

Career Aspirations

Fueling Engagement of Today's High School Students

What do you want to be when you grow up?

It is a question that high school students hear often...but whether others are asking or not, most students are already thinking about **possible career pathways**.



Future Careers are on Students' Minds

Majorities of high school students are thinking **Very Much** or **Quite a Bit** about their future careers.*

80% Seniors

74% Juniors

70% Sophomores

66% Freshmen



*Question: How much thought have you given to your future career?

Good News, Teachers! You Can Leverage Interest in Careers to ...



Boost Academic Motivation and Engagement¹



Encourage Self-Direction in Choosing Courses and Activities²

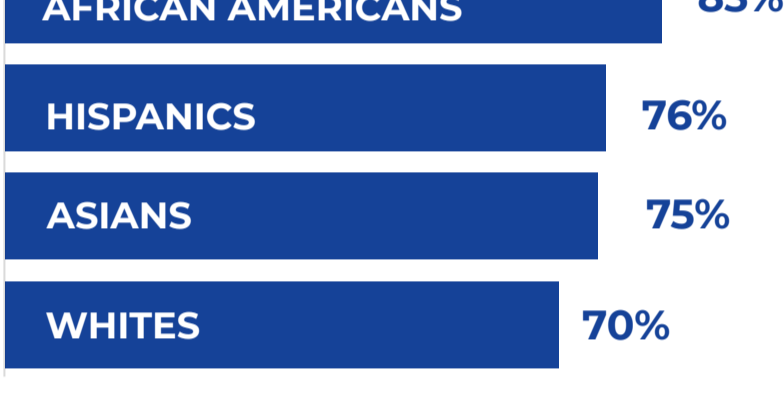


Give Students Focus in Cultivating Networks for Success³

Leveraging students' interest in future careers can help keep them engaged in class activities.

Even More Good News! Vast Majorities of HS Students are Thinking about Their Future Careers...

No Matter Their Race or Ethnicity



79% FEMALE



66% MALE

No Matter Their Gender

No Matter Their SES*



*Socioeconomic Status (SES) is based on the proportion of students in the school eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch

Career Goals Give Students a Sense of Purpose for Learning

It is "**extremely difficult** to tell a teenager what his or her **purpose for learning** should be."⁴

However, when students realize their purpose on their own, they have...

- more **motivation**⁵
- greater **stability** in their lives⁶
- better **youth development** outcomes⁷



Encouraging students to focus on their career aspirations empowers them to connect today's academics and activities with tomorrow's success.

Let the Student Research Foundation (SRF) help *you* keep students thinking about their future careers!

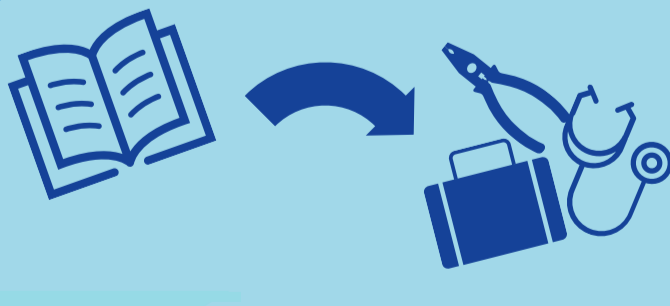


The SRF Survey:

- encourages students to consider their futures
- helps students set goals and identify interests
- reminds students your class affects their future



SRF connects students with educational resources tailored to their needs, interests, and goals.



SRF's **FREE** tools encourage students to plan for their future and empower them with resources to achieve their dreams.



Get started by contacting us: info@StudentResearchFoundation.org



Or learn more on our website: www.StudentResearchFoundation.org

Sources

¹ Kay, Joseph S et al. "High-school predictors of university achievement: Youths' self-reported relationships with parents, beliefs about success, and university aspirations." Journal of Adolescence vol. 53 (2016): 95-106. doi:10.1016/j.adolescence.2016.08.014.
² Schunk, D. H., & DiBenedetto, M. K. (2020). Motivation and social cognitive theory. Contemporary Educational Psychology, 60, Article 101832. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cedpsych.2019.101832.
³ "State Board Recognizes Importance of Career Planning." Career Vision, 13 Apr. 2018, careervision.org/state-board-recognizes-importance-career-planning/.
⁴ Merrill, Stephen. "8 Ways to Bolster Executive Function in Teens and Tweens." George Lucas Educational Foundation & Edutopia, March 12, 2021. https://www.edutopia.org/article/8-ways-bolster-executive-function-teens-and-tweens.
⁵ Machell, K.A., Disabato, D.J. & Kashdan, T.B. Buffering the Negative Impact of Poverty on Youth: The Power of Purpose in Life. Soc Indic Res 126, 845–861 (2016). https://doi.org/10.1007/s11205-015-0917-6.
⁶ Burrow, A. L., Hill, P. L., Ratner, K., & Sumner, R. (2018). A better tomorrow: Toward a stronger science of youth purpose. Research in Human Development, 15(2), 167–180.
⁷ Burrow, A. L., O'Dell, A. C., & Hill, P. L. (2010). Profiles of a developmental asset: Youth purpose as a context for hope and well-being. Journal of Youth and Adolescence, 39(11), 1265–1273.

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This infographic summarizes findings from the Career Pathways and 21st Century Skills Survey sponsored by the Research Consortium on Career Pathways and 21st Century Skills. Administered nationwide by SRF in Fall 2019, the analysis is based on responses of 47,899 students in high school classrooms across the nation. To learn more visit www.StudentResearchFoundation.org.

