

# Measuring 2007 Aspirations and Participation *Executive Summary*

Since 2002, over 40,000 high school seniors have completed Measuring Aspirations and Participation. This annual survey sponsored by the NHHEAF Network Organizations captures information about seniors' postsecondary education and career plans, as well as their perception of the education they received in high school.

In 2007, the response rate for student participation in the survey was 64% (7,472 seniors completed and returned surveys out of a possible 10,743 seniors at participating high schools.) Seniors at 51 public and 3 private schools participated in the survey. Schools were given the option of administering the survey by either distributing paper survey forms or arranging for their students to complete the survey online. 574 students at 7 schools took advantage of the online survey.

## How many New Hampshire high school seniors plan to attend college?

- 80% of public school seniors reported applying for admission to a postsecondary education institution, up from a low of 73% in 2003. 97% of private school seniors reported applying for admission.
- 82% of public school seniors reported that they plan to pursue postsecondary education in the fall, up from a low of 77% in 2003.

Of those, 72% plan to attend a four-year college and 11% plan to attend a two-year college. An additional 11% plan to attend a two-year college and transfer to a four-year college.

- 95% of private school seniors reported that they plan to pursue postsecondary education in the fall.

## Are seniors planning to stay in New Hampshire for college?

- The percentage of public school seniors planning to stay in the state for college increased from 47% to 53% over the six years of the survey. By comparison, 85% of private school seniors planned to go out of state for college, up from 74% in 2003.
- Public school seniors who reported planning to attend a Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH) campus increased from 10% in 2002 to 16% in 2007.
- 2007 was the first year that more public school students planned to attend a CCSNH campus in the fall (16%) than the University of New Hampshire (13%).
- The percentage of private school seniors planning to attend the University of New Hampshire fell from 16% in 2006 to 8% in 2007.
- The top reasons cited by education-bound seniors as the most important for choosing the school they

planned to attend have been consistent since 2002: the school offers the best education in the seniors' field of study; it is affordable; and it has a good academic reputation.

## How prepared are seniors for college?

- 61% of education-bound public school seniors took four years of science, but only 31% of seniors not planning to attend college in the fall took four years.
- Of those public school seniors planning to attend college in the fall, 71% took four years of math. Among private school education-bound seniors, 93% took four years of math.
- 72% of public education-bound seniors and 66% of private education-bound seniors expressed concern about their ability to finance their college education. 28% of public and 34% of education-bound private school seniors said they had no concern and were confident they would have sufficient funds to finance their education.

## What are seniors planning to study in college?

- Male public school seniors were most likely to prefer business, engineering, and computers and information technology as their likely major.
- Female public school seniors were most likely to plan to study health professions, business, education, and biology and life sciences.
- Majors in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) areas have not shown any rise in popularity over the six years.
- Among public school students planning to attend a two-year postsecondary education institution in the fall, the percentage of females planning to major in a health profession field rose from 17% in 2002 to 26% in 2007, an increase of 9% over the six years.

## When do seniors decide whether or not to continue their education?

- 62% of public school seniors reported deciding to continue their education in sixth grade or earlier, or that they had always known they would continue their education. 88% of private school seniors reported deciding to continue their education in sixth grade or earlier, or that they had always known they would continue their education.
- The top five sources for career and postsecondary education information were: high school guidance counselor (81%), high school teachers (67%), parents (61%), friends or relatives (55%), and colleges (54%).

## How do parents influence seniors' decisions?

- The percentage of public school seniors who reported that their parents want them to attend a four-year college rose from 56% in 2002 to 65% in 2007. The percentage who reported that their parents want them to attend a two-year college was consistently between 7% and 8% over the six-year period.
- Among private school seniors, the percentage who reported that their parents wanted them to attend a four-year college rose from 85% in 2002 to 93% in 2007.
- Seniors living with both parents are more likely to plan to attend college in the fall than seniors who did not live with both parents. Among those public school seniors living with both parents, 83% plan to attend college in the fall. 67% plan to attend a four-year college, 8% plan

to attend a two-year college, and 8% plan to attend a two-year college and transfer to a four-year college. Among those public school seniors not living with both parents, 62% plan to attend college in the fall. 42% planned to attend a four-year college in the fall, 10% planned to attend a two-year college, and 10% planned to attend a two-year college then transfer to a four-year college.

- The percentage of public school seniors who reported that their mothers attended college (some college/ Associate's degree, Bachelor's degree, or advanced degree) grew steadily through the six years of the survey. In 2002, 57% of public school seniors reported their mothers attended college, and in 2007 74% reported so. There was no such significant increase among fathers.

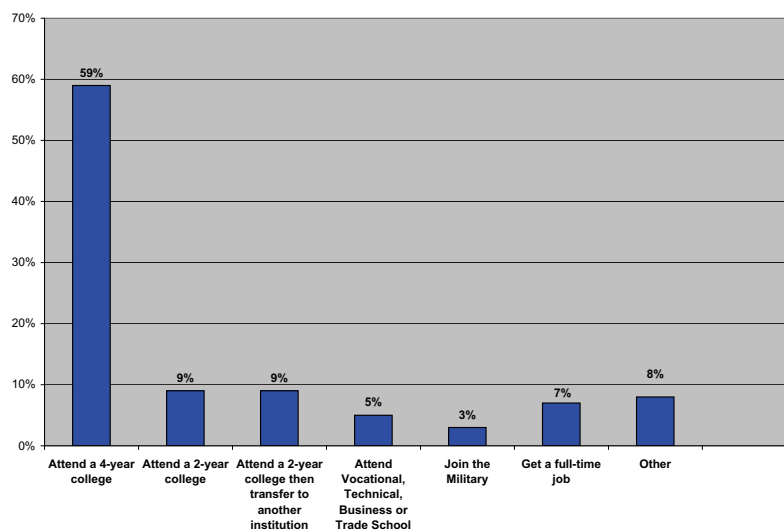
## Do CTE students plan to attend college?

- 68% of Seniors attending Career and Technical Education (CTE) Centers plan to attend college in the fall, up from 59% in 2005. 38% plan to attend a four-year college, 17% plan to attend a two-year college and 13% plan to attend a two-year college and transfer to a four-year college.



The 2007 Measuring Aspirations and Participation report and past years' reports can be found at [www.nhheaf.org/MAP/index.asp](http://www.nhheaf.org/MAP/index.asp).

## Public School Seniors' Education Aspirations for Fall 2007



The NHHEAF Network Organizations are comprised of four nonprofit corporations dedicated to helping New Hampshire students and families plan for and fund higher education. As a guarantor, lender and servicer of student loans, the Organizations are consistently recognized for providing outstanding service before, during and after the college experience. The NHHEAF Network Education Foundation administers the charitable giving programs of the Organizations. Since their inception, the Organizations have made the higher education dreams of more than 270,000 students a reality. To learn more visit [www.nhheaf.org](http://www.nhheaf.org) or contact us at 1-800-525-2577.