



College Possible is driven by the simple idea that America's youth should go as far as their talent and motivation can take them.

[CollegePossible.org](https://CollegePossible.org)



## EMPOWERING THRIVING & ENGAGED GRADUATES

The promise of the College Possible model is that we can help students from low-income backgrounds break free from the grips of multigenerational poverty to lead more satisfying and fulfilling lives. A recent survey indicates that we are delivering on our promise.

For nearly 20 years, we have supported thousands of students in their journeys to and through college. Multiple evaluations, including a Harvard randomized control trial, have demonstrated that our students are more likely to go to college and **three times more likely to earn a college degree** than their peers from low-income backgrounds.

Now a recent survey has provided us with a window into how our students are doing five and 10 years after graduation. The key findings suggest that:

- + We are helping to change the trajectory of our students' lives.
- + Our graduates are employed, earning middle-class or higher incomes, and are committed and engaged citizens.
- + Program alumni attribute a large portion of their success to the assistance provided by College Possible and their near-peer coaches.



College Possible is proudly supported by AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA

#### KEY FINDING #1

### Our graduates are out of poverty.

Five-year grads reported a median individual income of \$40-59,999 and over a third of 10-year grads have family incomes of \$100,000 or more. These figures are particularly impressive when compared to the fact that our high school program participants report an average annual family income of less than \$28,000.



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“I knew what college was, but I did not know how to get there because so few family members had reached college. College Possible helped us navigate that process to get into college. Without it, I wouldn’t have had the postsecondary education I’ve completed and attained the life I live now.”

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“[College Possible] helped me break the cycle of poverty by supporting me while I got my degree.”



#### KEY FINDING #2

### Our graduates are employed, have health insurance and are saving for retirement.

Our graduates have a 98% employment rate, 94% have health insurance and 83% are saving for retirement.

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“Before College Possible, I assumed I was too poor and not smart enough to attend college. I knew nothing about applications, financial aid, ACTs, etc. College Possible gave me the knowledge and preparation to do something that I thought was inaccessible. Now I’m working at one of the most successful tech companies in the world.”



#### KEY FINDING #3

### Our graduates believe their children will be able to go to college and more than half have begun saving for it.

Ninety-seven percent of survey respondents who have children found it “likely” or “very likely” that their children will be able to attend college and 53% have begun saving for their children’s college education.

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“[College Possible] got me ready and prepared to go to college and because of this knowledge, I feel more equipped to help my own children attend college in the future.”



#### KEY FINDING #4

### Our graduates have high rates of civic and philanthropic engagement.

Not only are our graduates thriving individually, they are politically engaged and give back to their communities. Eighty-seven percent of respondents reported voting in the 2016 presidential election, notably higher than the 51% estimated turn-out rate of eligible millennial voters in that election.

Seventy percent of respondents contributed monetarily to a charity or philanthropy, almost half of those who donated gave more than \$100 and 6% reported gifts greater than \$1,000.

Sixty-two percent reported volunteering in the past year, compared to the 39% estimated rate of volunteerism for college-educated adults in the U.S.

#### KEY FINDING #5

### Our graduates are not buried in undergraduate debt.

All of our students rely on financial assistance to pay for college, but nearly one in five respondents graduated from college debt-free. Over a third reported a debt load of \$10,000 or less, and on average, respondents left college with less debt than their non-College Possible peers: five-year graduates' debt was only 81% that of their peers, and ten-year graduates' debt was only 69% that of their peers.

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“Before College Possible, I never gave college a second thought because nobody in my family went and I did not know financial aid was a thing. I would not have gone to college without the help of College Possible.”

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“Thanks to College Possible, I was able to navigate the whole college process successfully, apply to different scholarships, and graduate from college debt-free.”

“As a first-gen, low-income student, College Possible helped fill in the gaps that my parents didn’t have knowledge of and school failed to impart on me. The high school program gave me a sense of community and an adult who was invested in my future.”

**KEY FINDING #6**

**More than one in four have earned an advanced degree.**

Twenty-nine percent had either a master's degree or doctorate, and that figure jumps to 50% when 10-year graduates are considered separately.



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“College Possible has been a phenomenal program for me and has given me the opportunity to not only dream big, but do big and be big in the world. My path to college wouldn’t have been possible without the program. The program has given me the ability to think far beyond undergrad. I have accomplished my masters and hopefully in the next two to three years, will be able to move onto my doctorate of nursing practice.”

**KEY FINDING #7**

**Graduates found College Possible helpful in setting them on the path to college.**

Eighty-six percent of respondents found College Possible “very” or “extremely” helpful in navigating the college application and enrollment process.



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“Navigating college without College Possible would’ve been akin to navigating an expedition without a map. It taught me so many invaluable things about college that I would not have learned about otherwise.”



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“College Possible was always there for me when I needed direction. I honestly don’t know if I would have had the tools and knowledge to access higher education without the assistance of my coach and College Possible. I’m now working on my doctorate degree ... this was an impossible dream made possible.”

“I wouldn’t have had the resources for navigating the college application process if it weren’t for College Possible. I attribute the encouragement from College Possible to jumpstarting my personal success.”