

# Lit Scan

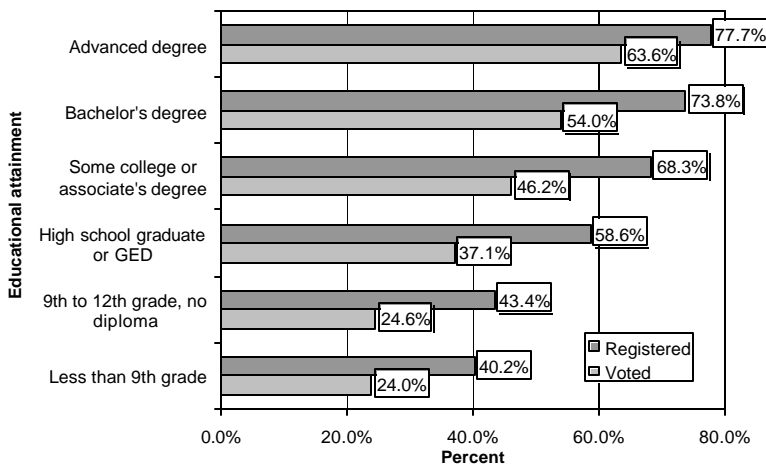
Facts & Figures from the Colorado Literacy Research Initiative

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## Educational Attainment as a Predictor of Political Participation

**Rates of Voting and Registration by Educational Attainment, November 1998**



America's democracy depends on the informed participation of its citizenry. An August 2000 Current Population Report from the U.S. Census Bureau indicates that an individual's level of educational attainment is a very strong predictor of political participation—specifically, registering to vote and voting.

Of U.S. citizens who did not complete ninth grade, only two out of five registered to vote and less than one-quarter actually voted in the November 1998 Congressional elections. Of citizens who graduated from high school, three out of five registered and more than one-third voted. Of citizens with advanced degrees—master's degrees, doctorates, and professional degrees—more than three-quarters registered and almost two-thirds voted.

Education is thus important to the political as well as the fiscal vitality of the nation.

Source: *Voting and Registration in the Election of November 1998*, **Current Population Reports**, P20-523RV, U.S. Census Bureau, issued August 2000. Available at: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2000pubs/p20-523.pdf>

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