

Study Shows Increase In All Attendance, Including By Minorities

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BALTIMORE COUNTY, Md. -- Going to college is becoming less of an option and more of a standard for a growing number of Baltimore County high school graduates.

The statistics come from an independent national report released this week by the National Student Clearinghouse, a nonprofit organization that collects higher education data.

[Read The National College Study](#)

The report shows that more Baltimore County high school graduates are enrolling in college and staying. The report also noted an increase among the county's minority students heading to college.

Zoe Camp, a high school senior and student member of the school board, said she's not surprised.

"Baltimore County is known for its high achievement, and if this is any indication, it's just going to go up from here," she said.

Since 2002, the study showed college enrollment among the county's graduates went up from 54 percent to 61 percent last year.

The report also tracked progress among Baltimore County's minority students. Over a four-year period, it showed college attendance for black students went up from 49 percent in 2004 to 57.6 percent in 2008.

There was a similar boost for the county's Hispanic students, whose college attendance numbers rose from 41.3 percent in 2004 to 52.1 percent in 2008.

County schools Superintendent Dr. Joe Hairston said long-range planning and programs helped to make the difference, but he said there's a lot credit to go around.

"You have to begin with the teachers and the relationship and trust they build with their students -- instilling a level of confidence and having some expectations that are outlined in our blueprint," he said.

The report also found that more of the county's students are going to college and staying longer.

"I have heard of very few kids dropping out of college. I think that people are more compelled to succeed, so to do that, they stay in college and really work their hardest," Camp said.

Administrators said they're hoping to maintain and build on the progress.

To read the study, click on the link above.