



Council of the Great City Schools
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Statement by Michael Casserly
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On America's Promise Alliance Report on High School Graduation

The Council of the Great City Schools, representing the nation's largest urban public school districts, applauds the attention being paid, once again, to the challenge of keeping students in school.

- The nation's urban public schools need and welcome help addressing the dropout problem, which is clearly more pronounced in the cities. We need help from lawmakers, but we also need it from the business community, the philanthropic community, social service agencies, churches, volunteer organizations, and local, state, and federal governments. We do not need more reports or more discussion groups; we need help.
- The dropout rates in the new report are similar to those other sources have reported in the past. There are technical differences in the data and one might quibble with the multiple methods to calculate the rates, but the disparities in the rates between cities and suburbs should not be surprising.
- The larger point is that the nation's policymakers need to think long and hard about addressing the vastly inequitable resources available to the nation's urban youth—family, social, and educational resources. We need a more level playing field for our urban youth.

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