



North Carolina National Guard

Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy A Way to Success For High School Dropouts

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Dropout Statistics

- NC DPI reports an average of 21K students drop out of high school each year
- From the Friedman Foundation Report:
 - Lists a higher average of 31K dropouts
 - Dropouts are twice as likely to be unemployed
 - Dropouts are more likely to rely on Medicaid
 - Dropouts are almost twice as likely to be incarcerated



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Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy:

- Joint Federal/State program that began in 1993
- Focuses on High School dropouts 16-18 years old
- Located in Salemburg
- Averages 220 graduates per year
- 22-week in residence program followed by one year mentorship
- Nearly 70% of graduates receive their GED
 - 154 of 220 cadets annually



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Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy:

- Annual budget: \$14,000 per graduate = \$3.1 million
 - 60% federal = \$1.86 million
 - 40% state = \$1.24 million funded through DCCPS

Cost to North Carolina

\$5,600 annually

or

\$36.36 per day



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Dropout Cost to NC (Friedman Foundation report):

- NC spends \$4,877 annually for each active student
- NC spends nearly as much each year on each dropout (\$4,437)
 - Lost tax/fees revenue (\$995/dropout/year)
 - Increased Medicaid costs (\$1,496/dropout/year)
 - Increased incarceration costs (\$1,946/dropout/year)
- High school dropouts decrease state income-tax revenues about \$713 million annually
 - \$465 million less compared to potential revenues if all residents had a high school diploma
 - Additional \$248 million loss in state and local revenues, such as sales-tax, when compared to higher spending of graduates
 - \$995 per dropout per year



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Benefits of Tarheel ChalleNGe (2006-07 school year):

- 7 of every 10 that attend graduate with GED
- Recidivism rate below 10%
- Increase in TABE results:
 - Math proficiency grew 1.7 grade levels
 - English proficiency improved 1.1 grade levels
- Community service - Over 22,000 hours In 2006-07
- Serve as Governor, Senate and House pages
- Conduct charity fund-raisers - Raised \$6,200 for American Red Cross in 2006-07
- Cost: \$36.36 per day per student