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Rural Industry Clusters Needs Assessment: Student Survey Summary

McAllister Hall
Boise State University

Benjamin Larsen
Boise State University

Aisha Kayed
Boise State University

Vanessa Crossgrove Fry
Boise State University

RURAL INDUSTRY CLUSTERS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

STUDENT SURVEY SUMMARY

As part of an effort to inform future academic programming, Idaho Policy Institute (IPI) worked with Boise State University's Offices of the Provost and the President to develop actionable insight into the emerging needs and gaps in the dairy industry in the Magic Valley and the technology, cybersecurity, and energy cluster in Eastern Idaho. In the first phase of the project, IPI surveyed high school students in each region in the spring of 2021. A total of **918** students were surveyed, **750** (82.1%) from the Magic Valley (**MV**) and **168** (17.9%) from Eastern Idaho (**EI**).

Surveys asked students about their plans after high school, including if they plan to attend university, where they hope to attend university, and what they plan on studying. The following summarizes their responses.

PARTICIPANT DETAILS

Grade	Eastern Idaho	Magic Valley
Grade 9	0.0%	34.7%
Grade 10	24.2%	23.2%
Grade 11	0.6%	16.0%
Grade 12	75.2%	26.1%

School Districts Surveyed

Eastern Idaho: Bonneville Fremont County

Magic Valley: Castleford Filer Jerome Kimberly Wendell



KEY FINDINGS

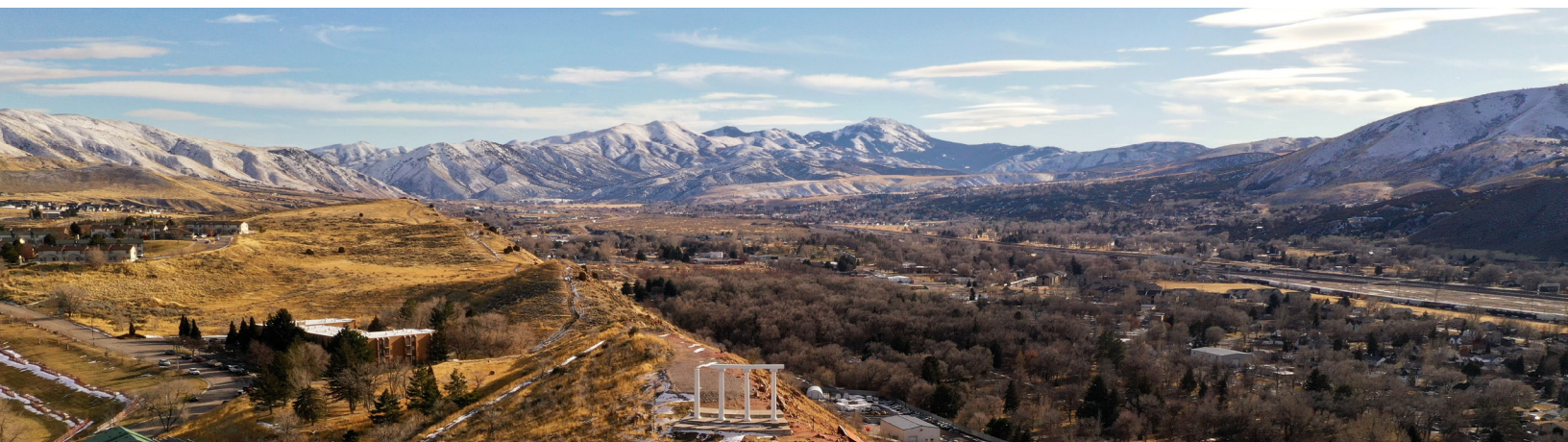
“What is your plan for after graduation?”

Most students plan on attending a four-year university. Some students planning to attend university are first going into the military or taking a gap year.

60.7% of **EI** students planning to attend university hope to attend in Idaho.

56.0% of **MV** students planning to attend university hope to attend in Idaho.

Plan after graduation	Eastern Idaho	Magic Valley
4-year university	70.4%	57.4%
Community college	10.5%	18.7%
Technical/vocational school	3.3%	6.2%
Employment	15.8%	17.7%



“What is the highest level of education completed by your guardian?” and

“Where do you hope to attend a 4-year university?”

Students in the **MV** who will be first-generation college students tend to be more interested in attending a university in Idaho. While in **EI**, there is no pattern.

Parent/Guardian Education	Idaho	Outside Idaho	Total
Eastern Idaho			
Less than a 4-year degree	60.7%	39.3%	100%
4-year degree or more	61.1%	38.9%	100%
Magic Valley			
Less than a 4-year degree	61.1%	38.9%	100%
4-year degree or more	48.9%	51.1%	100%

“How long have you been attending school in your current district?” and

“Where do you hope to attend a 4-year university?”

60.3% of **MV** students who reported attending school in their district for 10-13 years plan to attend an Idaho university–

while only **45.4%** in their district for 1-5 years plan to attend an Idaho university.

In **EI**, **62.7%** of students who reported attending school in their district for 10-13 years plan to attend an Idaho university–

while only **55.9%** in their district for 1-5 years plan to attend an Idaho university.

Years in district	Idaho	Outside Idaho	Total
Eastern Idaho			
1-5 years	55.9%	44.1%	100%
6-9 years	64.3%	35.7%	100%
10-13 years	62.7%	37.3%	100%
Magic Valley			
1-5 years	45.4%	54.6%	100%
6-9 years	57.1%	42.9%	100%
10-13 years	60.3%	39.7%	100%



“In what year did you begin thinking of your career choices?” and

“What is your plan for after graduation?”

Students who began thinking about their career plans before high school are more likely to plan for some education rather than going straight into employment.

21.2% of **MV** students who did not start thinking about their career until high school plan to go straight into employment with no education –

while only **12.2%** of students who started thinking about their career between kindergarten and fourth grade do not plan to pursue any education.

EI has similar numbers, however some categories have very low frequency, making it difficult to make a full comparison.

Begin career thoughts	Employment	Education*	Total
Eastern Idaho			
Kindergarten-Grade 4	13.3%	86.7%	100%
Grades 5-8	7.7%	92.3%	100%
Grades 9-12	20.9%	79.1%	100%
Magic Valley			
Kindergarten-Grade 4	12.2%	87.8%	100%
Grades 5-8	15.0%	85.0%	100%
Grades 9-12	21.2%	78.8%	100%

* Education includes students planning to attend a four-year university, community college, or a technical/vocational school.



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
IDAHO POLICY INSTITUTE

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McAllister Hall, Research Associate
Benjamin Larsen, PhD, Research Associate
Aisha Kayed, Intern
Vanessa Crossgrove Fry, PhD, Interim Director

For more information, visit
boisestate.edu/sps-ipi/