

## Introduction to Results for the Class of 2013

The purpose of this survey is to monitor high school students' perceptions of their high school experience. Results are used to improve the campus environment and program supports for students. Survey results also are used in the monitoring of the districts' strategic plan Goal 3, which includes the measures of student self-confidence and attitudes toward school, work, and success. Seniors' responses to the multiple choice questions are organized into the following categories: postsecondary intentions and family support, high school experiences and campus climate, instruction and technology, postsecondary preparation and advising, and additional results.

## Postsecondary Intentions and Family Support

Table 1. Within a year after graduating from high school, what do you plan to do? (Select all that apply.)

Postsecondary Plans	Campus 2012	Campus 2013	District 2013
Continue my education	87.5%	95.4%	95.0%
Attend a 4-year college or university	39.0%	42.8%	51.7%
Attend a 2-year and eventually transfer to a 4-year college	42.4%	35.1%	31.1%
Attend a 2-year community college only (not planning to transfer to a 4-year)	10.2%	14.7%	10.0%
Attend a private career or trade school	2.7%	2.8%	2.2%
Go into the military	7.5%	6.7%	3.8%
Be a full-time parent	0.2%	1.4%	1.1%
Work full-time or part-time	.	20.0%	17.8%
Take a year off to do other things, then enroll in school	5.8%	5.1%	6.0%
No plans/ not sure yet	3.3%	4.9%	3.9%
Other	4.4%	2.6%	2.6%

Note. Missing values (.) indicate items were not included in respective year's survey.

Compared to their 2012 counterparts, a higher percentage of Akins High School's Class of 2013 seniors reported that they planned to continue their education.

## About this survey.

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Austin Independent School District (AISD) High School Exit Survey was administered online to seniors in every AISD high school during Spring 2013. On each campus, Project ADVANCE facilitators primarily were responsible for ensuring all seniors were given the opportunity to complete the survey. Special education chairs at each campus were tasked with providing eligible special education students with guidance and assistance in completing the survey.

This report contains the results for the AISD Class of 2013 at this campus. Where available, data are presented from previous senior classes and the district-level to compare with 2013 responses. At this school, 430 Akins students in the Class of 2013 completed the survey, for an overall response rate of 82.4%.

At the district level, 3,772 students in the Class of 2013 completed the survey, for an overall response rate of 87.9%. District-level survey results are provided in a separate report and are available online.

Table 2. If you are not planning to pursue further education, what are your primary reasons? (Select all that apply.)

Reason	Campus 2012	Campus 2013	District 2013
Grades / test scores are not high enough	23.6%	16.2%	16.1%
Cannot afford to attend school	20.0%	24.8%	24.8%
Don't feel academically prepared for further education	14.5%	12.4%	12.1%
Family responsibilities or child care	3.6%	7.6%	9.8%
Need to earn an income to support myself / others	27.3%	23.8%	29.3%
Attending a college/trade/technical school is not for me	5.5%	4.8%	5.2%
Want some time off from school to do other things, but plan to enroll after a year	36.4%	31.4%	33.9%
My goals do not require additional education	12.7%	14.3%	10.3%
Not sure what I want to do yet	27.3%	30.5%	30.3%
Other (please specify)	18.2%	12.4%	11.4%

Financial concerns were important for seniors' postsecondary plans.

Table 3. During high school, to what extent were your parents involved in the following school-related activities?

Activity	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often
Talking to you about homework	12.1%	21.0%	39.9%	27.0%
Making sure you completed your homework	14.3%	23.4%	36.0%	26.4%
Asking you about what you're learning in school	16.2%	28.2%	35.5%	20.0%
Helping you decide what classes to take	24.1%	28.1%	30.9%	16.9%
Talking to you about how you're doing in your classes	8.0%	14.6%	36.3%	41.0%
Rewarding you when you do well in school	22.6%	26.6%	30.4%	20.5%
Communicating with your teachers (e.g., teacher conferences, email, and phone calls)	25.1%	30.2%	30.0%	14.8%
Attending school meetings	36.1%	27.4%	24.8%	11.7%
Attending school events (e.g., sports, performances)	32.7%	19.4%	24.1%	23.8%
Volunteering at your school	61.0%	18.1%	14.6%	6.3%
Joining and participating in the PTA	77.9%	12.2%	6.6%	3.3%

Note. This question was changed in 2013, which precluded comparison with prior years' results.

Table 4. How far did your mother, father, and older brother/sister go in school?

School status	Mother	Father	Sibling
Did not finish high school	34.9%	40.4%	10.5%
Graduated: high school or earned a GED	33.7%	30.7%	36.2%
Currently attending: 2-year college /technical school	4.6%	2.7%	14.0%
Currently attending: 4-year college	1.0%	0.8%	19.2%
Attended: 2-year college but did not complete degree	6.6%	4.0%	3.9%
Graduated: 2-year college/technical school	5.3%	5.7%	3.5%
Attended: 4-year college but did not complete degree	3.3%	3.2%	3.5%
Graduated: 4-year Bachelor's degree	7.3%	8.6%	7.9%
Graduated: Master's degree or equivalent	2.8%	3.2%	0.4%
Graduated: PhD, MD, JD, or other advanced degree	0.5%	0.5%	0.9%

Note. This question was changed in 2013, which precluded comparison with prior years' results.

Parental education level influences children's aspirations for their own education, as well as their actual educational achievement (Dubow, Boxer, & Huesmann, 2009).

## High School Experiences and Campus Climate

Table 5. Please indicate the number of years of high school in which you participated in each of these extracurricular activities. Indicate the average number of hours per week you participated in these activities.

In school	Did not participate	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	Avg. # of years
Music	71.1%	11.0%	4.1%	2.4%	11.5%	0.72
Theater	74.0%	16.2%	4.4%	2.2%	3.2%	0.44
Dance	83.1%	8.3%	4.4%	0.7%	3.4%	0.33
Sports	49.3%	16.6%	11.2%	6.8%	16.1%	1.24
Academic clubs or UIL academic competitions <sup>1</sup>	67.2%	10.8%	7.1%	5.1%	9.8%	0.79
Speech/debate	73.3%	23.5%	2.9%	0.0%	0.2%	0.30
Student government	80.0%	17.5%	1.0%	0.2%	1.2%	0.25
Career and technical organizations	76.7%	9.1%	5.1%	4.4%	4.7%	0.51

<sup>1</sup>Note: An acronym key is available at the end of this report.

**Akins High School senior's comment:** *Being a member of high school band is without a doubt the most life-changing experience I've ever had... It changed my perception of the world. I was taught the more you get, the more you are given and the more you are given, the more you must give back, in a never-ending cycle.*

**Akins High School senior's comment:** *I think that my [best] experience for my high school years would be... my time in theater tech. I got to learn a lot about theater and how to work in groups.*

Table 5b. Please indicate the number of years of high school in which you participated in each of these activities outside of school.

Outside school	Did not participate	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	Avg. # of years
Music	87.3%	7.1%	2.4%	1.5%	1.7%	0.23
Theater	86.1%	6.8%	3.7%	0.5%	2.9%	0.27
Dance	55.3%	11.6%	8.7%	5.8%	18.6%	1.21
Sports	76.3%	7.5%	3.6%	2.2%	10.4%	0.63
Care for family members	94.2%	2.4%	1.0%	1.0%	1.5%	0.13
Community service	44.3%	16.4%	10.4%	3.6%	25.3%	1.49
Environmental projects	74.9%	11.1%	4.8%	2.4%	6.8%	0.55
Boy Scouts or Girls Scouts	75.3%	7.2%	3.8%	1.7%	12.0%	0.68

Extracurricular activities provide intellectual and social development opportunities for students. Schools that provided more extracurricular activities and had more student participants had better academic outcomes in terms of students performing at grade level and staying in school than did schools that provided fewer such activities (Stearns & Glennie, 2009).

Table 6. Please indicate the average number of hours per week you worked at a paid job during your senior year.

Work time	Percentage who worked during senior year		
	Campus 2012	Campus 2013	District 2013
Did not work	.	49.8%	47.3%
Less than 20 hours	.	31.5%	25.2%
20 hours or more	.	18.8%	25.5%

Note. This question was changed in 2013, which precluded comparison with prior years' results.

Compared with those who did not work, seniors who worked longer hours had significantly lower academic achievement, attendance, and educational aspirations. They were less engaged in extracurricular activities. They also were less likely to enroll in college. However, seniors working longer hours were more likely to save their earnings for postsecondary enrollment and were less likely to be unemployed 2 years after high school (Marsh & Kleitman, 2005).

Table 7. How many hours per week did you typically spend studying, doing research, or completing homework assignments outside of class?

Study time	Percentage who studied each week		
	Campus 2012	Campus 2013	District 2013
Did not study	.	15.0%	10.9%
1 to 5 hours	.	45.3%	41.8%
6 to 10 hours	.	20.7%	21.9%
11 to 15 hours	.	8.7%	12.0%
16 to 20 hours	.	4.2%	6.2%
More than 20 hours	.	6.1%	5.8%

Note. This question was changed in 2013, which precluded comparison with prior years' results.

For every statement in Table 8, the 2013 cohort's responses were more positive than those of their 2012 counterparts.

Table 8. Please mark the answer that best indicates how you feel.

Percentage who responded either <i>Sometimes</i> or <i>Always</i>	Campus 2012	Campus 2013	District 2013
I can do even the hardest schoolwork if I try.	88.2%	90.9%	91.4%
I enjoy doing my schoolwork.	47.8%	58.8%	58.4%
I feel/felt well prepared for TAKS.	90.1%	91.8%	90.0%
I try hard to do my best work.	89.5%	91.3%	90.0%
I feel successful in my schoolwork.	86.8%	87.6%	88.0%
My teachers push us to think hard about the things we read.	75.2%	80.8%	82.6%
My teachers push everyone to work hard.	79.5%	83.9%	85.9%
I can reach the goals I set for myself.	94.0%	94.6%	94.5%
My homework helps me learn things I need to know.	75.7%	75.9%	75.6%
My schoolwork makes me think about things in new ways.	63.4%	70.0%	70.4%
I have fun learning in my classes.	64.9%	73.8%	67.0%
My teachers connect what I am learning life outside of class.	53.3%	64.4%	74.6%
I like to come to school.	62.5%	70.5%	69.8%

Note. Response options were *Never*, *Not a lot*, *Sometimes*, *Always*, and *Don't know*.

Table 9. How well did your high school help you to actively develop knowledge and skills in the following areas?

Percentage who responded Somewhat well or Very well	Campus 2012	Campus 2013	District 2013
Teamwork	90.4%	93.0%	90.8%
Creative thinking	90.2%	90.6%	90.7%
Problem solving	90.8%	92.5%	92.6%
Conflict resolution	84.1%	89.8%	87.3%
Personal health/fitness	81.2%	84.1%	82.7%
Time management	78.2%	84.0%	84.4%
Technology	86.8%	88.0%	86.9%

Note. Response options were Not well, Somewhat well, and Very well.

“Twenty-first-century skills” is a term generally used to refer to competencies such as collaboration, digital literacy, critical thinking, and problem-solving that will help students thrive in today’s world.

Table 10. Rate the quality of instruction you feel you received in the following areas.

Percentage who responded Good or Excellent	Campus 2012	Campus 2013	District 2013
English language arts	71.9%	76.8%	81.3%
Mathematics	68.7%	73.7%	69.4%
Science	55.8%	60.6%	69.1%
Social studies	76.7%	74.2%	76.7%
Computer/Technology	68.1%	64.8%	62.7%
Foreign language	63.0%	58.5%	57.95%
Performing/Fine arts	64.7%	63.1%	64.7%
Career and technical (CTE)	60.8%	46.2%	42.9%

Note. Response options were Excellent, Good, Fair, and Poor.

Researchers have found students are important sources of information about what happens in classrooms. Students’ responses are generally reliable, valid, and stable over time at the classroom level (Ferguson, 2010).

Table 11. Which of the following describes your computer access at home?

Access	Campus 2012	Campus 2013	District 2013
No computer	4.3%	5.4%	4.9%
No computer, but Internet access (e.g., cell phone, iPad, or iTouch)	8.7%	9.5%	8.7%
Computer, no Internet	7.0%	5.8%	4.6%
Computer with Internet access	80.0%	79.3%	81.8%

Table 12. To what extent did your parents use Parent Connect/Gradespeed to monitor your grades?

Use	Campus 2012	Campus 2013	District 2013
Never	.	34.7%	28.5%
Rarely	.	14.8%	14.7%
Sometimes	.	18.7%	21.6%
Often	.	31.9%	35.1%

Note. The question was changed in 2013, which precluded comparison with prior years’ results.

The odds of enrolling in a 2- or 4-year college, relative to not enrolling, was found to increase with the frequency with which parents discussed education-related topics (e.g., grades) with their children. Furthermore, a positive relationship between the frequency of parent-initiated contact with the school about academic issues and the odds of enrolling in a 4-year college was found to be particularly important for African American students (Perna & Titus, 2005).

Table 13. How frequently do you use a computer or other Internet-capable devices (e.g., cell phone, iPod, or iPad)?

Use	Never	Less than once a week	Once or twice a week	Every day or almost every day
To present material in class, for example, using PowerPoint?	18.0%	50.6%	19.4%	12.1%
To type a paper or class assignment?	6.9%	44.1%	38.2%	10.9%
To search the Internet to complete class-related assignments?	5.7%	24.0%	41.6%	28.7%
To research college / career choices?	13.1%	35.0%	35.0%	17.1%
To complete online forms or applications for college or employment?	16.1%	42.2%	27.0%	14.7%
To communicate with teachers?	31.5%	37.9%	19.0%	11.6%
To monitor grades/progress in school?	11.9%	11.9%	31.5%	44.8%

Table 14. Indicate how much you agree with each of the following statements about technology use at school.

Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Text books should be put online.	32.6%	38.1%	14.7%	6.1%	8.5%
We need newer software.	38.0%	41.0%	11.8%	0.9%	8.3%
My teachers effectively use the technology resources that are available.	22.5%	55.9%	11.1%	3.1%	7.3%
My school's technology is up to date. It does not need upgrading.	11.8%	33.6%	34.8%	7.6%	12.3%
Homework assignments should be online.	14.6%	24.5%	30.2%	19.1%	11.6%

Table 15. How frequently do you log into Naviance/Family Connection for the following activities?

Activity	Never	Sometimes	Often	Very often
Career exploration	39.7%	42.3%	13.9%	4.1%
Class rank and GPA inquiry	24.5%	41.6%	23.3%	10.7%
College search	34.0%	49.9%	12.3%	3.8%
College visit sign up	49.6%	35.1%	11.2%	4.1%
Counselor-directed activities (e.g., Personality Type Questionnaire or Explore Careers)	47.6%	39.3%	9.0%	4.0%
Resume building	51.4%	35.7%	10.2%	2.6%

### Postsecondary Preparation and Advising

Table 16. At what time in your life did you start thinking about college as a possibility after high school?

Time frame	Campus 2012	Campus 2013	District 2013
As long ago as I can remember	25.0%	28.0%	36.8%
In elementary school	9.0%	8.5%	8.3%
In middle school / junior high	28.0%	23.3%	21.6%
In high school	36.0%	37.2%	30.4%
Never thought of college as an option	2.0%	3.1%	2.8%

Students' early college aspirations have increased over the past decade, and their aspirations continue to be influenced in high school (Copper, 2009).

Table 17. Overall, how well prepared or informed...

Percentage who responded <i>Somewhat well</i> or <i>Very well</i>	Campus 2012	Campus 2013	District 2013
Were you to plan your high school course selections?	84.5%	87.7%	89.5%
Were you to meet your college and career goals?	76.1%	85.0%	87.9%
Have you been for the college or trade / technical school application process?	70.7%	81.2%	83.5%
Have you been about obtaining financial aid for education after high school?	79.8%	85.7%	85.4%

Note. Response options were *Not well*, *Somewhat well*, and *Very well*.

At the campus and district levels, the percentage of students who indicated they were somewhat well or very well prepared for postsecondary activities increased over the past year.

Table 18. How did you prepare for your education after high school? (Select all that apply.)

Type of Preparation	Campus 2012	Campus 2013	District 2013
Took college entrance tests (SAT, ACT, THEA, Compass, Asset)	65.0%	63.7%	65.9%
Completed and submitted the FAFSA	50.0%	72.8%	64.0%
Visited one or more colleges or technical schools	47.0%	40.7%	55.7%
Ordered and submitted a transcript to a college or trade/ technical school.	47.0%	47.0%	54.8%
Took one or more Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate classes	43.0%	42.1%	50.0%
Met with a college recruiter at my high school	43.0%	40.2%	41.3%
Took test prep class for the PSAT, SAT, ACT, etc.	39.0%	29.5%	38.6%
Completed and submitted a scholarship application	36.0%	38.6%	45.0%
Met with the school counselor/ADVANCE staff to discuss college plans/processes	45.0%	60.9%	56.2%
Attended one or more college fairs	34.0%	28.6%	39.1%
Completed or are currently enrolled in ACC courses	40.0%	32.1%	36.8%
Participated in ACC College Connections	35.0%	37.2%	5.4%
Took other college level courses (e.g., Texas State, Texas Tech, TSTC)	7.0%	3.0%	15.3%
None of the above	10.0%	8.6%	7.0%

Table 19. Have you applied to the following types of postsecondary institutions?

Institution Type	Campus 2012	Campus 2013	District 2013
2-year	71.5%	62.2%	60.1%
4-year	70.1%	62.1%	67.3%
Business/technical/vocational school	8.6%	11.0%	8.7%

Table 20. Of those who applied, what percentage of students reported being accepted to the following types of postsecondary institutions?

Institution	Campus 2012	Campus 2013	District 2013
2-year	84.9%	89.2%	88.2%
4-year	91.2%	80.0%	74.0%
Business/technical/vocational school	73.7%	78.9%	77.5%

On average, Akins' Class of 2013 seniors applied to 3.74 postsecondary institutions. Students who submitted four or more applications were found significantly more likely to become enrolled than were students who submitted fewer applications (Garland, 2008).

Based on survey responses, 17.7% of Akins' Class of 2013 seniors planned to attend Austin Community College after graduation. Just over 7% reported plans to attend Texas State University, while 3.0% chose University of Texas–Austin. About 6% of seniors planned to enroll at University of Texas–San Antonio.

Table 21. Which of the following did a family member help you with to prepare for life after high school? (Select all that apply.)

Form of help	Campus 2012	Campus 2013	District 2013
Talked to you about career and/or college options	76.4%	75.1%	80.1%
Talked to you about finances	65.6%	62.3%	67.0%
Talked to you about your responsibilities as an adult	77.8%	71.4%	74.2%
Talked to you about what a career and/or college would be like	67.0%	58.8%	66.2%
Helped you with financial aid (FAFSA and/or scholarships)	47.6%	53.7%	55.0%
Helped you complete applications for colleges or trade/technical schools	35.5%	28.6%	40.1%
Encouraged you to apply to several different colleges	57.1%	49.5%	53.6%
No one in my family talked to me about or helped me with these things.	8.8%	6.7%	6.0%

Table 22. Indicate if you know at least one teacher who would do the following:

Teacher help	Campus 2012	Campus 2013	District 2013
Would be willing to give you extra help with your school work if you needed it	88.8%	82.8%	85.0%
Would be willing to help you with a personal problem	73.2%	67.9%	71.7%
Cares about how you're doing in school	83.5%	75.6%	76.8%
Would be willing to write you a letter of recommendation for a job or college	83.1%	75.1%	77.8%
Knows what you will be doing next year	61.1%	60.7%	63.1%
Would be willing to help you even after you graduate	62.0%	59.3%	61.8%

Table 23. Were your school counselors available to talk to you about college and careers?

Availability	Campus 2012	Campus 2013	District 2013
Yes, this person was available and I talked to him/her.	.	62.2%	68.4%
I tried to talk to this person and wasn't able to meet with him/her.	.	13.5%	12.4%
I never tried to meet with this person.	.	24.3%	19.1%

Note. This question was changed in 2013, which precluded comparison with prior years' results.

Garland (2008) found that students' interactions with a school counselor and/or college advisor influenced the likelihood that those students would become enrolled in a postsecondary institution.

Table 24. Was your Project ADVANCE staff available to talk to you about college and careers?

Availability	Campus 2012	Campus 2013	District 2013
Yes, this person was available and I talked to him/her.	.	84.6%	74.5%
I tried to talk to this person and wasn't able to meet with him/her.	.	4.7%	6.0%
I never tried to meet with this person.	.	10.8%	19.5%

Note. This question was changed in 2013, which precluded comparison with prior years' results.



Table 25. Indicate whether the following people helped you with or encouraged you in any of the following activities (select all that apply).

Activity	School counselor	Advisory teacher	Teacher	Project ADVANCE staff	ACC staff	None of these
Select courses needed for work or admission to college	39.8%	9.5%	18.4%	37.2%	11.4%	21.6%
Push your academic abilities further (e.g., challenging courses, science fair or summer learning, extra credit work)	29.5%	10.9%	45.6%	19.3%	2.3%	25.8%
Take AP / honors courses	31.9%	5.6%	34.2%	9.3%	0.9%	38.6%
Take dual credit or articulated credit courses	34.4%	5.6%	19.1%	17.0%	8.6%	38.4%
Discussed career information and/or occupations you might want to pursue	27.0%	10.9%	31.4%	38.4%	5.1%	22.8%
Continue your education after high school	34.9%	13.5%	40.0%	43.7%	7.2%	21.4%
Talked to you about colleges suited to your interests and abilities	29.1%	9.8%	28.6%	45.8%	6.3%	18.6%
Encouraged you to apply to multiple schools	20.7%	9.5%	20.0%	43.0%	3.0%	27.9%
Helped you decide what school to attend	17.4%	6.7%	17.2%	36.0%	2.1%	37.2%
Helped you fill out applications for postsecondary	20.2%	6.7%	16.0%	45.3%	3.3%	26.0%
Helped you with your college application essays or personal statements	16.7%	6.5%	33.7%	34.7%	1.9%	29.3%

Table 26. How do you plan to pay for your education after high school? (Select all that apply.)

Source	Campus 2012	Campus 2013	District 2013
Scholarships and/or grants	63.3%	60.9%	58.7%
Loans	44.6%	44.0%	35.1%
Family or personal savings	46.7%	43.0%	51.1%
Tuition and fees exemption (e.g., military, foster care, adoption, deaf, blind)	9.0%	10.9%	8.3%
Working during the school year	64.4%	54.7%	51.9%
Working during the summer	65.4%	56.7%	54.2%
I don't know	5.9%	4.2%	5.5%

The completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is important to entering and completing postsecondary education, especially for economically disadvantaged students. Students who completed the FAFSA were found 50% more likely to enroll in a 4-year college than were those who had not. Eighty-three percent of AISD's Class of 2010 who were enrolled in a postsecondary institution after high school completed a FAFSA (Looby, 2012).

Table 27. How easy has it been for you and your parents to understand the process of applying for financial aid?

Degree of ease	Campus 2012	Campus 2013	District 2013
Easy	18.8%	14.3%	10.6%
Some parts easy, some parts difficult	45.7%	47.7%	47.9%
Difficult	14.3%	28.7%	26.3%
I did not apply for financial aid	21.1%	9.3%	15.2%

**Akins High School senior's comment:** My AVID class helped me so much with [preparing for] college and FAFSA.

Table 28. If you did not submit a financial aid application, why not?

Reason	Campus 2012	Campus 2013	District 2013
I do not need financial aid to attend college	4.3%	7.9%	22.7%
My parents were not willing to submit private financial information	5.4%	18.4%	7.2%
My family did not think we would qualify or be eligible for financial aid	18.5%	21.1%	16.6%
I do not plan to go to college	23.9%	13.2%	13.7%
I did not know about the financial aid process	47.8%	39.5%	39.9%

District wide, about 14% of students did not submit a financial aid application. About 39% of these students reported they did not need financial aid, and almost 40% did not know about the process.

Table 29. Without including any financial aid (such as loans, grants, scholarships or exemptions), full-time tuition and fees for one semester at \_\_\_\_\_ costs about...

Austin Community College		University of Texas		Harvard University		Total cost of books for 1 school year	
\$100	1.0%	\$1,000	1.0%	\$1,000	0.7%	\$100	1.7%
\$400	8.9%	\$5,000	7.7%	\$5,000	1.0%	\$1,500	31.2%
\$900	23.0%	\$10,000	14.0%	\$10,000	3.6%	\$5,000	12.2%
\$5,000	20.1%	\$15,000	12.5%	\$20,000	11.1%	\$10,000	5.3%
\$10,000	2.4%	\$20,000	20.5%	\$50,000	34.3%	\$15,000	6.2%
Don't know	44.6%	Don't know	44.3%	Don't know	49.3%	Don't know	43.4%

Full-time tuition and fees for a semester cost about \$900 at ACC, ranged between \$4,673 and \$5,369 at UT, and were \$20,433 at Harvard. The total cost of books and supplies for 1 year of college was estimated at \$1,100 by the College Board. Researchers consistently show that most parents and students are uninformed or poorly informed about college prices and financial aid, and students' postsecondary decisions are influenced by this limited knowledge (Perna, Lundy-Wagner, Yee, Brill, & Tadal, 2009).

Table 30. Where did you learn about options for paying for your education after high school? (Select all that apply.)

Source of information	Campus 2012	Campus 2013	District 2013
Senior economics class	.	23.5%	19.1%
Financial Aid Saturday events	.	25.3%	19.1%
Talked to school counselor/college and career advisor/Project ADVANCE staff	.	69.8%	54.9%
Information from a college or university (e.g., website, brochures)	.	31.6%	35.7%
College recruiter	.	17.4%	18.6%
U.S. Department of Education or FAFSA websites	.	23.0%	24.6%
Parents or other adults	.	54.0%	61.7%
None of these	.	5.8%	7.6%

Note. This question was changed in 2013, which precluded comparison with prior years' results.

At the district level, seniors most frequently reported their parents or other adults as sources of information regarding postsecondary financial support, while Akins High seniors most frequently indicated that their information came from school counselors, advisors, and/or Project ADVANCE staff.

### Acronym Key

The following table contains a list of acronyms being used in the High School Exit Survey summary reports. Where relevant, each acronym has a link to an external URL.

Acronym	Definition
<a href="#">ACC</a>	Austin Community College
<a href="#">AP</a>	Advanced Placement
<a href="#">FAFSA</a>	Free Application for Federal Student Aid
<a href="#">GPA</a>	grade point average
<a href="#">TAKS</a>	Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills
<a href="#">THEA</a>	Texas Higher Education Assessment
<a href="#">TSTC</a>	Texas State Technical College
<a href="#">UIL</a>	University Interscholastic League

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