



Survey Report

The sixth annual Austin Independent School District (AISD) High School Exit Survey was administered online to seniors in every AISD high school during Spring 2009. Facilitators on each campus, primarily *Project ADVANCE* counselors, were responsible for ensuring that all graduating seniors were given the opportunity to complete the survey.

This report contains the results for the Akins High School Class of 2009. Where available, longitudinal data are presented to compare with the 2009 responses. In addition, average results from all AISD high schools are presented alongside results for Akins for comparison purposes. In total, 3,365 students in the Class of 2009 completed the survey, including 282 students from Akins. Longitudinal tests for statistical significance were conducted with district-level data (see district-level report). Table 1 presents longitudinal response rates by campus and by district. Next, major findings are presented, followed by open-ended campus-level responses and, finally, responses to the multiple choice items from the survey.

The report is structured as follows. First, a brief summary of key findings from the 2009 High School Exit Survey is provided. This summary is followed by a selection of open-ended student comments that capture the predominant themes that emerged from the student comments. Last, the detailed, item-specific results for each question from the survey are presented.

Table 1. High School Exit Survey Response Rates, Classes 2007-2009

	Class of 2007	Class of 2008	Class of 2009
All high schools	82.0%	74.8%	78.8%
Akins	86.8%	75.6%	53.6%

Major Findings

Student responses are organized into seven general topics areas: Open-Ended Comments; Postsecondary Intentions and Family Support; High School Experiences, Campus Climate, and Civic Engagement; Instruction and Technology; Postsecondary Preparation and Advising; and Final Thoughts. Some of the notable trends at this campus include:

- **Employment.** Akins seniors appeared to have worked more hours during the school year than other AISD high school seniors. However, the percentage who reported working in the summer was similar to that of other high school seniors.
- **College preparation.** More students at Akins began thinking about college as a possibility after high school later in school than did their district peers. Compared to seniors district-wide, Akins seniors appeared to have less college preparation. Lower percentages of Akins seniors indicated taking college entrance tests, test preparation classes, and completing community college classes. Akins seniors were more likely to have applied to 2-year colleges, but were substantially less likely to have applied to a 4-year institution.

INDIVIDUAL ITEM RESPONSES FOR AKINS HIGH SCHOOL**OPEN ENDED COMMENTS**

The responses below are to the question, “*What is the ONE thing that you especially want the administration of AISD to know?*”

Fifty-eight (21%) provided a response. Many students mentioned general positive feelings about Akins High School and expressed gratitude to the teachers and staff. Other students expressed concern about the counseling services offered by Akins. Last, several students mentioned overcrowding issues at Akins. Commonly identified themes expressed by the Class of 2009¹ include:

- **Positive comments.** Students felt teachers and staff were generally positive and helpful to students. According to one student, “*I really enjoyed coming to Akins it's a great school I really like the teachers and how well they cared for the students. I am going to miss high school.*” “*High School was a great experience.*”
- **Counseling and career center.** Many students discussed how their counselors were unwilling to assist them. “*The school counselors at Akins High School did a very poor job overall this year with advising students about college and the financial aid process. They did not go out and find scholarships for students who are college-bound, nor did they help with anything college related. This not only goes for me, but many other people who I have talked to regarding this matter. Even some of the teachers feel the same way. It just seems like they don't care. Something needs to be done, and quickly.*” Another student said “*The counelors at Akins high school are inadaquete. My highschool counselor has been of no help to me.*”
- **School crowding.** Several students expressed concerns about overcrowding at Akins. “*That Akins high school is horribly overcrowded. Lines should be redrawn, not using I-35 as a boundary.*” And, “*Because Akins is so crowded, redistrict the schools*”

¹ All student quotes are taken directly from the survey, as typed in by the students. Examples are given to illustrate common themes.

POSTSECONDARY INTENTIONS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Table 2. Within A Year After Graduating From High School, What Do You Plan To Do? (Item 6)

	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Continue my education*	89.5%	89.3%	91.8%	89.0%	92.2%	93.1%
Go into the military	5.6%	5.8%	6.7%	2.6%	2.8%	3.9%
Be a full-time parent	4.0%	3.7%	1.8%	2.2%	2.2%	1.7%
Work full-time	17.8%	25.2%	15.2%	13.2%	13.5%	11.7%
Work part-time	37.9%	42.9%	36.2%	35.5%	41.1%	32.9%
No plans	5.4%	4.3%	3.5%	5.6%	2.4%	2.3%

Note. Respondents could select more than one option, so percentages may not total 100%.

* Item was recoded to match longitudinal data. In 2008, this was two items: "Attend a school or college for a business, technical, trade, or vocational certificate" and "Attend a college or university for a degree." The percentage represents all students who chose either or both options.

Table 3. If You Are Not Planning To Pursue Further Education At This Time, What Are Your Primary Reasons? (Item 7)

	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Cannot afford to attend school	28.0%	14.3%	23.5%	30.6%	16.9%	33.0%
Childcare or family responsibilities	16.0%	17.1%	5.9%	9.8%	14.9%	11.4%
Don't like attending school	28.0%	14.3%	17.6%	22.4%	19.4%	17.6%
Grades/test scores aren't high enough	20.0%	17.1%	17.6%	23.0%	16.5%	21.6%
Don't feel academically prepared	16.0%	22.9%	17.6%	15.8%	13.7%	17.0%
Need income to support myself	28.0%	20.0%	29.4%	34.4%	21.8%	28.4%
Need income to support others	8.0%	8.6%	5.9%	10.4%	6.0%	10.8%
Other	15.8%	25.7%	11.7%	16.8%	22.6%	12.9%

Note. Respondents could select more than one option, so percentages may not total 100%.

Table 4. If You Are Not Planning To Pursue Further Education At This Time, Do You Intend To Pursue It At A Later Time? (Item 8)

	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Probably or definitely yes	50.0%	59.4%	71.4%	61.7%	59.2%	66.2%
Maybe	25.0%	15.6%	23.8%	20.6%	19.3%	24.1%
Probably or definitely no	5.8%	12.5%	0.0%	6.2%	10.5%	4.2%
Don't know	19.2%	12.5%	4.8%	11.5%	11.0%	5.6%

Note. Response options were collapsed for ease in reporting.

Table 5. To What Extent Were Your Parents Involved In The Following School-Related Things? (Item 9)

<i>*Percentage who responded parents were involved at least Occasionally</i>	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Volunteering at your school	35.1%	32.3%	28.9%	38.6%	40.0%	30.3%
Working with you on homework or school projects	52.3%	55.6%	54.0%	54.8%	54.6%	46.8%
Helping you decide what classes to take	51.9%	57.6%	55.2%	60.1%	60.2%	53.4%
Attending school meetings	52.7%	43.8%	39.4%	57.4%	54.9%	45.9%
Communicating with your teachers	54.4%	57.7%	54.9%	59.6%	60.6%	52.1%
Participating in school leadership opportunities	.	25.2%	17.6%	.	29.0%	17.9%
Attending athletic events	.	50.8%	42.8%	.	58.8%	51.5%
Attending academic events and competitions	.	35.4%	20.4%	.	36.9%	25.4%
Attending performance events	.	46.6%	42.0%	.	53.3%	45.0%
Joining and participating in the PTA	.	14.6%	5.5%	.	27.1%	16.5%

Note. Missing values, denoted by a period, indicate the item was not included on the respective year's survey.

* Response options were *Never*, *Rarely*, *Occasionally*, and *Often*. In 2008, *Consistently* was an additional response option; in 2009, it was removed. Thus, results may not be equivalent between years.

Table 6. How Far Did Your Parents Go In School? Indicate Your Mother And Father's Highest Level Of Education. (Item 12)

	Akins Mother	Akins Father	Akins Sibling*	All HS Mother	All HS Father	All HS Siblings
Did not finish high school	26.6%	26.5%	12.8%	18.4%	18.7%	11.2%
Graduated from high school or earned a GED	25.9%	26.4%	25.0%	19.6%	18.0%	22.9%
Attended a 2-yr community/junior college or vocational/technical school, but no degree	11.4%	10.7%	14.5%	8.5%	6.0%	10.3%
Graduated from a 2-yr community/junior college or vocational/technical school	7.3%	5.8%	1.7%	5.2%	4.1%	3.6%
Attended a 4-yr college, but did not complete a degree	11.0%	9.5%	5.2%	14.0%	13.2%	8.0%
Graduated from college	6.6%	5.7%	8.7%	13.7%	12.5%	15.5%
Completed a Master's degree or equivalent	4.0%	4.0%	2.3%	11.1%	12.1%	3.5%
Completed a Ph.D., M.D., or other advanced professional degree	1.0%	1.7%	2.9%	3.6%	6.3%	1.4%
Don't Know or Does Not Apply	6.2%	9.6%	26.7%	5.9%	9.1%	23.6%

* New response option in 2009

HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCES, CAMPUS CLIMATE, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Table 7. How Many Different High Schools Have You Attended? (Item 3)

	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
1	74.5%	75.2%	60.1%	76.1%	77.6%	70.1%
2	17.7%	18.4%	24.5%	16.8%	16.8%	18.4%
3 or more	7.8%	6.4%	15.4%	7.2%	5.6%	11.5%

Table 8. Please Indicate The Number Of Years Of High School In Which You Participated In Each Of These Extracurricular Activities. (Items 13 & 15)

<i>*Percentage who reported at least 1 year of participation</i>	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
<i>In school</i>				
Music	29.8%	35.4%	35.1%	33.6%
Theater	21.2%	18.5%	20.4%	18.6%
Dance	28.4%	25.2%	23.2%	22.1%
Sports	54.8%	50.7%	58.8%	57.9%
UIL academic competitions	20.0%	17.9%	18.8%	20.0%
Speech/debate	17.0%	18.2%	21.2%	20.9%
Student government	14.4%	11.8%	16.4%	16.3%
Career and technical student organizations	.	23.4%	.	14.5%
<i>Outside school</i>				
Music	25.1%	30.9%	30.3%	30.5%
Theater	14.5%	6.5%	11.7%	7.9%
Dance	19.9%	15.8%	17.0%	15.0%
Sports	50.2%	44.2%	52.0%	50.9%
Community service/volunteering	50.6%	56.6%	57.1%	62.1%
Environmental project/activities	18.0%	26.3%	25.4%	28.0%
Boy/Girl Scouts	4.3%	3.9%	8.9%	8.0%
Family care	20.1%	27.7%	19.8%	22.4%

Note. Missing values, denoted by a period, indicate the item was not included on the respective year's survey.

*Respondents could select more than one option, so percentages may not total 100%.

Table 9. For Each Of These Extracurricular Activities, Did You Spend More Than 10 Hours Per Week During Your Senior Year On Them? (Items 14 & 16)

<i>*Percentage of seniors indicating they spent more than 10 hours per week on each activity.</i>	Akins 2009	All HS 2009
<i>Inside school</i>		
Music	11.6%	8.0%
Theater	1.9%	3.2%
Dance	3.0%	3.8%
Sports	16.2%	23.4%
UIL academic competitions	1.9%	2.3%
Speech/debate	0.4%	1.3%
Student government	0.4%	0.9%
Career and technical student organizations	6.4%	2.3%
<i>Outside school</i>		
Music	12.0%	6.6%
Theater	0.4%	1.5%
Dance	4.3%	2.9%
Sports	15.8%	19.1%
Community service/volunteering	9.7%	6.3%
Environmental project/activities	3.2%	1.8%
Boy/Girl Scouts	0.4%	0.6%
Family care	11.7%	7.2%

* Respondents could select more than one option, so percentages may not total 100%.

Table 10. Please Indicate The Number Of Years Of High School That You Have Been Employed (Either During The Year Or During The Summer). (Item 17)

	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
0	24.0%	26.4%	24.4%	27.9%
1	27.4%	32.9%	28.2%	26.8%
2	26.8%	23.5%	26.2%	24.5%
3	14.5%	13.4%	13.7%	12.9%
4	7.4%	4.0%	7.5%	7.9%

Figure 1. Now Indicate The Number Of Hours Per Week That You Have Worked During Last Summer. (Q18a)



Figure 2. Now Indicate The Number Of Hours Per Week That You Have Worked During Your Senior Year. (Q18b)



Figure 3. Thinking Back On Your Years In High School, How Many Hours Per Week Did You Typically Spend Studying, Doing Research, Or Completing Homework Assignments Outside Of Class? (Item 19)

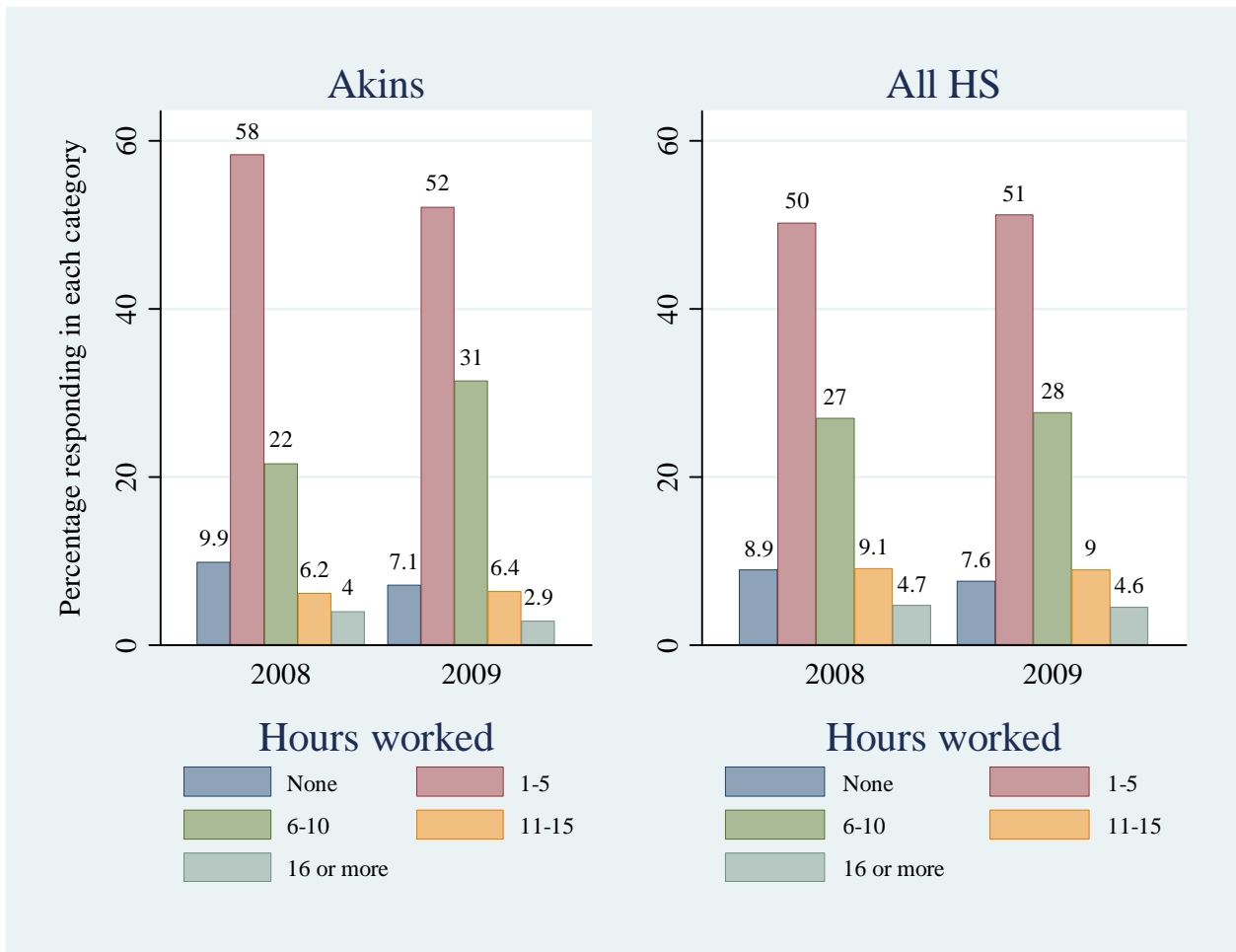


Figure 4. On Average, What Percentage Of Your Study, Research And Homework Was Done Without Distractions (E.G., Television, Music, IM, Texting, Phone Calls)? (Item 20)



Table 11. Please Mark The Item That Best Indicates How You Feel: (Items 21a-21k)

<i>*Percentage who responded Strongly agree or Agree</i>	Akins 2009	All HS 2009
I feel safe at my school	82.1%	78.7%
My classmates show respect to each other	51.3%	50.9%
The consequences for breaking school rules are the same for everyone	56.9%	41.1%
Adults at this school listen to student ideas and opinions	58.1%	53.1%
My homework helps me learn things I need to know	64.8%	58.6%
I know how I am doing in school	85.3%	82.9%
My teachers expected me to do my best work	87.3%	83.0%
My classes were rigorous and challenging	62.6%	59.6%
My high school coursework has been relevant to my life	62.9%	47.4%
There is at least one adult at my school who I can go to if I have a problem	81.3%	78.0%
My teachers are fair to everyone	54.9%	45.3%

*Response options include *Strongly agree, Agree, Neither agree nor Disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree, and Don't know*. Response options changed from 2008. Therefore, longitudinal data were not available.

Table 12. Please Answer The Following Questions About Your Civic Engagement. (Items 4 & 5)

	Akins 2009	All HS 2009
Are you registered to vote?*	32.8%	41.4%
Have you voted in any school board, city, county, state, or national election?	15.9%	22.9%
Will you register to vote after your 18th birthday?***	75.7%	77.3%

* Only asked to students who were 18 years old or older

** Only asked to students who were not 18 years or older at the time they completed the survey

INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY

Table 13. How Well Did Your High School Help You To Actively Develop Knowledge And Skills In The Following Areas? (Item 22)

<i>*Percentage who responded Somewhat well or Well</i>	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Teamwork	.	89.8%	94.2%	.	88.6%	89.7%
Creative thinking	92.4%	92.3%	95.6%	90.8%	90.6%	91.7%
Problem solving	93.5%	92.5%	94.2%	92.9%	91.5%	92.0%
Conflict resolution	84.6%	84.9%	88.3%	84.6%	82.8%	84.1%
Personal health/fitness	82.3%	86.3%	87.5%	78.5%	78.6%	81.0%
Time management	.	82.0%	86.3%	.	80.8%	81.2%
Technology	.	84.8%	88.6%	.	84.6%	84.2%

Note. Missing values, denoted by a period, indicate the item was not included on the respective year's survey.

*Responses were *Not well*, *Somewhat well*, and *Very well*.

Table 14. Please Rate The Quality Of Instruction That You Feel That You Received In The Following Areas: (Item 23)

<i>*Percentage who responded Good or Excellent</i>	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Writing	82.7%	84.5%	80.8%	82.6%	81.2%	81.6%
Mathematics	68.9%	67.0%	69.2%	71.3%	70.7%	70.8%
Science	61.8%	59.6%	59.3%	68.9%	69.5%	69.8%
Social Studies	83.6%	86.9%	81.3%	84.2%	82.8%	82.0%
Computer/Technology	73.6%	76.1%	70.7%	71.0%	71.8%	70.2%
Foreign Language	64.3%	60.9%	67.4%	64.5%	63.9%	64.3%
Performing/Fine Arts	71.2%	71.9%	71.5%	72.2%	73.8%	73.0%

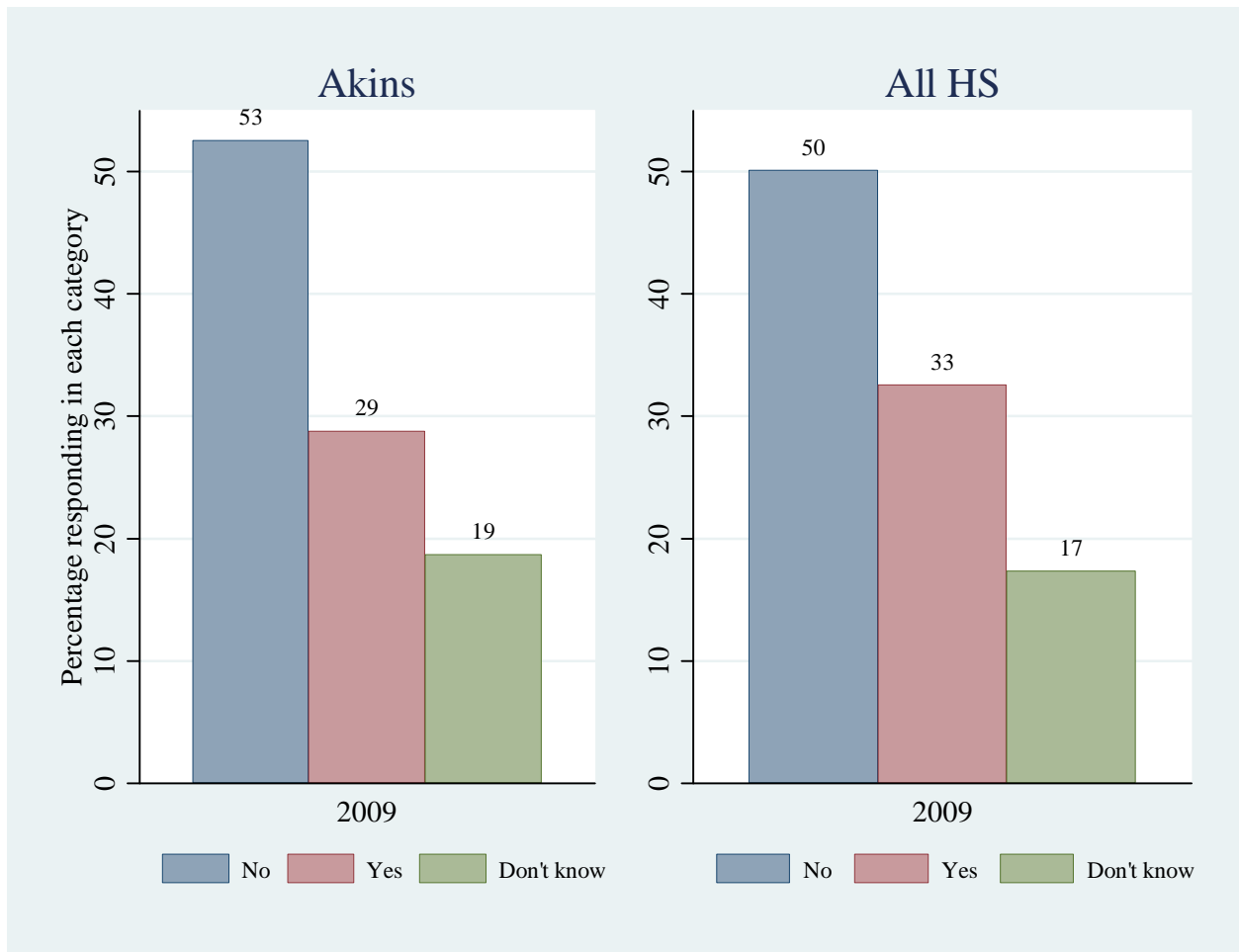
* Responses were *Poor*, *Fair*, *Good*, and *Excellent*.

Figure 5. Which Of The Following Describes Your Computer And Internet Access At Home? (Item 24)



Note. This item was recoded to match longitudinal data. In prior years' surveys, students were asked to indicate the type of Internet service they had at home.

**Figure 6. Do Your Parents Use Parentconnect/Gradesped To Monitor Your Grades?
(Item 27)**



Note. This item was new for 2009.

Table 15. How Frequently Do You Use A Computer?: (Item 25)

<i>*Percentage who responded At least once a week or more</i>	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
At home?	82.5%	81.7%	81.7%	86.4%	86.7%	83.9%
At school?	87.0%	75.5%	69.7%	70.8%	74.0%	73.1%
To present material in class, for example, using PowerPoint	27.0%	25.1%	26.4%	22.6%	23.5%	22.0%
To type a paper or class assignment?	55.1%	48.4%	47.8%	57.2%	55.3%	53.5%
To search the Internet to complete class-related assignments?	66.6%	60.0%	56.7%	62.3%	61.6%	62.7%
To research college/career choices?	48.4%	48.1%	50.2%	50.5%	50.6%	51.0%
To complete online forms or applications for college/employment?	44.6%	39.9%	41.5%	43.4%	44.0%	43.4%
To communicate with teachers (e.g., email, IM, etc.)?	28.1%	25.2%	18.8%	18.1%	20.8%	17.8%
To communicate with friends (e.g., email, IM, blog, Facebook, etc.)?	73.6%	70.0%	65.7%	74.1%	74.8%	72.5%
To monitor grades/progress in school?	.	.	33.6%	.	.	29.4%

Note. Missing values, denoted by a period, indicate the item was not included on the respective year's survey.

*Responses were *Never*, *Less than once a week*, *Once or twice a week*, *Every day*, and *Almost every day*. Reports prior to 2008 indicated item means; in 2009, percentages represented the number of students reporting *At least once a week* or more.

Table 16. Indicate How Much You Agree With Each Of The Following Statements About Technology Use At School: (Item 26)

<i>*Percentage who responded Agree or Strongly agree</i>	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
My teachers effectively use the technology resources that are available.	83.7%	92.0%	85.7%	89.8%
I would like to use more electronic communication with my classmates as part of my schoolwork.	87.0%	85.1%	79.8%	82.3%
I would like to use more electronic communication with my teachers.	75.7%	82.2%	73.2%	76.0%
I would like to use more online resources.	88.4%	88.0%	82.1%	84.0%

* Responses were *Strongly disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly disagree, and Don't know/Unsure.*

POSTSECONDARY PREPARATION AND ADVISING

Table 17. At What Time In Your Life Did You Start Thinking About College As A Possibility After High School? (Item 29)

	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
As long ago as I can remember*	34.5%	27.6%	28.1%	39.1%	40.5%	38.7%
In elementary school	9.1%	7.8%	7.2%	12.0%	8.5%	7.6%
In middle/junior high school	23.4%	23.9%	23.7%	21.0%	21.9%	21.0%
In high school	28.5%	37.6%	38.1%	25.3%	26.9%	30.9%
I've never thought about college as an option after high school	4.6%	3.1%	2.9%	2.5%	2.3%	1.8%

* Item changed from 2007 surveys, when it was "When I was a child."

Table 18. High School Preparation For Post-Graduation Opportunities (Item 30a-D)

<i>*Percentage who responded Somewhat well or Well</i>	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
How well prepared were you to plan your high school course selections?	81.8%	91.0%	89.5%	88.7%	91.2%	91.2%
How well prepared were you to meet your college and career goals?	78.5%	82.3%	84.4%	86.9%	88.4%	86.1%
How well prepared have you been for the college/technical/vocational school application process?	76.9%	77.4%	78.2%	84.6%	83.4%	82.0%
How well informed are/were you about obtaining financial aid for education after high school (whether or not you applied)?	78.8%	76.3%	81.9%	84.2%	81.6%	81.0%

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

Table 19. How Did You Prepare For Continuing Education? (Check All That Apply) (Item 32)

	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Took the PSAT examination	48.9%	55.5%	55.3%	57.9%	67.9%	63.1%
Took AP/IB classes	39.5%	39.0%	35.5%	45.3%	48.6%	47.2%
Visited campuses	34.2%	42.0%	42.6%	44.0%	51.8%	55.8%
Attended college fairs	52.0%	63.5%	52.5%	44.4%	48.6%	45.3%
Completed and submitted a FASA	33.3%	42.6%	39.7%	41.3%	49.3%	48.6%
Completed and submitted a scholarship application	25.1%	30.4%	26.2%	30.8%	41.6%	40.3%
Took college entrance tests	52.0%	59.8%	54.3%	65.6%	72.4%	68.1%
Took test prep classes	37.6%	33.1%	32.6%	38.2%	41.7%	38.9%
Completed ACC courses	13.3%	13.8%	18.4%	23.3%	29.4%	33.1%
Ordered and submitted transcripts	29.9%	37.7%	31.9%	40.3%	50.3%	47.7%
Other college-level courses	.	.	2.5%	.	.	5.4%

Note. Respondents could select more than one option, so percentages may not total 100%. Missing values, denoted by a period, indicate the item was not included on the respective year's survey.

Table 20. In Which Of The Following College Preparation Programs Did You Participate While In High School? (Item 33)

	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Project ADVANCE	5.5%	7.1%	26.1%	17.9%
AVID	7.4%	8.2%	8.9%	8.8%
ACC College Connections	12.0%	16.0%	17.1%	18.0%
College Forward	1.2%	1.1%	3.0%	3.5%
Con mi MADRE	4.0%	0.7%	3.0%	1.9%
Talent Search/Trio	1.5%	0.0%	2.6%	2.6%
Upward Bound	0.3%	0.0%	1.8%	1.3%
Breakthrough	0.6%	2.1%	1.5%	1.3%
Immigrant College Access	.	2.5%	.	2.3%
I did not participate in any programs like this	48.5%	44.7%	41.6%	41.3%
Other	6.4%	4.3%	4.9%	3.0%

Note. Missing values, denoted by a period, indicate the item was not included on the respective year's survey.

Table 21. If You Participated In One Or More College Preparation Programs, What Did You Get Out Of It? (Item 34)

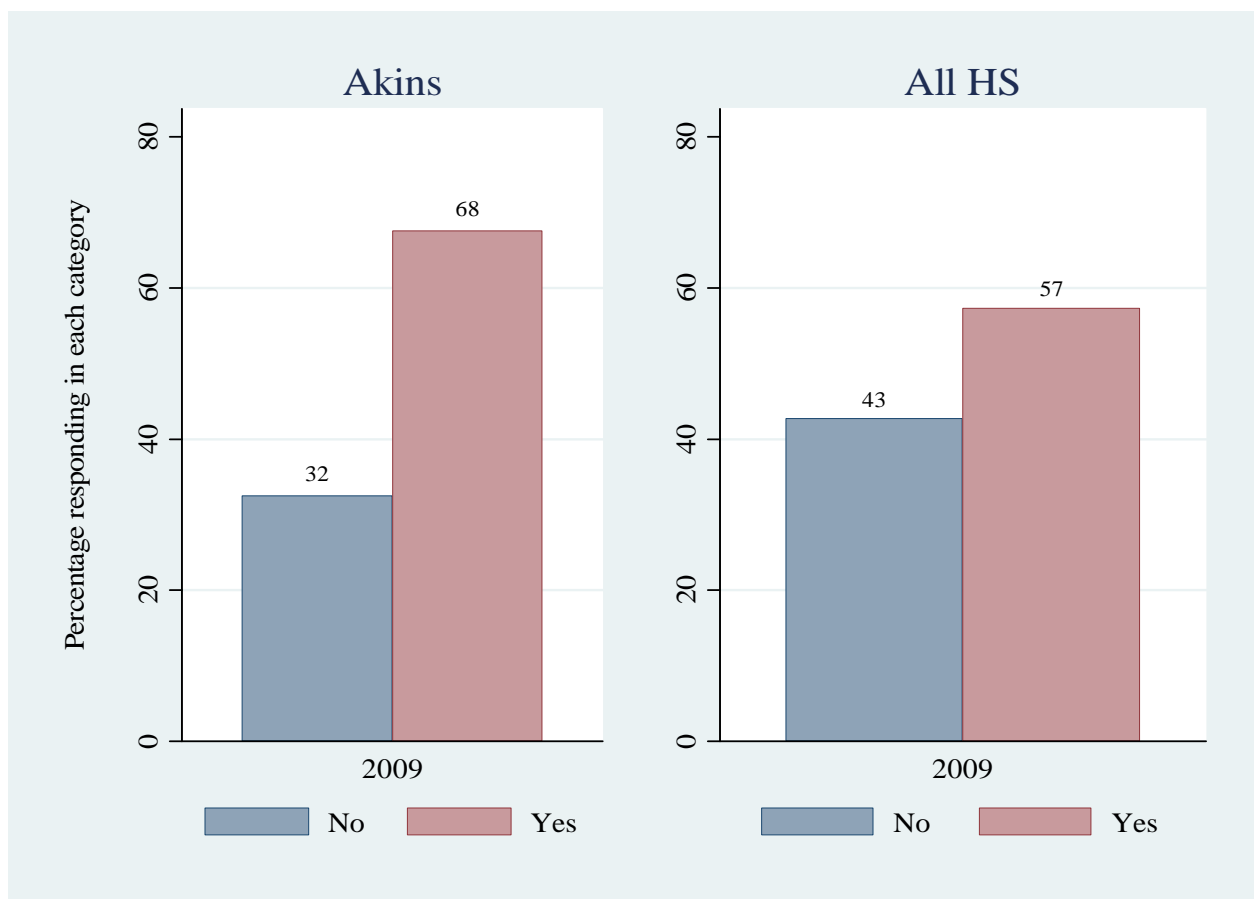
	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
They encouraged me to attend school regularly	28.6%	31.4%	35.3%	31.8%
They helped me choose the HS courses to prepare for college	25.0%	24.4%	31.8%	28.5%
They explained the financial aid process to me	30.4%	25.0%	37.9%	33.2%
They were available to help with school-related issues	19.0%	23.7%	29.1%	26.2%
They helped me deal with personal issues	11.9%	12.8%	18.7%	15.4%
They helped me believe that college was right for me	27.4%	29.5%	33.4%	30.9%
They helped me apply to college	35.1%	32.7%	47.3%	38.7%
Other	4.8%	1.3%	8.6%	1.9%

**Table 22. Have You Applied To The Following Types Of Postsecondary Institutions?
(Items 35, 36, And 37)**

	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Have you applied to a 2-year college	40.4%	52.1%	46.8%	49.8%	41.4%	41.3%
Have you applied to a 4-year college?	57.9%	46.0%	44.0%	69.1%	63.9%	62.7%
Have you applied to a business/technical/vocational school?	20.3%	7.4%	6.5%	13.7%	6.5%	8.5%

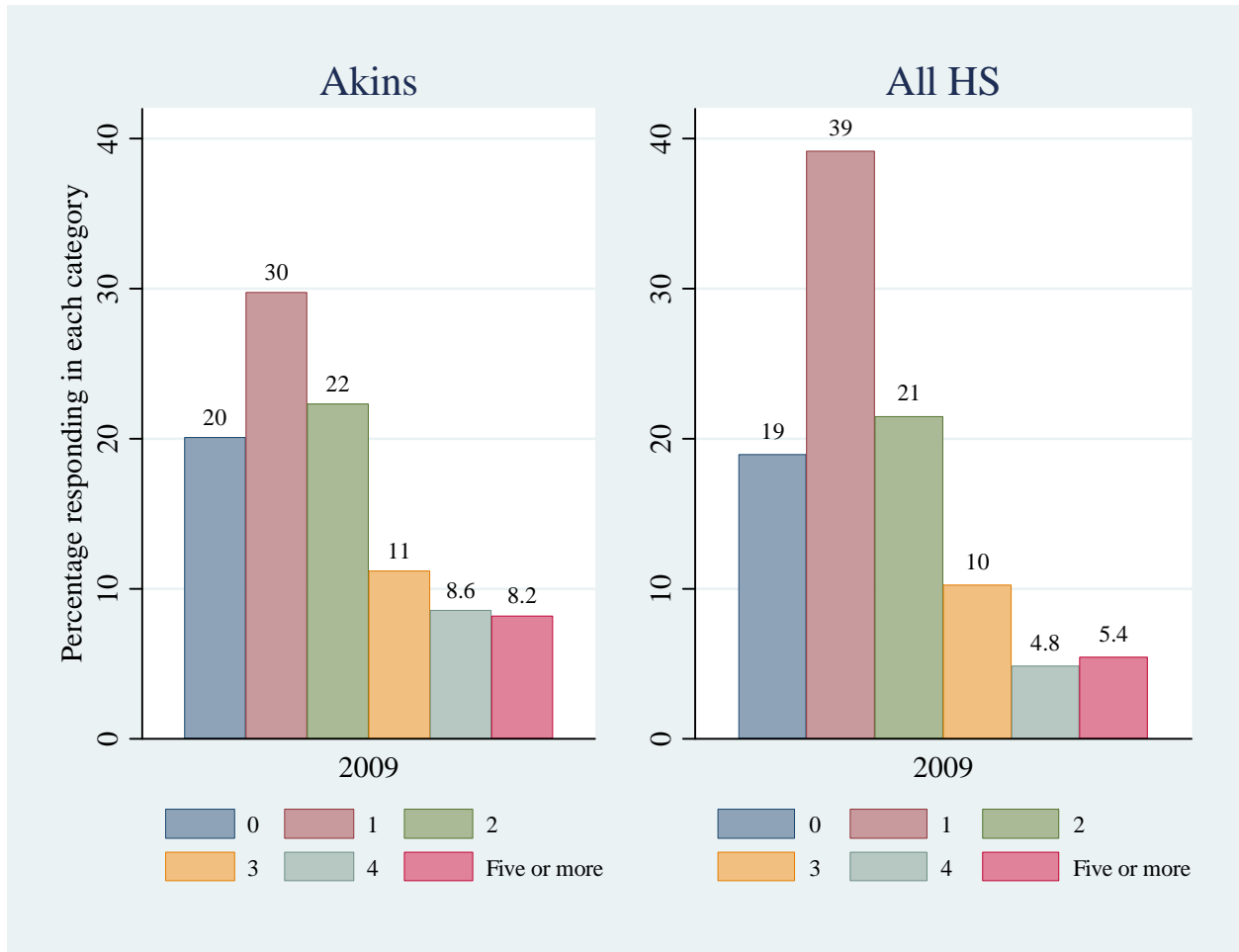
Note. On the 2009 survey, students were asked to indicate the number of schools to which they had applied, whereas in 2008, students were only prompted to indicate whether they had applied.

**Figure 7. Will You Be The First Of Your Siblings (Brothers Or Sisters) To Attend College?
(Item 10)**



Note. This item was reworded for the 2009 survey. In past years, we asked students if they were the first person in their family to attend college. For 2009, we asked students separately about their siblings and parents. Therefore, no longitudinal data were available for this question.

Figure 8. How Many Siblings (Brothers Or Sisters) Do You Have Who Are Either Enrolled In College Or Live With You (Item 11)



Note. This item was new to the 2009 survey. This item is designed to gauge the number of dependent children either living at home or away at college.

Table 23. How Easy Has It Been For You And Your Parents To Understand The Process Of Applying For Financial Aid? (Item 45)

	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Difficult	14.4%	13.2%	11.8%	12.8%
Some parts easy, some parts difficult	39.2%	39.6%	36.3%	43.7%
Easy	31.7%	24.5%	38.0%	22.2%
Did not apply for financial aid	14.7%	22.6%	13.8%	21.4%

Table 24. How Do You Plan To Pay For Your Education After High School? (Item 46)

	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Scholarships and/or grants	54.0%	60.6%	54.8%	56.3%
Loans	67.2%	39.0%	63.7%	38.0%
Family or personal savings	53.4%	35.5%	56.8%	49.5%
Working during the school year	53.1%	51.4%	47.0%	46.4%
Working during the summer	48.5%	48.6%	45.3%	48.2%
I don't know	15.0%	13.8%	14.9%	14.6%

Note. Respondents could select more than one option, so percentages may not total 100%.

Table 25. Which Of The Following Did A Family Member Do To Help You Prepare For Life After High School Graduation? (Item 43)

	Akins 2009	All HS 2009
Encouraged you to apply to several different colleges	51.1%	57.0%
Talked to you about what college would be like	56.7%	62.9%
Helped you complete college applications	25.9%	42.0%
Helped you find scholarships	27.0%	34.2%
Helped you complete a FAFSA	35.5%	45.6%
Helped you decide which college to attend	45.0%	53.0%
Helped you write college essays/personal statements	15.2%	29.6%
Did not help	14.9%	14.2%

Note. This item was new in 2009.

Table 26. If You Did Not Submit A Financial Aid Application, Why Not? (Item 47)

	Akins 2009	All HS 2009
I do not need financial aid to attend college	12.6%	23.4%
My parents were not willing to submit private financial information	7.6%	6.9%
My family did not think we would qualify for or were eligible for financial aid	24.4%	23.5%
I do not plan to go to college	9.2%	9.8%
I did not know about the financial aid process	46.2%	36.3%

Note. This item was new in 2009.

Table 27. Which Of The Following Campus Staff Helped You With Any Of The Activities Listed Below: (Item 42)

	Akins School counselor	Akins Advisory	Akins Teacher	Akins Advance Facilitator	Akins AVID Staff	Akins Early College Start Advisor	All HS School counselor	All HS Advisory	All HS Teacher	All HS Advance Facilitator	All HS AVID Staff	All HS Early College Start Advisor
Selected courses for work or college	40.3%	14.1%	33.9%	15.5%	4.9%	12.4%	48.3%	12.8%	28.0%	21.7%	4.2%	12.0%
AP/honors courses	29.3%	12.0%	49.5%	6.0%	4.6%	4.2%	35.4%	11.1%	47.4%	10.5%	3.8%	3.2%
To continue education	45.2%	22.3%	64.3%	19.8%	7.4%	12.7%	47.5%	22.6%	53.9%	26.1%	6.0%	9.8%
Talked about colleges/schools	34.6%	20.1%	50.9%	19.4%	4.9%	10.2%	37.7%	16.3%	37.1%	26.4%	4.7%	7.5%
Discussed careers	32.2%	20.8%	45.9%	20.5%	6.0%	8.8%	33.5%	16.8%	33.9%	24.1%	4.8%	7.6%
Encouraged to apply to multiple schools	30.7%	19.4%	48.1%	23.7%	7.1%	7.4%	37.6%	16.3%	34.4%	26.8%	4.9%	5.2%
Helped complete applications for college	17.7%	11.0%	22.6%	19.8%	4.9%	5.7%	25.2%	10.3%	20.3%	26.0%	3.8%	5.7%
Helped find scholarships	18.0%	9.2%	23.3%	22.6%	6.4%	4.9%	24.3%	9.8%	19.4%	26.2%	4.0%	4.1%
Helped choose college	21.6%	12.4%	32.5%	13.1%	4.6%	4.2%	22.8%	9.6%	22.9%	19.4%	3.0%	4.3%
Helped plan for college expenses	20.8%	10.2%	26.9%	17.3%	4.2%	5.3%	21.2%	10.3%	16.9%	21.7%	3.7%	4.5%
Helped with college application essays or personal statements	16.6%	8.8%	39.9%	13.1%	5.3%	3.5%	21.3%	9.3%	36.2%	19.9%	3.8%	3.9%

Note. The design of this question changed from what it was in 2008. In past years, students were asked to rate each type of staff member according to their effectiveness in one of the above college preparation domains. On the 2009 survey, students were asked to indicate whether any of these staff members had helped them with any of the activities listed above.

ADDITIONAL RESULTS

Figure 9a. What Is The *One Thing* That Was Most Important To Keeping You Going Through School All The Way To Graduation? (Item 48, Akins)



Figure 9b. What Is The *One Thing* That Was Most Important To Keeping You Going Through School All The Way To Graduation? (Item 48, All High Schools)

