

Why invest in postsecondary pathways?

High-quality postsecondary education is the ticket to long-term economic opportunity. Yet each year, far too many students—particularly students of color and from low-income families—are harmed by weak handoffs between K-12 and higher education systems.



99% of jobs created since 2008 require higher education or training



7,000



1 million

high schools in the U.S. where students of color or from low-income backgrounds have less than a 50% chance of directly enrolling in college

students graduate from high school and do not enroll in higher education or training each year

Families want more information and better options for their children.

Recent research from [ExcellInEd](#), [Gallup](#), and others has shown that parents have an appetite for more information about postsecondary pathways and desire more options for their children. The ARP presents a golden opportunity to ensure that high-quality experiences and preparation are available to every student.

45%

of parents wish there were more postsecondary options available to their child.

34%

of parents of high school students are very satisfied with their children's opportunities to gain real-world skills.

Despite believing in their importance, parents and young adults alike report gaps in awareness of and access to critical pathway experiences – including advanced coursework opportunities, career and technical education options, work-based learning experiences, and options for earning industry-recognized credentials.