

# KIPP Schools

## KIPP Alumni Survey – Overview of Key Findings January 2017

### What is KIPP?

KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program) is a network of tuition-free, public charter schools open to all students. KIPP schools are united by a common mission, a commitment to excellence, and a belief that if we help children develop the academic and character strengths they need for college and choice filled lives, they will be able to build a better tomorrow for themselves, for their communities, for us all.

There are 200 KIPP schools located in 31 regions across the country that enroll nearly 80,000 students in grades Pre-K through high school. 81% of KIPP alumni enroll in college. KIPP's four-year college completion rate is above the national average for all students and four times the average for students of similar economic backgrounds.

### Why did KIPP survey our alumni?

With over 10,000 KIPP alumni currently enrolled in college across the United States and formal partnerships with more than 80 colleges and universities, KIPP is in a unique position to learn how students from under-resourced communities are navigating the college experience. The goal for this first alumni survey, administered in the fall of 2016, was to gather informal data about the challenges, obstacles and opportunities our students face on the journey to earning a college degree.

### What did KIPP want to know?

The survey was designed to provide insight about the following questions:

- How are our alumni managing the cost of tuition, living expenses and more?
- How are they balancing the need to work and earn money with the desire to graduate on time?
- Do they have access to jobs on campus or during the summer that will help them pursue careers after graduation?
- What are the other financial constraints that may impede our alumni from graduating from college?

### Who responded to the KIPP alumni survey?

In the fall of 2016, the KIPP Foundation sent an electronic survey to over 10,000 KIPP alumni currently enrolled in college. KIPP defines “alumni” as all students who completed eighth grade at a KIPP middle school or twelfth grade at a KIPP high school. We analyzed just under 3,000 responses of KIPP alumni who completed the survey and were still enrolled in college.

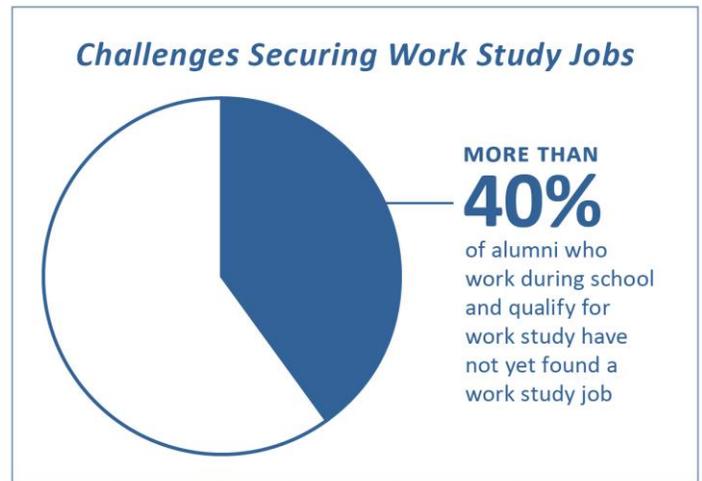
### Here are the demographics of KIPP alumni survey respondents:

- **Diverse college distribution:** Survey respondents attend nearly 700 different colleges and universities across the country. 80% of respondents are attending 4-year colleges and 20% are attending 2-year colleges (this is similar to the distribution in the overall population of KIPP alumni in college).
- **Wide geographic distribution:** Survey respondents went to KIPP schools in 29 different regions. About half the respondents were from five of the largest KIPP regions: Bay Area, Houston, NYC, New Jersey, Washington, DC and Atlanta.
- **Majority female:** Two-thirds of survey respondents were female and one-third were male (this is similar to the demographics of all KIPP alumni in college).
- **From limited resource families:** Almost all survey respondents come from families with limited resources; nearly 90% of KIPP students qualify for free or reduced price lunch while attending KIPP schools.

### What did we learn?

- 1) **KIPP alumni face challenges securing work study jobs.** KIPP alumni are working, but most do not have work study jobs on campus. Many more KIPP alumni qualify for work study jobs than are able to secure these jobs.

- Of alumni who work during school and qualify for work study, over 40% have not yet found a work study job.
- KIPP alumni at less competitive colleges have a harder time securing work study jobs than alumni at more competitive colleges.

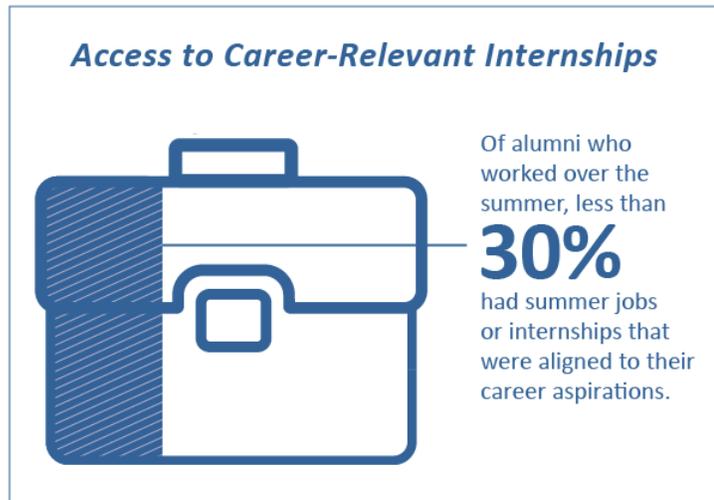


2) **KIPP alumni have limited access to career-relevant internships.**

Internships are largely recognized as a key stepping stone for post-college career advancement.

- Of alumni who worked over the summer, less than 30% had summer

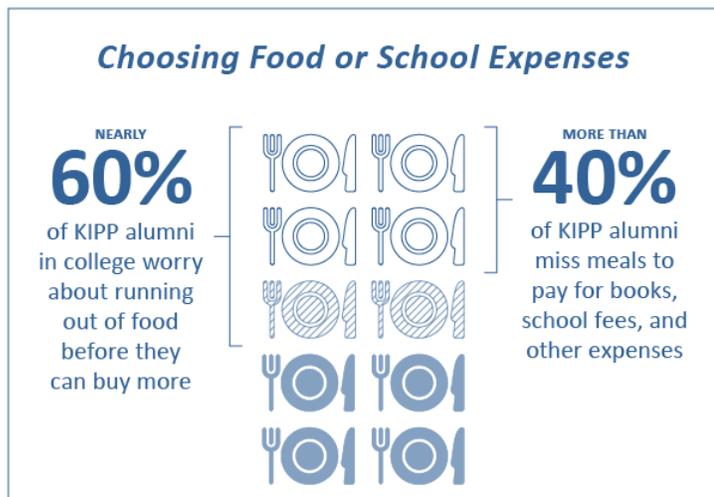
jobs or internships that were aligned to their career aspirations.



3) **Food insecurity is a real issue for KIPP alumni.**

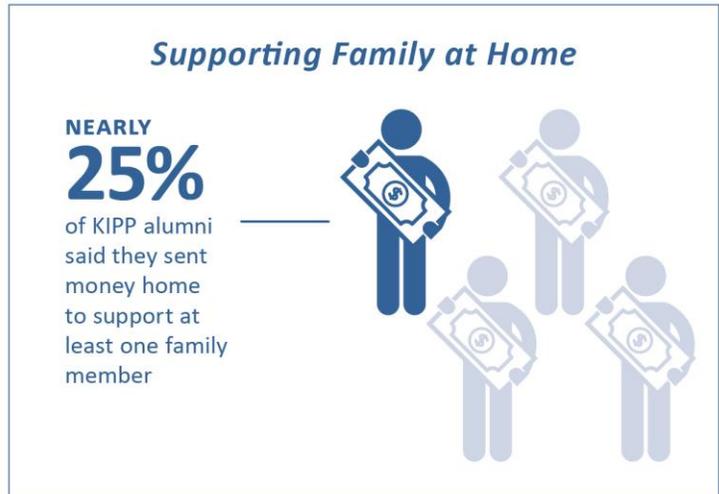
The majority of KIPP alumni in college are having to choose between a meal and basic college expenses. Many KIPP alumni report forgoing meals food to pay for books, tuition and other school expenses.

- Nearly 60% of KIPP alumni in college worry about running out of food before they can buy more.
- More than 40% of KIPP alumni said they have missed meals to pay for books, school fees and other expenses.



4) **Some KIPP alumni financially support family members.** A significant portion of KIPP alumni are sending money home and financially supporting family members while they are in college.

- Nearly 25% of KIPP alumni financially support family members while in college.
- This percentage is higher at two-year colleges, where 34% of KIPP alumni report that they are financially supporting family members.



### **What's next?**

This initial survey process yielded some helpful data along with many new questions, particularly about how KIPP alumni are affording and financing their college tuition costs. We are working to integrate new supports into our KIPP Through College program in response to what we learned in this year's survey, and are already beginning to plan our survey for 2017.

**For more information, visit KIPP Through College at: [www.kipp.org/approach/kipp-through-college/](http://www.kipp.org/approach/kipp-through-college/)**