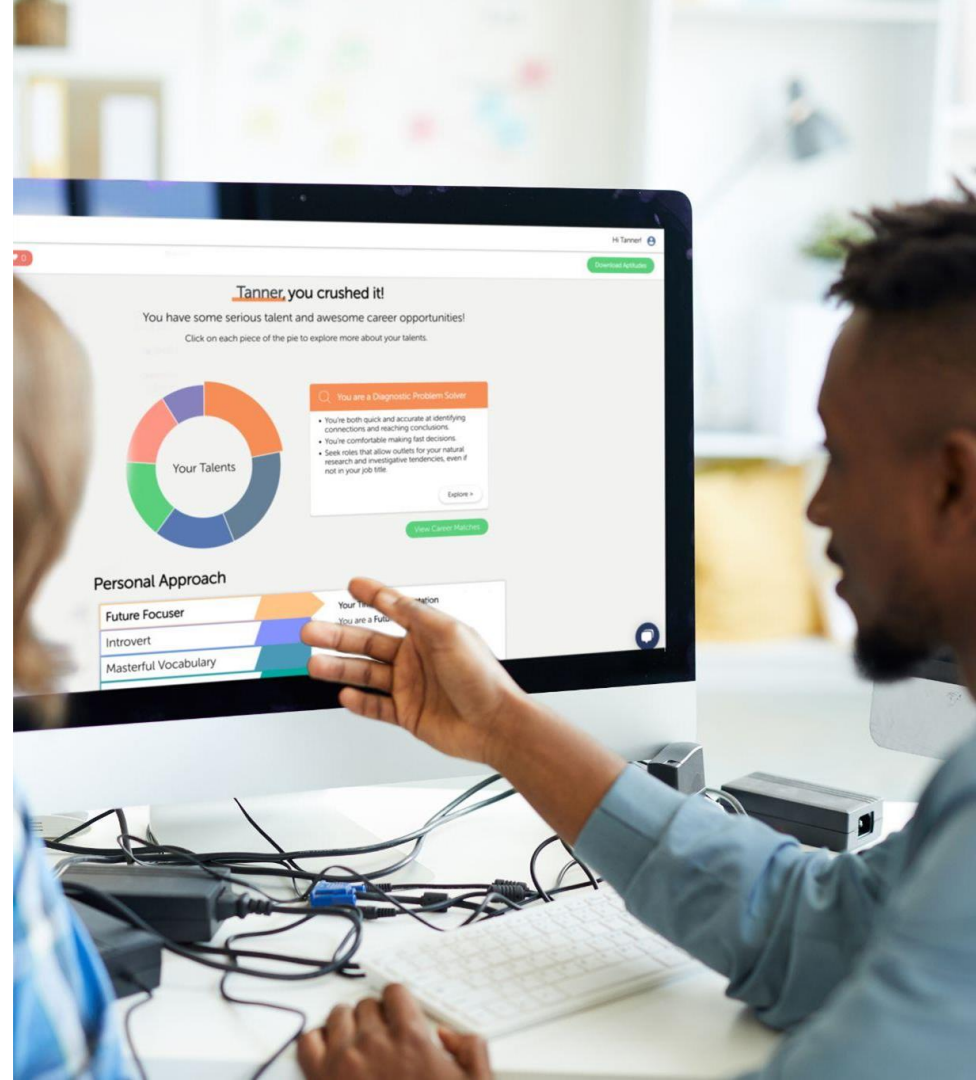
Learn more or try it yourself

- To chat about your career guidance and assessment needs enter your information at youscience.com/contact.
- Or get a free Discovery account to uncover your own talents at youscience.com/request.
- Simply, open your camera and scan one or both of these QR codes.

CONTACT



ACCOUNT REQUEST



Thank You Richard Harris

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