

BASELINE FEDERAL STUDENT AID AWARENESS SURVEY

Note: Will be administered to parents of high school students and high school students using computer-assisted telephone interviews. If more than one high school student in family questions will be asked to or will apply to oldest teenager who was in high school in the last year, if possible. Items or text in italics are not read to respondent. For all questions with instructions "probe; mark all that apply," first response will be noted.

Introduction:

Screener

HELLO, I'm calling for the U.S. Department of Education. My name is _____. We're gathering information on high school age students and their preparations for attending college. Your phone number has been randomly selected and I'd like to ask you a few questions. Your responses can help improve programs that make it possible for more people to go to college. Have I reached you at [Read number]?

- 1 Yes, Continue (Proceed to next question) **{Go to "PRIVATE"}**
- 6 Number is not the same **{Go to "X1"}**
- 7 Termination screen

(X1) Thank you very much, but I seem to have dialed the wrong number, it's possible that your number may be called at a later time. **{TERM}**

(PRIVATE) Is this a private residence?

- 1 Yes, continue-Continue
- 2 No, non-residential-Go to "X2"

{If PRIVATE=2}

(X2) Thank you very much, but we are only interviewing private residences. Thank you for your time.

Our study requires that we randomly select one person who lives in your household to be interviewed. How many children and adults, including yourself, are there in your household?

___ Number of people in the household

How many of these people are adults, that is age 19 or older?

- 0 None
- 1 One
- 2 Two
- 3 Three
- 4 Four

How many of these people were in high school during the last school year? (September 2004 to June 2005)

- 0 None
- 1 One
- 2 Two
- 3 Three
- 4 Four
- 5 Five

****Keep information in dataset****

[If there is at least one adult and one teenager in the household, continue. Otherwise, terminate call.

Screener for Paired Interviews

Our study requires that we interview pairs of parents and teenage children. We would like to randomly select one parent who lives in your household to be interviewed. After that interview is complete, we would also like to interview the oldest teenager in your household. The interviews do not need to be conducted at the same time, we can make arrangements to call back and complete an interview with either a parent or a child.

How many of the adults in the household are parents or guardians for the teenagers living in the household?

___ Number of parents/guardians in the household

if >1, What is the name of the parent or guardian who had the most recent birthday?

RECORD FIRST NAME: _____

(AREYOU) Are you _____?

- 1 Yes **{Go to PRESURVEY INTRO }**
- 2 No **{Go to "SECTIONA"}**

(SECTIONA) May I speak with _____?

- 1 Yes, Selected Respondent coming
- 3 No, not here (Schedule a call back)

If new adult, read,

I'm calling for the U.S. Department of Education. My name is _____. We're gathering information on high school age students and their preparations for attending college. Your phone number has been randomly selected and I'd like to ask you a few questions. **Your responses can help improve programs that make it possible for more people to go to college.** Our study requires that we interview pairs of parents and teenage children. We have randomly selected you as the parent to be interviewed. After that interview is complete, we would also like to interview the oldest teenager in your household. The interviews do not need to be conducted at the same time, we can make arrangement to call back and complete an interview.

[Go straight into PRESURVEY INTRO]

Screener for Permission to Interview Teen Only

For this study we are interviewing teenage children. We would like to interview the oldest teenager in your household who attended high school in the past school year.

Am I currently speaking with a parent or guardian for the teenagers living in the household?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No **{Go to "SECTIONA"}**

(SECTIONA) May I speak with _____?

- 1 Yes, Parent coming
- 3 No, not here (Schedule a call back)

If new adult, read,

I'm calling for the U.S. Department of Education. My name is _____. We're gathering information on high school age students and their preparations for attending college. Your phone number has been randomly selected and I'd like to ask your oldest teenager a few questions. **Your teenager's responses can help improve programs that make it possible for more people to go to college.**

The interview does not need to be conducted at this time, we can make arrangement to call back and complete an interview.

How old is your oldest teenager who is between 13 and 18?

{if oldest teenager is 18:}

That is the person I would like to speak with. Is that person available? [go to KIDINTRO]

{If oldest teenager is between 13 and 17:}

Since **your oldest teenager** is between 13 and 17 years old, I need to ask for permission to interview him/her. May I have your permission to interview the teenager?

- 1 Yes }
- 2 No **{term interview}**

(KIDINTRO) [WHEN THE CHILD IS ON THE PHONE: READ IF NECESSARY: HELLO, I'm calling for the U.S. Department of Education. My name is _____. We're gathering information on high school age students and their preparations for attending college, and I'd like to ask you some questions. **Your responses can help improve programs that make it possible for more people to go to college.**

- 1 Child available
- 2 Child not available, schedule a call back

[Go straight into PRESURVEY INTRO]

READ SURVEY IN FIRST PERSON VOICE, start with PRESURVEY INTRO

(PRESURVEY INTRO)

I won't ask for your name, address or other personal information that can identify you. Your participation is by choice and you may decline to participate at all. You don't have to answer any question you don't want to, and you can end the interview at any time. The interview takes approximately 7 minutes and any information you give us will be confidential. The interview may be monitored for quality assurance purposes. If you have any questions about this survey, I will provide a toll free telephone number for you to call to get more information about the study or your rights as a research participant. Would you like for me to give you those numbers now?

CALL CENTER 1-800 #: 1 800-

US Department of Education: contact name and number

Let's get started. First, I'd like to ask you some questions about going to college or some other type of school after high school.

1. Are you *[if student]*/Is your child *[if parent]* planning to go to college, trade or technical school after high school?

- a. *Yes*
- b. *No*
- c. *Unsure/haven't decided*

2. Now, think about paying for college, trade or technical school. Where would you go to find information about ways to pay for college? *[Probe; mark all that apply.]*

- a. *High school or guidance counselor*
- b. *College/school financial aid office*
- c. *Bookstore (e.g., Borders, Barnes & Noble)*
- d. *Friends and colleagues*
- e. *Family members*
- f. *Specialists, advisors or HR personnel at work or in union*
- g. *Library - look for books/articles/publications*
- h. *Web site/Internet/computer/on line*
- i. *U.S. Department of Education web site or publications*
- j. *College entrance publications (e.g. Peterson's, College Board)*
- k. *Magazines (e.g., US News and World Report)*
- l. *College catalogues, materials, publications*
- m. *Financial advisor/planner/institution*
- n. *Other (specify):* _____

3. Would you ever look for information about paying for college/school on the Internet? [If answer to Q2 was web site/Internet/computer/on line omit this question and go directly to the question following "Yes"]

a. Yes:

What search terms/words would you use on the Internet? [Probe; mark all that apply.]

1. Financial aid
2. Scholarships
3. Grants
4. Student aid
5. Paying for college/school
6. Loans, college loans
7. FAFSA or Free Application for Federal Student Aid
8. U.S. Department of Education
9. State Department of Education
10. Other (specify): _____

b. No [Skip to Q5]

4. Is there a particular Internet, web or on-line site you would go to? [Probe; mark all that apply.]

- a. The FAFSA or www.fafsa.ed.gov [Skip to Q6]
- b. ed.gov or U.S. Department of Education
- c. State organization or State Department of Education (specify): _____
- d. Yahoo!, Google, AOL or other search engine
- e. finaid.org
- f. Sallie Mae
- g. College board
- h. FAFSA.com
- i. fastweb.com
- j. mapping-your-future.org
- k. Other (specify): _____
- l. Nothing in particular/would just look/don't yet know

5. Have you ever heard of the FAFSA? [Pronounce rather than spell out]

- a. Yes
- b. No [Skip to Q8]
- c. Don't know

6. What is the FAFSA?

- a. Application for government-sponsored student financial aid [Skip to Q7]
- b. Web site for student financial aid [Skip to Q7]
- c. Web site for college applications/advanced college credit [Skip to Q7]
- d. Free Application for Federal Student Aid [Skip to Q7]
- e. Other (specify): _____ [Skip to Q7]
- f. Don't know [Proceed to Q6a]

6a. Would you say the FAFSA is *[Read list]*

- a. An application for government-sponsored student financial aid
- b. A web site for student financial aid
- c. A web site for college applications/advanced college credit

7. To the best of your knowledge, do you have to pay to file the FAFSA?

- a. *Yes, have to pay*
- b. *No, it's free*
- c. *No, but I chose to pay*
- d. *It depends [no further clarification]*
- e. *It depends on the amount of data I reveal*
- f. *It depends on my/our family's income*
- g. *Don't know*

8. Do you know of any **Federal** government agency that provides student financial aid for college, trade or technical school? What? *[Probe; mark all that apply.]*

- a. *Federal Student Aid/Office of Federal Student Aid [Skip to Q 11]*
- b. *FSA [Skip to Q11]*
- c. *U.S. Department of Education*
- d. *State Department of Education*
- e. *U.S. Armed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard, ROTC etc.) or Department of Defense*
- f. *Veterans Administration*
- g. *Other (specify):_____*

9. Have you ever heard of FSA or-the Office of Federal Student Aid at the U.S. Department of Education?

- a. *Yes*
- b. *No [Skip to Q14]*

10. Do you know what FSA or the Office of Federal Student Aid at the U.S. Department of Education does? [Probe; mark all that apply.]

- a. Determines eligibility for loans
- b. Determines eligibility for grants/Pell grants
- c. Determines if I/we get financial aid or money for school/college or education after high school
- d. Makes loans
- e. Gives grants
- f. Encourages people to go to college/school, provides information on going to school/college or education after high school
- g. Promotes access to higher education for all Americans, helps people better their lives/get better jobs through education, gives everyone a chance to go to college or other aspiring/motivating message
- h. Other (specify): _____

11. The Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) uses a slogan in its publications and on its web site. Have you ever heard it?

- a. Yes
What is it?
 - 1. We help put America through School
 - 2. Other (specify): _____
 - 3. Don't know
- b. No

12. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Financial aid is available for education and training after high school for any American who needs it. Use a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 is strongly agree and 7 is strongly disagree.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

13. Now I'm going to read you a few slogans. Tell me if you have heard any of them used by the Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA). [Present in random order]

- a. We help put America through school [DO NOT READ if respondent answered option #1 for 11a]
- b. Start here, go further
- c. College –your choice, your future*
- d. Know how
- e. Consider the possibilities
- f. College is possible

14. Many families need help paying for college, trade or technical school even after getting scholarships or grants. If families like yours need help paying for college, is it a good idea to take out a loan?

- a. Yes [Skip to Q16]
- b. No
- c. It depends/sometimes

d. Don't know [*Skip to Q16*]

15. Why do you think it might not be a good idea to take out a loan?

- a. *Not able to get a loan/have bad credit*
- b. *Not able to pay it back/don't have enough money*
- c. *Do not have job*
- d. *May not have job after college/school*
- e. *May not finish college/school*
- f. *Interest rates are too high/interest makes it more expensive*
- g. *Other (specify):_____*

16. Did you know that Federal student loans have lower interest rates than most other loans?

- a. *Yes*
- b. *No*
- c. *Not sure/uncertain*

We're almost finished. I'd just like to ask you a few background questions. First, I'm going to ask some questions about the last school year, that is, August 2004 through July 2005.

17. How many people in your household, if any, [*if to parent say, including yourself*] attended college, trade, or technical school during the last school year?

_____ (enter number)

Students:

18S.What is the highest grade in school or level of education that your mother/guardian completed?

- a. Less than high school
- b. High school graduate or GED
- c. Some college
- d. Community or Junior college degree
- e. Tech or trade school
- f. College degree
- g. Some post graduate
- h. Graduate or professional degree (MA, MS, PhD, JD, MD etc.)
- i. Don't know

19S.What is the highest grade in school or level of education that your father/guardian completed?

- a. Less than high school
- b. High school graduate or GED

- c. Some college
- d. Community or Junior college degree
- e. Tech or trade school
- f. College degree
- g. Some post graduate
- h. Graduate or professional degree (MA, MS, PhD, JD, MD etc.)
- i. Don't know
- j. Does not apply

20S. Are you of Hispanic origin?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Don't Know
- d. Refused

21S. What is your race? *[Read each item. Multiple responses accepted.]*

- a. White
- b. Black or African-American
- c. Asian
- d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- e. American Indian or Alaska Native
- f. Other (specify): _____
- g. Don't know
- h. Refused

Parents:

18P. What is the highest grade in school or level of education you completed?

- a. Less than high school
- b. High school graduate or GED
- c. Some college
- d. Community or Junior college degree
- e. Tech or trade school
- f. College degree
- g. Some post graduate
- h. Graduate or professional degree (MA, MS, PhD, JD, MD etc.)

19P. What is the highest grade in school or level of education the student's other parent/guardian completed?

- a. Less than high school
- b. High school graduate or GED
- c. Some college
- d. Community or Junior college degree
- e. Tech or trade school
- f. College degree
- g. Some post graduate
- h. Graduate or professional degree (MA, MS, PhD, JD, MD etc.)
- i. Don't know
- j. Does not apply

20P. Are you of Hispanic origin?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Don't Know
- d. Refused

21P. What is your race? *[Read each item. Multiple responses accepted.]*

- a. White
- b. Black or African-American
- c. Asian
- d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- e. American Indian or Alaska Native
- f. Other (specify): _____
- g. Don't know
- h. Refused

22P. For 2004, was your total household income from all sources before taxes were deducted:

- a. Less than \$15,000
- b. \$15,000 to \$30,000
- c. \$30,000 to \$45,000
- d. \$45,000 to \$60,000
- e. \$60,000 to \$75,000
- f. \$75,000 to \$100,000
- g. More than \$100,000
- h. Not sure
- i. Refused

Screener for Permission to Interview Teen (after completed parent interview)

Thank you very much for your time this evening. As I mentioned at the beginning of the survey, our study requires that we interview pairs of parents and teenage children. Now that we have completed the parent interview, we would like to ask the same series of questions to the oldest teenager in the household, who was in high school last year. The interviews do not need to be conducted at the same time, we can make arrangement to call back and complete an interview with your teenager later, but it would be convenient to complete that interview now.

How old is your oldest teenager who was in high school last year?

{if oldest teenager is 18:}

That is the person I would like to speak with. Is that person available? [go to KIDINTRO]

{If oldest teenager is between 13 and 17:}

Since **your oldest teenager** is younger than 18 years of age, I need to ask for permission to interview him/her. May I have your permission to interview the teenager?

- 1 Yes }
- 2 No {term interview}

(KIDINTRO) [WHEN THE CHILD IS ON THE PHONE: READ IF NECESSARY: HELLO, I'm calling for the U.S. Department of Education. My name is _____. We're gathering information on high school age students and their preparations for attending college, and I'd like to ask you some questions. **Your responses can help improve programs that make it possible for more people to go to college.**

- 1 Child available
- 2 Child not available, schedule a call back

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