

# What Do Urban Teens Really Want for Their Future Careers?

A survey of urban low- to middle-income African American and Hispanic teens found that teens value many things in a career besides money.



## WHAT TOP 5 THINGS DO URBAN TEENS CONSIDER VERY OR EXTREMELY IMPORTANT?



**88%**  
say having a job they love is important

**79%**  
say getting more education/training

**78%**  
say going to college

**77%**  
say helping parent(s)

**76%**  
say owning my own home

## WHAT ARE THE TOP 5 ASPECTS TEENS FEEL ARE IMPORTANT TO THEIR FUTURE CAREERS?

**84%**

say having a career, not just a job, is very or extremely important



**78%**  
say learning new things all the time

**73%**  
say working in a field in which finding a job is easy

**72%**  
say making a lot of money

**72%**  
say helping other people

## TOP 10 CAREERS\* OF INTEREST INCLUDE COMPUTER JOBS

1. Business owner
2. **Software Programmer**
3. Nurse or Doctor
4. Civil Engineer
5. Lawyer
6. **Computer Technician**
7. Military Job
8. **Computer Design Engineer**
9. Architect
10. Engineer



**3**  
of the top **10**  
careers are tech related.

\*out of 60 careers surveyed

## TEENS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ENROLLING IN TECH TRAINING PROGRAMS GIVEN THE RIGHT MOTIVATIONS.

Teens would be interested in learning about IT programs if ...

**94%** ... they could get paid for it as a job while in high school



**88%**  
... they could get high school credit for it

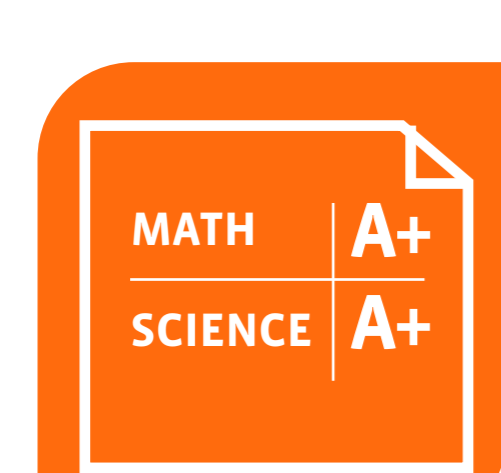
**90%**  
... it would help them get into college

**87%**  
... it were related to other areas of career interest to them

**81%**  
... it involved helping to solve a problem in their school

**79%**  
... it involved helping to solve problem in their community

## A FEW MYTHS MIGHT HOLD THEM BACK FROM PURSUING IT CAREER:



**Myth 1:**  
You have to be great in math and science to be successful.

**Truth:**  
Not all tech jobs require much math or science beyond the basics.

**Myth 2:**  
You have to earn a four-year college degree.



**Truth:**  
Actually, several pathways can help you get started in an IT career without a degree.



**Myth 3:**  
Jobs in technology are all about sitting alone in front of a computer and geeking out.

**Truth:**  
In reality, IT jobs are about helping people—and usually working in a collaborative team to make that happen.

Teens and their parents can find out more about IT careers at **CompTIA.org/roadmap** and test drive an IT career at **http://ow.ly/IpZt2**.