

Workforce Pipeline Survey Results: Does a HS Diploma Mean Anything?

In the last issue of Workforce Pipeline, we told you about a less rigorous process that annually allows up to 20,000 New Jersey students to receive a diploma without passing the state's High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA). Evidence has shown that this alternate process, known as a Special Review Assessment (SRA), is not being consistently administered or applied throughout the state.

Following publication of that story, we asked employers to respond to a "Workforce Pipeline Survey" on the subject. Only 53 percent of our respondents felt that a New Jersey high school diploma is a reliable indicator that a prospective employee has learned the 'basics' required for success in the workplace.

Only 23 percent of respondents estimated that the most recent high school graduates they have either interviewed or hired had learned the 'basics' for success in the workplace.

Almost 90 percent of respondents told us they would like the BCEE to "advocate" for state policy that would require that all students demonstrate essential proficiencies through rigorous testing in order to receive a New Jersey high school diploma." As a result, the BCEE will be adding that mandate to its policy objectives in the coming year.

We need regular input in order to represent your needs. Look for other Workforce Pipeline surveys in coming issues. Almost 90% of responding employers say students should demonstrate essential proficiencies through rigorous testing in order to receive a diploma.