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HEADLINE: Poll: Most **Michigan** parents want children to go to college or further

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BODY:

Seventy-nine percent of **Michigan** parents want their children to graduate from college or get an advanced degree, according to poll results released Sunday.

However, only 54 percent believe that everyone should have a college education.

The telephone poll by Lansing-based EPIC/MRA surveyed 1,544 **Michigan** parents of school-age children. It was conducted April 1-21 and had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

When asked how far they want their children to go in school, 37 percent of respondents said they want their children to graduate from college with a bachelor's degree. Another 42 percent said they want their children to earn an advanced or professional degree.

Most **parents** - 71 percent - said they did not believe it is possible to make a decent living with just a high school education. But not as many were convinced that college automatically leads to a better life: Sixty-three percent said people with a college education are usually better off than people who don't, while 30 percent disagreed.

When asked how important having a good education is for getting ahead in life, 27 percent said essential, 51 percent said very important and 20 percent said fairly important. One percent said not very important and 1 percent said not important at all.

The poll was commissioned by Your Child, a coalition of **Michigan** education organizations, and the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm has made boosting college graduation rates a priority of her administration. She wants to double the number of college graduates over the next decade and says two years of college or technical training should be the minimum education standard for the 21st century.