



Compact for America's Youth | PILLARS

America is entering a new era. The convergence of affordability, anxiety and artificial intelligence is reshaping how young people prepare for work and life. Meeting this moment requires more than isolated programs or individual initiatives. It requires a new partnership across education, business, labor, government and philanthropy.

The Compact for America's Youth is a national call to action that invites leaders from every sector to make a compact commitment—a measurable action that strengthens pathways from education to careers and expands opportunity for the next generation.

Compact commitments are organized around four pillars:

1. EXPAND OPPORTUNITY

Commit to increasing access to career-connected learning and early career experiences for more young people through apprenticeships, internships, career and technical education, dual enrollment, mentoring or other proven pathways.

2. INVEST IN THE FUTURE WORKFORCE

Commit financial, human or institutional resources that strengthen the education-to-workforce ecosystem. Investments may include funding new initiatives, creating paid work-based learning opportunities, supporting educators, contributing technology and equipment, or building local partnerships.

3. BUILD BETTER SYSTEMS

Commit to breaking down barriers between K-12 education, higher education, workforce development, labor and industry. Leaders may advance supportive policies, align funding, establish regional partnerships, streamline systems or create new cross-sector collaborations that make pathways simpler and stronger for young people.

4. LEAD WITH ACCOUNTABILITY

Commit to measurable progress. Partners will establish clear goals, publicly report on their compact commitments, share promising practices and help build a culture of continuous improvement around early career success.

No one institution can prepare America's future workforce alone. But together, through compact commitments, we can build an education and workforce system that matches the promise and potential of America's young people.