



QUESTION: How did students' responses on the 2006 High School Exit Survey correspond with 2006–2007 postsecondary enrollment rates?

Of the 3,862 AISD high school graduates from the class of 2006, 3,360 (87%) completed the High School Exit Survey. These students' exit survey responses were compared with their postsecondary enrollment outcomes in the 2006–2007 school year.

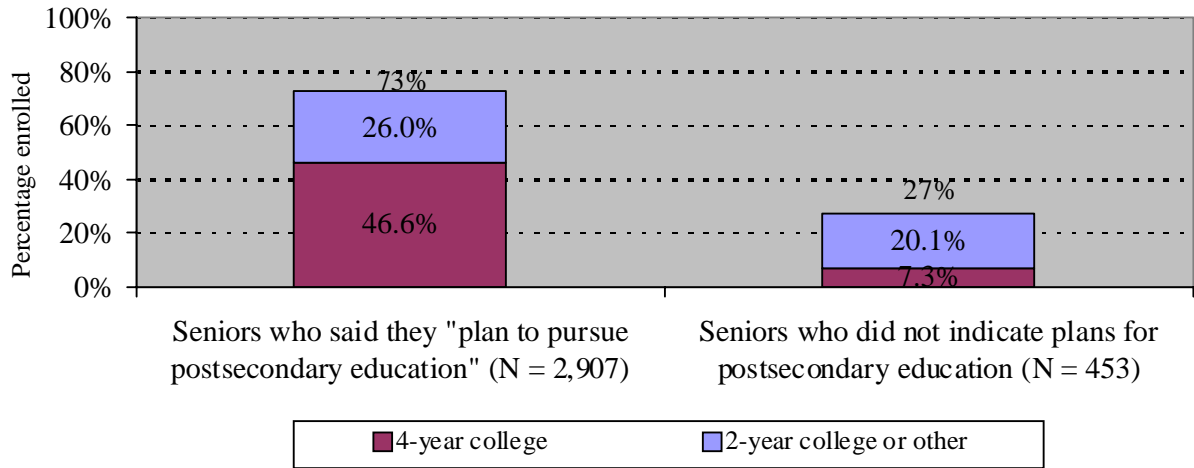
KEY FINDINGS

- Approximately 72-73% of respondents among graduating seniors who said they planned to attend a postsecondary institution actually enrolled.
- Students who said they were planning to be the first person in their family to attend college were less likely to enroll than were students who had other family members who attended college before them.
- Students who never changed high schools were much more likely to enroll in a postsecondary institution than were students who attended multiple schools.
- Mother's education was a strong predictor of college enrollment. Students whose mothers had college degrees had twice the overall enrollment rate and three times the 4-year college enrollment rate of students whose mothers did not finish high school.
- Students whose families encouraged them to go to college "a great deal" were significantly more likely to enroll in college than were students whose families offered any lesser degree of encouragement.
- Parents and family were most commonly cited as students' greatest source of help in preparing for the postsecondary application process.

SURVEY RESPONSES AND ACTUAL ENROLLMENT

The postsecondary enrollment for students who indicated in the survey that they planned to pursue postsecondary education was examined. Item 2 of the exit survey asked, "Within a year after graduating from high school, what do you plan to do?" Eighty-seven percent of graduating seniors who responded to the exit survey reported they would "pursue postsecondary education." Out of this group, almost three quarters actually enrolled in a postsecondary institution during the 2006–2007 school year (Figure 1). Of students who did not indicate an intention to pursue postsecondary education, over one quarter enrolled in a postsecondary institution.

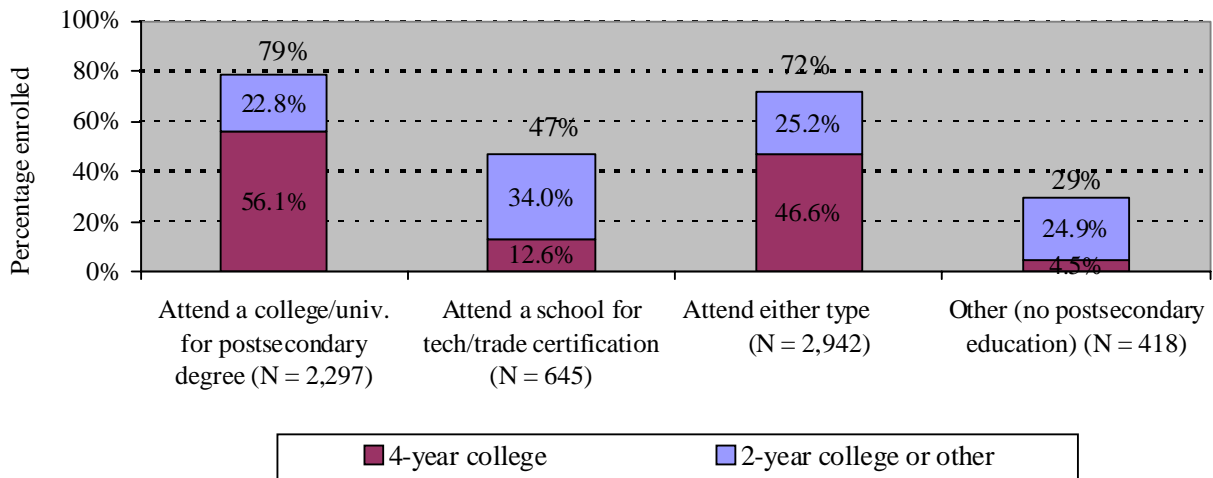
Figure 1: Actual Postsecondary Enrollment Rate, by Intention to Pursue Postsecondary Education, AISD Class of 2006



Source: AISD 2006 High School Exit Survey, National Student Clearinghouse, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, prepared by the Department of Program Evaluation.

Later in the survey, Item 37 asked respondents to complete the following sentence: “Within a year after graduating from high school, I am going to....” Of the seniors who indicated in item 37 an intent to enroll in a postsecondary institution, 72% actually enrolled in a postsecondary institution the following year (Figure 2). This is almost identical to the 73% of students who enrolled in postsecondary institutions after indicating they would do so in Item 2.

Figure 2: Actual Postsecondary Enrollment Rate, by Intention to Pursue Postsecondary Education (Item 37), AISD Class of 2006

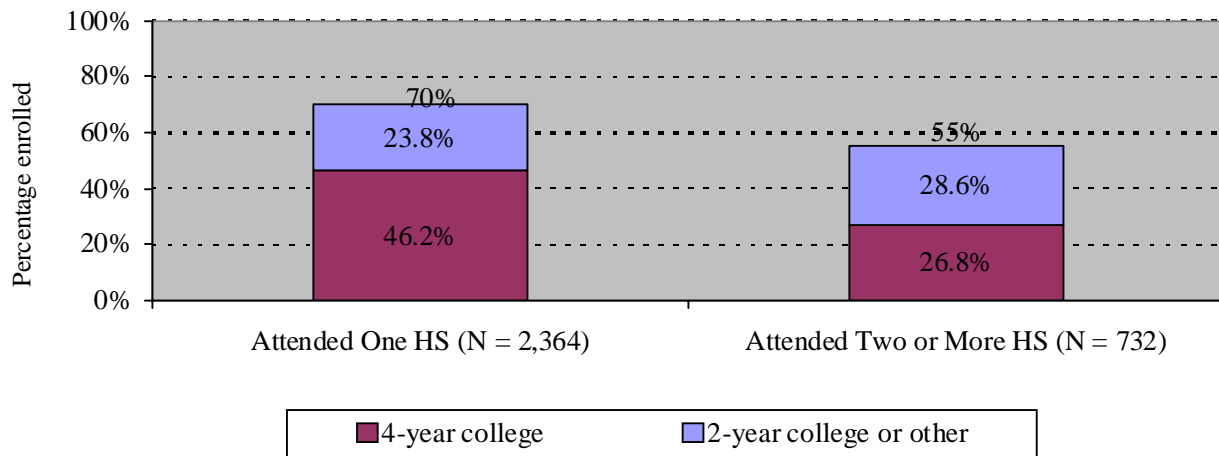


Source: AISD 2006 High School Exit Survey, National Student Clearinghouse, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, prepared by the Department of Program Evaluation.

Various elements of students’ backgrounds were examined for their relationship with postsecondary enrollment rates. In Item 4 of the survey, students were asked how many high

schools they attended. Seventy-six percent of graduating respondents said they had attended only one high school, and the other 24% attended more than one high school. Of the respondents who attended one high school, 70% enrolled in a postsecondary institution, as compared with 55% of respondents who attended multiple high schools (Figure 3). In addition, the group of students who never changed schools had a considerably higher enrollment rate at 4-year colleges (46%) than did the group who attended multiple schools (27%).

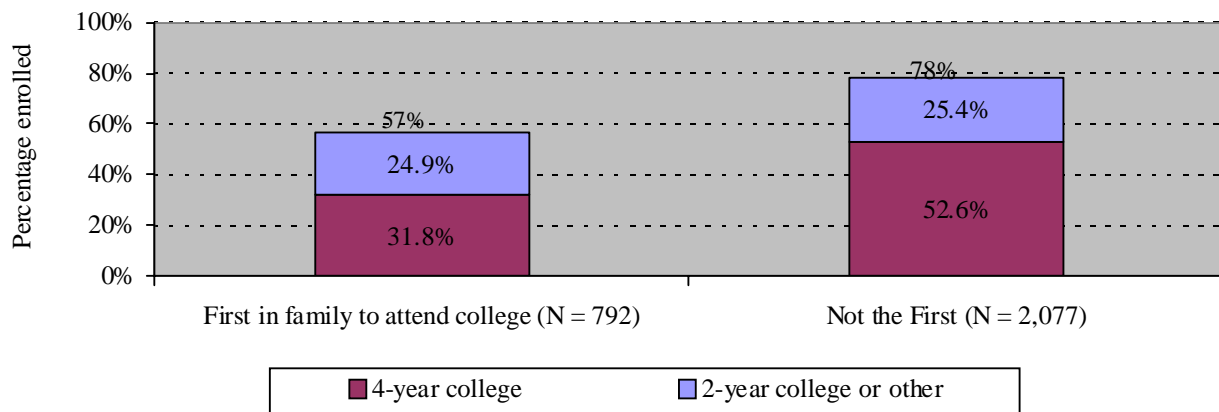
Figure 3: Postsecondary Enrollment Rate, by Student Mobility, AISD Class of 2006



Source: AISD 2006 High School Exit Survey, National Student Clearinghouse, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, prepared by the Department of Program Evaluation.

Students who had *already indicated their intention to go to college* were asked if they would be the first person in their immediate family to attend college. A follow-up analysis of responses showed a significant difference in actual college enrollment. Students who said they would be the first in their family to go to college enrolled at much lower rates (57%), compared with students who would not be the first in their family to go to college (78%) (Figure 4).

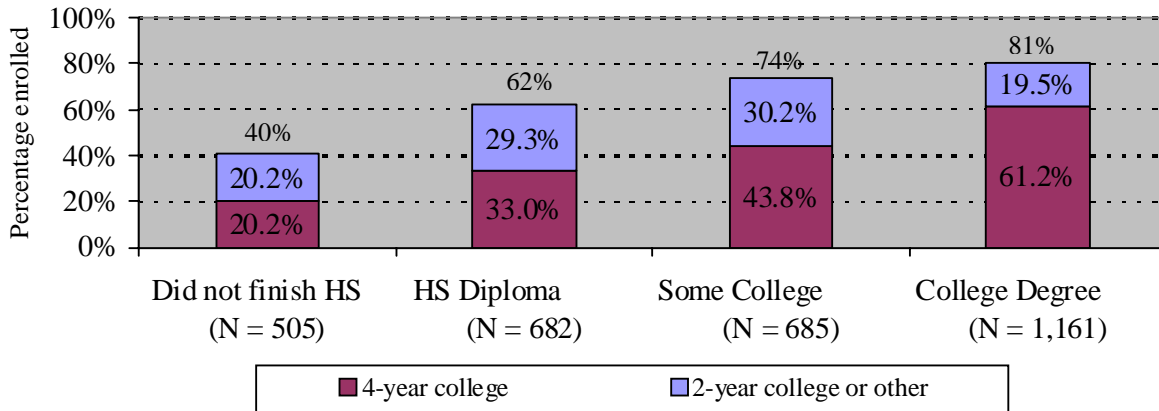
Figure 4: Postsecondary Enrollment Rate, by First-in-Family Status, AISD Class of 2006



Source: AISD 2006 High School Exit Survey, National Student Clearinghouse, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, prepared by the Department of Program Evaluation.

Students were asked to name the highest level of education achieved by their mothers. Students whose mothers had college degrees had twice the overall enrollment rate and three times the 4-year college enrollment rate of students whose mothers did not finish high school (Figure 5).

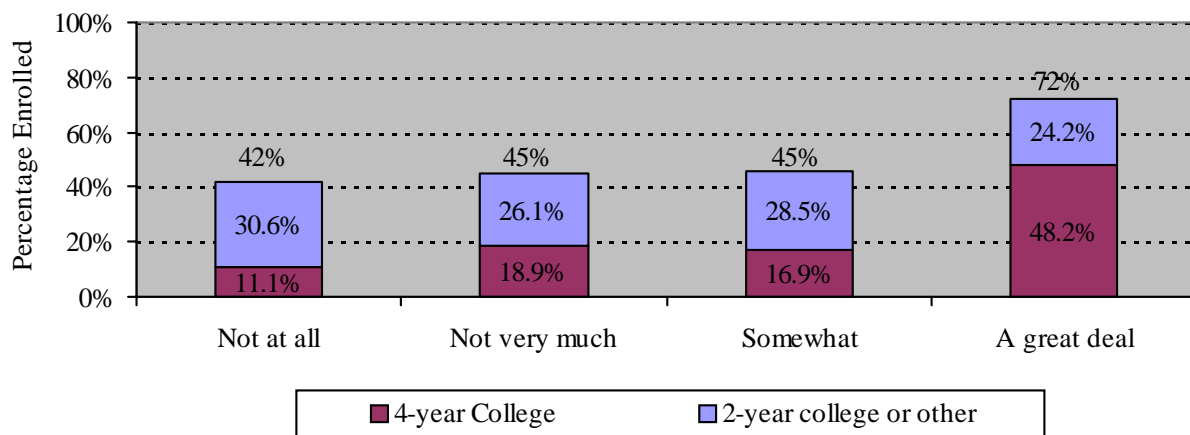
Figure 5: Postsecondary Enrollment Rate, by Mother’s Education, AISD Class of 2006



Source: AISD 2006 High School Exit Survey, National Student Clearinghouse, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, prepared by the Department of Program Evaluation.

Postsecondary enrollment rates were examined by level of parent and family encouragement. Item 24 asked seniors how much their parents and family members encouraged them to participate in postsecondary education. For seniors who said “not at all,” “not very much,” or “somewhat,” postsecondary rates ranged from 42% to 45%. But for students who said their families encouraged them “a great deal,” 72% enrolled in a postsecondary institution (Figure 6). Students also identified their parents as being the most helpful in preparing for the postsecondary application process (29%), followed by “GEAR UP staff” (19%), “my own independent research” (18%), and “Project ADVANCE” (17%).

Figure 6: Postsecondary Enrollment Rate, by Family Encouragement, AISD Class of 2006



Source: AISD 2006 High School Exit Survey, National Student Clearinghouse, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, prepared by the Department of Program Evaluation.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

The findings from this study underscore the importance of collecting information regarding the experiences of students both in and outside of school. In addition, they provide support for the validity of the data collected in the AISD High School Exit Survey, conducted each year since 2002–2003, which continues to provide valuable results that can be used to inform district planning efforts. Future studies will expand upon these findings to explore additional factors that may contribute to successful postsecondary enrollment. The findings from the study have several implications for district practice:

- Potential first-generation college students should be identified in middle school and targeted for support services that would better prepare them to enroll in college upon high school graduation.
- More inquiry into the effects of high school transfers is recommended. In the meantime, students who change high schools should be identified and targeted for support services that would better prepare them to enroll in college upon high school graduation.
- Parent support services related to academic and college preparation should be increased to assist parents in supporting their children to enroll in college.

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