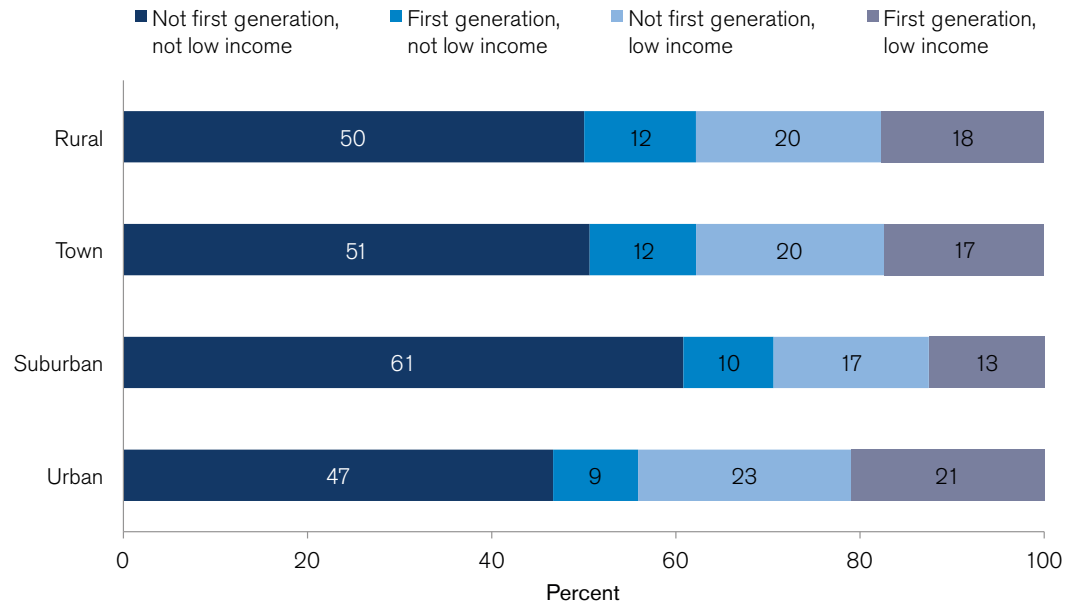


First-Generation College and Low-Income Families by School Location

RICHARD BUDDIN

Percent of 2013 High School Students by First-Generation College and Low-Income Status for High School Locations



Note: Data come from 587,008 high school graduates in 2013 in at least one of eleven states that had ACT® college readiness assessment testing for all students. Families with annual incomes of less than \$36,000 are defined as low income. Students whose parents or guardians have no postsecondary education are defined as first-generation students.

Schools face challenges to address the educational needs of students from different backgrounds. Students from low-income families tend to have fewer home resources to support learning and worse academic outcomes than others. Similarly, students whose parents or guardians did not attend a two- or four-year college may have less knowledge of the importance of postsecondary education than other students.

Urban schools face the greatest challenges in dealing with low-income, first-generation students, while suburban schools have the

smallest share of these students. About 21% of students in urban schools are low-income, first-generation students as compared with 18% in rural areas, 17% in towns, and 13% in suburban schools. About 23% of urban low-income students have a parent with some postsecondary education as compared with only 17% of suburban students and 20% of both rural and town schools. About 9% to 12% of students in each type of school come from first-generation families with moderate or high incomes. ■

About 21% of 2013 high school graduates from urban areas who participated in statewide ACT testing come from low-income families where neither parent received any postsecondary education.