

## May 2007 Educational Equity Brief

1. "Billionaires Start \$60 Million Schools Effort" by David Herszenhorn, New York Times, April 15, 2007.

Eli Broad and Bill Gates have begun a \$60 million political campaign to encourage discussion about the state of U.S. education in the 2008 presidential campaign. The slogan is "Ed in '08" and the project is titled Strong American Schools. They are focusing on three main areas (not candidates):

1. Better and consistent nationwide standards
2. More time and support for learning
3. Having effective teachers in every classroom

2. "House passes legislation to increase math and science teachers" CNN, April 30, 2007.

The US House of Representatives passed a bill (389-22) which offers over **\$600 million through 2012 for math and science teacher preparation**. Students can receive annual scholarships of up to \$10,000 if they commit to teaching upon graduation.

3. "Community College Funding Makes Ballot" by Tanya Schevitz, April 26, 2007

An initiative that would increase California community college funding is going to be on the February 2008 ballot. It would lower student fees to \$15/unit from \$20/unit and state funding will be increased based on the population growth of college-age residents instead of using K-12 figures. The state will guarantee that 40% of its general fund will be given to K-12 and community colleges. The community colleges would lose about \$71 million in annual revenue from the fee cuts, but that amount will be made up for by the increased state funding. A CSU spokeswoman raises concern about the fiscal impact of the public universities if the community colleges fees are fixed and are guaranteed a certain level of funding.

4. "The Future of Education. Survey shows frustration among teacher, parents. Why Educators Quit: Lack of Support, too much paperwork." By N. Asimov & A. Emam, San Francisco Chronicle, April 26, 2007

Highlights of a recent CSU study ("A Possible Dream: Retaining California Teachers So All Students Can Learn") that discusses teacher attrition. A NCES study estimates that **about 18,000 California teachers quit the profession each year**. The six recommendations of the study are:

1. School administrators should continuously assess teaching conditions
2. California should increase education funding to at least adequate levels.
3. Introduce administrative policies that support teachers' instructional needs.
4. Principals should focus on "high-quality teaching and learning conditions"
5. The state should establish standards for teaching and learning conditions.

6. Administrators should address specific challenges in retaining special education teachers.

5. "States Give Failing Grade to Graduation Rates." by Ben Arnoldy, Christian Science Monitor, March 15, 2007

Nationally, **for every 100 ninth graders, only 18 will enter college and graduate within six years**, a report from the National Conference of State Legislatures announced. They poor college preparation and lack of help to keep students on track as major factors, but place the most blame on the dramatic tuition increases over the past few years. Average loan debt at public colleges has jumped from \$8,000 10 years ago to \$17,250 today. Furthermore, if the Pell Grant has kept up with the rises in tuition, the average grant would be \$10,000 rather than \$4,000.

6. "High school instruction, college needs unmatched." By Shirley Dang and Mat Krupnick, Contra Costa Times, April 10, 2007

Students are entering college unprepared academically. Nationwide, **28% of incoming freshmen had to enroll in remedial college classes**. In the CSU system, nearly half of all freshmen scored below proficient on the English placement tests and more than a third were below proficient in math.

7. "College Freshmen Are Wealthier; Income Gap Widens" by James O'Neill, Bloomberg.com, April 9, 2007.

**This year's entering class of freshmen come from families with income 60% above the national median. In 1971, the gap was 46%.**

8. "40 Years of Changes in the Student Body." Inside Higher Education, April 9, 2007.

Highlights from UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute's report "The American Freshman: Forty Year Trends 1966-2006."

1. Income gap between national average and median parental income of freshmen (in 2006 dollars)

	1971	2005
Public	\$17,800	\$25,600
Private	\$27,300	\$35,700

2. Student's goals in life in order:

1. To raise a family
2. To be well-off financially
3. Helping others

3. Ethnic/Racial Group make up of college students:

1971	2006
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White	90.9%	76.5%
African American	7.5%	10.5%
Asian/ Asian American	0.6%	8.6%
Latino/a	0.6%	7.3%
Other	1.9%	3.6%
Multiracial	1.3%	7.2%
Native American	0.9%	2.2%

9. Data from January 2007 Education Week -- "From Cradle to Career: Connecting American Education from Birth Through Adulthood"

Increase in college costs compared to increases in other sectors of the economy:

**Percentage growth from 1982-84 to 2005:**

College tuition/fees	375%
Medical care	223%
Consumer price index	95%
Apparel	20%

The gap between educational attainment expectations and actual attainment has grown:

	1980	2002
10th graders expecting a BA or higher	40.6%	79.4%
25-year olds with a BA degree	28.3%	28.9%

