When Kellie was a little girl, she lived in Washington D.C., a very big city.
She and her family had a lot of bad days. That made it hard to pay attention in school and do her work.
Kellie did not like school and got into trouble with her teachers. She stopped going to school as soon as she could.
Pretty soon, she was sad that she stopped going to school, so she went to a place where she could get a GED® diploma.
Kellie studied hard. One of her teachers said she was a good writer!
When she was ready, Kellie took the GED® test and earned a GED® diploma! She was so happy!
Kellie got a job in a store. One day, her friend Carla said, “Kellie, you are a good artist. I think you should take a class at the community college.” Carla and Kellie took the class together. Having a friend go with her made a big difference.
Kellie liked it so much, she took more classes and got her college degree and became a teacher.
Kellie got married and has a daughter named Katrina. Her daughter wants to be a teacher too when she grows up!
Kellie is such a good teacher, she won an important award and met President Barack Obama!

With hard work and help from friends and teachers, Kellie got her education and now helps other kids.
Kellie Blair Hardt has been homeless, a runaway, and ultimately, a dropout.

But Kellie got her life back on track, and through a Job Corps program, earned her GED® diploma. Soon after, a co-worker convinced her to try community college by enrolling in the class with her. Kellie continued her education, earned a bachelor’s degree, and became a special education teacher. In 2013, she was one of only five teachers in the country to be honored for teaching excellence by the National Education Association. She is married and has a daughter, Katrina. She’s currently pursuing a doctorate degree.

No high school diploma?
Don’t let that stop you from being a role model for your children and making a better life for you and your family.