

Table 140.—Reasons given by 12th-graders for taking current mathematics and science classes, by selected student and school characteristics: 1992

Class subject and opinion	Percent of 12th graders who answered, "somewhat important" or "very important"														
	All 12th graders	Sex		Race/ethnicity					Socioeconomic status quartile ¹				Control of school attended		
		Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian	Lowest	Second	Third	Highest	Public	Catholic	Other private
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mathematics class															
I am interested in mathematics	74.5	77.4	71.3	72.9	74.6	80.4	81.9	87.7	78.0	74.6	73.1	74.2	73.8	78.4	81.7
I do well in mathematics	77.1	80.2	73.7	76.4	76.1	79.7	83.6	76.8	79.5	77.8	76.3	76.1	76.7	78.4	82.1
I need it for college or trade school	87.2	86.6	87.8	86.5	89.8	86.5	90.8	90.5	83.3	85.4	88.9	88.6	87.1	87.9	87.5
I need it for a job after high school	64.7	65.9	63.4	62.5	69.7	70.9	66.3	83.9	71.2	68.5	65.5	57.8	65.9	58.1	51.9
I need it for advanced placement	53.6	53.3	54.0	49.6	58.4	62.5	72.6	56.9	59.8	46.7	52.2	55.7	54.1	47.2	53.9
Advised to take class by:															
Teacher	65.9	63.3	68.8	63.6	74.8	71.1	66.7	70.6	69.2	65.1	66.3	64.7	65.7	66.2	70.0
Guidance counselor	64.8	62.9	66.8	60.7	77.8	76.2	64.2	83.0	76.4	67.5	62.6	58.6	65.8	55.1	59.6
Parent	71.6	69.1	74.2	70.5	74.6	74.4	73.3	79.8	66.3	67.2	70.3	76.6	71.8	68.4	71.4
Friend	42.2	41.4	43.2	39.8	51.2	43.7	50.8	56.2	46.1	43.2	41.7	40.7	42.5	40.6	39.1
Sibling	30.9	29.5	32.5	26.3	37.2	43.1	46.2	51.5	40.4	29.7	27.7	29.4	31.8	21.9	28.9
Science class															
I am interested in science ..	78.8	82.7	74.4	78.5	77.4	78.9	83.6	74.9	74.5	76.7	76.9	82.7	77.9	81.1	89.9
I do well in science	80.6	83.9	77.0	80.1	76.7	86.1	84.2	86.6	78.1	80.1	77.1	84.0	80.1	79.8	90.2
I need it for college or trade school	83.3	81.7	85.0	82.4	86.4	83.5	88.4	88.8	78.5	81.9	84.6	84.8	83.3	85.3	80.7
I need it for a job after high school	47.0	47.9	45.9	44.5	53.2	57.6	51.3	55.9	53.4	47.6	50.4	41.6	47.8	45.7	35.7
I need it for advanced placement	50.2	49.7	50.9	47.1	51.6	59.0	66.8	59.6	48.9	47.9	46.8	53.9	49.2	53.5	60.3
Advised to take class by:															
Teacher	58.9	56.2	61.9	57.6	61.7	63.7	61.0	67.2	61.3	57.7	58.3	59.0	57.8	60.3	74.1
Guidance counselor	59.4	57.8	61.2	56.2	71.4	70.9	59.7	57.9	74.0	59.5	55.8	55.5	60.3	44.1	67.3
Parent	66.3	63.4	69.4	65.7	69.1	70.5	64.1	73.8	61.9	59.9	66.4	70.6	67.0	58.7	67.4
Friend	43.5	43.4	43.6	42.9	40.9	44.6	49.7	62.9	45.6	41.6	41.0	45.0	43.6	36.6	52.5
Sibling	28.7	26.8	31.0	25.3	35.0	35.5	44.3	57.6	36.1	25.2	25.2	29.6	29.4	21.0	30.5

¹ Socioeconomic status was measured by a composite score on parental education and occupations, and family income.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, "National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988," Second Followup survey. (This table was prepared February 1994.)