THE FACTS

Today, many more students are pursuing postsecondary education following high school graduation than 25 years ago, and this is true across racial/ethnic groups as illustrated below.

Did you know?
MORE STUDENTS ARE GOING TO COLLEGE.

NEXT STEPS

Although more students are going to college, in 1997, only about 28% of high school graduates ages 25 to 29 completed a bachelor’s degree or higher, while 8% had completed an associate’s degree (U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, Current Population Survey, March 1997). More work needs to be done to ensure that a greater number of those who start postsecondary education complete their associate’s or bachelor’s degrees. States and school districts should implement better counseling programs at the middle and high school levels to: (1) let students know early on the courses they need to take—particularly mathematics, science, and language courses—that will help them to succeed in postsecondary education; and (2) help students sort through their post-high school options to determine which course of study—and which type of institution—will best prepare them for the careers that they are interested in pursuing.