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The American Academy

States Can Lower Dropout Rate, Improve NCLB Standing With The American Academy

SALT LAKE CITY – April 2, 2008 – The New York Times reported that states are reporting inflated graduation rates to the federal government. According to the article ([March 21, 2008](#)), the states are doing this to avoid sanctions due to lack of compliance with federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements. Only about 70 percent of the one million American students who start ninth grade each year graduate four years later, a number much lower than the NCLB-mandated graduation rates.

[Professor Paul Zane Pilzer](#), economist and co-founder of [The American Academy](#), said that states now have affordable, easy options to raise graduation rates and meet NCLB mandates by offering online options to students who can't attend school during traditional hours or who need to make up credits.

“States, school districts, and even individual high schools can use [online high schools](#) to help students earn their diploma,” Pilzer said. “Students drop out when the traditional model isn’t working for them: some students need to work to support a family, some may have difficult social situations, and some simply don't learn best at 8:00 AM.

“There are very simple ways for school districts to economically serve these students,” noted The American Academy Co-founder [Anthony E. Meyer](#). “Our school offers 233 courses that students can take anywhere, anytime, on their own schedule. It doesn’t take more teachers or buildings or expensive summer school programs. The schools just have to commit to their students, and we’ll do the rest.”

[The American Academy](#) is accredited by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools, which means that every credit earned will transfer to public and accredited private high schools across the country. The American Academy serves students throughout the U.S. and in several countries. Every student has access to licensed instructors and to tutoring available on-demand, 24/7.

Enrollment is now open at The American Academy, and classes begin every Monday. For more information, please visit <http://www.TheAmericanAcademy.com>.

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About The American Academy

The American Academy is an accredited online high school built on a system that has served more than 80,000 students since 1994. It serves students worldwide who want to supplement their high school program or earn their high school diploma. The American Academy offers a flexible educational experience along with a high quality, engaging curriculum that aligns with state standards. Through its relationships with long-standing education institutions, including the Utah State Board of Education, The American Academy provides leading-edge resources and access to licensed, experienced instructors. For more information, please visit <http://www.TheAmericanAcademy.com>.