Why do young people drop out – from The Silent Epidemic

1 = This is something I see about kids like me
2 = This is not like me, but I have friends like this
3 = This is not like me or my friends, but I see kids like this at school
4 = Who is this about?

___ Nearly half (47 percent) said a major reason for dropping out was that classes were not interesting.

___ Nearly 7 in 10 respondents (69 percent) said they were not motivated or inspired to work hard, 80 percent did one hour or less of homework each day in high school, two-thirds would have worked harder if more was demanded of them (higher academic standards and more studying and homework), and 70 percent were confident they could have graduated if they had tried.

___ Many students gave personal reasons for leaving school. A third (32 percent) said they had to get a job and make money; 26 percent said they became a parent; and 22 percent said they had to care for a family member.

___ Thirty-five percent said that “failing in school” was a major factor for dropping out;

___ Forty-five percent said they started high school poorly prepared by their earlier schooling.

___ Thirty-two percent were required to repeat a grade before dropping out and twenty-nine percent expressed significant doubts that they could have met their high school’s requirements for graduation even if they had put in the necessary effort.

___ Fifty-nine to 65 percent of respondents missed class often the year before dropping out.

___ Thirty-eight percent believed they had “too much freedom” and not enough rules.

___ Sixty-eight percent of respondents said their parents became more involved only when they were aware that their child was on the verge of dropping out.

I think the most important factor in dropping out is

(Be prepared to write this up on the wall)
The cost of dropping out of High School

1. Cost to the school:
   a. Each student in the state of Michigan is worth a minimum of $7,292
   b. If 57 students drop out each year, how much less money does the school have as a result? ____

2. Cost to the individual:
   a. If you had a person who was getting ready to drop out, and convinced him or her to graduate, how much more would he/she make in a year as a result? ____
   b. What if you helped that person not only graduate, but attend community college? ____
   c. Or get a 4-year college degree? ____
   d. What would each of those add up to over 40 years of work? ____

3. Cost to the community:
   a. If 57 students did not drop out of high school, and instead graduated, how much more money would be spent in the community as a result?
   b. What if they all graduated community college?
   c. 4 years of college?

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Who Makes the Money?
2005 Average Income by Educational Attainment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Income</th>
<th>High School Dropout</th>
<th>High School Diploma</th>
<th>Associate's Degree</th>
<th>Bachelor's Degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$17,299</td>
<td>$26,933</td>
<td>$36,645</td>
<td>$52,671</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2006