CollegeBoard / National Journal
Next America Poll Methodology

- Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International
- Surveyed 1,271 adults age 18 and older from March 18-26
- Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish through landlines and cell phones
- It includes oversamples of 255 African-Americans, 273 Hispanics, and 107 Asian-Americans
- Has a margin of error of 3.9 percentage points for the overall sample, more for racial subgroups
Unease about country's direction

Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction or in the wrong direction?
Sharp racial divide over Obama’s job

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Approve</th>
<th>Disapprove</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Faith in local schools persists

When you think about your own children or other children in your neighborhood today, do you believe the schooling they are receiving at the elementary, middle and high school level is preparing them to perform college work successfully?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COLLEGE BOARD/ NATIONAL JOURNAL
NEXT AMERICA POLL MARCH 18 – 26, 2014
As does faith in their own education...

Regardless of how much education you have obtained, do you believe your schooling at the high school level prepared you to do college work successfully?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
But faith slipping on value of college

Do you think young people in the United States today need a 4-year college degree in order to be successful, or not?

Share who answered yes

- Total
- White
- Black
- Hispanic
- Asian

Parents loom largest in post-HS decisions

In making the decision about what to do after high school, who did you rely on MOST for advice?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Parents and relatives</th>
<th>Guidance counselors &amp; teachers</th>
<th>Friends</th>
<th>Self</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COLLEGE BOARD/ NATIONAL JOURNAL
NEXT AMERICA POLL MARCH 18 – 26, 2014
And they prefer college...

Which of the following BEST describes what your parents or legal guardians encouraged you to do directly after high school?

![Bar chart showing preferences by ethnicity]

- **Total**:
  - Enter military: 38%
  - Vocational training: 37%
  - Attend 4-year coll: 36%
  - Attend 2-year coll: 66%
  - Get a job: 0%

- **White**:
  - Enter military: 37%
  - Vocational training: 37%
  - Attend 4-year coll: 36%
  - Attend 2-year coll: 66%
  - Get a job: 0%

- **Black**:
  - Enter military: 37%
  - Vocational training: 37%
  - Attend 4-year coll: 36%
  - Attend 2-year coll: 66%
  - Get a job: 0%

- **Hispanic**:
  - Enter military: 36%
  - Vocational training: 36%
  - Attend 4-year coll: 36%
  - Attend 2-year coll: 66%
  - Get a job: 0%

- **Asian**:
  - Enter military: 66%
  - Vocational training: 66%
  - Attend 4-year coll: 66%
  - Attend 2-year coll: 66%
  - Get a job: 0%
Young people make similar choices

Directly after high school, did you ...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Get a job</th>
<th>Attend 2-year coll</th>
<th>Attend 4-year coll</th>
<th>Vocational training</th>
<th>Enter military</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COLLEGE BOARD/ NATIONAL JOURNAL
NEXT AMERICA POLL MARCH 18 – 26, 2014
Economic need drives decision to work

For those who entered the workforce or the military after high school: Why did you do what you did?

- Could not afford more ed.
- Eager to begin career
- Needed to help support family
- Did not want loans
- Didn't receive much info about coll.
- More ed. wasn't worth the cost
- Didn't like school
- Preferred career didn't require more ed.
- Felt your ed. did not prepare you for coll.
- Family or counselors discouraged you
Their experiences are mostly positive

For those who entered the workforce or the military after high school: Starting out in a new job always involves some challenges and new experiences. Please tell me whether you experienced each of the following, or not.

- You felt confident in your ability to do the job well
- You were able to get a good start on living the life you wanted
- The well-paying jobs you wanted required skills and training you lacked
- You had trouble paying your bills
- You were not disciplined enough in your work performance

COLLEGE BOARD / NATIONAL JOURNAL
NEXT AMERICA POLL MARCH 18 - 26, 2014
Opportunity is the lure of college

For those who continued their educations after high school: There are many reasons people choose to pursue a college education or vocational training right after they finish high school. For each of the following, please tell me whether it was reason for you, or not.
Time and money are the biggest hurdles

For those who continued their educations after high school: Starting out in college always involves some challenges. For each of the following, please tell me whether you experienced this when you made your transition to college.

- Didn't know how to manage your time
- Faced financial pressures
- Being on your own was difficult
- Didn't receive enough guidance
- Course topics were not relevant
- Academically unprepared
- Too much time in remedial courses
- Family obligations got in the way
Workers found initial transition easier...

Would you say your transition ... after high school was

- Very easy
- Somewhat easy
- Somewhat difficult
- Very difficult

**Got ed. after HS**

- 49 - Very easy
- 37 - Somewhat easy

**Entered workforce after HS**

- 49 - Very easy
- 18 - Somewhat easy

COLLEGE BOARD/ NATIONAL JOURNAL
NEXT AMERICA POLL MARCH 18 – 26, 2014
But many second guess their choice

For those who entered the workforce or military: If you had the chance to do it over again, which of the following would you do directly after high school?

- Still get a job: 25
- Still enter the military: 10
- Receive vocational training: 20
- Attend a two-year college: 15
- Attend a four-year college: 30

COLLEGE BOARD/NATIONAL JOURNAL
NEXT AMERICA POLL MARCH 18 – 26, 2014
Those who sought more training would do it again

For those who got education after high school: If you had the chance to do it over again, which of the following would you do directly after high school?

- Still attend a four-year college
- Still attend a two-year college
- Still receive vocational training
- Enter the military
- Get a job

90%

8%

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70

COLLEGE BOARD/ NATIONAL JOURNAL
NEXT AMERICA POLL MARCH 18 – 26, 2014
Parental education has powerful impact

### Parental Influence and Expectations

Americans whose parents were graduated from college are more likely than those whose parents did not obtain degrees to see higher education as essential to success. They are also far more likely to have been encouraged by their parents to attend a four-year college or university, to have taken that advice, and to have finished their degree or vocational training.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Both parents college graduates</th>
<th>Both parents some college or less</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Q: Do you think young people in the U.S. today need a four-year college degree in order to be successful? | Yes  
62%  
46 | No  
34%  
52 |
| Q: What did your parents or legal guardians encourage you to do directly after high school? | Attend a two- or four-year college or receive vocational training  
83%  
51 | Get a job or enter the military  
8 |
| Q: Directly after high school, did you ... | Attend a two- or four-year college or receive vocational training  
77%  
45 | Get a job or enter the military  
19 |
| Q: Did you finish the degree or vocational training that you started directly after high school? | Yes  
70%  
58 | No  
30 |
| Q: What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received? | College degree+  
55% | Some college or less  
43%  |
|                                                                         | 23%  | 68% |

Source: National Journal Next America survey of 1,271 adults, March 18-26. Margin of error is ±3.9 points.
# Party divisions endure

## Political Differences on Policy Solutions

Democrats are likelier than Republicans to say that policy interventions such as increased student aid and expanded health services for young children would help more children succeed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q: Would this be a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor at all in helping more children succeed?</th>
<th>Major factor</th>
<th>Minor factor</th>
<th>Not a factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Providing more vocational-education options for young people who did not attend college</td>
<td>DEMOCRATS 80%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>REPUBLICANS 74</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing more student aid to help more students attend college</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>62</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requiring more academically challenging courses in elementary, middle, and high schools</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reducing class sizes in elementary, middle, and high schools</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>61</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paying teachers higher salaries to attract more talented people</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>59</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expanding access to prekindergarten and other early childhood learning</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>53</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investing in more health services for pregnant women and very young children</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>44</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing more families public money to help attend private, rather than public, schools</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>33</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Journal Next America survey of 1,271 adults, March 18-26. Margin of error is ±3.9 points.