

# Rural and Nonrural Students: Who planned to go to college and who went

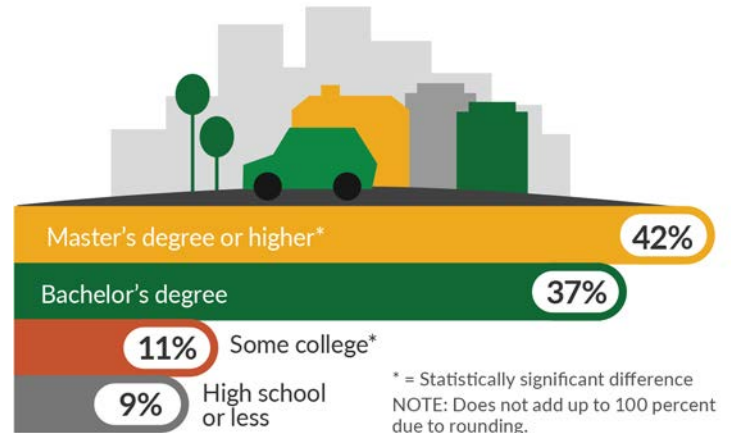
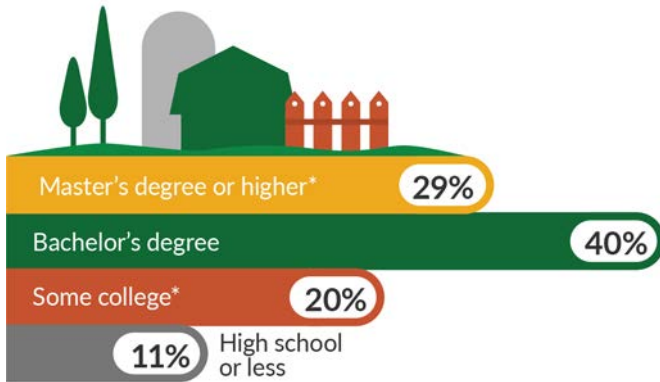
A study conducted by Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Midwest compared rural and nonrural Midwestern students' expectations for continuing their education beyond high school. The study used data from a survey of grade 10 students in 2002 and a follow-up survey of the same students in 2012.

## Rural Midwestern Students

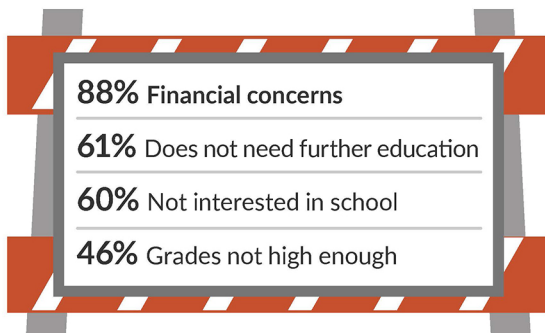
2002

## Nonrural Midwestern Students

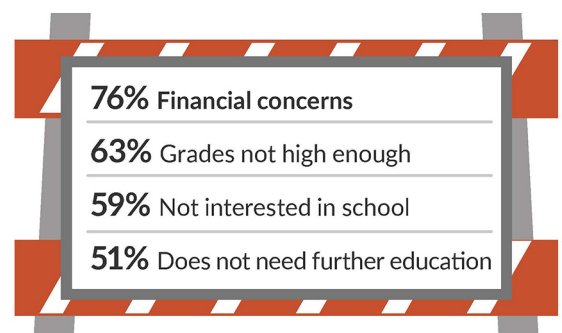
Approximately **9 out of every 10** rural and nonrural grade 10 students in the Midwest **expected to go to college**. However, nonrural students reported **higher educational expectations** than rural students.



Both rural and nonrural grade 10 students who did not expect to continue their education beyond high school most often **reported financial concerns** as the reason.



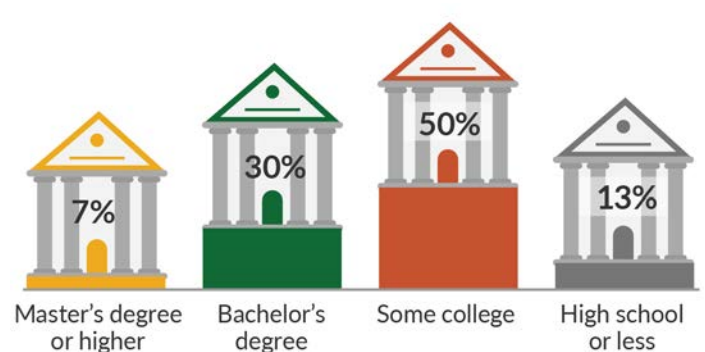
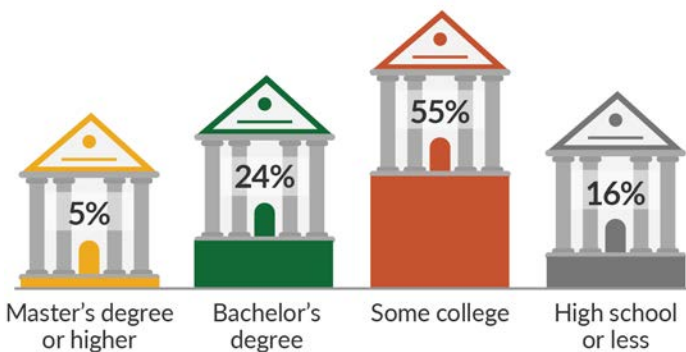
NOTE: Students could select more than one response.



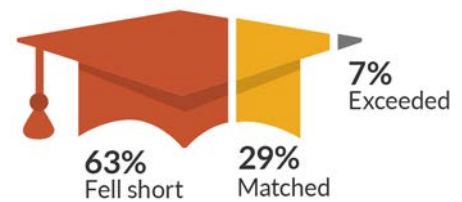
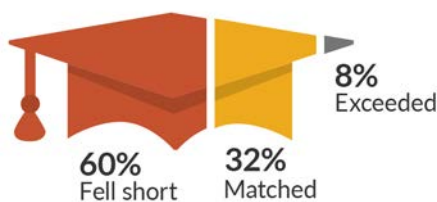
NOTE: Students could select more than one response.

2012

Ten years later, rural and nonrural grade 10 students had **similar attainment levels**.



However, nearly two thirds of rural and nonrural grade 10 students **fell short** of their **educational expectations**.



NOTE: Does not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Although rural and nonrural students in the REL Midwest Region had high postsecondary education expectations, the majority fell short of these expectations ten years later. To guide policymakers' and educators' efforts to help students realize their postsecondary education expectations, future research should focus on the reasons why rural and nonrural students fail to realize their postsecondary education expectations.