Parents experiencing poverty are significantly more likely than parents who are not to indicate their financial situation makes it difficult to be involved in their child’s education.

Approximately half of parents considered to be above poverty also reported that being involved in student education was difficult due to their financial situation.

Parents with less than a high school education wish they had more time to be involved in their child’s education compared to other parents.

Parents’ educational attainment significantly correlates with students’ career aspirations, with the desire to use a lot of math increasing as parents’ education level increases.

Parents experiencing poverty were less likely to report understanding different aspects of college preparation. 40% of parents living below poverty level reported they did not know how to help their child apply for financial aid.
PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN COLLEGE PREPARATION:
Parents of 7th and 10th graders were asked about college planning

*Thirty-five percent of parents said they rarely or never discussed college admission exam preparation with their child.*

*Seventy-eight percent of 7th and 10th graders’ parents said they knew which high school classes their child should take to be successful in college.*

*However, about one-third of students are unsure which classes will best prepare students in math and science.*

*There is some ambiguity among parents surrounding which classes will best prepare students in math and science.*

*Scholarships, student loans, and student’s income in college were referred to most frequently as planned ways to pay for college.*

*Almost 70% of 10th-graders’ parents said they know how to help their child apply for financial aid to attend college. However, 69% of the children of these parents in the know, said they do not know how to apply.*
THE STEM GENDER GAP IN IDAHO

Tenth graders earned higher scores on the scientific fact index than seventh graders, in general. Twice as many tenth grade boys than girls correctly answered all six index questions. Only 20% of tenth grade girls correctly answered 5 or 6 questions on the index compared to 36% of tenth grade boys.

Analyses indicate that parents were more likely to have discussed STEM fields with sons than with daughters. In addition, parents were more likely to discuss STEM fields with 10th graders as compared to 7th graders. Thus, the gender gap that persists in STEM fields, may have some beginning in these early conversations with parents.

While positive attitudes toward math and science declined for both boys and girls between seventh and tenth grades, girls’ attitudes diminished at a far more substantial rate than for boys.

Boys said they like math more often than girls did, but boys were less interested in jobs requiring math beyond high school level. Over a fifth of boys would like a job that doesn’t require a college degree. Tenth grade boys were more likely than girls to indicate they would like a job that meets their parents’ wishes and allows them to stay in their hometowns.
THE ADDED CHALLENGES WITH HISPANIC STUDENTS

For both male and female parents, the level of educational attainment among Hispanic parents was significantly lower than the other two racial-ethnic groups considered in this report. This can impact parental influence and student career and educational choices.

The most important considerations are: high school grades, scores on college entrance exams, availability of financial aid, and the cost of college. Where differences exist, Hispanic students and parents are more likely to say these factors are "very important" to their college-going decision.

White students reported liking math and science more than Hispanic students in both seventh and tenth grades.
More than half of 7th and 10th graders said they didn’t want jobs that use a lot of science and math and YET… their responses to what type of career they would like to have when an adult are related to STEM fields. This incongruence suggests students do not know what type of education or skill such jobs require. In this word cloud, the larger the font, the more likely the item was listed as an ideal career choice by students.