



Educational Needs, Aspirations, and Expectations for Young People in Michigan

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Latinos in Michigan LM-03

February 2008

ABSTRACT

In today's changing economy and global competition, the demand for a better educated workforce has been increasing. Since the 1970s, new structures of work have emerged that require a highly skilled labor force. Using data from the State of State Survey (SOSS), this brief examines the aspirations and expectations of parents regarding their children's futures. Specifically, it examines whether parents' aspirations and expectations for their youth's educational futures vary by race and ethnicity, educational attainment, family income, marital status, and rural/ urban residential location. Almost 86% of Michigan parents with children ages 13-17 reported that their children need at least a college-level education to succeed in today's world. With regard to the level of education needed for success, the views of respondents are as follows: 1) two-year college degree (42.5%), 2) four-year college degree (31.7%), and 3) post-college education (11.7%). Only 14% of respondents indicated that a high school degree was sufficient for today's youth to succeed in life.