

The New York Times

Young, in School and Employed

Credit: Emily Berl for The New York Times



Raquel Beckford, 18, in honors English class at Peace and Diversity Academy in the Bronx. She works part time at a law firm.

Describing the grind of holding a demanding job while studying to graduate from high school, she said: “You know that feeling when you get home and lay in bed and your whole body just hurts? I feel like that all the time.”



Raquel works three days a week after school at the law firm **Adam Leitman Bailey, P.C.**, in Manhattan, more than an hour's ride by train from her home in the Bronx. She is salutatorian of her class at Peace and Diversity Academy and attends college classes two days a week.



Raquel lives with her mother, who is unemployed, and works to pay her own expenses, as well as to gain job experience.