

3. Education

Why is this broad determinant important to a thriving community?

Education is key to securing a stable living-wage job. Generally, more education leads to higher wages and better career opportunities. Employers need workers with certain skills and rely on the public education system to provide these skills. Graduation rates and test scores are important factors for businesses considering relocation or expansion. Development agencies consider education, particularly of women, as a major predictor of economic prosperity. Our democratic society requires educated citizens who understand the complex issues we face.



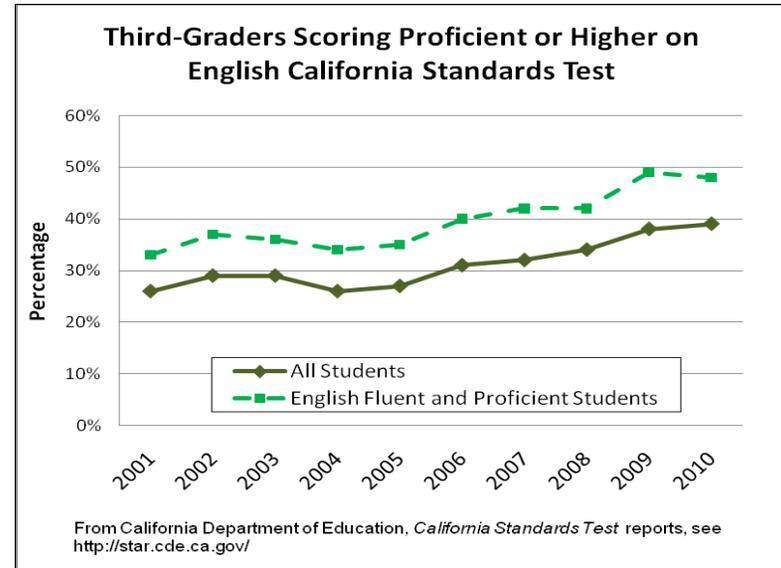
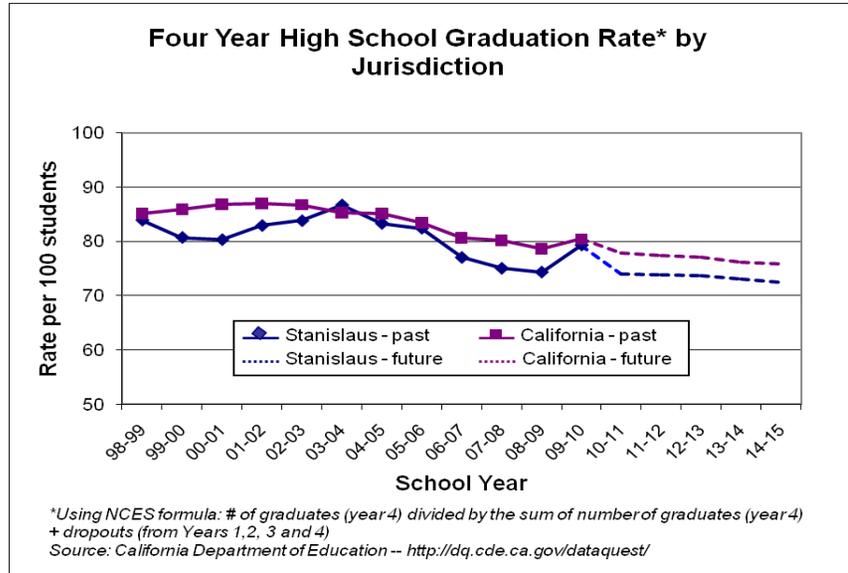
In addition, education has a connection to health status and life expectancy. People with higher educational attainment usually have jobs with more comprehensive health insurance coverage. They have better health literacy (ability to understand a doctor's instructions and information about health risks) and have better knowledge of health issues. These factors influence their lifestyle choices and health-related decisions. By contrast, individuals without a high school diploma or equivalent often have either limited or no health insurance coverage. These individuals are generally in poorer health, have less consistent care and are often diagnosed with diseases at a later stage than those with higher educational attainment. They also have more trouble understanding health information and communicating their medical needs. All these factors negatively impact their health outcomes.

Lack of family educational background or support, language barriers, weak relationships with teachers, perception of irrelevance of classroom learning, behavioral issues and teen pregnancy are common factors cited by Stanislaus students who fail to graduate from high school.

Community Result: All Stanislaus County residents will have the opportunity to attain a high school diploma or equivalent, and attend college or vocational training.

Population Outcome Measures:

- ✓ [County's annual high school graduation rate](#)
- ✓ [Percentage of County 3rd graders scoring proficient or higher on California Standards Test for English](#)



Goal 1-1: Engage parents and students in order to prevent truancy and increase graduation rates.

Planned Activities	Participating Organizations
Supplement class curriculum to increase the real-world content, through the use of free materials provided by the Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies . For more information or free access to the curriculum, contact Keith Griffith at griffitk@stanalliance.com .	Local school districts, Stanislaus County Economic Development & Workforce Alliance (The Alliance), major employers
Create and distribute to high school students a comprehensive Career Success Guide , including career interest surveys, explanation of how to fill out a resume, college entrance requirements, information on college entrance exams and apprenticeship programs (35,000 copies were distributed free of charge to all Stanislaus County schools in 2011)	The Alliance ¹

¹ With the financial support of local colleges, vocational schools and employers

Goal 1-2: Reduce teen pregnancy through prevention activities.

Planned Activities	Participating Organizations
Collaborate and conduct public awareness and social marketing campaigns to prevent and deglamorize teen pregnancy	Teen Pregnancy Prevention Collaborative

Goal 1-3: Provide young people with life skills to enhance workforce readiness.

Planned Activities	Participating Organizations
Through the AmeriCorps apprenticeship program, provide young people with work experience and training as they assist at-risk students in county schools	Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE)
Make the Career Ready 101 software available throughout Stanislaus County to teach life skills and workforce readiness for 2011-2012. Participation is available through the following school districts: Ceres, Denair, Modesto, Oakdale, Riverbank, Turlock and Waterford, as well as San Joaquin Valley College. For more information or a free account, contact Keith Griffith at griffitk@stanalliance.com .	Stanislaus County Economic Development and Workforce Alliance (The Alliance)

Community Result: Stanislaus County residents will have access to worker retraining programs to prepare for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

TBD – Phase III