

PDK Poll

50 YEARS OF AMERICAN VOICES

The pulse of America: College affordability

The ability to pay for a college education has become one of the overarching concerns for American families.

The 2018 PDK poll learned that the public overwhelmingly supports the concept of tuition-free community college, a policy already implemented or proposed in several states and cities. Seventy-five percent of Americans are in favor, according to the 2018 PDK poll, compared with 58% when the same question was asked just three years ago.

[Read more about college affordability](#)

Key points from 2018 PDK poll

Just **19%** of parents of K-12 students say it's "very likely" that they will be able to pay for their child's college tuition.

Nearly **3 in 10** of the wealthiest parents say they're uncertain they can afford their child's college tuition.

8 in 10 parents of K-12 students favor making community college free — as do **73%** of other adults.

The percentage of parents who say they'll be able to pay for college has dropped from **69%** in 1995 to **54%** in 2018.

75% of Americans with college degrees say a college education is key to future success; only **55%** of Americans without a college education agree about the value.

Source: pdkpoll.org

Is college a good investment?

Americans say the more college the better if you want a good-paying job

49% say a PhD is very good preparation for a good-paying job

44% say a master's degree will do the same

Just 22% say a four-year college degree is very good preparation for a good-paying job

Only 9% say a two-year college degree does equally well

Source: PDK Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools, 2018. pdkpoll.org



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