



# The Journey Before Us

First-Generation Pathways from Middle School to College

by Laura Nichols

## DESCRIPTION

More students are enrolling in college than ever before in U.S. history. Yet, many never graduate. In *The Journey Before Us*, Laura Nichols examines why this is by sharing the experiences of aspiring first-generation college students as they move from middle-school to young adulthood. By following the educational trajectories and transitions of Latinx, mainly second-generation immigrant students and analyzing national data, Nichols explores the different paths that students take and the factors that make a difference. The interconnected role of schools, neighborhoods, policy, employment, advocates, identity, social class, and family reveal what must change to address the “college completion crisis.” Appropriate for anyone wanting to understand their own educational journey as well as students, teachers, counselors, school administrators, scholars, and policymakers, *The Journey Before Us* outlines what is needed so that education can once again be a means of social mobility for those who would be the first in their families to graduate from college.

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