

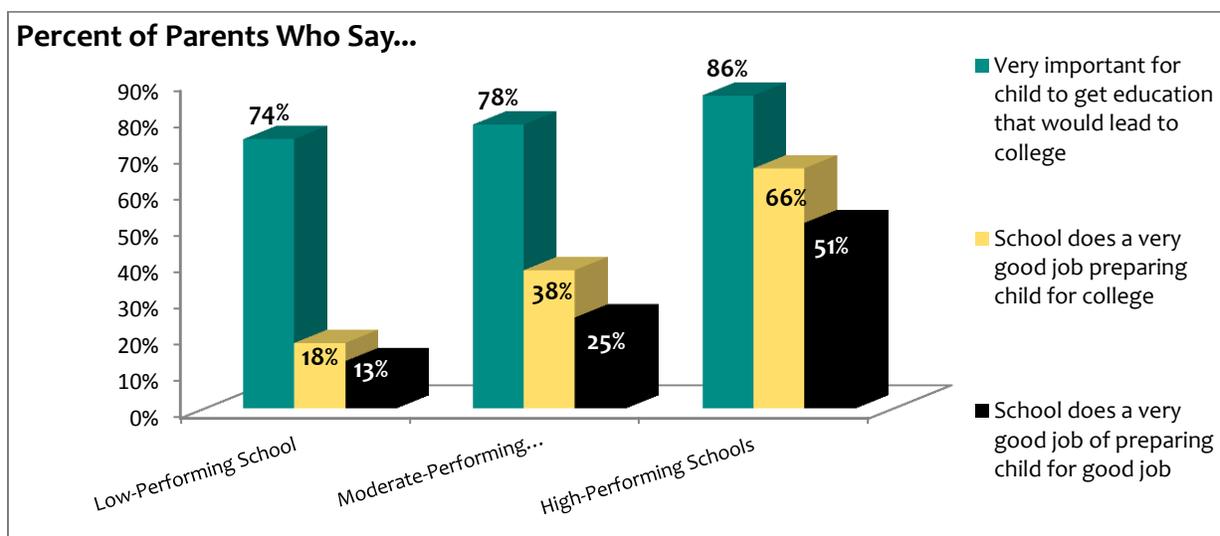
It will come as no surprise that parents want the best opportunities for their children – which almost always includes access to, and preparation for, postsecondary education and training beyond high school.

**Parents believe it is very important that their children attend college, yet many are concerned about their children’s level of preparation for postsecondary education.**

- Nearly nine in ten parents say it’s “extremely” or “very important” that their child goes to college.<sup>1</sup>
- According to another survey, minority parents put an even *higher* value on college: 92% percent of African-American parents and 90% of Hispanic parents consider going to college “very important,” compared to 78% of white parents.
- Yet, the majority of parents (64%) believe their child is only “somewhat” or “not too” prepared for college-level work. Only 29% believe their child is “very prepared.” Unsurprisingly, just 18% of parents believe their child’s high school has done an “excellent” job of preparing students for college.<sup>2</sup>
- Parents also see the preparation gap starting earlier in their children’s education – 45% of parents say their children were only “somewhat” or “poorly” prepared to enter high school, in terms of having the necessary knowledge and skills.<sup>3</sup>

**Parents see postsecondary education and training as a necessity in today’s world.**

- 61% of parents believe that what their children have to learn today to graduate, attend college and compete in the workforce is much different than it was 20 years ago when they were students. 70% of parents with a high school degree believe this, compared to only about half of parents with a college or degree or more.<sup>4</sup>
- 76% of parents (and 91% of Hispanic parents) believe a college degree is the best way to get a “good life and comfortable lifestyle.”<sup>5</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Deloitte (2009). *Redefining Education as a Launch Pad*. [www.deloitte.com/assets/Dcom-UnitedStates/Local%20Assets/Documents/us\\_leadership\\_EducationSurvey120109.pdf](http://www.deloitte.com/assets/Dcom-UnitedStates/Local%20Assets/Documents/us_leadership_EducationSurvey120109.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Civic Enterprises (2008). *One Dream, Two Realities*. <http://www.civicerprises.net/pdfs/onedream.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Public Agenda (2008). *A Matter of Trust*. <http://publicagenda.com/files/pdf/amatteroftrust.PDF>

- More parents say it is “extremely” or “very” important for them to be able to pay for their children’s college education (61%) than say it is “extremely” or “very” important for them to be able to leave an inheritance for their children (50%), suggesting parents see a postsecondary education as more valuable than a monetary inheritance.<sup>6</sup>
- Almost nine out of ten parents agree that “even if students don't use advanced math and science after school, the subjects can teach them critical thinking skills that will help them following graduation.” This is not surprising given 84% also agree with the statement that “in the future, there will be a lot more jobs that require advanced math and science skills.”<sup>7</sup>

**Parents believe preparation for postsecondary education and training should be a primary mission of high schools.**

- While over 40% of students and parents think the most important purpose of high school is to prepare students for college, only 9% of educators feel the same way, and put a higher importance on students’ subject matter mastery and attainment of basic skills.<sup>8</sup>
- When asked about potential solutions for improving public education in America, about three-quarters of parents believe that graduating each and every student from high school ready for college and a career “must be done” and is “one of the highest priorities.” Only about 7% of parents believe no additional resources should be devoted to this.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Pew Research Center (2011). *The Value of College*. <http://pewsocialtrends.org/value-of-college/>

<sup>7</sup> Public Agenda (2010). *Are We Beginning to See the Light?* <http://www.publicagenda.org/pages/math-and-science-ed-2010>

<sup>8</sup> Deloitte (2009). *Redefining Education as a Launch Pad*. [www.deloitte.com/assets/Dcom-UnitedStates/Local%20Assets/Documents/us\\_leadership\\_EducationSurvey120109.pdf](http://www.deloitte.com/assets/Dcom-UnitedStates/Local%20Assets/Documents/us_leadership_EducationSurvey120109.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> MetLife (2011). *The MetLife Survey of the American Teacher: Preparing Students for College and Careers*. <http://www.metlife.com/about/corporate-profile/citizenship/metlife-foundation/metlife-survey-of-the-american-teacher.html>