

Magellan Strategies Colorado Public Education Opinion Survey

"Please describe the reasons why you think college and a four-year degree are more important."

Sex	Age Range	Party	Parent	Region	Response
M	35-44	D	N	East	Because automation will decimate the entire blue-collar and tradesman industries. Unlee we embrace UBI in the wake of the coming AI changes to our society, these CTE training programs will be useless.
F	55-64	D	N	East	There are other ways for students to get technical skills but only high school can get them prepared for college
F	65+	D	N	East	A degree will open doors
F	65+	D	N	East	Develops an understanding of research and critical analysis of topics. An understanding that opinions are not facts. Exposes students to other more diverse ideas.
F	65+	D	N	East	You need stability in your life and that's the way.
U	55-64	N	N	East	Important social experiences
F	65+	R	N	East	I feel that our school district has a higher rate of high achievers and should go to collage but students who do not excel in school need to be given a chance to excel thru tech training. Not everyone needs to go to a four year university.
F	65+	R	N	East	It is good for the future of our country. If the student is exceptionally gifted in science or technology, they should have advanced educational opportunities.
M	65+	R	N	East	Because anything less than a 4 year degree won't pay well enough to support yourself & might not even get you in the door
M	18-34	U	N	East	Prepping for that simply involves honing critical thinking and learning skills that will be helpful in any future endeavor 👍
M	35-44	U	N	East	Four year degrees are the national benchmark for job applications. Unfortunately employers don't value alternatives as highly as they should.
M	35-44	U	N	East	With a range of experiences both social and educational helps a person be more in their future goal both personal and professional.
M	45-54	U	N	East	Higher education, leads to a more well rounded and educated human being and member of society
M	55-64	U	N	East	Both are important. But I think more students benefit from careers that require college than ones that don't. It's just numbers.
F	65+	U	N	East	Expanded education of classes that are of interest to their future. The dumbing down of society is having a detrimental effect on society.
F	65+	U	N	East	It's important to have a degree because of the job market. It is required for a lot of jobs.
F	18-34	D	Y	East	To be able to have a good paying job in Colorado that affords the rent and mortgages a degree is needed
F	35-44	D	Y	East	More doors open

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M	45-54	D	Y	East	I think they are about equal in importance, however high school should be preparing students for the next step in education
M	55-64	D	Y	East	The economy has changed. Skilled labor is less necessary these days than service and management.
M	35-44	N	Y	East	Still a need in corporate world
M	45-54	N	Y	East	Anymore, it is almost impossible to find career opportunities that don't require a degree.
M	18-34	R	Y	East	To make sure they are ready and educated on the process to make it easier
F	35-44	R	Y	East	Because it will help you in the long run and you won't end up at a dead end job the rest of your life
F	35-44	R	Y	East	I don't. I think a kid should be allowed to do vocational college if that's what they prefer.
F	35-44	R	Y	East	So they can succeed and have a great future and good job this world also help with teachers shortages
M	35-44	R	Y	East	Education is key
M	35-44	R	Y	East	More opportunities, see new places and meet new people.
M	65+	R	Y	East	Good start for higher education which leads to more money easier life . ,ability to support a family
M	55-64	U	Y	East	A broader education to expose to more ideas and force better thinking
F	18-34	D	N	El Paso/St	#NAME?
F	18-34	D	N	El Paso/St	Because I value STEM fields, which can be some of the most profitable career options, and which often require a 4-year undergraduate degree. As a doctoral student myself, education is very important to me. That said, if my (future) child were to pursue something unrelated to STEM, or something that would require a 4-year college degree, I would support them.
F	18-34	D	N	El Paso/St	Mostly for the experience- getting out of your neighborhood, meeting more diverse groups and exploring a variety of interests. However I think both undergrad and technical training should be far more accessible and affordable.
M	18-34	D	N	El Paso/St	What I believe is that school should focus on critical thinking and an accurate understanding of the broader world. I do not believe that an education focused primarily on the skills desired by employers accomplishes this.
F	35-44	D	N	El Paso/St	I think this is a more general stance that can prepare all kinds of students, but I don't think either approach is the correct answer.
F	55-64	D	N	El Paso/St	Better jobs and preparing for society
F	65+	D	N	El Paso/St	A college degree is required for most white-collar jobs that offer competitive salaries.
F	65+	D	N	El Paso/St	Better jobs more salary.

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F	65+	D	N	El Paso/St	IMO, no matter what career you go into a 4 year degree will serve you well. It's exposure to other views. It's preparing you for the future should you change careers. I can provide you with a confidence and sophistication to go in any direction..
F	65+	D	N	El Paso/St	We need educated professionals in all areas
F	65+	R	N	El Paso/St	Because they give more opportunity to become an entrepreneur. Nobody really wants to sit behind a computer all day
F	65+	R	N	El Paso/St	I think both are important but in certain situations a degree will give them an advantage and better pay .
F	65+	R	N	El Paso/St	School should focus on academics first; strive to develop the best possible professionals-and leaders of the future. Career development is also vital. When I was a student in a top school system in Maryland, the school system offered two diploma programs- academic and technical. It seemed to work well and I am not sure why it was discontinued.
F	18-34	U	N	El Paso/St	College and four-year degrees allow students more education, socialization, and better, higher paying jobs
F	65+	U	N	El Paso/St	Higher Education expands people's knowledge of other cultures / societies as well as tolerance of differences
F	65+	U	N	El Paso/St	Increases future earning potential
M	65+	U	N	El Paso/St	Offers more opportunities for expansion of experience.
M	35-44	D	Y	El Paso/St	My children are far above average. As much as we need construction, hospitality, etc. workers, we also need kids who go to university and become doctors, lawyers, & teachers. If my children did not seem fit for university, obviously CTE would be the choice. That said all kids should be taught life skills just as much as math, english, and science.
F	45-54	D	Y	El Paso/St	For their future success
F	45-54	D	Y	El Paso/St	Our school district does little to prepared students for highly selective service academies or universities. mainly kids go to byu, grand canyon or CU or CSU. we could do better to create grads who are competitive at world class level
M	45-54	D	Y	El Paso/St	Because this survey is bias towards CTE. I'm a proponent of both, and don't like surveys that are trying to elicit biases.
M	55-64	D	Y	El Paso/St	Broad based education better prepares to understand and make educated choices about the world around them
M	55-64	D	Y	El Paso/St	Majority of the students come from homes where parents haven't obtained a degree. It is very essential for a child to be the first, second, or third to obtain a degree. That allow a child to have a sense of pride, dignity and self respect.

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M	35-44	O	Y	El Paso/St	I believe in education.
M	45-54	R	Y	El Paso/St	Because it makes an educated society
M	55-64	R	Y	El Paso/St	Gives the individual time to figure themselves out.
F	18-34	U	Y	El Paso/St	I don't think that it is more important because there are many jobs needed in the CTE professions, however; most people cannot get jobs without a college education. College is not for everyone, but everyone should be prepared to be able to succeed at a college or university even though they may not attend
F	35-44	U	Y	El Paso/St	More job opportunities and security post graduation
F	35-44	U	Y	El Paso/St	Students should graduate with an aa
M	55-64	U	Y	El Paso/St	Provides a student the opportunity to learn critical thinking, a skill that is becoming increasingly scarce
U	55-64	U	Y	El Paso/St	Most professional employers want that
F	18-34	D	N	Metro	It's an experience like no other
F	18-34	D	N	Metro	More opportunities, ability to shift in the marketplace as technology evolves and career opportunities change. CTE pigeonholes you into a field, which may or may not exist in 20 years. Additionally, college teaches critical thinking skills, which I would like to see our voting population have.
M	18-34	D	N	Metro	While technical training is an easier path, as a member of the C-Suite world now, degrees simply get people further. The issue is with rampant inflation and tuition gouging, students can not afford it. Especially those from lower income neighborhoods, scholarships are always an option but a full ride is only available to the 1% of exceptional students.
M	35-44	D	N	Metro	Better outcomes
F	45-54	D	N	Metro	Because they have less years to be there
F	55-64	D	N	Metro	I think it provides more options when deciding on a career choice. College provides a vast range of learning in many different subjects.
M	55-64	D	N	Metro	Graduates have higher levels of income than non college graduates.
F	65+	D	N	Metro	Critical thinking skills, broader perspective
F	65+	D	N	Metro	In the long run, a college degree means higher earnings and better on opportunistically for most graduates—but also because college teaches critical thinking skills not typically unlearned in high school and provides more flexibility in job opportunities as one ages—the skills taught in a rigorous liberal arts college can translate to many different careers.
F	65+	D	N	Metro	Student is always able to enter trades or IT training post HS, can't be admitted to higher education if college entrance requirements were not met in HS.

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F	65+	D	N	Metro	The education required for college entry is valuable to all, even if they do not attend college.
M	35-44	O	N	Metro	It's the 21st century and we need a highly educated population to compete with the rest of the world. If a student wants to work a trade they can learn on the job.
F	45-54	R	N	Metro	I don't think it is more important but I think where I live it is more important. Most students come from families where one or both parents have a four year degree and a large number have an advanced degree.
M	18-34	U	N	Metro	College teaches critical thinking and how to become a lifelong learner. Education never stops and the real value of a college degree is understanding how to continue to learn and critically think throughout your life.
M	18-34	U	N	Metro	I think getting a college degree is getting increasingly important. Not getting a degree isn't bad preparing for college will also help with going straight to a job if done right.
M	45-54	U	N	Metro	I think both options are important. People are all very different.
F	65+	U	N	Metro	Douglas County is a wealthy area with many highly educated parents, so their expectations are toward college prep.
F	65+	U	N	Metro	I think students should be given the option to do either to be Artisans or to be college graduates both educational opportunities are important for being prepared to live in the financial world
M	65+	U	N	Metro	Education and excelling in the fundamentals prepares the mind for adulthood. Shop class instead of education causes young men and women to enter adulthood with a deficit.
M	65+	U	N	Metro	The majority of students in my district comes from families that probably have highly intelligent kids than can afford college and will be the future leaders of the community.
F	18-34	D	Y	Metro	Continued education provides continued growth!
F	35-44	D	Y	Metro	Opportunity to then get a masters degree and earn as much money as possible
M	35-44	D	Y	Metro	College opens doors and opportunities
M	35-44	D	Y	Metro	I guess it depends on the CTE. We don't need more blue collar workers
F	45-54	D	Y	Metro	I think it shouldn't be either or, both are critical to meet the needs of kids throughout Colorado. In my area more are college bound
U	45-54	D	Y	Metro	This is not a straight question. If the child needs a four year degree to pursue, for example, an engineering degree then yes it is important. What you didn't ask was if we could have learning pathways for both. Which we should. People are leaving because the schools are trying to block the parents. This is very simple. Go back to teaching, support the kids and we will come back.
F	55-64	D	Y	Metro	It opens up more opportunities and possibilities for the students, as well as, allow students a chance to explore their own interests and ideas

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F	55-64	D	Y	Metro	Still today if you want to be a teacher, top musician, Executive, computer science, engineer, medical, etc requires a 4 year degree and advanced degrees. Sure there are places that we need people in vocations.
F	65+	D	Y	Metro	I do not think it is more important. They are equally important. Every student should be exposed to both programs and allowed to make their own decision as to which is best for them.
F	35-44	R	Y	Metro	Not only do you obtain a degree you also learn important life skills (independence, self discipline, decision making, relationship building, etc...)
F	55-64	R	Y	Metro	The students experience, more realistic situations in the workforce regarding competition, ability to thrive & how to relate and get along with people in the whole college experience, and what it has to offer not to mention being educated, which is part of the problem. Today we need people that are educated so that they can make good choices A lot of the problems are young people have now and adults is because they are not educated in the real world, which is competitive competitive, his healthy today's school education tries to dumb down the individual with the mentality that everybody gets a trophy that is not the real world The work ethic is being destroyed with become a nation of handouts
M	65+	R	Y	Metro	That's my belief.
F	35-44	U	Y	Metro	I'd like to see my children exposed to higher level education and allow for more opportunities in academics. Eventually they will have a job and the additional education will allow them to be polished when entering their new fields of work.
F	35-44	U	Y	Metro	This question is going to greatly depend on the parents background and where they see their child. I predict my child will attend college if not I can prepare them for a job out of high school and the real world that's a parents job
M	45-54	U	Y	Metro	I think it's more important because it further is a students growth too many young people are uneducated on things that they should be aware of. It teaches them work ethic, and an age they can actually understand it and a little more stability in early adult years. Set them up to be successful no matter what they do.
M	45-54	U	Y	Metro	Potentially greater earning potential
M	45-54	U	Y	Metro	This is a selfish answer. Both are equally important. There was not a choice for that response in the survey just one that stated Unsure. I would like both of my girls to attend a 4 year university.
M	18-34	D	N	Mtn	College is an important time in a person's life. It's for learning but it's also for maturing and getting ready for the "real world".

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M	18-34	D	N	Mtn	It really depends on the student, but many times at least having a college degree (doesn't even matter what) can be incredibly helpful for getting and retaining jobs down the line if their choice of trade doesn't work out.
M	18-34	D	N	Mtn	You make \$1.2 million more over your lifetime on average. But schools should also offer vocational training programs and students should be allowed to make informed choices which path they'd like to take
F	55-64	D	N	Mtn	I really don't, I think both are important!
F	55-64	D	N	Mtn	Really it's student specific but you can get on the job or technical training after high school, but one can never go back and get college prep.
F	65+	D	N	Mtn	I don't think a college degree is essential. But providing excellent academics prepares all students for appropriate post HS preparation.
F	65+	D	N	Mtn	Quality of life and the ability to make a good living
F	65+	D	N	Mtn	We need both types, but in my area, a college degree would probably net the student a better job
F	55-64	R	N	Mtn	The company I work for only hires college graduates
F	55-64	R	N	Mtn	To achieve the American Dream, the more education - The RIGHT KIND of education (focused on ACADEMICS) will help students achieve the American Dream
M	55-64	R	N	Mtn	Data shows that a four year degree improves your long term learning potential. I'm totally in favor of CTE programs but even those students will benefit from finance classes, etc.
M	55-64	R	N	Mtn	Higher career earnings
M	55-64	R	N	Mtn	To further advancement in the professional workplace
F	65+	R	N	Mtn	College is important because it opens doors for higher education
F	65+	R	N	Mtn	It gives a young person more of a POSITIVE OUTLOOK on their future instead of just settling for any job!!!!!!
M	65+	R	N	Mtn	A high school diploma is not enough education unless a person is going to work in the trades.
M	65+	R	N	Mtn	Earning potential. Personal fulfillment. Confidence.
M	35-44	U	N	Mtn	It raises a person's professional and financial ceiling, and broadens opportunities. Many students are attracted to CTE-type programs because they "make \$60k right away" but don't realize that there's fewer promotions and salary increases in those scenarios. College degrees open more doors for careers, and contrastingly, it feels problematic to coach a 16 year old towards a narrow career path like what a trade would provide.
F	45-54	U	N	Mtn	Better post graduate compensation easier to afford life in longterm

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Sex	Age Range	Party	Parent	Region	Response
F	45-54	U	N	Mtn	I don't think it's more important to have a 4 year degree but most jobs that pay enough to support a family require at least 4 years of college or more, especially in this economy. However, vocational training is just as valuable. They are equally important because students need both options.
M	55-64	U	N	Mtn	Building block for everything including trades work. So important.
M	65+	U	N	Mtn	Degrees provide more opportunities
M	35-44	D	Y	Mtn	College and the four year degree May not be more important than the ability to jump directly into the workforce, but PREPARING for college IS more important for critical thinking, problem-solving, executive functioning and social empathy.
M	45-54	O	Y	Mtn	Because the future is uncertain, and only obtaining a technical degree limits the opportunity for the student, rather a spectrum of knowledge and the problem solving skills that are obtained during a 4year degree as well as networking is far more valuable.
F	35-44	R	Y	Mtn	I think an affordable, higher education should be accessible and attainable for every student
F	35-44	R	Y	Mtn	Right now our graduating class is 75% attending college.
F	45-54	R	Y	Mtn	To thrive in workplace
M	45-54	R	Y	Mtn	College makes a more well rounded individual.
F	35-44	U	Y	Mtn	They should have both equal choices. Colledge opens more options for kids after graduating college instead of being stuck in the job they might not love.
F	45-54	U	Y	Mtn	I believe it will offer diverse career pathways for my children
F	45-54	U	Y	Mtn	They provide more courses that focus on future skills not skills for today only.
M	45-54	U	Y	Mtn	Almost impossible to get a job without a 4 year degree. College helps mature, prepare, and equip young adults to function in the real world. Studies show those with degrees are less likely to suffer drug abuse, less likely to become criminals, less likely to fail at life.
M	45-54	U	Y	Mtn	Stupid question. Both are important. Not everyone follows the same path.
M	55-64	U	Y	Mtn	I have 3 college degrees and has afforded be a good quality of life for me and my family
F	18-34	D	N	N Metro	Opens up lots of other career opportunities that are usually higher paying
F	18-34	D	N	N Metro	There is a lot of independent a social learning that takes place during undergraduate years. For me college was an opportunity to learn to be independent while still having some guidance and systems to support me. My degree(s) have helped me advance in my career.
F	35-44	D	N	N Metro	College not only furthers a kid's education, but it teaches critical thinking skills, matures their sense of the world around them+F268, etc. It is a vital experience for a well-rounded young adult.
F	45-54	D	N	N Metro	I believe it gives the child the most opportunities

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F	55-64	D	N	N Metro	Both should be available but if only one choice can be made, then college as that is the option for students overall. A voc-tech magnet school option could also work.
F	55-64	D	N	N Metro	I don't think your survey provided very good answer options. I don't think a four year degree is for everyone and I do think there should be career or work force options for students. It should be based on the individual student.
F	55-64	D	N	N Metro	Many positions require
M	55-64	D	N	N Metro	Society is more demanding and more and more jobs require a degree
F	65+	D	N	N Metro	Better paying jobs with a college degree, college helps form the students into adults
F	65+	D	N	N Metro	Both are equally important but that wasn't a choice
F	65+	D	N	N Metro	Proven to have more earning power ergo payment of more taxes into the system. Also intellectually enlightening.
F	65+	D	N	N Metro	This shouldn't be either or. Some students are better with one or the other
F	65+	D	N	N Metro	We have lost the ability to think critically about critical issues. Our government will collapse if we don't expose youth to literature, philosophy, art, debate among others.
M	65+	D	N	N Metro	It will give student the well rounded education they need
M	65+	D	N	N Metro	Opens more doors and enriches the student
M	65+	D	N	N Metro	They r
F	18-34	U	N	N Metro	Kids won't be able to learn how to be in the workforce without having a degree of some kind and high school doesn't prepare kids at all
F	65+	U	N	N Metro	Earning power
F	65+	U	N	N Metro	Many opportunities are lost to people with out a degree. They are not considered for jobs mistakenly
F	45-54	D	Y	N Metro	It's not that I think that it's important, it's just that for our family, our kids are most likely to be college-bound.
F	65+	D	Y	N Metro	A four year degree provides better standard of living
F	65+	D	Y	N Metro	It varies depending upon the individual. Our individual children will probably be split between four year degrees and one certification. We have a budding engineer and a veterinarian as well as a potential salesman.
F	18-34	O	Y	N Metro	They need that independent experiment of responsibility before the real world
M	45-54	O	Y	N Metro	Because business focused programs will definitely be abused and result in increasing child labor. Quit talking to us about putting kids to work and fund the schools

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Sex	Age Range	Party	Parent	Region	Response
F	45-54	R	Y	N Metro	Colorado has more jobs which require a 4-year degree & are having a difficult time filling them. Getting our kids into & graduated from a 4-year university makes them much more marketable when it comes to higher paying jobs.
F	55-64	R	Y	N Metro	The social experience from college is a chance for kids to become young adults.
M	55-64	R	Y	N Metro	With a degree you're income will be at least 40% greater than without one
U	65+	R	Y	N Metro	Education should be life long
F	35-44	U	Y	N Metro	I am unknokwedged about CTE, Anything worked hard for in high-school is nothing compared to what's needed after high school. Children deserve opportunities that are better then a high school diploma to keep them from being "bored" and disruptive to the community.
M	35-44	U	Y	N Metro	Many of today's best paying jobs require a four-year degree.
U	35-44	U	Y	N Metro	College teaches kids how to learn complex matters by themselves. Learning to learn, and continue all life long. That is a competitive edge over other economies. Technical careers are also important but need to be put forward in parallel to going to college. There should not be discrimination between these groups, they should each admire their models - if schools can find role models.
F	45-54	U	Y	N Metro	Better future employment opportunities.
F	45-54	U	Y	N Metro	Disipline and education
M	45-54	U	Y	N Metro	We need to support higher learning to fill future positions that can deal with "complex" issues, we need to figure out how to conserve our resources and become a more sustainable society, we need to figure out reliable and renewable energy and fuel sources. The brightest and most interested students need a runway that will set them on the path to elevating our future
U	45-54	U	Y	N Metro	In the district where my kids go to school there is a larger percentage of students who plan to attend a 4year degree.
M	55-64	U	Y	N Metro	Statistics show that students with a 4 year degree earn a larger lifetime salary.
M	18-34	D	N	SW	I think the K-12 education system is a complete mess. It's not about giving schools more money (although that's a factor), it's about schools spending that money more responsibly. STEM courses and CTE's are gimmicky and don't do anything to improve the actual learning of children. Nicer buildings don't help either. If you want a population of well-adjusted, educated, critically-thinking people, you need to teach them about American history and culture while fostering curious and critical thinking. The money we give to schools should be spent on creating curriculums and worksheets that don't patronize children and making the school system less dependent on the College Board.
F	45-54	D	N	SW	I live in an affluent community

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F	55-64	D	N	SW	I think four year degrees are a stepping stone to higher paying jobs and careers
F	55-64	D	N	SW	Most kids may have an idea of what they want to do at 18. More will know what they want at 22. And at least will be better prepared to adjust or shift.
M	55-64	D	N	SW	Both are important but the primary job of the public school system is to prepare kids to be able to enroll in and succeed in college.
M	55-64	D	N	SW	You learn critical thinking skills that I do not believe are taught in a technical college
F	65+	D	N	SW	Critical thinking skills. Preparing students to participate in a vibrant democracy and all that entails. Technical skills are great for some kids and should also be encouraged.
F	65+	D	N	SW	Great opportunity for students
F	65+	D	N	SW	Learning critical thinking, how to write, understanding history, ultimately provides greater opportunities and creates better citizens
F	65+	D	N	SW	More experienced and a better chance at getting a good job
M	65+	D	N	SW	Demonstrates the ability and the dedication to stick to a learning program for an extended amount of time. If a degree is accomplished then a potential employer knows that an investment in training this individual is likely to be successful.
M	65+	D	N	SW	This accomplishes two important goals. First, it broadens student's' understanding of the world, which leads to a more fulfilling life. Secondly, it opens up more rewarding and lucrative job opportunities.
M	18-34	R	N	SW	It really depends on what kind of degree. STEM fields are more important but the humanities in college are now awful degrees and aren't about learning. So if you're interested in social work you should just go into CTE and bail on SW. But if you want to be an engineer then go to college
M	55-64	R	N	SW	Better paying Jobs and a wider range of employment opportunities.
M	55-64	R	N	SW	College teaches critical thinking and provides breadth and depth to a student's world experience. Valuable by any measure
F	65+	R	N	SW	For those who are academically able it is important. C and D students should choose CTE classes.
F	65+	R	N	SW	One faces many limitations without a College degree. Some kids who don't initially attend college may choose to go later in their life. They absolutely should have that background! I finally got my own Bachelors degree in my 40's.
F	65+	R	N	SW	So many jobs require 4 year degree. ltherwise thet are seeeping floors. Shoveling stalls. Waiting tables. All worthy jobs but no pay no future.

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"Please describe the reasons why you think college and a four-year degree are more important."

Sex	Age Range	Party	Parent	Region	Response
F	65+	R	N	SW	Students should be educated to attend college but if they are interested in a career CTE training is essential, get a two year degree and CTE training. College is not for everyone but higher education is essential in our world today.
M	65+	R	N	SW	Always a good idea to get a college degree if possible.
M	18-34	U	N	SW	More places may be requiring a four year degree. Mainly if you want to obtain a better position in your work place.
M	18-34	U	N	SW	Most high-school aged students are likely missing the maturity, experience, and thinking skills to enter the workforce around 18. A four-year degree provides and opportunity for students to develop, mature, and gain life experience.
F	45-54	U	N	SW	I come from a college degree so I think it's important however I think it's equally important to have CTE classes as that is just as necessary in our society
M	45-54	U	N	SW	That are where the majority of the best paying and high quality jobs are offered.
F	55-64	U	N	SW	Because it is very difficult to ever make up the wage difference between non college attending students and those with 4 year degrees. I don't think schools should steer all students in this direction, but to track students in a way that would limit their choices would be a mistake.
F	55-64	U	N	SW	You always have it, no matter what your life brings.
F	65+	U	N	SW	College provides a broader perspective on the world. However, it's important that all kids be prepped for the real world. If college is unworkable for a student, the alternative you suggest should be available.
F	65+	U	N	SW	Preparing for that is important whether students actually decide to attend or not.
F	65+	U	N	SW	This was a hard decision. But I do believe everyone should have the opportunity to try a four-year degree however, also believe acquiring a bachelors degree is not always what's best for an individual student.
M	65+	U	N	SW	Advanced degrees necessary for function of nation. Occupational training can be done on job or in school
M	65+	U	N	SW	Even with technical work an education is important for a functioning society
M	65+	U	N	SW	Need for leadership Need for tech Need for R& D
M	65+	U	N	SW	This is longer than 12 mins
M	18-34	D	Y	SW	Colleges require more background knowledge and prerequisite skills that high schools are in a better position to practice with students compared to trade schools. College graduates on average also have higher paying jobs, and their career options are generally more diverse and stable.

Magellan Strategies Colorado Public Education Opinion Survey

"Please describe the reasons why you think college and a four-year degree are more important."

Sex	Age Range	Party	Parent	Region	Response
F	35-44	D	Y	SW	It is one of the only ways to get a job and afford to live in Colorado. People with 4 year degrees are typically happier and have a broader perspective in life.
M	35-44	D	Y	SW	Long term, the degree and experience will provide a greater opportunity for students to develop themselves.
F	55-64	D	Y	SW	A global economy and globalization
F	55-64	D	Y	SW	I don't think its more important, i just think it's more difficult for students who want to go to college to make it through all 4 years if they are not prepared both educationally and mentally for the level of difficulty encountered in taking college level courses. If they can make it through all 4 years there is a good chance they can get hired at https://www.usajobs.gov/ a website that specializes in hiring recent graduates. Especially STEM students. The jobs offer a high rate of pay and great benefits. Most of the companies are required to hire a certain number of 4 year graduates so its a win win
U	35-44	R	Y	SW	Higher education is important.
M	55-64	R	Y	SW	Highly educated students who achieve academic success have many more opportunities to choose their careers in white or blue collar jobs.
M	35-44	U	Y	SW	It really depends on whether the student WILL get a degree. But for those who will, being unprepared is a huge disadvantage and costs the student an extra 1-2 semesters of college to make up for it. For those who don't attend university, career education would be much more valuable. So a great high school needs to have both avenues, and to filter students into career or university tracks based on ability and desire.
F	45-54	U	Y	SW	High school students are really in need of an extension of a liberal arts education. They are not yet ready to make career choices
M	45-54	U	Y	SW	Even STEM certifications require some post secondary schooling. Not every kid is going to go to college. And that's 100% ok. But the perpetuation of our entire system requires people with advanced degrees.
M	55-64	U	Y	SW	Higher education is a good experience for adulthood and career.
F	65+	U	Y	SW	Less dependence on industry for jobs. Freedom to choose, higher salaries.
F	18-34	D	N	West	It is more challenging to navigate the application process, financial aid, and opportunities of a four year college so students should be taught the opportunities there so students of all backgrounds realize those doors are indeed open to them.
M	18-34	D	N	West	Not everything in life is about immediately going to work. Believe it or not, there are things that we are meant to enjoy in life.
F	45-54	D	N	West	Better overthinking me salary

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Sex	Age Range	Party	Parent	Region	Response
F	45-54	D	N	West	So many careers place value on a college degree even if the degree is in an unrelated field as it demonstrates to an employee that the individual has commitment, ability to learn, ability to problem solve and think critically and strategically.
F	45-54	D	N	West	These questions are skewed. I would have picked both if given the option. The survey is weirdly making either/or assumptions.
F	55-64	D	N	West	Both are equally important, but, I wasn't given that answer choice.
F	55-64	D	N	West	I do not trust industry. If you are talking about TRADE industries yes, but not just tech
F	55-64	D	N	West	To be competitive in the work force.
F	65+	D	N	West	Both of my grandchildren are in the gifted and talented programs, so I have high hopes of them attending University.
F	65+	D	N	West	Highest and best application of limited resources.
F	65+	D	N	West	In today's society a degree will get you in the door for an interview, don't ever bother trying if you don't have at least an AA. It is unfair but true.
F	65+	D	N	West	Necessary to enter a career oriented job market
F	65+	D	N	West	Our world is more complex and requires more education to keep up with globalization.
M	65+	D	N	West	From my own experience, I believe that the earning power is better.
M	65+	D	N	West	Work isn't everything, education is
M	18-34	O	N	West	While schools should help prepare students to be productive members of the workforce, it is not their main function. The main function of a public school is to prepare students to enter into colleges and universities so that they can earn a degree, which is practically a necessity in the US if you wish to have a well paying job. Colleges also further cultivate in students qualities such as critical thinking, strong work ethics and the ability to engage with all of societies problems in a productive way.
M	18-34	R	N	West	I am in college bachelors degree program now and am in 20k+ in debt
M	18-34	R	N	West	More job opportunities with better pay, and most jobs now require at least some sort of degree or higher education.
M	35-44	R	N	West	I think college is such a great experience and something that can open up a lot of doors. Of course choice of degree makes a difference so that isn't absolute. College isn't for everyone
F	65+	R	N	West	It provides students with the opportunity to pursue more income producing fields.
M	65+	R	N	West	It's important to establish a career goal as soon as possible. If you can truly find a career you want to pursue, you should go ag Gherkin it with much enthusiasm. This will put you in the best position to excel and obtain the best job for your desires and ensuring a secure coveted position.
M	65+	R	N	West	We are competing with a global economy

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"Please describe the reasons why you think college and a four-year degree are more important."

Sex	Age Range	Party	Parent	Region	Response
U	65+	R	N	West	Not every student should be directed toward a college degree. More emphasis should be given to preparing for useful trades.
M	45-54	U	N	West	In the long run, the right 4 year degree usually mean more pay and more choices
F	55-64	U	N	West	Being educated for college competency allows for graduate to either go to tech school or further education for a college degree.
F	55-64	U	N	West	Better paying jobs and more choices
F	55-64	U	N	West	Higher education leads to a more informed population
M	55-64	U	N	West	It is easier to move into a CTE career than trying to go back to school and commit to a four-year degree.
U	55-64	U	N	West	With the way our society is going young people will need a degree to survive in this world cause the government doesn't help us
F	65+	U	N	West	Both are important. If a student is wanting to go onto college, they need to be prepared. Many students are not college bound and need the option to be trained in a field that will give them good employment opportunities after graduating.
F	65+	U	N	West	Everything is contingent on the quality of education received in high school. If the math scores are at 26% and English at 35%, it will be hard for students to succeed. The basics (RRR) need to be emphasized
F	65+	U	N	West	I was able to obtain two bachelor of science degrees, one in business administration and one in computer science and without these degrees i wouldn't have had a 45 year career in biomedical research and development. I absolutely think at least a 4 year degree is essential for a long and viable career in STEM industries though not everyone wants to follow that path which is where CTE opportunities are also crucial in education.
F	65+	U	N	West	I've known only a few persons who have become very successful without ultimately having to go back to get a degree in order to meet their goals in life and work.
M	65+	U	N	West	Better understanding of life skills needed for society
M	65+	U	N	West	I really don't. I have a PhD but not all are destined for an academic degree. The needs to both academic, tech, and civics.
M	65+	U	N	West	Long term it provides more opportunities!
M	65+	U	N	West	Provides experiences, exposure, and education for more oppprtunities, social and real world than trade dchool
M	35-44	D	Y	West	I think post secondary education builds up young adults critical thinking skills and introduces them to people and concepts that are different from there own. College is not for everyone but I think it's important for many.

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"Please describe the reasons why you think college and a four-year degree are more important."

Sex	Age Range	Party	Parent	Region	Response
F	45-54	D	Y	West	For my family, a college education is more important. Perhaps not for everyone.
F	45-54	D	Y	West	I believe having a higher education provides a broader mindset to our population. Currently, we are forcing these kids to go in the direction of trades which is okay but not developing a more intellectual brain will eventually dumb down our population.
F	45-54	D	Y	West	It's important for students to have the option of the opportunity of higher education if they want it.
F	45-54	D	Y	West	Prepare for higher education so those that take that route are ready, those interested in trades will presumably be well educated as well.
M	45-54	D	Y	West	Studies show that obtaining a 4-year degree is one of the best ways to ensure a better-than-average income over one's lifetime. Especially for demographic groups who typically have more/larger hurdles towards achieving higher incomes. BUT — the current costs of student loans and 'lifetime' student debt are also canceling out the potential gains in income. So while a degree is important — it is also appropriate to ask if it's worth the cost.
F	35-44	R	Y	West	College provides more of a general education so it allows for a career in several different fields, usually they are higher paying jobs and provides better life for future generations
F	35-44	R	Y	West	I think education is important and anyone who desires a college degree should have the resources available in high school to achieve this goal.
M	35-44	R	Y	West	Personal preference but depends on the individual student needs and talents.
F	45-54	R	Y	West	Education should be a priority
F	45-54	R	Y	West	In this day and age getting a good job without a college education will make life and a promising future very difficult.
F	55-64	R	Y	West	College allows students to expand their knowledge base required for a particular career they are interested in pursuing. The more education one receives puts each student at a better advantage to succeed in their chosen career goal. However, I want a professional to be at the upper level of their education to feel comfortable with hiring him/her. In other words, a doctor or lawyer who has put forth the effort to be the best they can be is better than one with a mediocre "C" average. Too many people today have the mindset that all they need to do is "just get by". I don't want those individuals working for or on me.
F	18-34	U	Y	West	Having a college degree opens more doors for employment in the future, as well as keeps options for careers open as a student gets older.
F	35-44	U	Y	West	Gives students more time to figure out career. Plus more educational opportunities and life experience.
F	35-44	U	Y	West	Higher education is important, but not for everyone.

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"Please describe the reasons why you think college and a four-year degree are more important."

Sex	Age Range	Party	Parent	Region	Response
F	35-44	U	Y	West	Most high schoolers don't know what they want to do for a career. I know many people who participated in technical training programs in HS, got a certificate, and then never used the skills they had acquired because they wanted to pursue other interests
F	35-44	U	Y	West	We have a poorly educated community. I want everyone to go to college.
M	35-44	U	Y	West	Increased knowledge creates more economic opportunity and raises, uneducated family members out of property.
M	35-44	U	Y	West	That is what employers are looking for. Much is learned in college, outside of the actual degree.
F	45-54	U	Y	West	College experience is invaluable
M	45-54	U	Y	West	The reality is a college education is not as important as it once was but still dictates the quality of job reached in the future.
M	45-54	U	Y	West	There's time enough later in life for learning domain knowledge skills A broader based education first helps create better informed well rounded individuals
F	55-64	U	Y	West	I think either a college education or workforce training are acceptable but a public school's education is to provide the basic tools that allow a student to make that decision for himself. Public school cannot be expected to do everything. Four year college doesn't have to happen at 18 but does make a life long difference.