How America Pays for College 2020

A snapshot of the national study by Sallie Mae® and Ipsos

Find out how families across the country are moving forward with their higher education plans during COVID-19, and how they choose and pay for college.



Families aren't letting uncertainty due to COVID-19 get in the way of their plans for college. The majority of college students say they're ready to get back to campus.





13% are uncertain about next school year because of COVID-19, and 7% have decided to take time off or enroll in a different school

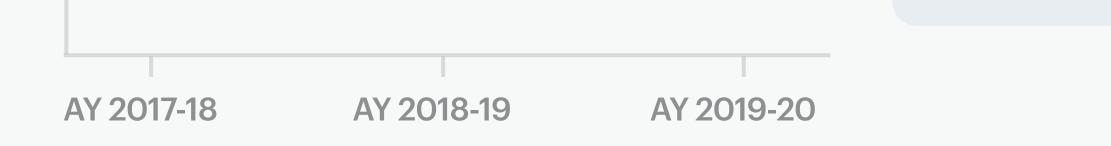
impact on their student's education

When it comes to paying for college, parents foot the lion's share of the bill



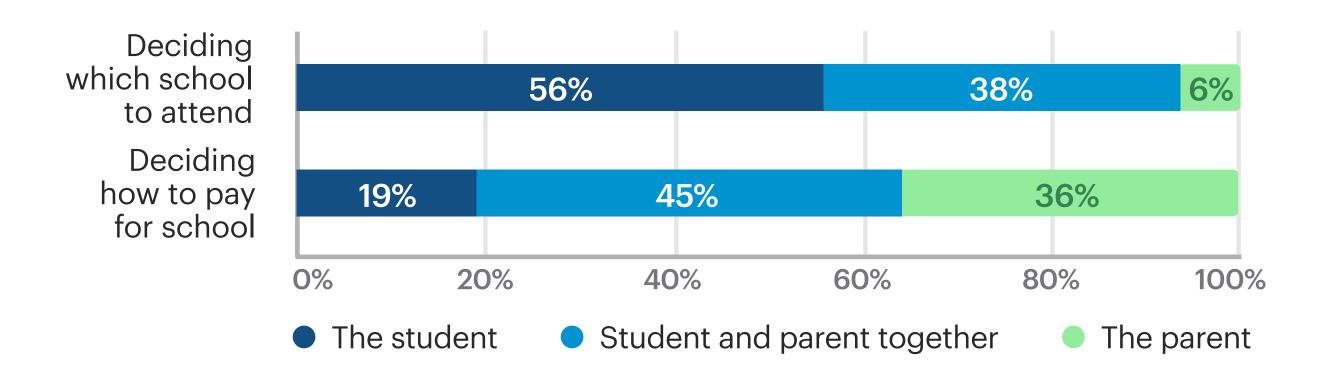
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Share of college costs paid from each funding source



More than one-third (37%) of families used a college savings account like a 529—up from 21% in AY 2018-19

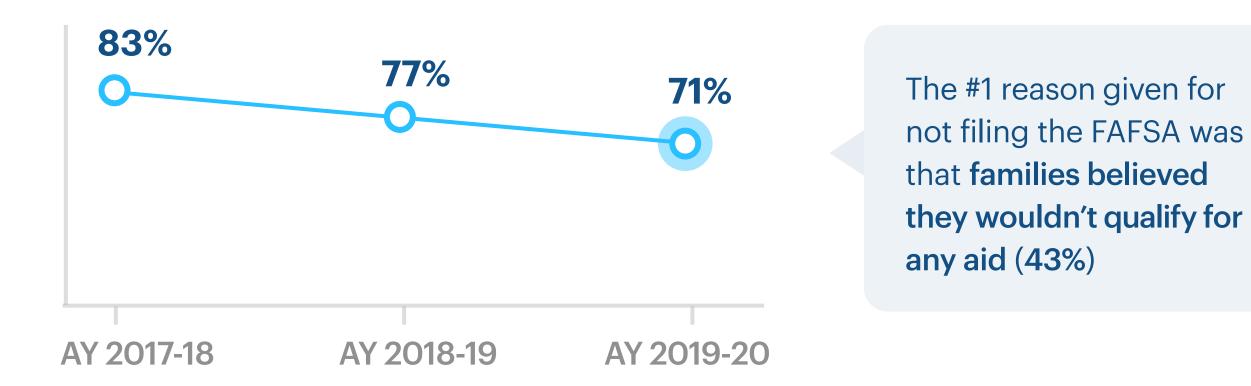
In most families, the student decides which school to attend, while parents play a bigger role in deciding how to pay



How families make decisions about where to attend and how to pay

Fewer families are filing the FAFSA[®], which means they could be missing out on thousands in financial aid

Just 71% filed for AY 2019-20—a steady decrease from 83% two years ago



Learn more by visiting salliemae.com/howamericapays Join the conversation with **#HowAmericaPays**

Ipsos conducted the How America Pays for College 2020 survey online, in English, between Monday, March 30, 2020 and Monday, April 27, 2020. Ipsos interviewed 1,996 undergraduate students and parents of undergraduate students from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii.

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