

College-Bound Seniors Want More Help from Parents

A survey conducted by Art & Science Group and The College Board found that college-bound seniors want their parents to be more involved in college planning. Overall, 51% of college-bound seniors indicated that parents were very involved in their college plans. But 28% want more, not less, parental involvement – a figure that jumps to over 40% among students with lower SAT scores and household incomes. Finding ways to assist parents in college planning can be part of a counselor's or school's long-range planning to increase student access to and success in college, especially when focused on students from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Among the students who indicated their parents were involved in their college planning, a sizeable percentage indicated that their parents were very involved with or actually took care of the following cost-related tasks:

- › Filling out financial aid forms (43 percent)
- › Deciding what colleges they could afford (44 percent)
- › Researching college costs (38 percent)

Male students reported a higher level of parent involvement than females. A similar finding was made for students with lower SAT scores. For example, parents of male students were more likely to have either been very involved or actually completed themselves their sons' college-search-related activities such as collecting information on the web, contacting colleges for information, filling out applications, and encouraging the student to apply to certain institutions.

These findings suggest that counselors and schools could assist parents in supporting student applications to college. By enhancing parental access to information about colleges and universities as well as costs, financial aid, and scholarship opportunities, more students could access college as a potential future pathway.

The studentPOLL results are based on 1,778 responses from a random national sample of 75,000 high school seniors who took the SAT and who completed an optional web-survey from December 1 to December 6, 2006. The results are accurate at the 95% confidence level, plus or minus 5%. For more information visit http://www.collegeboard.com/about/news_info/report.html.

More than half (51%) of college-bound seniors report that parents are very involved in college planning activities.

A surprising 28% of college-bound seniors want their parents to be more involved in college planning.

45% of seniors scoring in the bottom quintile on the SAT want their parents more involved in college planning, compared to 19% for seniors in the top quintile.