

# INVEST IN MASSACHUSETTS

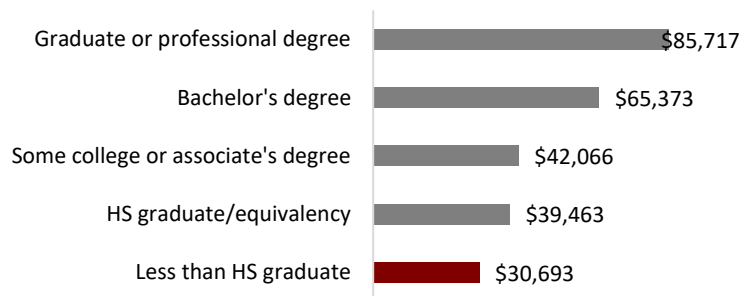
## INVEST IN ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

### EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO ECONOMIC SECURITY

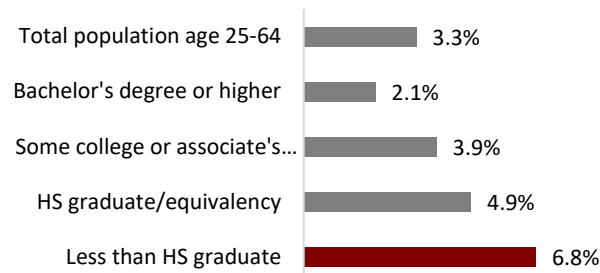
Education is a key determinant for economic security, especially in times of uncertainty and with more and more jobs requiring specialized skills, knowledge, and training. Not surprisingly, adults with low levels of educational attainment tend to fare far worse than their peers across a range of economic measures, leaving them unable to provide fully for themselves or their families, and contributing far less to the state’s economy. **Massachusetts must continue its recent progress in supporting adult basic education to build and sustain an economy where everyone can contribute and succeed.**

### Massachusetts adults without a high school credential earn less than their peers.

Adults in Massachusetts without a high school credential typically earn far less than adults who have completed high school or college. In 2019, adults aged 25 and older who lack a high school credential had median earnings of just \$30,693. Median earnings for adults with a high school credential were nearly 30 percent higher.



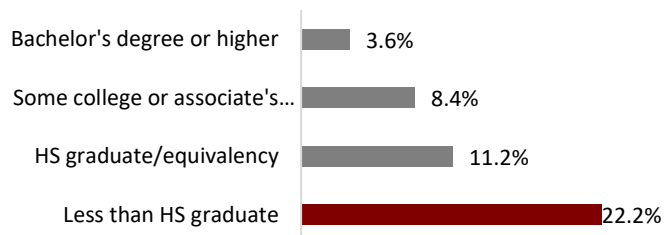
Average earnings by educational attainment  
Massachusetts adults ages 25-64, 2019  
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey



Unemployment rate by educational attainment  
Massachusetts adults age 25-64, 2019  
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

### They are less likely to have a job.

Similarly, the chances of being out of work are much higher for less-educated workers in the Commonwealth. In 2019, 6.8 percent of adults aged 25 and older who lack a high school credential were unemployed in Massachusetts – more than twice the overall unemployment rate of 3.3 percent.



Poverty rate by educational attainment  
Massachusetts adults ages 25-64, 2019  
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

### They face higher poverty rates.

In 2019, nearly 25 percent of adults aged 25 and older without a high school credential fell below the poverty line, while those with a high school credential had a poverty rate half that figure.

