

New National Survey Finds Pandemic-Driven Shifts in Gen Z Priorities for Education and Work Persist

New data from current high school students reveals a general lack of preparedness to determine an education and career path after high school. Recent findings from [ECMC Group's Question The Quo Education Pulse survey](#), conducted in January 2023, illustrate trends from before the pandemic to now, showing that many of the pandemic-associated shifts in thinking about Gen Z are lasting.

Although the number of students who believe in postsecondary education has increased higher than pre-pandemic levels, many students are seeking shorter, more flexible pathways into careers. Yet only 13% feel prepared to make a decision about their education and career path after high school. They report a desire for more information about the financial impacts of education, the education and career pathways available to them, and how they can meet their basic needs while attending an institution.

At the same time, Gen Z has a career-focused mindset and believes that connecting their education to a future career is a necessity. Most teens think about their path beyond high school at least weekly, and nearly half think about it every single day. As they look to the future, teens are turning to family and counselors for help most often, but they wish their schools would provide additional information that would help prepare them for their pathway of choice.

ECMC Group, a nonprofit focused on helping students succeed, has conducted seven Question The Quo Education Pulse surveys, spanning from February 2020 to January 2023. The surveys are part of the [Question The Quo](#) campaign – a grassroots effort to empower learners to explore their many postsecondary education options and to follow the path that's right for them. To learn more and see the trends ECMC Group uncovered over the past three years, [click here](#).