

# *Generational Impact Study* Findings Brief

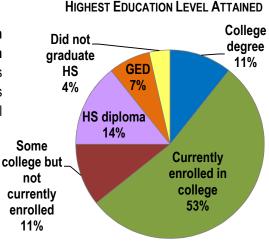
## Study Goals and Method

Capital IDEA's mission is to lift working adults out of poverty and into living wage careers through education. The primary goal of the Generational Impact Study was to determine if and how Capital IDEA has an effect on the educational performance and attainment levels of graduates' children – "the next generation." Southwestern University sociology student Kristen McCollum designed an objective electronic survey and conducted in-depth interviews. Representing a 33% response rate, 78 Capital IDEA graduates responded and information was gathered on 74 eligible children who were in school when their parents first enrolled in Capital IDEA. Additionally, in-person and phone interviews were conducted with 11 graduates and 8 children.

### **Educational Attainment**

Of the children who are now age 18 and older, **nearly 90% have received a high school diploma**. Another 7% received their GED. **75% are currently enrolled in college or have received at least some college education**. This compares favorably to only 18% of economically disadvantaged Texas high school graduates who enroll in higher education that next fall. (Source: THECB, "2009 High School Graduates Enrolled in Higher Education Fall 2009, by Diploma Type and Ethnicity")

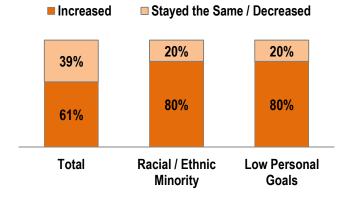
"I think for my children to see me go through the program ...witness what it takes... it gave them a really good idea of what would be ahead for them and why it's better to get your education done when you're younger." - Mother of 5



### Academic Performance

Graduates overwhelmingly felt that **Capital IDEA had a large impact on their child's academic performance**, rating the impact an average 8.1 out of a maximum 10 points.

#### "The rest of my family aren't excelling in school as well as me and my sister. I realize that it's because my mom and dad have the mentality that's different. Since [Capital IDEA] helped further her education – it's now going to create a different standard for my generation." - Son, age 19



### Expectations for Achievement

**61% of all children experienced increased parental educational expectations for their academic achievement**. Children with parents from racial or ethnic minority backgrounds, as well as children whose parent's personal goals were at most to finish high school, were even more likely to experience these increased expectations.

Though 70% of graduates had goals of attending college as teenagers and only 55% actually attempted college on their own, **96% of children's parents expect them to attend college**. Additionally, 78% of children were reported to have increased their personal goals.

"Once I realized that education was what I needed, I knew that I needed to instill that. Even though education wasn't a big part of my life growing up, it had to be for them." - Mother of 1