

The MetLife Survey of *THE AMERICAN TEACHER*

STUDENT GENDER DIFFERENCES ON ACADEMIC GOALS

Source: *MetLife Survey of the American Teacher: Collaborating for Student Success*

Girls Have Higher Expectations For Their Education and More Confidence About Achieving Their Goals

Girls are more likely than boys to:

- Strongly agree that it is important they go to school or college after high school (71% vs. 65%)
- Plan to attend a two- or four-year college (85% vs. 73%)
- Be very confident they will achieve their goals for the future (59% vs. 50%)
- Strongly agree that it is their responsibility to pay attention and do what it takes to succeed in school (77% vs. 69%)

Girls are less likely than boys to:

- Agree that they only do enough work to get by in school (31% vs. 41%)
- Speak one-on-one with teacher about their interests and things that are important to them at least once a month (43% vs. 52%)

Current enrollment in higher education is 57% women and 43% men, according to the American Council on Education report on *Gender Equity in Higher Education* (2010).

Student Gender Differences On Academic Goals

	Total (n=1018)	Boys (n=483)	Girls (n=535)
It is important that I to go to school or college after high school (% strongly agree)	68%	65%	71%
Plan to attend college (two- or four-year)	79%	73%	85%
Plan to attend a four-year college	69%	62%	75%
Will achieve goals for the future (% very confident)	55%	50%	59%
It is my responsibility to pay attention and do the work it takes to succeed in school (% strongly agree)	73%	69%	77%
Speak one-on-one with teachers about my interests and things that are important to me (% at least once a month)	47%	52%	43%
I only do enough work to do as well as I need to get by in school (% strongly/somewhat agree)	36%	41%	31%