

L.A. County Skilled Trades Summers Impact Snapshot

The nonpartisan FDR Group conducted an independent evaluation of the program, which has served over 1,500 students from public schools and CBOs over the past four years. These are the key findings:

2 in 3

Parents believe their child will be **more likely to graduate** from high school as a result of taking part in a skilled trades summer program.

82% of students feel more excited about the future, and...

69% are considering careers they never would have before.

91% of staff believe the programs are preparing students to be **successful in community college or trade school.**

“Before I got into the summer program, I would just lay down on my bed and rot away. . . and then I got into there and that’s how I found out that I really like to work. I like to do something with my life, to feel I have a purpose.”

— High School Graduate

94% of STUDENTS 98% of PARENTS

would **strongly recommend** their skilled trades summer program to others.



“It was transformative for him and he found his passion. He LOVED the program and now wants to do something similar for his career.”

— Parent of a Skilled Trades Summers student

Almost half of the high school graduates surveyed have **pursued further education** in a skilled trade, and almost **1 in 4** have worked for pay in a skilled trade.



Harbor Freight Tools for Schools surveyed students, parents, and staff affiliated with nine skilled trades summer programs. The findings are based on both qualitative and quantitative research conducted between May and December 2024, including: 9 focus groups with high school students who had participated in a skilled trades summer program and parents of high school students who participated; 20 leadership interviews; and online surveys with 286 students, 117 parents, and 64 staff (that is, adults affiliated with the summer programs). The research was conducted by the nonpartisan FDR Group.

For more information visit: hftforschools.org