



By 2018, 59 percent of jobs in North Carolina will require at least *some* education beyond high school.

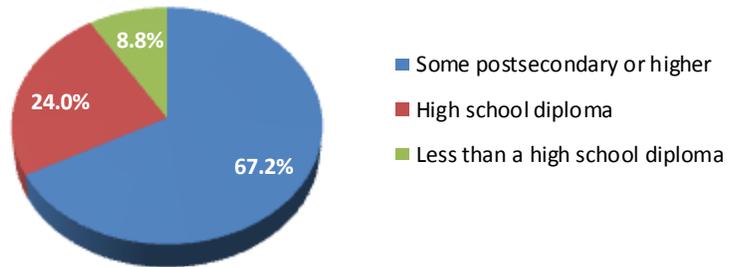
During the past several decades, North Carolina has been very successful in attracting new business and industry, largely because of its educated workforce. In order to remain competitive, we must ensure that our state is doing a good job educating workers for the global economy. The jobs of the future demand a workforce educated beyond high school.

According to a recent report from the [Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce](#), there is a growing shortage of workers with the postsecondary education needed for the jobs of tomorrow. This shortage stems both from a lack of sufficiently educated individuals and from the disproportionate growth of jobs that require some education beyond high school.

- By 2018, 59 percent of jobs in North Carolina will require some education beyond high school.
- Between 2008 and 2018, nearly a half-million new jobs are projected to be created in the state (479,000). Of these new jobs, the vast majority (67.2 percent) will require some education beyond high school.
- The number of jobs for individuals with some postsecondary education will grow by 12.6 percent, compared to only 7.6 percent for high school dropouts and 8.8 percent for high school graduates.

Projected New Jobs Created Between 2008-2018

Education Level Required	Number	% of Total
Some postsecondary or higher	322,000	67.2%
High school diploma	115,000	24.0%
Less than a high school diploma	42,000	8.8%
Total	479,000	100%



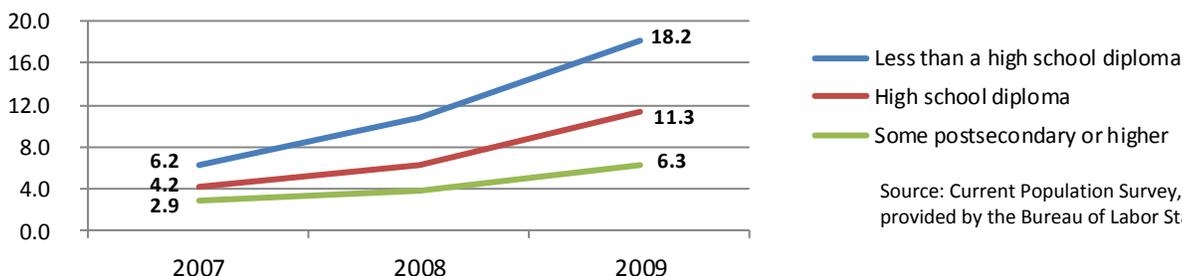
Source: Help Wanted: Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements Through 2018 (2008). Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce

Higher Education Also Leads to Job Security

Individuals with an education beyond high school will also likely have much greater job security. Even in 2009, one of the worst economic years in recent history, individuals in North Carolina with an education beyond high school were much less likely to be unemployed.

- In 2009, the unemployment rate for North Carolina civilians 25 or older, and with at least some postsecondary education, was only 6.3 percent compared to 18.2 percent for high school dropouts and 11.3 percent for high school graduates.
- The difference in unemployment rates between individuals with at least some postsecondary education and those with a high school diploma grew from 1.3 percent to 5 percent between 2007 and 2009.

North Carolina Unemployment Rate from 2007 to 2009 by Education Level



Source: Current Population Survey, Information provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2010).