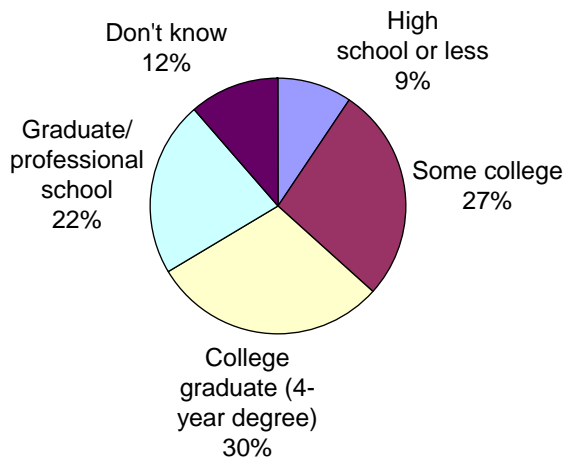


Parents' Education Associated with High School Seniors' Expected Level of Educational Attainment

Chart 1. Expected Level of Educational Attainment of High School Seniors with Parents with High School Education or Less, 2004

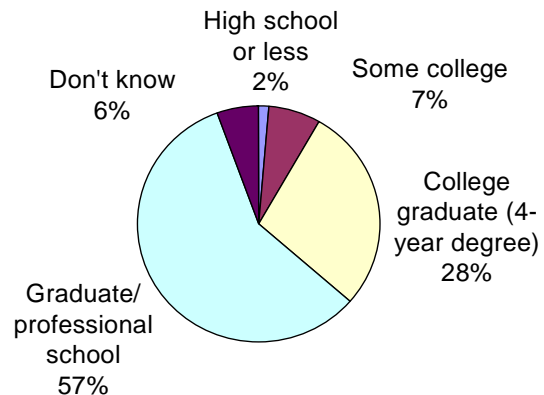


In October 2005, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) released a report on its first follow-up profile of individuals who were high school seniors in 2002.

One of the multitude of findings in that report is that, two years after graduation, one of the strongest predictors of a 2002 senior's expected level of educational attainment is his or her parent's level of educational attainment.

While many students anticipate achieving higher educational attainment than their parents, those at each end of the parental education spectrum illustrate how a parent's education can influence a student's expectations of himself or herself. (See Charts 1 and 2.)

Chart 2. Expected Level of Educational Attainment of High School Seniors with Parents with Graduate or Professional Degrees, 2004



Computer & Internet Use by Students Increases With Parent Educational Attainment

Of 2002 seniors with parents with a high school education or less, nine percent expect that they will achieve the same low level of educational attainment. Only 22% of these same students expect to attend graduate or professional schools. By contrast, only 2% of 2002 seniors with parents with graduate or professional degrees expect to stop at a high school education or less, while 57% of them expect to equal their parents' educational attainment.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, *A Profile of the American High School Senior in 2004: A First Look: Initial Results From the First Follow-up of the Education Longitudinal Study of 2002 (ELS: 2002)*, **E.D. TAB**. Available online at: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2006348>.

