

High School Exit Survey: Akins

Austin Independent School District

Class of 2015

Purpose

The 13th annual Austin Independent School District (AISD) High School Exit Survey (HSES) was administered online to seniors in every AISD high school during Spring 2015. In total, 468 Akins High School seniors completed the survey, for a response rate of 89%.

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 may have provided eligible special education students with guidance and assistance in completing the survey.

The purpose of the HSES was 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 district's strategic plan *Goal 3: All students will graduate ready for college, career, and life in a globally competitive economy.*

Postsecondary Aspirations, Parental Engagement, & Support

Table 1.

Approximately 6 in 10 of Akins seniors planned to work part time while attending college.

Postsecondary plans	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
Continue my education	90%	91%	86%
Attend college or technical school <u>without working</u>	14%	11%	20%
Attend college or technical school while <u>working full time</u>	16%	18%	11%
Attend college or technical school while <u>working part time</u>	60%	62%	56%
Work full time only	7%	2%	4%
Work part time only	3%	2%	1%
Enlist in the military	6%	4%	3%
No plans/ not sure yet	6%	2%	4%
Other	4%	1%	2%

Table 2.

Most Akins seniors who planned to enroll in college planned to enroll **Fall 2015.**

Semester enrollment	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
This summer	10%	6%	8%
This fall	82%	84%	85%
Next spring	9%	11%	7%

Table 3.

Forty-four percent of Akins seniors planned to enroll in a **4-year institution. Four in 10 seniors planned to enroll in a **2-year college and then transfer to a 4-year college**.**

Type of institution	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
A 4-year college or university	47%	44%	57%
A 2-year college or university	17%	15%	10%
A 2-year community college and then transfer to a 4-year college	41%	40%	30%
A private career or trade school	3%	1%	2%

Table 4.

Over half of Akins seniors planned to attend **Austin Community College.**

Postsecondary institutions	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
Austin Community College (ACC)	50%	53%	35%
Texas State University	20%	13%	8%
University of Texas-Austin	4%	5%	9%
University of Texas-San Antonio	3%	5%	4%
Texas A&M University	10%	5%	4%
St. Edward's University	2%	3%	2%
Blinn College	1%	2%	2%
University of North Texas	2%	1%	2%
Texas Tech University	0%	1%	3%
Stephen F. Austin University	0%	0%	1%
Other	19%	13%	31%

Table 5.

Health sciences, business, and engineering were top areas Akins seniors planned to study in college. Only 5% of Akins seniors were interested in studying computer and information sciences, a 3% percentage point decline since 2014.

Jobs/careers	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
Health sciences	21%	19%	17%
Business	14%	15%	13%
Engineering	11%	13%	13%
Law, public safety, corrections, and security	8%	9%	6%
Computer and information sciences	8%	5%	5%
Human services	6%	2%	3%
I do not know	6%	8%	9%
Visual and performing arts	6%	5%	7%
Agricultural sciences and technologies	5%	5%	3%
Natural sciences and mathematics	4%	6%	7%
Education	3%	6%	5%
Communication	3%	1%	4%
Architecture	2%	2%	2%
Social sciences	2%	2%	3%
Hospitality and tourism	1%	1%	1%
Humanities	1%	1%	1%
Office skills	1%	0%	0%
Trade and industrial	0%	1%	1%

Table 6.

Almost 70% of Akins seniors took a high school course in the area they planned to study in college.

	Akins 2015	District 2015
Yes	69%	65%
No	31%	35%

Table 7.

Approximately 1/3 each of Akins seniors who did not take a course in the area they planned to study in college did not do so because their **schedule would not allow it** and/or **there were no such courses offered at Akins**.

Reasons	Akins 2015	District 2015
I wanted to, but my schedule would not allow it.	32%	51%
I wanted to, but there were no such courses offered at my school.	28%	27%
I was not interested in taking a course in this area in high school.	27%	18%
My parents did not want me to take a course in that area.	1%	1%
A counselor steered me away from those courses.	0%	1%
Other	22%	11%

Table 8.

Almost 4 in 10 Akins seniors, who did not plan to enroll in college immediately after high school, planned to **take a year off from school to pursue other things**.

Reason	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
Financial	23%	23%	18%
Academic	11%	0%	7%
Personal obligation	7%	3%	7%
Personal preference	12%	23%	20%
Gap year	33%	38%	35%
Other	14%	15%	14%

Table 9.

Sixty-two percent of Akins seniors' mother's education level was a **high school diploma/GED or less**.

School status	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
Doctorate degree (e.g., PhD, EdD, etc.)	1%	4%	3%
Professional degree (e.g., MD, JD, etc.)	1%	2%	20%
Master's degree	3%	2%	9%
Bachelor's degree (4-year)	9%	9%	20%
Associate degree (2-year)	6%	4%	5%
Some college	17%	16%	13%
High school diploma or earned a GED	31%	27%	19%
Less than high school	28%	35%	24%
Don't know or does not apply	4%	2%	4%

Table 10.

Seventy percent of Akins seniors' parents expected them to **earn a college degree or industry license/certification.**

Level of education	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
Doctorate degree (e.g., PhD, EdD, etc.)	9%	11%	12%
Master's degree	14%	13%	16%
Bachelor's degree (4-year)	37%	37%	37%
Associate degree (2-year)	9%	7%	5%
Industry license or certification	--	2%	3%
Some college	9%	9%	7%
High school or earned a GED	8%	12%	8%
I am not sure	11%	10%	12%

Table 11.

Almost all Akins seniors expected to earn a **college degree or certification** in their lifetime.

Level of education	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
Doctoral or professional degree	--	20%	20%
Master's degree	--	27%	28%
Bachelor's degree (4-yr college or university)	43%	38%	35%
Associate degree (2-year community college)	12%	9%	8%
Industry license or certification (e.g., trade/technical school)	5%	3%	4%
High school diploma	3%	4%	5%

Table 12.

Akins seniors have been told mostly by their **parents and teachers** they should go to college.

Level of education	Akins 2015	District 2015
Parents	84%	89%
Teachers	83%	78%
College and career advisor	63%	55%
School counselor	56%	55%
Coach(es)	35%	38%
Sibling(s) or other family member(s)	60%	63%
Friend(s)	72%	75%
Other adult in my life	37%	47%
No one	3%	3%

Table 13.

Akins seniors' parents were involved with their schooling mostly by talking to them about how their doing in their classes and making sure they completed their homework.

Seniors who responded either <i>sometimes</i> or <i>often</i>	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
Talking to you about homework	70%	69%	68%
Making sure you completed your homework	69%	71%	65%
Asking you about what you're learning in school	64%	66%	65%
Helping you decide what classes to take	58%	54%	54%
Talking to you about how you're doing in your classes	78%	77%	79%
Rewarding you when you do well in school	60%	56%	56%
Communicating with your teachers	57%	53%	46%
Attending school meetings	39%	40%	47%
Attending school events	51%	54%	58%
Volunteering at your school	24%	29%	28%
Joining and participating in the PTA	10%	16%	18%
Use Parent Cloud to monitor your grades	66%	55%	51%

Table 14.

Most Akins seniors know at least one teacher who supported their personal lives, high school academics, and postsecondary aspirations.

Teacher help	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
Would be willing to give you extra help with your school work if you needed it	86%	85%	88%
Would be willing to help you with a personal problem	67%	71%	74%
Cares about how you're doing in school	75%	74%	79%
Would be willing to write you a letter of recommendation for a job or college	76%	76%	81%
Knows what you will be doing next year	58%	60%	65%
Would be willing to help you even after you graduate	56%	61%	64%
I do not know a teacher who fits any of the items above.	--	5%	4%

Persistence and Motivation

Table 15.

Akins seniors indicated their feelings about their persistence, motivation, and interactions with teachers.

Percentage who responded either <i>sometimes</i> or <i>always</i>	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
I can do even the hardest schoolwork if I try.	95%	94%	92%
I enjoy doing my schoolwork.	61%	66%	59%
I feel/felt well prepared for STAAR/EOC.	78%	83%	84%
I try hard to do my best work.	94%	93%	91%
I feel successful in my schoolwork.	92%	90%	89%
My teachers push us to think hard about the things we read.	84%	88%	87%
My teachers push everyone to work hard.	89%	92%	90%
I can reach the goals I set for myself.	97%	96%	96%
My homework helps me learn things I need to know.	81%	81%	78%
My schoolwork makes me think about things in new ways.	71%	77%	73%
My teachers connect what I am learning to life outside of class.	69%	74%	70%
I have fun learning in my classes.	73%	80%	77%
I like to come to school.	65%	77%	71%

Extracurricular Activities

Table 16.

The school-affiliated activity Akins seniors were mostly involved in was **sports**.

In school	Did not participate	1-2 years	3-4 years
Music	68%	19%	13%
Theater/drama	78%	20%	2%
Dance	80%	14%	7%
Sports	45%	27%	29%
Academic clubs/UII competitions	66%	20%	14%
Speech/debate	67%	32%	1%
Student government	78%	20%	2%
Career and technical student organizations	76%	16%	8%

Table 17.

Akins seniors are mostly involved in **sports** and **community service** outside of school.

Outside of school	Did not participate	1-2 years	3-4 years
Music	73%	14%	13%
Theater/drama	87%	12%	1%
Dance	84%	11%	5%
Sports	53%	20%	27%
Providing routine care for family members	73%	14%	13%
Community service	38%	28%	34%
Environmental projects/activities	75%	17%	9%
Boy/Girl Scouts	96%	3%	1%

Work and Study Time

Table 18.

Half of Akins seniors worked **20 hours or more** during their senior year.

Work time	Percentage who worked <i>during</i> senior year		
	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
Did not work	44%	30%	39%
Less than 20 hours	18%	21%	28%
20 hours or more	39%	49%	33%

Table 19.

Forty-one percent of Akins seniors who worked during their senior year worked because they **liked the freedom of having their own money**.

Reason	Akins 2015	District 2015
I like the freedom of having my own money	41%	52%
To help my family with bills/expenses	28%	20%
To save money for college	22%	19%
Other	9%	9%

Table 20.

On average, Akins seniors studied **1 to 5 hours** each week.

Study time	Percentage who studied each week		
	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
None	12%	6%	9%
1 to 5 hours	49%	48%	40%
6 to 10 hours	18%	19%	22%
11 to 15 hours	10%	10%	12%
16 to 20 hours	5%	7%	9%
More than 20 hours	7%	10%	9%

Instructional Quality

Table 21.

Akins High School helped seniors to actively develop **Twenty-first Century Skills**.

Percentage who responded <i>somewhat well</i> or <i>very well</i>	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
Teamwork	91%	94%	91%
Creative thinking	92%	93%	90%
Problem solving	94%	94%	93%
Conflict resolution	91%	90%	87%
Personal health/fitness	83%	87%	81%
Time management	86%	86%	84%
Technology	87%	89%	84%

Table 22.

Akins seniors rated the quality of their **English language arts**, **career and technical education (CTE)**, and **mathematics** instruction most favorably.

Percentage who responded <i>good</i> or <i>excellent</i>	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
English language arts	78%	85%	81%
Social studies	77%	76%	75%
Performing/Fine arts	69%	72%	73%
Career and technical (CTE)	79%	83%	71%
Science	70%	66%	70%
Mathematics	76%	80%	73%
Computer/Technology	77%	70%	64%
Foreign language	63%	64%	64%

Technology Access and Use

Table 23.

Three in 4 Akins seniors have a **computer with Internet access** at home.

Access	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
No computer	4%	4%	5%
No computer, but Internet access	13%	16%	12%
Computer, no Internet	6%	4%	4%
Computer with Internet access	78%	75%	79%

Table 24.

Akins seniors used Naviance mostly to check their **class rank and grade point average (GPA)**.

Percentage answering <i>yes</i>	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
Class rank and GPA inquiry	88%	83%	82%
College search	73%	65%	70%
Counselor-directed activities	62%	61%	63%
College visit sign up	54%	54%	55%
Career exploration	51%	46%	48%
Resume building	34%	30%	36%

Postsecondary Preparation and Advising

Table 25.

Almost 40% of Akins seniors did not think about college until **high school**.

Time frame	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
As long as I can remember	27%	26%	37%
In elementary school	13%	11%	9%
In middle/junior high school	25%	23%	21%
In high school	33%	38%	31%
I've never thought about college	3%	2%	3%

Table 26.

Almost 60% of Akins seniors who did not think about college until high school did not think about it until their **junior and senior years**.

Grade	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
9 th Grade	15%	18%	20%
10 th Grade	31%	25%	25%
11 th Grade	40%	40%	37%
12 th Grade	15%	17%	18%

Table 27.

Akins seniors prepared for postsecondary education mostly by completing the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**, **visiting colleges**, and **taking college entrance exams**.

Type of preparation	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
Took college entrance tests (e.g., SAT, ACT, THEA, COMPASS, ASSET)	66%	52%	60%
Took one or more Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate classes	43%	40%	51%
Took test prep class for the PSAT, SAT, ACT, etc.	35%	36%	45%
Completed or are currently enrolled in ACC courses	40%	26%	32%
Took other college level courses (e.g., Texas State, Texas Tech, TSTC)	3%	4%	9%
Visited one or more colleges or technical schools	55%	55%	58%
Met with the school counselor/ADVANCE staff to discuss college plans/processes	51%	44%	50%
Attended one or more college fairs	38%	34%	43%
Met with a college representative or recruiter at my high school	39%	33%	41%
Participated in ACC College Connections	36%	27%	24%
Attended Financial Aid Saturday event(s)	--	14%	10%
Completed and submitted the FAFSA	64%	78%	68%
Completed and submitted a scholarship application	45%	38%	47%
Ordered and submitted a transcript to a college or trade/ technical school.	55%	43%	56%
I have not completed any activities to prepare for continuing my education	18%	16%	17%
I have done nothing to academically prepare for continuing my education	17%	4%	19%
I have not completed any forms to prepare for continuing my education	15%	15%	19%

Table 28.

Akins seniors' family members helped them prepare for life after high school mostly by **talking to them about their career and/or college options** and **talking to them about their responsibilities as an adult**.

Form of help	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
Talked to you about career and/or college options	76%	72%	79%
Talked to you about your responsibilities as an adult	72%	68%	75%
Talked to you about finances	63%	56%	65%
Talked to you about what a career and/or college would be like	56%	51%	62%
Helped you with financial aid (FAFSA and/or scholarships)	51%	50%	55%
Encouraged you to apply to several different colleges	43%	42%	53%
Helped you complete applications for colleges or trade/technical schools	28%	26%	40%
No one in my family talked to me about or helped me with these things.	7%	10%	6%

Table 29.

Akins seniors' school counselors helped them most by **continue their education after high school**. Teachers helped them by encouraging them to by **pushing their academic abilities**. Project ADVANCE staff helped them **complete applications for college**.

Activity	None of these people	School counselor	Teacher	College & career advisor
Select courses needed for work or admission to college	30%	34%	19%	34%
Push your academic abilities further	26%	24%	56%	17%
Take AP / honors courses	45%	28%	37%	8%
Take dual credit or articulated credit courses	48%	32%	20%	13%
Get information about careers/occupations	31%	24%	37%	35%
Continue your education after high school	21%	36%	50%	44%
Apply to multiple schools	30%	22%	26%	45%
Decide what school to attend	46%	14%	21%	32%
Fill out applications for postsecondary education	30%	18%	19%	48%
Write college application essays or personal statements	32%	13%	44%	33%

Table 30.

Most Akins seniors were able to meet with their Project ADVANCE advisor and school counselor.

Availability	School Counselor	College & Career Advisor
Yes, this person was available and I talked to him/her.	62%	77%
I tried to talk to this person and wasn't able to meet with him/her.	19%	11%
I never tried to meet with this person.	19%	12%

Applications to Postsecondary Institutions

Table 31.

Akins seniors who applied to 2-year submitted 1 to 3 applications, on average.

Institution type	0 applications	1-3 applications	4 or more applications
2-year	25%	71%	5%
4-year	39%	38%	23%
Business/technical/vocational school	89%	10%	1%

Table 32.

Akins seniors who applied to 2-year institutions received 1 to 3 acceptances, on average.

Institution type	0 acceptances	1-3 acceptances	4 or more acceptances
2-year	35%	63%	3%
4-year	50%	38%	12%
Business/technical/vocational school	90%	9%	2%

Postsecondary Financial Literacy

Table 33.

Almost 7 in 10 Akins seniors planned to pay for college by **working during the school year**.

Source	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
Scholarships and/or grants	72%	62%	68%
Family or personal savings	52%	51%	63%
Working during the summer	62%	62%	61%
Working during the school year	70%	68%	59%
Loans	45%	46%	42%
Tuition and fees exemption	10%	10%	10%
I don't know	6%	6%	4%

Table 34.

Akins seniors learned about financial aid for college mostly from their **school counselor and Project ADVANCE advisor** and/or from their **parents or other adults**.

Source of information	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
Parents or other adults	63%	53%	63%
Talked to school counselor/college and career advisor/Project ADVANCE staff	57%	58%	48%
Information from a college or university (e.g., website, brochures)	36%	26%	35%
U.S. Department of Education or FAFSA websites	28%	22%	23%
Senior economics class	21%	32%	21%
College recruiter	22%	17%	18%
Financial Aid Saturday events	25%	21%	16%
Social media (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, etc.)	14%	14%	12%
None of these	9%	7%	10%

Table 35.

Almost 50% of Akins seniors who submitted the FAFSA indicated it was “some parts easy, some parts difficult” for their parents to complete.

Degree of ease	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
Easy	31%	29%	24%
Some parts easy, some parts difficult	46%	49%	47%
Difficult	10%	14%	12%
I did not apply for financial aid	12%	8%	16%

Table 36.

Almost 1/3 each of Akins seniors each did not submit the FAFSA because they did not know about the financial aid process or their parents were not willing to submit private financial information.

Reason	Akins 2014	Akins 2015	District 2015
I did not know about the financial aid process	37%	31%	38%
I did not need financial aid to attend college	11%	3%	18%
I did not plan to go to college	22%	19%	18%
My family did not think we would qualify or be eligible for financial aid	20%	17%	19%
My parents were not willing to submit private financial information	11%	31%	6%

Acronym Key

The following acronyms are used in the High School Exit Survey summary reports. Where relevant, acronyms have a link to an external URL.

Acronym	Definition
ACC	Austin Community College
ACT	American College Testing
AP	Advanced Placement
ASSET	American College Testing (ACT) placement exam for students in community/technical colleges
COMPASS	American College Testing (ACT) Computer-adapted Placement Assessment and Support Services
EOC	End of Course exam
FAFSA	Free Application for Federal Student Aid
GPA	grade point average
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
PSAT	Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)
SAT	Scholastic Aptitude Test
STAAR	State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness
TAKS	Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills
THEA	Texas Higher Education Assessment
TSTC	Texas State Technical College
UIL	University Interscholastic League