

College and Work Activity during the First Fall After Graduation

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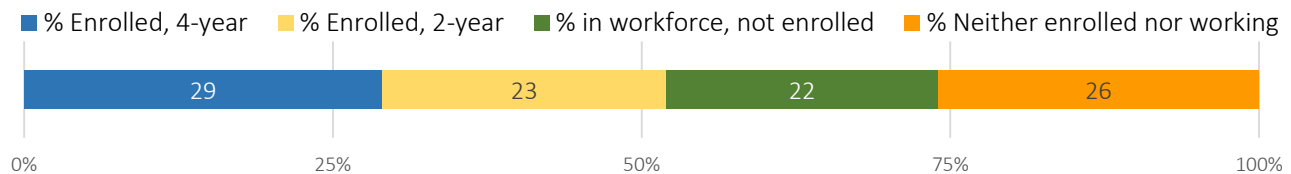
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This brief is the first in BERC’s *Launching into Adulthood series*, which examines the trajectories of Baltimore graduates. A partnership with Baltimore’s Promise and the Maryland Longitudinal Data System made it possible to examine both college and earnings outcomes for Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) graduates. We chose a single class, graduates in 2009, to examine college experiences and workforce activity.

In this brief we explore City Schools graduates’ destinations during the fall after high school, in college and the formal workforce.

Fall After Graduation

Figure 1. Percent of City Schools graduates enrolled in college or working in Maryland workforce during the fall after high school (class of 2009).



In the first fall after high school, over half the graduates enrolled in either 4-year (29%) or 2-year (23%) college. Nearly half of both groups were also working while they were enrolled. About 22% of graduates were in the workforce and were not enrolled in college. The remaining 26% were not found to be enrolled or working in the formal labor force. Stated another way, 74% of graduates could be documented as in college, the Maryland workforce, or both.

Conclusions

In total, 52% of City Schools graduates enrolled in some type of college the year they graduated. National college enrollment data for the class of 2009 show that 54% of lower income graduates enrolled in college.ⁱ This suggests that City Schools’ graduates, who are predominantly lower-income, enroll at levels similar to their peers in the country as a whole.

The share of graduates in the class of 2009 who were enrolled or working in Maryland the fall after high school is similar to those found among other recent classes.ⁱⁱ The surprising number of high school graduates who are neither in college or working in Maryland the fall after graduation is of concern. With no known traditional means of supporting themselves or a family, their path forward is unclear. Further research is necessary to understand the pathways of this group.

For details about the data source and methodology [see *Launching into Adulthood Methodology brief*](#).

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ⁱ U.S. Department of Education. (2017). *Digest of Education Statistics*, Table 302.30. Washington, DC: Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics.

ⁱⁱ Durham, R.E., Connolly, F. (2016). Postsecondary college and workforce outcomes among Baltimore city graduates. MLDS Research Colloquia Series. Retrieved from https://mldscenter.maryland.gov/egov/Publications/ResearchSeries/Research_Colloquium_Nov_3_2016_FINAL.pdf