College enrollment patterns differ for rural and nonrural Indiana high school graduates despite similar academic preparation

Using data from Indiana state longitudinal data systems, REL Midwest examined rural–nonrural differences in college enrollment patterns among the 2010 cohort of public high school graduates.1

More than 20,000 students in Indiana graduated from a rural high school.

Both rural and nonrural high school graduates have similar...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic preparation*</th>
<th>College enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural 27.2%</td>
<td>Rural 62.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonrural 28.1%</td>
<td>Nonrural 60.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Took at least one Advanced Placement exam

However, compared with nonrural high school graduates, rural high school graduates are more likely to...2

Enroll in two-year colleges at higher rates

- Rural: 30.8%
- Nonrural: 25.4%

Travel further to attend two-year colleges

- Rural: 44.5 miles
- Nonrural: 38.9 miles

Attend colleges undermatched to their presumptive eligibility**

- Rural: 27.8%
- Nonrural: 24.4%

**Presumptive eligibility is the highest level of college selectivity for which a student is likely to be accepted for admission, based on his or her academic qualifications. In the current study, grade point average and ACT/SAT scores were used to determine presumptive eligibility.
Data source


Endnotes

1 Study findings are limited to Indiana public high school students who graduated in 2010 and who enrolled in a two- or four-year public Indiana college in fall 2010.

2 Percentages represent proportion of students within a given subgroup (rural, nonrural).

Additional information

For more information about this infographic, contact REL Midwest by e-mail (relmidwest@air.org) or by phone (866-730-6735).

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