**Project:** Aggregate industry data on several key points for use in a state of the industry report to directors at annual meeting. June, 2007.

**Cosmetology School State of the Industry** (excerpt)

**High School Graduation and Enrollment in Career or Vocational Schools**

More than 3 million students were projected to graduate from high school in the 2003-04 school year.[[1]](#footnote-2) Of these, 2.75M graduated from public high schools. Another 387,000 students earned GED credentials. [[2]](#footnote-3)

The National Center for Education Statistics notes that high school completion rate has been at least 85% since 1976. Further, of the 25-29 year olds surveyed by NCES in 2005, 57% had achieved some college education. Looking at a 30-year trend, NCES notes that the increase in college achievement most likely grew from an increased trend to enroll in college immediately after high school graduation.[[3]](#footnote-4)

Students who enroll in vocational, technical or career schools skew female (57%). Averaging 24 years old, they are 16% Black and 9% Hispanic. Educational attainment in their families splits fairly evenly with 44% having parents with a college degree and 46% having parents who had not completed college. Another 10% have parents who have not completed high school.

Their average age reflects the fact that 56% of votech students delayed enrollment into postsecondary education for at least one year after completing high school. Fully 60% enroll fulltime and 45% worked while enrolled. Occupational students are more likely to enroll in for-profit institutions than their academic peers and they can expect to pay higher tuition costs.[[4]](#footnote-5)

1. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Statistics of Public Elementary and Secondary Day Schools, 1969-70; The NCES Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary/Secondary Education," 1981-82 through 2003-04; and Projections of Education Statistics to 2014. (This table was prepared January 2006.) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. American Council on Education, General Educational Development Testing Service, Who took the GED? Statistical Report, various years; General Educational Development Testing Service, Who Passed the GED Tests? 2002 Statistical Report, July 2005. (This table was prepared August 2005.) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (2006). *The Condition of Education 2006* (NCES 2006–071), Indicator 31. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Hudson, L., Kienzl, G., and Diehl, J. (2007). *Students Entering and Leaving Postsecondary Occupational Education: 1995–2001* (NCES 2007–041). U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC: National Centerfor Education Statistics. (1995–96 data) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)