What is it Worth to be in Class?[[1]](#footnote-1)

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Calculate how much getting that high school diploma is worth

Given the average **lifetime** earning for[[2]](#footnote-2):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Professional Degree | $4,159,000 |
| Doctoral Degree | $3,525,000 |
| Master's Degree | $2,834,000 |
| College graduate with bachelor's degree | $2,422,000 |
| Two-year college associate's degree | $1,813,000 |
| Certificate holders | $1,611,000 |
| High School diploma | $1,371,000 |
| Less than high school | $936,000 |

1. Figure the difference in potential income between a high school graduate and someone who did not go to school beyond the ninth grade:
2. Divide the potential future earnings of a high school graduate (a) by the number of years typically spent in high school (4). The result is (B) Potential future additional earnings associated with each year of high school.

$ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (A) Potential additional future earnings for a high school graduate

1. Divided by 4 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. = Potential additional future earnings associated with each year of high school.
3. Divided the potential additional future earnings per school year (B) byt the average number of school days per year (180).

The result is the approximate value of a day’s education for a high school graduate.

Assuming 11 hours per day are devoted to school and homework, the value per hour is:\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. 2014 National Endowment for Financial Education, High School Financial Planning Program [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Certificates in this report refer to awards from business, vocational, trade, and technical schools, and technical and non-degree degree awards from two- and four-year colleges. Baccalaureate and graduate certificates are not included<https://cew.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Certificates.ExecutiveSummary.071712.pdf> There exists a wide variation in returns across fields. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)