

**QUESTION  
THE QUO**

**SUPPORTING YOUR TEEN  
AS THEY NAVIGATE THEIR FUTURE  
EDUCATION AND CAREER JOURNEY**

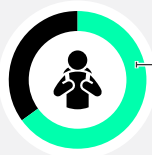


**Our research shows many teens  
are questioning the status quo**

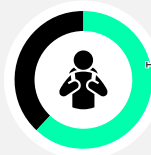
Choosing a path after high school can be challenging for students. Many teens feel pressure to take a certain education path even though the vast majority don't feel they have the information they need to make an informed decision.

We at ECMC Group have been gathering information like this from teens since before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic about their wants and needs for their future after high school. We've uncovered several interesting statistics that may prove helpful as you support your student through this process.

**Many teens want a shorter, less expensive  
and more direct-to-employment option.**



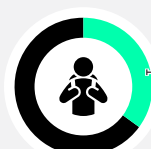
**65%**  
say their ideal  
education path  
would involve  
learning skills on  
the job



**62%**  
worry about how  
they will pay for  
college



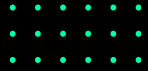
**48%**  
say postsecondary  
education should last  
three years or less



**35%**  
say postsecondary  
education should last  
two years or less

## THE MAIN TAKEAWAY:

Many Gen Z teens have changed their wants and needs when it comes to their future education and work due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



### Helping your teen decide on their future path:

As the parent or guardian of a high schooler, you play a key role in helping your student decide their future path. In fact, our surveys show that teens often look to their immediate family for guidance and support.

### Things you can do to help:



Take time to explore the many educational options that exist. Four-year degrees are a great pathway for some students, but others may prefer community college or career and technical programs that offer education and training that fit the needs of today's employers.



Many teens have told us that they feel pressure to take a certain path after high school. Know that the process to choose their future path is potentially stressful for your student and find ways that you can best support them.



Recognize that the workforce and education landscape today is much different from when you were making these decisions for yourself. Factors such as the pandemic, rising costs of education, the economy and shift in requirements for the workforce have changed students' perspectives.

The research we gathered is part of our Question The Quo campaign, which is designed to empower Gen Z teens to take the education and career path that is right for them. In addition to the resources available on our website (scan the QR code below), our affiliate ECMC offers a wide variety of free resources, including the Opportunities Guide and Workbook ([ecmc.org/opportunities](https://ecmc.org/opportunities)) that offers easy-to-use planning worksheets in both English and Spanish.



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MORE RESOURCES**

