How does socio-economic status affect student destinations?

NSW Secondary Students' Post-School Destinations and Expectations Research 2014

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

Key results

- Among Year 12 completers, bachelor-level study increased as parental SES increased.
- Among Year 12 completers participation in other post-school destinations including entering an apprenticeship, a VET course and part-time employment increased as parental SES decreased.
- Among early school leavers, the proportion looking for work and not in the labour force or further education and training increased as parental SES decreased.
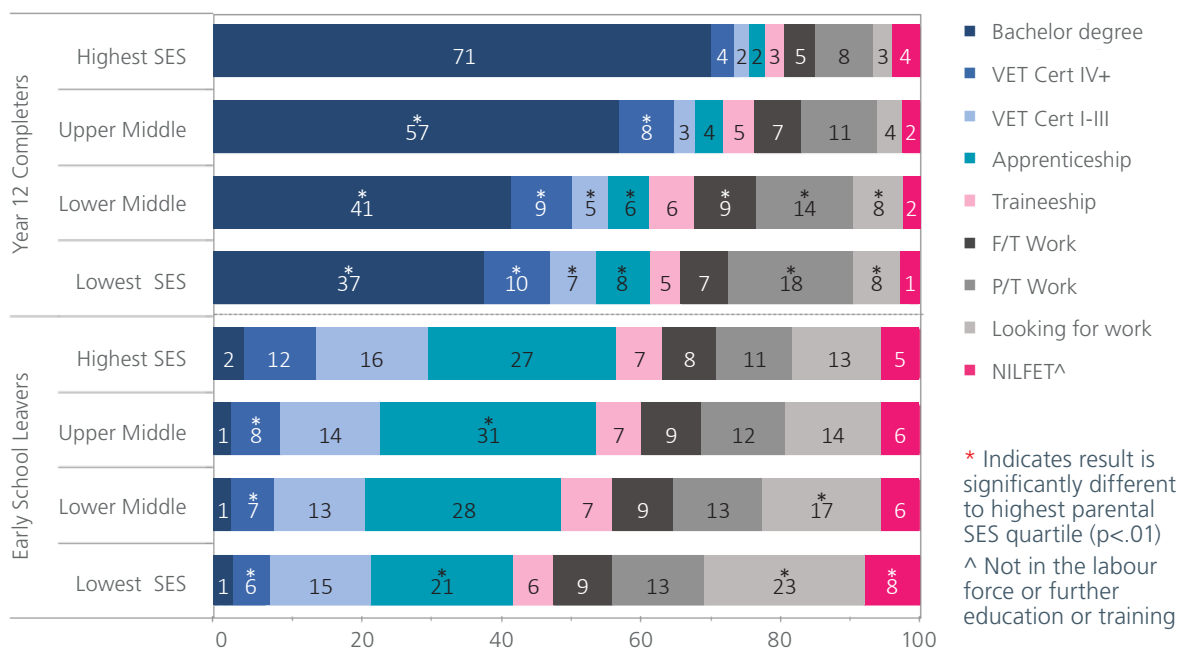
This document presents results from 3,581 interviews undertaken with students who completed Year 12 in 2013 (Year 12 completers) and 7,000 students who left school before finishing Year 12 (early school leavers). It focuses on the main differences in post-school destinations based on parental socio-economic status (SES).

Main post-school destination is based on self-reported participation in further education and current employment status. The classification system prioritises education related post-school destinations over participation in employment. SES was defined by calculating the highest level of parental education and parental occupation at the time of the survey.

For more information: refer to the NSW Secondary Students' Post-School Destinations and Expectations 2014 Report
Section 2.1.1 Main Destination of Year 12 Completers (Page 8), Section 2.2.1 Main Destination of Early School Leavers (Page 17)

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Main post-school destinations by socio-economic status (SES) (%)

Legend:
- ■ Bachelor degree
- ■ VET Cert IV+
- ■ VET Cert I–III
- ■ Apprenticeship
- ■ Traineeship
- ■ F/T Work
- ■ P/T Work
- ■ Looking for work
- ■ NILFET^

* Indicates result is significantly different to highest parental SES quartile (p<.01)

^ Not in the labour force or further education or training

Year 12 Completers

SES	Bachelor degree	VET Cert IV+	VET Cert I–III	Apprenticeship	Traineeship	F/T Work	P/T Work	Looking for work	NILFET^
Highest SES	71	4	2	2	3	5	8	3	4
Upper Middle	*57	*8	3	4	5	7	11	4	2
Lower Middle	*41	*9	*5	*6	6	*9	*14	*8	2
Lowest SES	*37	*10	*7	*8	5	7	*18	*8	1

Early School Leavers

SES	Bachelor degree	VET Cert IV+	VET Cert I–III	Apprenticeship	Traineeship	F/T Work	P/T Work	Looking for work	NILFET^
Highest SES	2	12	16	27	7	8	11	13	5
Upper Middle	1	*8	14	*31	7	9	12	14	6
Lower Middle	1	*7	13	28	7	9	13	*17	6
Lowest SES	1	*6	15	*21	6	9	13	*23	*8