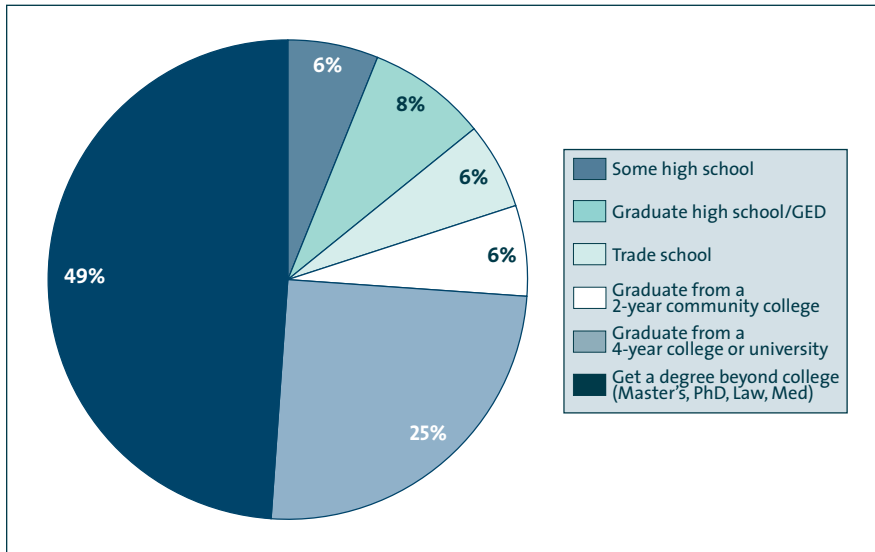


FIGURE 10

Student surveys: What is the highest level of education you expect to complete?



What Makes Organizing Effective?

1. Effective organizing strategies combine policy and resource advocacy with intensive school-level support.

The organizing groups in our study achieved district and schooling impacts through four main strategies:

- Some groups focused exclusively on policy and resource improvements at the district or system level, fighting for greater resources to relieve school overcrowding, for example, or for an expansion in the number of pre-kindergarten seats.
- Most groups coupled systemic policy advocacy with some form of school-level monitoring and support to ensure effective implementation of new instructional or school-restructuring interventions they had won. The intensity and consistency of school-level involvement varied considerably across sites, depending on the reform strategy, school-level dynamics, and the capacity of the organizing group.
- A majority of the study sites used local school-improvement campaigns as a mechanism for engaging public school parents or students in campaigns for larger systemic policy change. Sites varied in whether they developed school-based organizing teams or recruited parents and/or youth into neighborhood-based or organization-wide organizing committees.
- Two organizations – Austin Interfaith and Oakland Community Organizations – complemented system-level work with intensive school-based organizing efforts targeted specifically at developing achievement-oriented participative and collaborative school-level cultures.