



Austin Independent School District

Department of Program Evaluation

RESULTS OF THE AISD HIGH SCHOOL EXIT SURVEY CLASS OF 2008

AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL

The sixth annual AISD High School Exit Survey was administered online¹ to seniors in every AISD High School during the Spring of 2008. This report contains the results for the Austin High School Class of 2008. Where available, longitudinal data are presented to compare with the current 2008 responses. In addition, average results from all AISD high schools are presented alongside results for Austin for comparison purposes. In total, 3,192 students in the Class of 2008 completed the survey, including 442 students from Austin High. Longitudinal tests for statistical significance were conducted with district-level data (see district-level report).

Table 1. High School Exit Survey Response Rates, Classes of 2005 to 2008

	Percentage of Enrolled Seniors Responding ²			
	Class of 2005	Class of 2006	Class of 2007	Class of 2008
Austin	91.5%	85.6%	90.8%	86.0%
All High Schools	85.3%	86.0%	82.0%	74.8% ↓

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:

- **Computer/technology instruction.** Austin seniors appeared to rate the quality of the instruction they received in computer and technology courses higher than did AISD seniors as a whole
- **Project ADVANCE.** It seemed more Austin seniors participated in *Project ADVANCE* than did seniors district-wide. Also, Austin seniors appeared to be more likely to say their *Project ADVANCE* counselor was more helpful with scholarship and financial aid applications than did seniors from other high schools.
- **Motivation to complete high school.** Future goals appeared to play a stronger role for Austin seniors to stay in school than for seniors across the district.

¹ Facilitators on each campus, primarily *Project ADVANCE* counselors, were responsible for ensuring that all graduating seniors were given the opportunity to complete the survey. Most campuses completed the survey online, however students at Austin, Anderson, and Crockett were unable to do so due to inadequate computer facilities. These students completed a paper version of the survey and the facilitator hand-entered the surveys into the survey database.

² Corrected response rate is 92.9% (see Appendix in district-level report for detailed information about response rates for 2008). Response rates are based on enrollment during the sixth 6-week reporting period. Due to the enrollment of some special education seniors with severe cognitive disabilities, a 100% uncorrected response rate was not expected.

INDIVIDUAL ITEM RESPONSES FOR AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL

OPEN ENDED COMMENTS

The first item on the survey is open-ended so that students have the opportunity to give feedback to district administrators before they have received any prompts or exposure to the broad themes within the survey. The responses below are to the question, “***What is the ONE thing that you especially want the administration of AISD to know?***”

Two hundred and twenty-seven Austin High School students (52%) provided a response³. Comments were mostly positive; students liked their teachers, the environment, and traditions at Austin High. However, many students felt that advisory period and community seminar were unnecessary for seniors because they were in these classes for only one year. Commonly identified themes expressed by the Class of 2008 include:

- **Positive comments.** Students felt teachers, staff, sports, and traditions created a fun environment that fostered learning. Programs such as *Project ADVANCE*, *AVID*, and *Ready Set Teach* also were mentioned as positive experiences. “*I love Austin High, & Also the teachers is the Best of Bests.*” “*I love Austin High. I love the size of the school, and I have had wonderful teachers;*” “*make school interesting make learning fun. Don't take the traditions out of Austin High its what makes Austin High, Austin High.*” Other students said, “*Project Advance really helped make my decision for college easier,*” and “*That AVID is a great program and helps you find what you're really are.*”
- **Advisory period and community seminar.** Students’ reports of advisory period and community seminar were overwhelmingly negative. Students felt both classes distracted their focus from their coursework and commitments. “*that this whole ADVISORY idea is not working.*” “*I loved Austin High, but advisory was really ineffective and useless.*” “*I would like them to no that advisory is a wast of time for seniors, and that they are only slowing us down by making our days longer.*” Other students said “*Community Seminar is a waste of time, resources, and of money that could be used to help strengthen other school related programs that are lacking;*” “*Community Seminar needs to be changed. It isn't helpful unless all students have access to computers/rooms. Some classes meet in hallways.*”

³ 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 7)

Plan	All HS		Austin HS	
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2006-2007	2007-2008
Continue my education*	89.0%	92.2%	89.3%	93.2%
Travel	18.3%	19.3%	21.4%	24.2%
Be a full-time parent	2.2%	2.2%	1.0%	0.7%
Go into the military	2.6%	2.8%	2.3%	1.8%
Work full-time	13.2%	13.6%	8.4%	10.9%
Work part-time	35.5%	41.1%	30.8%	41.0%
No plans	5.6%	2.4%	5.7%	0.7%

Note. Respondents may select more than one option; percentages will 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 the total percent of 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 8)

Reason	All HS		Austin HS	
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2006-2007	2007-2008
Cannot afford to attend school	25.9%	16.9%	25.0%	20.0%
Childcare responsibilities	7.8%	4.4%	8.3%	3.3%
Other family responsibilities*	**	11.7%	*	3.3%
Don’t like attending school	15.8%	19.4%	25.0%	13.3%
Grades/test scores aren’t high enough	19.8%	16.5%	16.7%	16.7%
Don’t feel academically prepared	13.4%	13.7%	16.7%	16.7%
Need income to support myself	28.9%	21.8%	29.2%	23.3%
Need income to support others	9.6%	6.1%	12.5%	16.7%
My career goals do not require further education*	**	10.1%	8.3%	0.5%
Other	16.8%	22.6%	25.0%	6.7%

Note. Respondents may select more than one option; percentages will not total 100%.

*New response option in 2008; it previously read, “Not needed for job.” Because very few students indicated that they would not pursue further education within a year, percentages should be interpreted with caution.

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 9)

Response	All HS		Austin HS	
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2006-2007	2007-2008
Probably or Definitely Yes*	51.9%	59.2%	6.7%	57.7%
Maybe	21.3%	19.3%	13.3%	19.2%
Probably or Definitely No*	4.7%	10.5%	73.3%	11.5%
Don’t know	22.1%	11.0%	6.7%	11.5%

*Response options were collapsed for ease in reporting. Because very few students indicated that they would not pursue further education within a year, percentages should be interpreted with caution.

Table 5. If You Decide to Pursue Further Education at a Later Time, Would You Like to Come Back to Your High School for Support and Assistance With the Application and Financial Aid Process? (Item 10)

Response	2007-2008	
	All HS	Austin HS
Yes	26.6%	25.9%
No	30.13%	44.4%
Not Sure	43.2%	29.6%

Note: This item was new in 2008. Because very few students indicated that they would not pursue further education within a year, percentages should be interpreted with caution.

Figure 1. To What Extent Do Your Parents / Family Support Your Plans for After High School? (Item 11)

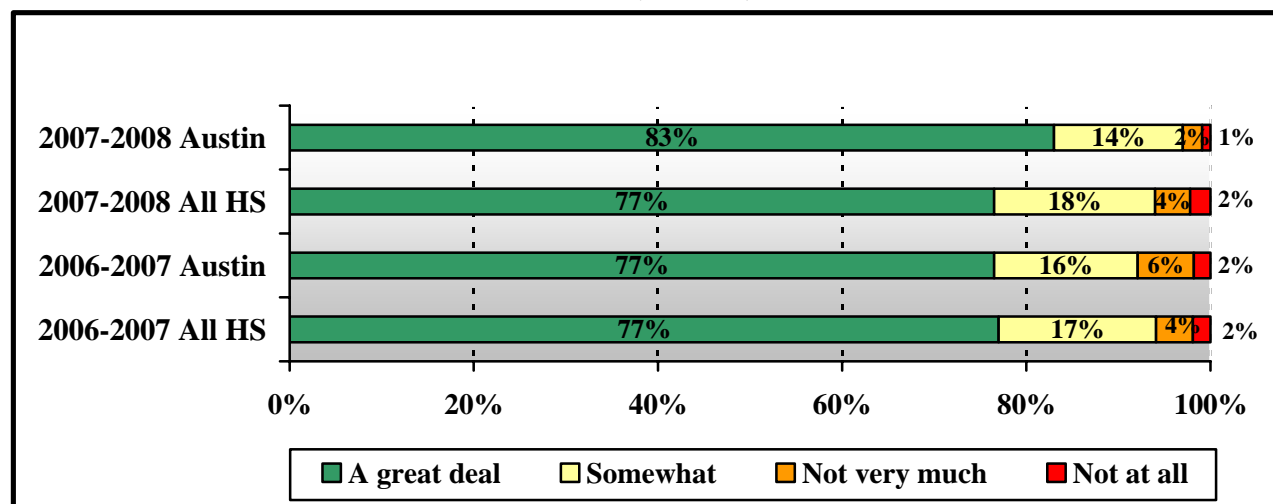


Table 6. To What Extent Were Your Parents Involved in the Following School-Related Things? (Item 12)

Activity	2007-2008	
	All HS	Austin HS
Working with you on homework or school projects	54.6%	57.6%
Volunteering at your school	40.0%	41.5%
Helping you decide what classes to take	60.2%	64.0%
Attending school activities or meetings	54.9%	60.2%
Communicating with your teachers.	60.6%	62.6%
School leadership opportunities (Campus Advisory Council, event committees, etc.)*	29.1%	25.5%
Attending athletic events and competitions*	58.8%	62.2%
Attending academic events and competitions*	37.0%	33.9%
Attending performance events (e.g., dance, theater, band)*	53.3%	51.7%
Joining and participating in the PTA*	27.1%	27.7%

Note: Percentage is of the number of students reporting that parents were involved at least "Occasionally." Response options include: Never, Rarely, Occasionally, Often, and Consistently. *New items included corresponding with items from the AISD Parent Survey.

**Table 7. Will You Be The First Person in Your Immediate Family to Attend College?
(Item 13)**

	All HS		Austin HS	
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2006-2007	2007-2008
“Yes”	29.1%	30.0%	20.8%	20.9%

**Table 8. How Far Did Your Parents Go in School?
Indicate Your Mother and Father’s Highest Level of Education. (Item 15)**

Education Level	2007-2008			
	All HS		Austin HS	
	Mother	Father	Mother	Father
Did not finish high school	18.6%	17.9%	10.4%	13.1%
Graduated from high school or earned a GED	17.4%	16.9%	17.7%	13.1%
Attended a 2-yr community/junior college or vocational/technical school, but no degree	8.6%	6.5%	6.2%	4.9%
Graduated from a 2-yr community/junior college or vocational/technical school	5.4%	3.9%	6.5%	4.4%
Attended a 4-yr college, but did not complete a degree	6.5%	7.0%	8.1%	8.2%
Graduated from college	21.6%	19.2%	23.0%	20.1%
Completed a Master’s degree or equivalent	12.1%	12.5%	18.9%	17.1%
Completed a Ph.D., M.D., or other advanced professional degree	3.8%	6.4%	5.5%	12.4%
Don’t Know or Does Not Apply	6.0%	9.6%	3.7%	6.8%

HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCES, CAMPUS CLIMATE, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Table 9. How Many Different High Schools Have You Attended? (Item 3)

# of schools	All HS		Austin HS	
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2006-2007	2007-2008
1	76.1%	77.5%	78.9%	82.6%
2	16.8%	16.8%	14.4%	13.6%
3 or more	7.2%	5.6%	5.5%	3.8%

Table 10. Please Indicate the Number of Years of High School in Which You Participated in Each of These Extracurricular Activities. (Items 16 & 18)

	All HS 2007-2008 Percentage participating 1 or more years	Austin HS 2007-2008 Percentage participating 1 or more years
In school		
Music	35.2%	34.0%
Theater/Drama	20.4%	22.4%
Dance	23.2%	23.1%
Sports	58.8%	59.1%
UIL Academic Competition	18.8%	24.7%
Speech/Debate	21.2%	29.5%
Student Government	16.5%	22.7%
Other	30.7%	34.3%
Outside of school		
Music	30.3%	33.5%
Theater/Drama	11.7%	7.5%
Dance	17.0%	14.2%
Sports	52.0%	55.5%
Community Service/Volunteering	57.1%	55.5%
Environmental Projects/Activities	25.4%	29.1%
Boy/Girl Scouts	8.9%	12.2%
Family Care	19.8%	27.0%
Other Organizations	13.1%	14.8%

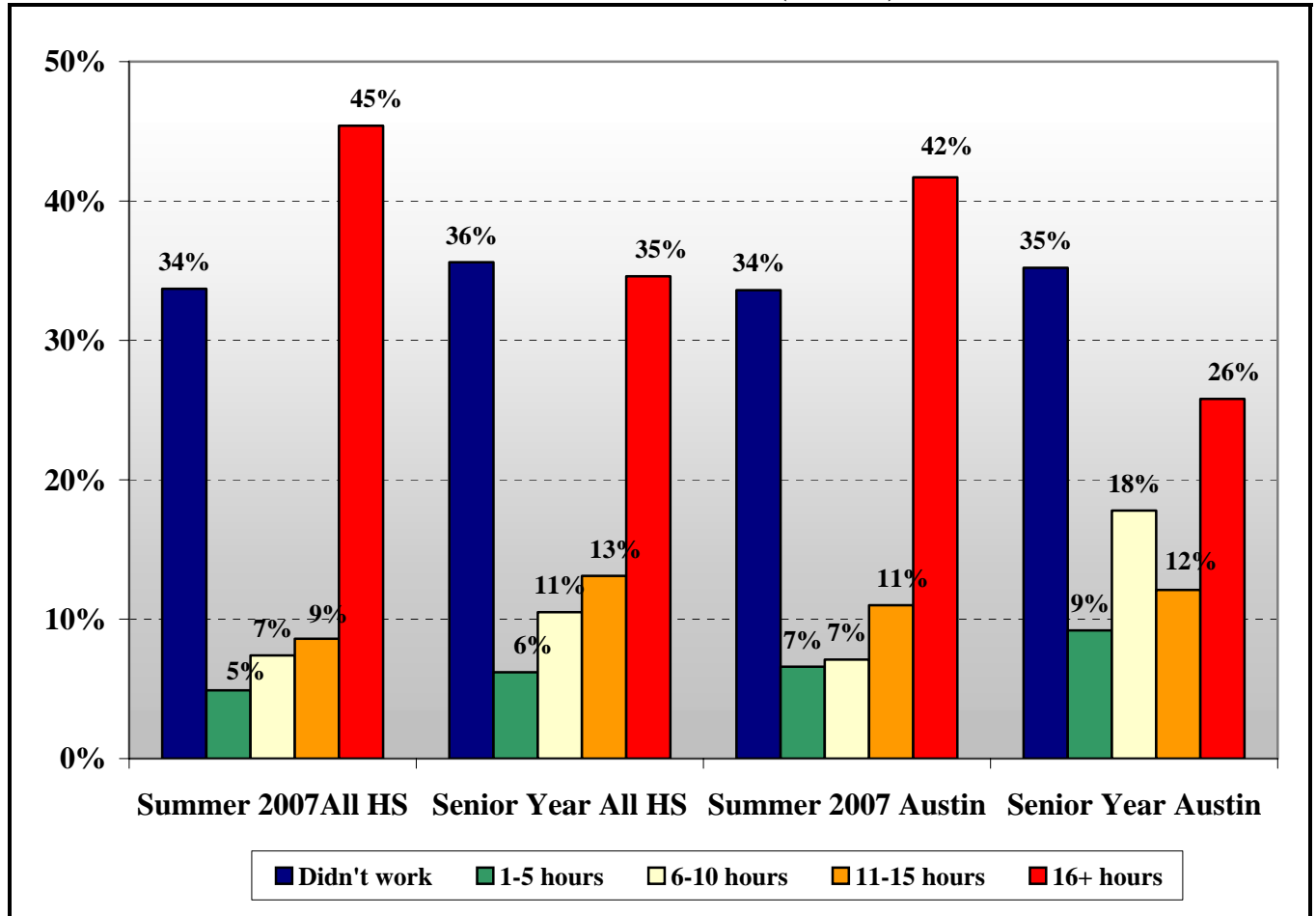
Note. Respondents may select more than one option; percentages will not total 100%. Percentages indicate the number of students who reported at least one year of participation.

Table 11. Please Indicate the Number of Years of High School That You Have Been Employed (Either During the Year or During the Summer). (Item 21)

Years	2007-2008	
	All HS	Austin HS
0 Years	24.4%	22.2%
1 Year	28.2%	27.5%
2 Years	26.2%	26.2%
3 Years	13.7%	14.1%
4 Years	7.5%	10.0%

Note. This item was new in 2008.

Figure 2. Now Indicate the Number of Hours Per Week That You Have Worked During Your Senior Year and Last Summer. (Item 22)



Note: This item was new in 2008.

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 23)

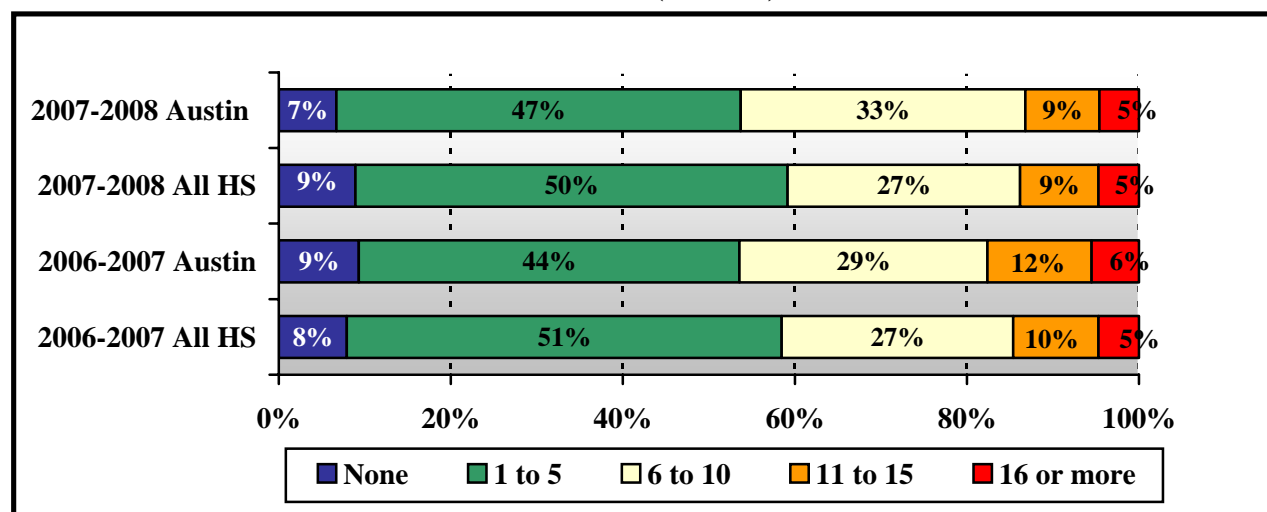
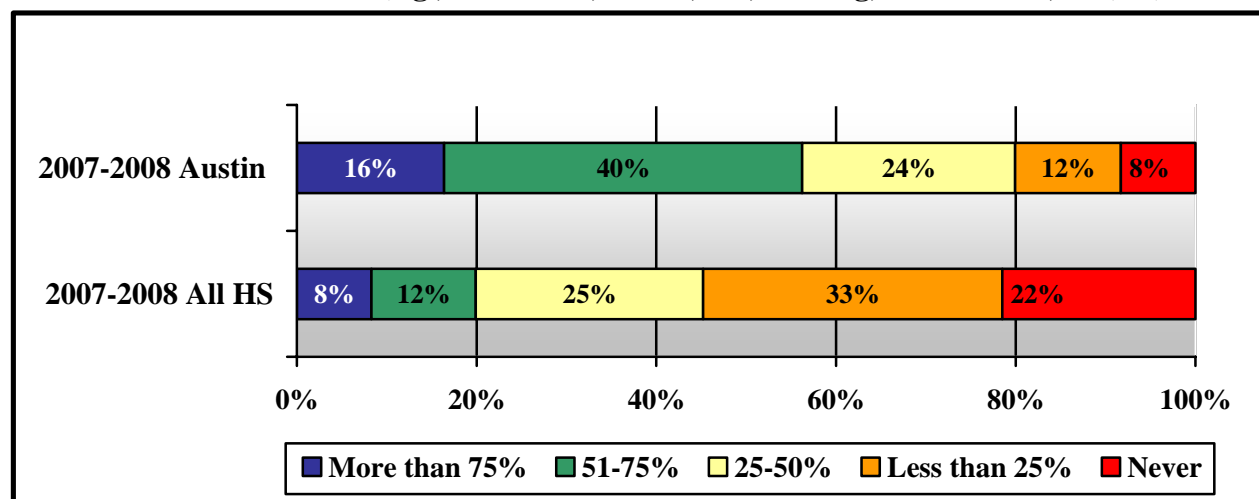


Figure 4. On Average, What Percentage of Your Study, Research and Homework Was Done Without Distractions (e.g., Television, Music, IM, Texting, Phone Calls, etc.)? (Item 24)



Note. This item was new in 2008.

Table 12. Please Mark the Item That Best Indicates How You Feel: (Item 25a-k)

		2007-2008	
	All HS	Austin HS	Austin HS
	Seniors	Grade 9-11	Seniors
School climate			
I feel safe at my school	3.4	3.3	3.5
My classmates show respect to each other	2.9	3.0	2.9
The consequences for breaking school rules are the same for everyone	2.7	2.8	2.5
Adults at this school listen to student ideas and opinions	2.8	2.9	2.9
There is at least one adult at my school who I can go to if I have a problem	3.3	3.3	3.4
My teachers are fair to everyone	2.9	2.8	2.8
Academic climate			
My homework helps me learn things I need to know.	2.9	2.8	2.9
I know how I am doing in school	3.4	3.1	3.4
My teachers expected me to do my best work	3.6	3.5	3.6
My classes were rigorous and challenging	3.1	*	3.0
My high school coursework has been relevant to my life	2.7	*	2.6

Note. Average responses were calculated using the following scale: 1 (Never), 2 (Not a Lot), 3 (Sometimes), 4 (Always); responses of 'Don't Know' are not included. Items and subscales regarding School Climate and Academic Climate questionnaires were modified for the Class of 2008 corresponding to the AISD Student Climate Survey. Therefore, longitudinal data are not available.

*These items are asked only on the High School Exit Survey.

**Table 13. Please Answer the Following Questions About Your Civic Engagement.
(Items 5 & 6)**

Question	2007-2008			
	All HS		Austin HS	
	Students Under 18	Students 18 or older	Students Under 18	Students 18 or older
Are you registered to vote?	n/a	51.0%	n/a	57.2%
Have you voted in any school board, city, county, state, or national election?	n/a	23.3%	n/a	32.6%
Will you register to vote after your 18 th birthday?	77.3%	n/a	85.7%	n/a
Do you plan to vote in the presidential election in November? *	66.2%	70.3%	79.4%	78.6%

*This response option was new in 2008.

INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY

Table 14. How Well Did Your High School Help You to Actively Develop Knowledge and Skills in the Following Areas? (Item 26)

Area	Somewhat Well or Very Well			
	All HS		Austin HS	
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2006-2007	2007-2008
Teamwork	*	88.6%	*	89.8%
Creative Thinking	90.8%	90.6%	87.6%	92.4%
Problem Solving	92.9%	91.5%	90.5%	93.5%
Conflict Resolution	84.6%	82.8%	81.4%	82.4%
Personal Health/Fitness	78.5%	78.6%	68.7%	73.0%
Time Management	*	80.8%	*	80.1%
Technology	*	84.6%	*	82.4%

Note. Responses include: Not Well, Somewhat Well, and Very well. Percentages indicate the number of students who responded Somewhat Well or Very Well.

*Indicates a response option added in 2008.

Table 15. Please Rate the Quality of Instruction That You Feel That You Received in the Following Areas: (Item 27)

Area	Good or Excellent			
	All HS		Austin HS	
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2006-2007	2007-2008
Writing	82.6%	81.3%	78.9%	84.8%
Mathematics	71.3%	70.7%	66.5%	64.9%
Science	68.9%	69.5%	54.9%	61.3%
Social Studies	84.2%	82.8%	81.9%	84.3%
Computer/Technology	71.0%	71.9%	63.5%	84.3%
Foreign Language	64.5%	63.9%	62.4%	64.0%
Performing/Fine Arts	72.2%	73.9%	69.8%	64.0%

Note. Responses include: Poor, Fair, Good, and Excellent. Percentages are of the number of students reporting Good or Excellent.

Figure 5. Which Of The Following Describes Your Computer and Internet Access at Home? (Item 14)

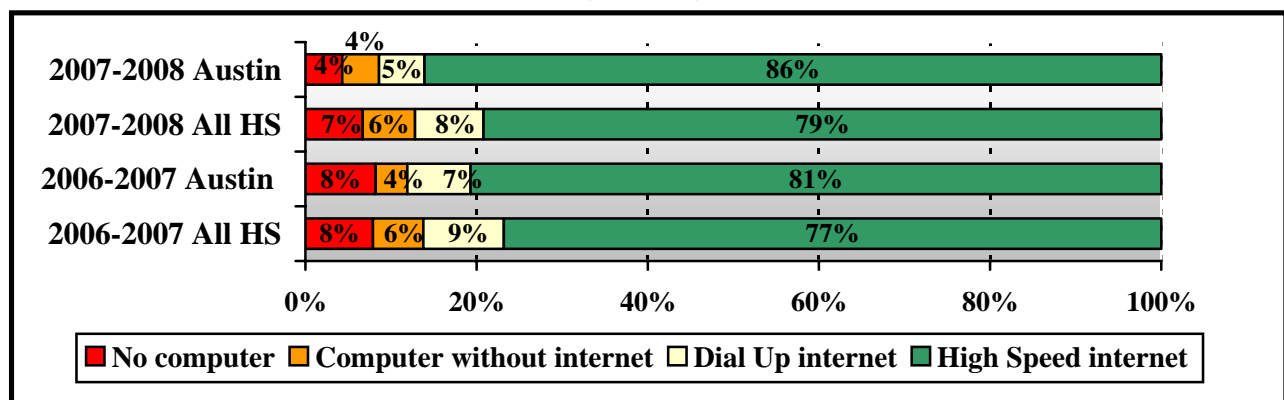


Table 16. How Frequently Do You Use a Computer... (Item 28)

Use	Once a Week or More 2007-2008	
	All HS	Austin HS
At home?	86.7%	92.4%
At school?	74.0%	70.5%
To present material in class, for example, using PowerPoint?	23.5%	15.1%
To type a paper or class assignment?	55.4%	61.9%
To search the Internet to complete class-related assignments?	61.6%	66.5%
To research college/career choices?	50.6%	49.2%
To complete online forms or applications for college/employment?	44.0%	42.5%
To communicate with teachers (e.g., email, IM, etc.)?	20.8%	14.6%
To communicate with friends (e.g., email, IM, blog, Facebook, etc.)?	74.8%	75.2%
To participate in online communities (Facebook, blogs, discussion boards, etc.)?	56.9%	64.9%

Note. Responses include: Never, Less than Once a Week, Once or Twice a Week, Every Day or Almost Every Day. Previous reports indicated item means; percentages represent the number of students reporting At Least Once a Week or More.

Table 17. Indicate How Much You Agree With Each of the Following Statements About Technology Use at School (Item 29)

Use	Agree or Strongly Agree 2007-2008	
	All HS	Austin HS
My teachers effectively use the technology resources that are available	85.7%	89.1%
I would like to use more electronic communication with my classmates as part of my schoolwork	79.9%	75.1%
I would like to use more electronic communication with my teachers	73.2%	64.1%
I would like to use more online resources	82.1%	82.5%

Note: Responses include: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Disagree and Don't Know/Unsure; Percentages are of the number of students who said Agree or Strongly Agree.

POST-SECONDARY PREPARATION AND ADVISING

Table 18. At What Time in Your Life Did You Start Thinking About College as a Possibility After High School? (Item 30)

Time	All HS		Austin HS	
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2006-2007	2007-2008
As long as I can remember	39.1%	40.5%	43.8%	45.6%
In elementary school	*	8.5%	13.6%	9.3%
In middle/junior high school	21.0%	21.8%	18.6%	22.0%
In high school	25.3%	26.8%	21.0%	21.5%
I've never thought about college as an option after high school	2.5%	2.3%	2.9%	1.6%

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

Table 19. High School Preparation for Post-Graduation Opportunities (Item 31a-D & Item 20)

Preparation	Somewhat well or Very well 2007-2008	
	All HS	Austin HS
How well prepared were you to plan your high school course selections?	91.2%	91.0%
How well prepared were you to meet your college and career goals?	88.4%	86.8%
How well prepared are/were you for the college/technical/vocational school application process?	83.4%	83.0%
How well informed are/were you about obtaining financial aid for education after high school (whether or not you applied)?	81.6%	81.8%
I received extra help early in the school year so I could graduate on time (percent responding "yes")	23.4%	16.4%

Note. Response options include: Not well, Somewhat well, and Very well. Previous surveys reported item means; in 2008, percentages reflect the number of students who responded Somewhat well or Very well.

**Table 20. How Did You Prepare for Continuing Education? (Check All That Apply)
(Items 32 & 35)**

Preparation	All HS		Austin HS	
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2006-2007	2007-2008
Took the PSAT examination	57.9%	68.0%	66.6%	79.2%
Took AP/IB classes	45.3%	48.6%	42.3%	51.1%
Visited campuses	44.0%	51.8%	42.0%	57.2%
Attended college fairs	44.4%	48.6%	40.2%	44.8%
Completed and submitted a FAFSA	41.3%	49.3%	34.7%	46.4%
Completed and submitted a scholarship application	30.8%	41.5%	24.5%	46.4%
Took college entrance tests	65.6%	72.4%	71.8%	79.4%
Took test prep class	38.2%	41.7%	43.9%	51.8%
Completed ACC courses	23.3%	29.4%	15.4%	25.8%
Ordered and submitted transcripts	40.3%	50.3%	41.5%	58.8%
Applied to a 2-year college (including ACC)*	49.8%	41.1%	45.4%	41.0%
Applied to a 4-year college*	69.1%	63.9%	65.0%	69.0%
Applied to a business/technical/vocational school*	13.8%	6.5%	7.8%	4.5%

Note. Respondents may select more than one option; percentages will not total 100%. *An answer to this item was required in 2006-07, therefore percentages may not be entirely comparable.

Table 21. In Which of The Following College Preparation Programs Did You Participate While in High School? (Item 33)

Program	2007-2008	
	All HS	Austin HS
Project ADVANCE	26.1%	71.0%
AVID	8.9%	8.1%
ACC College Connections	17.1%	23.3%
College Forward	3.0%	0.5%
Hispanic Mother/Daughter	3.0%	2.9%
Talent Search/Trio	2.6%	0.5%
Upward Bound	1.8%	2.5%
Gear Up	3.1%	2.5%
Breakthrough	1.5%	1.6%
College 101	3.3%	1.8%
I did not participate in any programs like this	41.6%	32.6%
Other	4.9%	2.7%

Note. This item is new to the 2008 Exit Survey.

Table 22. If You Participated in One or More College Preparation Programs, What Did You Get Out of It? (Item 34)

Benefit	2007-2008	
	All HS	Austin HS
They encouraged me to attend school regularly	35.3%	26.9%
They helped me choose the HS courses to prepare for college	31.8%	24.8%
They explained the financial aid process to me	37.9%	35.9%
They were available to help with school-related issues	29.1%	23.8%
They helped me deal with personal issues	18.7%	12.4%
They helped me believe that college was right for me	33.4%	25.5%
They helped me apply to college	47.3%	63.4%
Other	8.6%	8.4%

Note: This item was new in 2008.

Figure 6. How Helpful Was Your Project ADVANCE Facilitator/College Advisor in the Following Types Of Meetings? (Item 37)

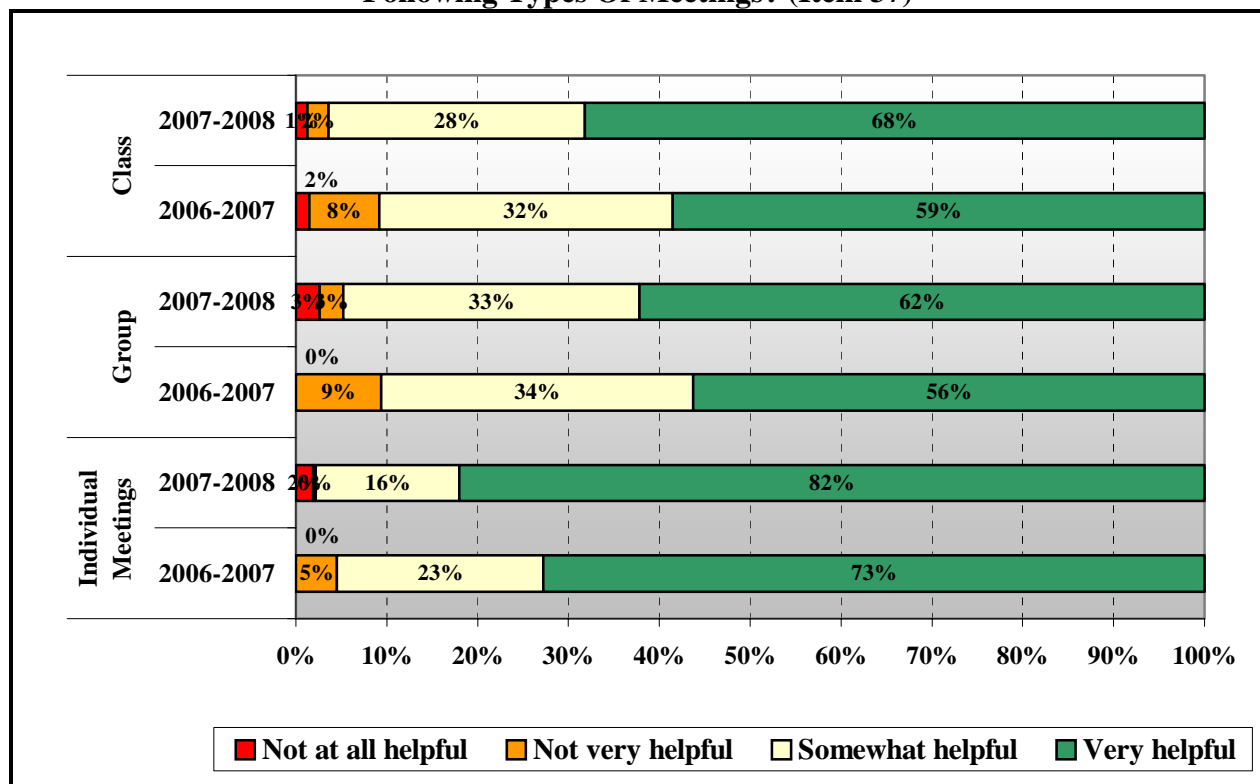


Figure 7. How Helpful Was Your Project ADVANCE Facilitator/College Advisor With the Following Processes? (Item 38)

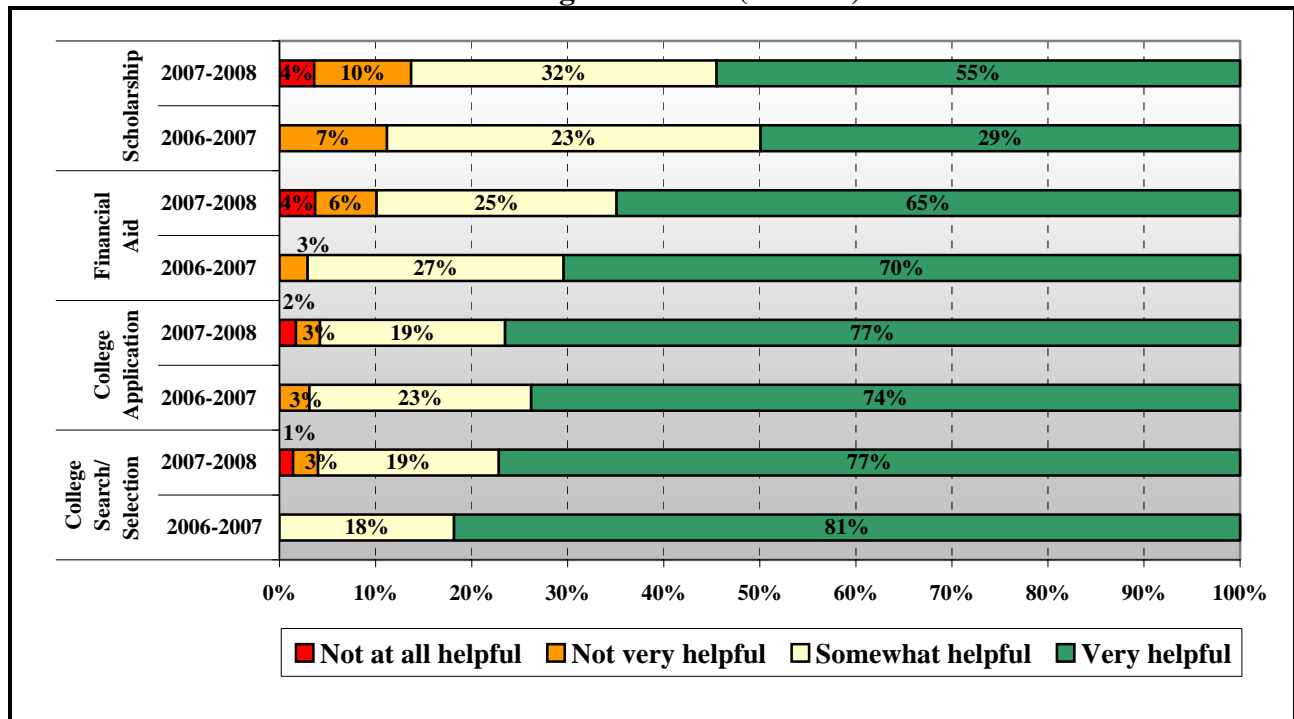
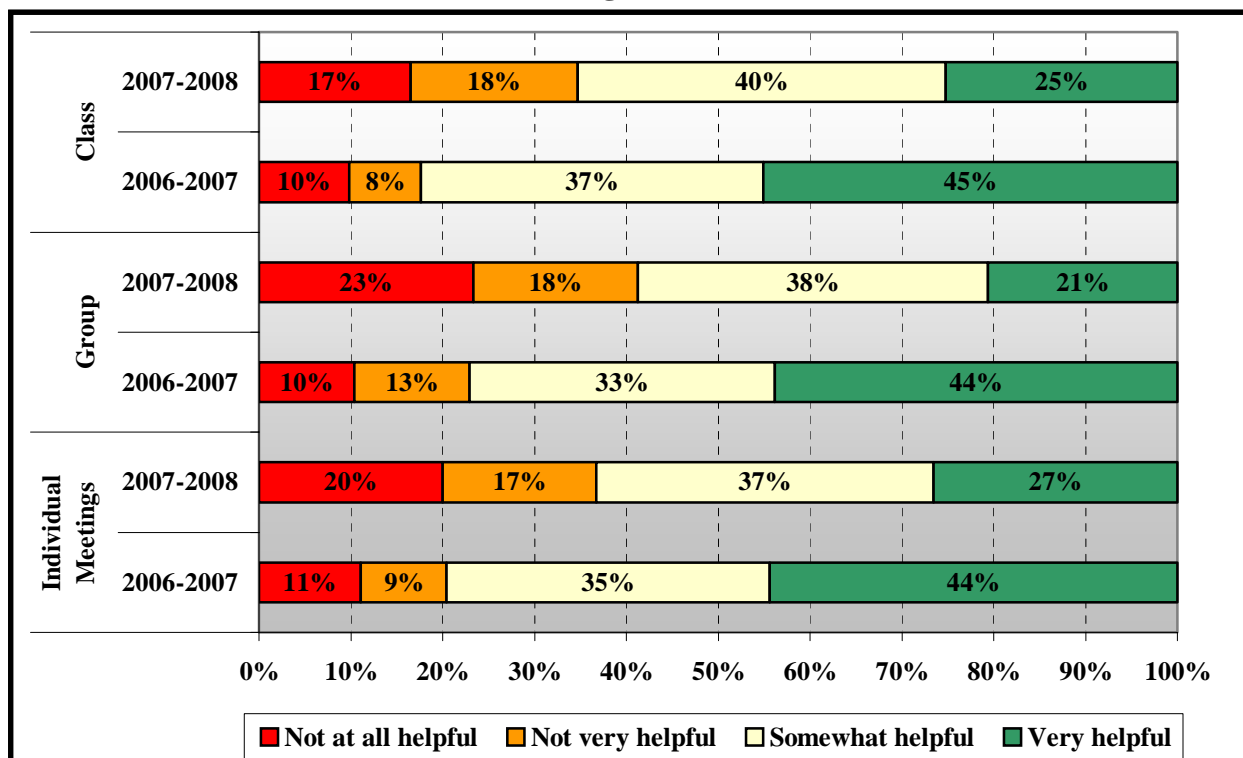
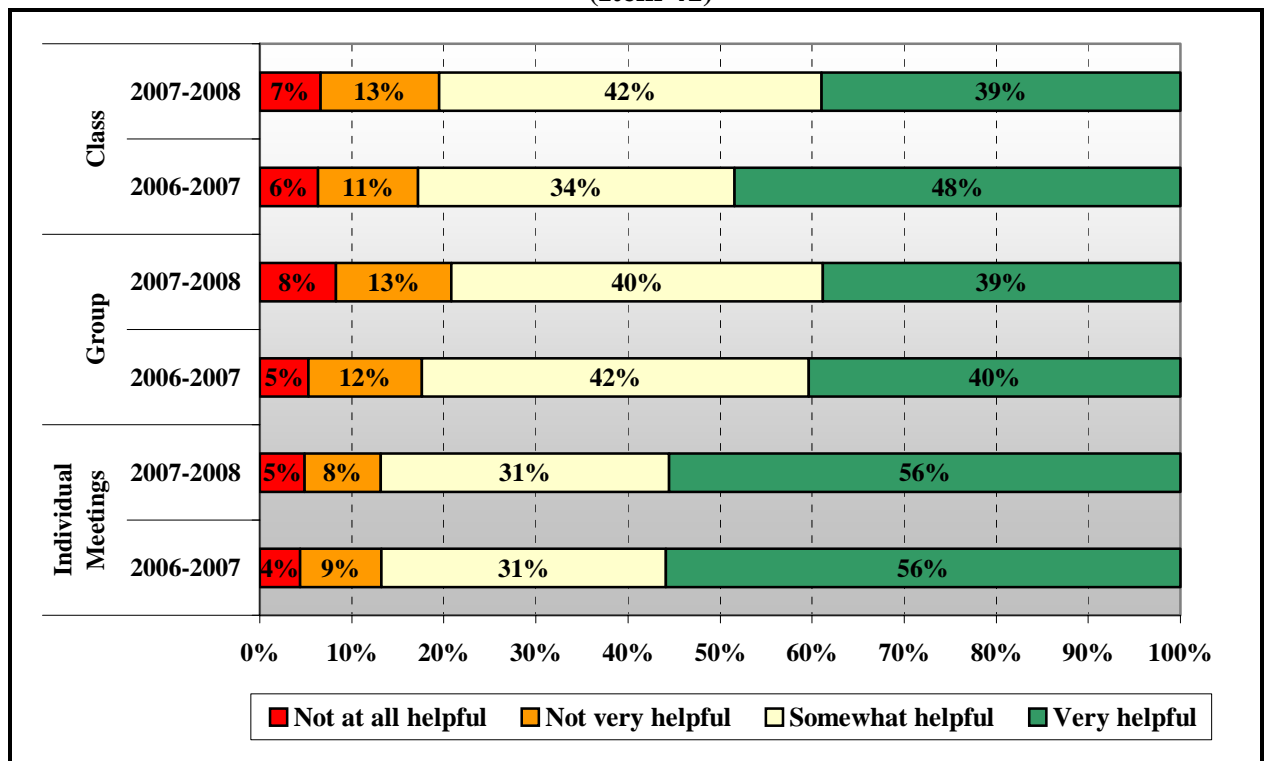


Figure 8. How Helpful Was Your Advocate/Advisory Teacher in the Following Types of Meetings? (Item 40)



Note. In 2007, there were separate items for Advocate and Advisory teachers. The 2006-2007 data reported here are regarding Advisory teachers only.

**Figure 9. How Helpful Was Your School Counselor in the Following Types of Meetings?
(Item 41)**

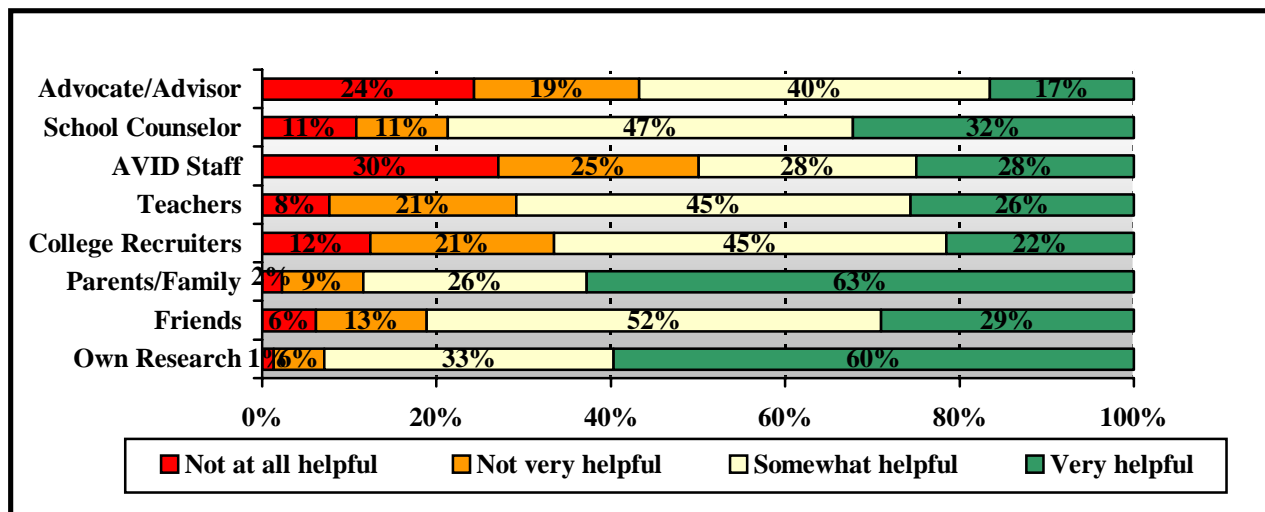


**Table 23. For Which of the Following Issues Did You Meet With a School Counselor?
(Item 42)**

Issue	2007-2008	
	All HS	Austin HS
Scheduling	77.5%	85.1%
Course selection & placement	58.4%	69.2%
Graduation plans	53.2%	46.4%
4 year plan	26.4%	21.7%
Graduation credit verification	37.4%	29.4%
Testing interpretation	17.0%	18.3%
Career information	18.5%	11.1%
College information/applications	38.8%	42.5%
Writing resumes/ job applications	11.2%	14.0%
Financial aid information/ applications	21.3%	17.6%
Scholarship information/applications	24.1%	21.7%
Writing college essays	11.5%	9.5%
Conflict resolution	12.2%	12.2%
Personal and/or family issues	13.2%	15.4%
Parent conference	10.4%	11.8%
Teacher conference	6.4%	7.0%
Grades/test scores/academic performance	41.6%	47.5%
Other	3.2%	4.5%

*Response option was new in 2008.

Figure 10. Which of the Following People (Other Than Your Project ADVANCE Counselor) Helped You to Prepare for the College/Technical /Vocational School Application Process and How Helpful Were They? (Item 39)



Note. This item has changed from previous years surveys, which did not ask students to indicate the level of helpfulness. Results do not include the response, “Doesn’t apply.”

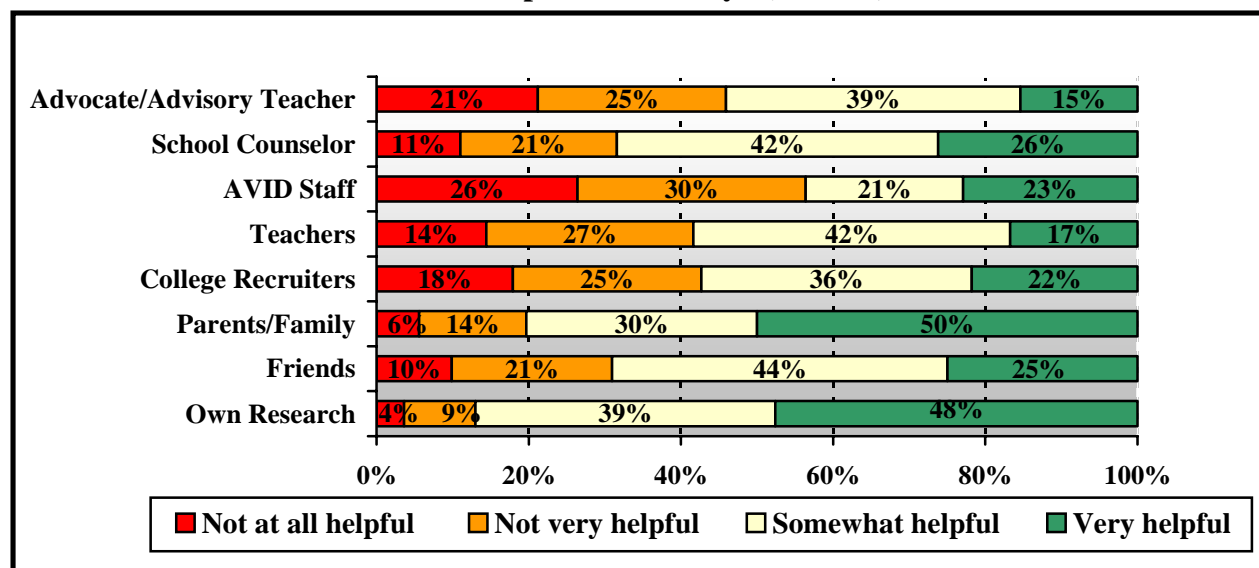
Table 24. How Important Is Each of the Following in Choosing a College? (Item 36)

Reason	Somewhat or Very important 2007-2008	
	All HS	Austin HS
College expenses	91.7%	90.6%
Availability of financial aid	90.1%	85.2%
Availability of specific courses or curriculum	95.1%	95.3%
Reputation of the college in athletic programs	61.4%	53.3%
Social life at the college	86.4%	85.1%
Ability to live at home and attend college	61.5%	46.1%
Ability to live away from home*	78.3%	74.3%
Job or employment placement record of the college	81.9%	78.2%
Reputation of the college in academic programs	90.1%	78.2%
Easy admission standards	72.0%	63.5%
Ability to take courses online	54.5%	45.5%
Study abroad opportunities*	77.1%	74.1%
Service learning opportunities*	74.9%	68.4%
The school accepts dual-credit courses*	75.5%	68.2%
The school accepts AP/IB credits*	77.0%	69.1%

Note. Response options include: Not important, Somewhat important, and Very important.

*Item options were new in 2008. Percentages represent the number of students indicating Somewhat or Very important; in previous years, item means were reported.

Figure 11. Which of the Following People (Other Than Your Project ADVANCE Counselor) Helped You Obtain Information About Financial Aid for Education After High School and How Helpful Were They? (Item 43)



Note. This item has changed from previous years surveys, which did not ask students to indicate the level of helpfulness. Results do not include the response, “Doesn’t apply.”

Table 25. How Easy Has It Been for You and Your Parents to Understand the Process of Financial Aid? (Item 44)

Degree of ease	2007-2008	
	All HS	Austin HS
Very Easy	17.0%	15.0%
Easy	21.2%	22.4%
Somewhat Easy, Somewhat Difficult	36.2%	34.5%
Difficult	7.9%	10.2%
Very Difficult	3.9%	3.3%
Did Not Apply for Financial Aid	13.9%	14.5%

Note. This item changed from previous year surveys, which asked, “How easy has it been to understand the process of financial aid (whether or not you applied)?”

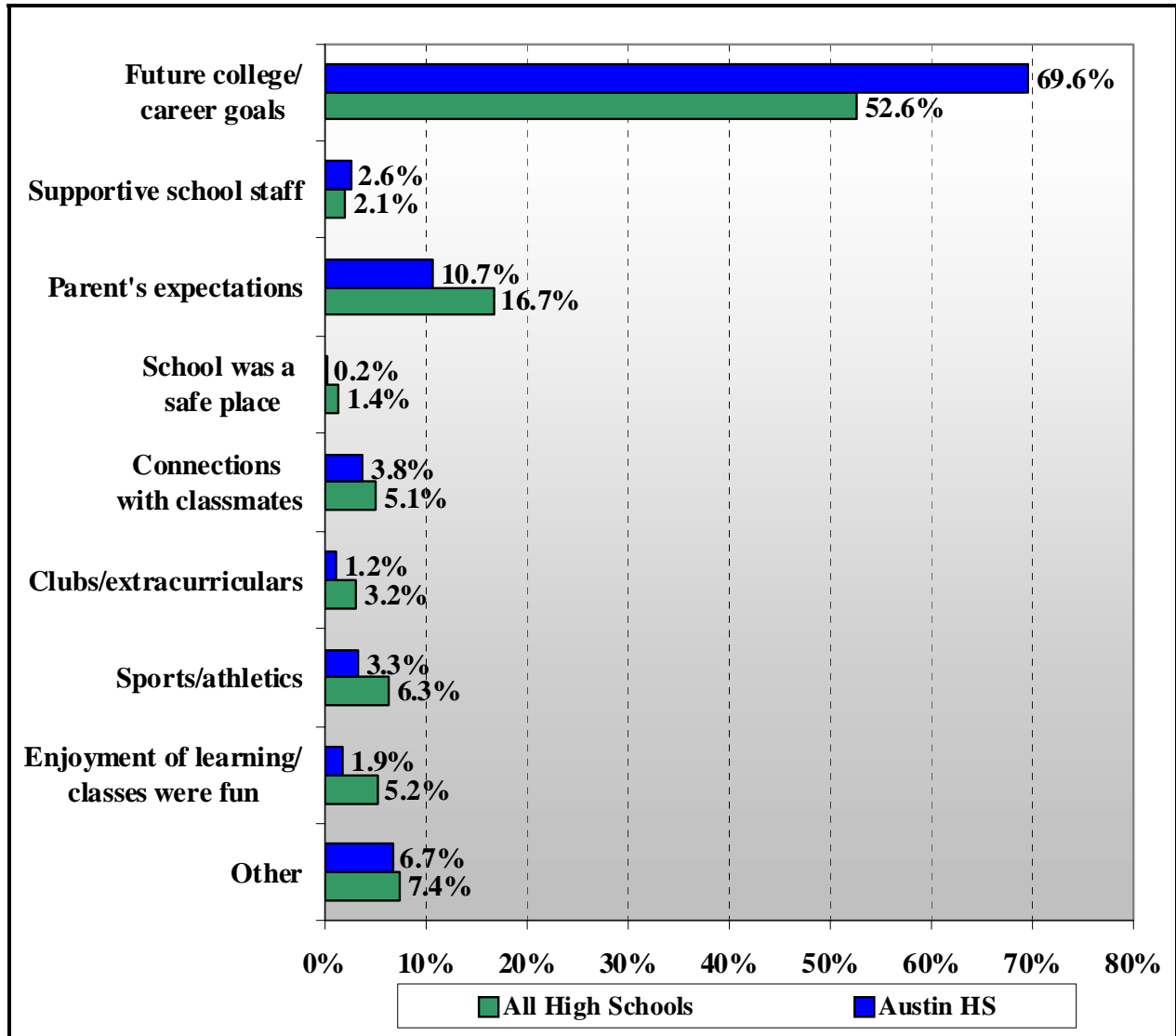
Table 26. How Do You Plan to Pay for Your Education After High School? (Item 45)

Means of payment	2007-08	
	All HS	Austin HS
Financial aid	57.1%	53.2%
Scholarships	48.9%	48.0%
Personal savings	36.0%	37.6%
Family savings	45.8%	53.8%
Family members will take loans	13.5%	14.0%
I will take loans	28.0%	28.7%
Grants	26.7%	24.2%
Working during the school year	42.3%	41.2%
Working during summer	45.4%	42.1%
Work-study programs on campus	19.0%	17.0%
Don’t know/unsure	14.8%	16.3%

Note. Respondents may select more than one option; percentages will not total 100%. This item was new in 2008.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Figure 12. What Is the One Thing That Was Most Important to Keeping You Going Through School All The Way to Graduation? (Item 46)



Note. The wording of two response options was changed from previous years' surveys. In 2008, students were asked to rate "Supportive staff" whereas last year they reported on "Supportive teachers;" and the prior option, "Team/club activities" was split into "Clubs/extracurriculars" and Sports/athletics.