



March 17, 2009

To: Participants of the New Hampshire Dropout Prevention Summit:

We all know that high school graduation is a key indicator of future success for our young people and our nation, so it is startling to learn that every 26 seconds a student drops out of school. That's over 1.2 million students per year – one-third of students overall. And far few of those who do graduate are prepared for college and work. This is why on April 1, 2008 the America's Promise Alliance launched a massive two-year effort to mobilize over 100 dropout prevention leadership summits across the country. These summits will help get this issue out front and center and generate workable solutions to keep our students in school.

I thank Governor John Lynch for responding to the call and for rallying New Hampshire communities to urgent action. I know that each of you attending the summit are working hard to address this crisis and we stand ready to help you create the supports that will best prepare young people for their futures.

On behalf of more than 230 leading national organizations in the America's Promise Alliance, I thank you for your participation and support. Together we can make a difference in our children's lives by addressing this crisis head-on and reducing the dropout rate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alma J. Powell". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Alma J. Powell  
Chair