

# How Can You Prep Your Teen for a Tech Career?

## Teens Look to Parents for Career Guidance

Urban teens in a survey by the Creating IT Futures Foundation identified parents as their most significant influencers by a factor of 2-to-1 or greater compared to teachers, guidance counselors, peers and coaches.

Who do teens rely on most to talk about what to do after high school?

**77%**

Look to a parent or guardian for 'what to do after high school.'



- 34% Look to a friend
- 32% Look to a teacher at school
- 27% Look to another family member
- 25% Look to a school counselor/staff
- 19% Look to a coach
- 1% Look to somebody else
- 2% None of the above

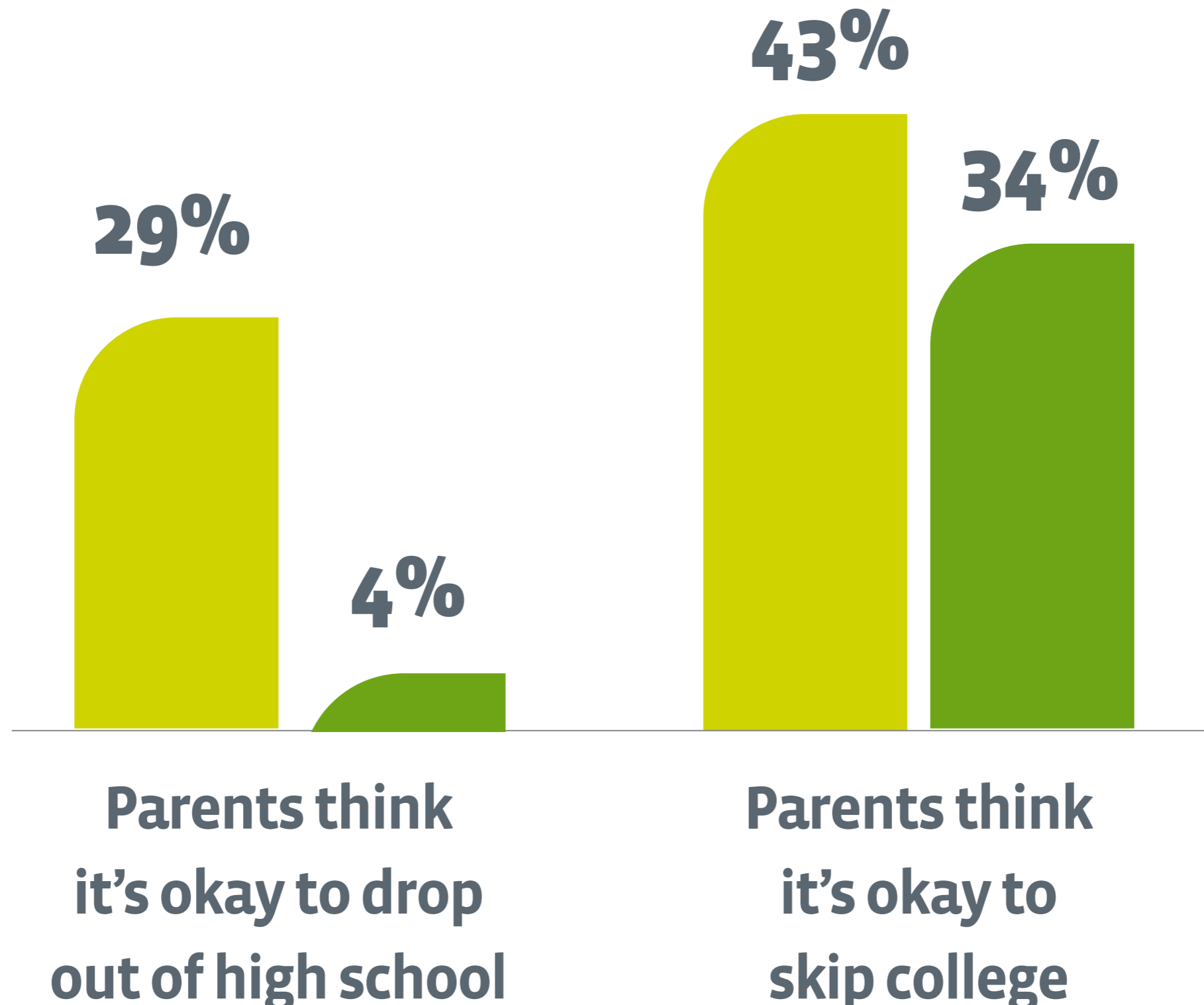
## Parents expect students to graduate — but teens may not hear the message



■ What teens perceive



■ What parents believe



## Disavow yourself of career myths



Most teens and more than a third of parents think that IT jobs require a four-year college degree.

**Reality: Several pathways can help you get started in an IT career without a degree.**

Nearly all teens and parents believe that being successful at an IT job requires doing really well in math and science courses.



**Reality: Not all tech jobs require much math or science beyond the basics learned in grade school.**

## Parents, recognize and capitalize on your influence!

- Don't assume that messages about college and career are getting through.
- Intentionally set aside more time to discuss careers with your high-school-age children.
- Educate yourselves. Learn more about IT careers at [CompTIA.org/roadmap](http://CompTIA.org/roadmap) and test drive an IT career at <http://ow.ly/lpZt2>.

