



Life-long learning

Freedom of choice: what, where, and how much to learn

“Education is not a product: a mark, a diploma, a job, money, in that order; it is a process, a never-ending one.”

Bel Kaufman, professor and author

More than one-quarter of the total US population aged 3 and older were enrolled in school as of fall 2005.¹ The basic system of American education requires that children go to school until age 18; then most go to work or continue their studies at a college or



Americans believe education is very important.

university. Public schools are paid for mostly by local and state taxes; and the majority of students attend the public school closest to their home.



A university building

In general, Americans strongly believe that it's important to get a good education. “Education is the key to our future,” “You learn something new every day,”

“You’re never too old to learn something,” and similar sayings describe the general attitude of most Americans towards education.

In addition to the social and personal benefits, the economic rewards of a good education can't be overlooked. According to the US Census Bureau in 2005, the