



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 Austin 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 Austin for comparison purposes. In total, 3,365 students in the Class of 2009 completed the survey, including 424 students from Austin. 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%
Austin	90.8%	86.0%	89.8%

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:

- **Parental involvement.** Austin seniors reported higher levels of parental involvement than did their district-wide peers. The difference in parental involvement was particularly noticeable for the survey item asking about parental help in selecting high school courses.
- **Technology use.** Austin respondents reported more frequent computer use at home and at school than did seniors at other campuses. They were also more likely to use a computer to type a class project and to go online for help with class-related assignments

- **Postsecondary aspirations and preparation:** Austin seniors started thinking about college at an earlier age than other seniors. They were also more likely than their district-wide peers to report having undertaken postsecondary preparation activities, including taking the PSAT, AP/IB courses, and college entrance tests.

INDIVIDUAL ITEM RESPONSES FOR AUSTIN 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?*”

One hundred and eighty-six (44%) provided a response. Overall, students had generally positive comments for Austin’s staff. However, many students were critical of the Advisory program. In addition, several students complained about excessively strict rules in place at Austin, and about their inconsistent enforcement. 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 have generally had a good experience while attending AISD schools and feel that they have preapred me to move on to higher education.*” “*thanks for everything!*” “*Austin High is the best school*” “*I'd want the administration of AISD to know that they've done a great job in providing me and my fellow classmates with numerous scholarship opportunities.*” “*Austin High Rocks*”
- **Advisory.** Many students were unhappy with how Advisory is implemented at Austin. “*Community Seminar has proved to be a waste of school funds. It has not, in my experience, helped make new friends or understand the college application process at all.*” “*Advisory isn't working*” “*Advisory needs to be reformed so that seniors are allowed to study and do work as they need to*” “*I felt babied by the system sometimes as if we aren't really like students but bags of bodies, seminar was the worst idea ever*”
- **Excessive rules.** Several students complained about the pervasiveness of unnecessary rules. “*Chill the HELL out over outdated school rules. We're a new generation and you need to adapt.*” “*Make the rules fair for everyone.*” “*I think that the rules in school need to be applied to everyone, not just a select few.*”

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)

	Austin 2007	Austin 2008	Austin 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Continue my education*	89.3%	93.2%	96.9%	89.0%	92.2%	93.1%
Go into the military	2.3%	1.8%	3.1%	2.6%	2.8%	3.9%
Be a full-time parent	1.0%	0.7%	1.2%	2.2%	2.2%	1.7%
Work full-time	8.4%	10.9%	7.5%	13.2%	13.5%	11.7%
Work part-time	30.8%	41.0%	30.7%	35.5%	41.1%	32.9%
No plans	5.7%	0.7%	0.9%	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)

	Austin 2007	Austin 2008	Austin 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Cannot afford to attend school	35.7%	20.0%	42.9%	30.6%	16.9%	33.0%
Childcare or family responsibilities	14.3%	6.7%	14.3%	9.8%	14.9%	11.4%
Don't like attending school	35.7%	13.3%	0.0%	22.4%	19.4%	17.6%
Grades/test scores aren't high enough	21.4%	16.7%	28.6%	23.0%	16.5%	21.6%
Don't feel academically prepared	21.4%	16.7%	28.6%	15.8%	13.7%	17.0%
Need income to support myself	42.9%	23.3%	28.6%	34.4%	21.8%	28.4%
Need income to support others	21.4%	16.7%	14.3%	10.4%	6.0%	10.8%
Other	25.0%	23.3%	17.6%	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)

	Austin 2007	Austin 2008	Austin 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Probably or definitely yes	73.3%	57.7%	66.7%	61.7%	59.2%	66.2%
Maybe	13.3%	19.2%	25.0%	20.6%	19.3%	24.1%
Probably or definitely no	6.7%	11.5%	8.3%	6.2%	10.5%	4.2%
Don't know	6.7%	11.5%	0.0%	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>	Austin 2007	Austin 2008	Austin 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Volunteering at your school	34.7%	41.5%	39.3%	38.6%	40.0%	30.3%
Working with you on homework or school projects	51.7%	57.6%	53.4%	54.8%	54.6%	46.8%
Helping you decide what classes to take	66.0%	64.0%	64.7%	60.1%	60.2%	53.4%
Attending school meetings	54.9%	60.2%	59.9%	57.4%	54.9%	45.9%
Communicating with your teachers	55.4%	62.6%	61.8%	59.6%	60.6%	52.1%
Participating in school leadership opportunities	.	25.5%	20.0%	.	29.0%	17.9%
Attending athletic events	.	62.2%	64.3%	.	58.8%	51.5%
Attending academic events and competitions	.	33.9%	24.8%	.	36.9%	25.4%
Attending performance events	.	51.7%	45.1%	.	53.3%	45.0%
Joining and participating in the PTA	.	27.7%	20.0%	.	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)

	Austin Mother	Austin Father	Austin Sibling*	All HS Mother	All HS Father	All HS Siblings
Did not finish high school	10.6%	12.5%	11.0%	18.4%	18.7%	11.2%
Graduated from high school or earned a GED	16.8%	14.2%	20.1%	19.6%	18.0%	22.9%
Attended a 2-yr community/junior college or vocational/technical school, but no degree	6.3%	4.1%	7.4%	8.5%	6.0%	10.3%
Graduated from a 2-yr community/junior college or vocational/technical school	5.2%	3.8%	2.8%	5.2%	4.1%	3.6%
Attended a 4-yr college, but did not complete a degree	15.2%	14.4%	6.7%	14.0%	13.2%	8.0%
Graduated from college	18.9%	14.6%	23.7%	13.7%	12.5%	15.5%
Completed a Master's degree or equivalent	16.8%	18.4%	3.9%	11.1%	12.1%	3.5%
Completed a Ph.D., M.D., or other advanced professional degree	5.4%	10.8%	1.8%	3.6%	6.3%	1.4%
Don't Know or Does Not Apply	4.8%	7.3%	22.6%	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)

	Austin 2007	Austin 2008	Austin 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
1	79.9%	82.6%	77.4%	76.1%	77.6%	70.1%
2	14.6%	13.6%	14.2%	16.8%	16.8%	18.4%
3 or more	5.6%	3.8%	8.4%	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>	Austin 2008	Austin 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
<i>In school</i>				
Music	34.0%	27.0%	35.1%	33.6%
Theater	22.4%	18.2%	20.4%	18.6%
Dance	23.1%	17.7%	23.2%	22.1%
Sports	59.1%	59.0%	58.8%	57.9%
UIL academic competitions	24.7%	20.7%	18.8%	20.0%
Speech/debate	29.5%	18.3%	21.2%	20.9%
Student government	22.7%	16.2%	16.4%	16.3%
Career and technical student organizations	.	7.2%	.	14.5%
<i>Outside school</i>				
Music	33.5%	25.5%	30.3%	30.5%
Theater	7.5%	5.3%	11.7%	7.9%
Dance	14.2%	14.1%	17.0%	15.0%
Sports	55.5%	51.4%	52.0%	50.9%
Community service/volunteering	67.6%	68.9%	57.1%	62.1%
Environmental project/activities	29.1%	27.3%	25.4%	28.0%
Boy/Girl Scouts	12.2%	8.1%	8.9%	8.0%
Family care	27.0%	15.9%	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>	Austin 2009	All HS 2009
<i>Inside school</i>		
Music	6.6%	8.0%
Theater	3.2%	3.2%
Dance	2.2%	3.8%
Sports	24.7%	23.4%
UIL academic competitions	3.7%	2.3%
Speech/debate	1.2%	1.3%
Student government	1.2%	0.9%
Career and technical student organizations	1.0%	2.3%
<i>Outside school</i>		
Music	4.7%	6.6%
Theater	1.0%	1.5%
Dance	1.0%	2.9%
Sports	17.6%	19.1%
Community service/volunteering	3.7%	6.3%
Environmental project/activities	1.3%	1.8%
Boy/Girl Scouts	0.2%	0.6%
Family care	5.3%	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)

	Austin 2008	Austin 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
0	22.2%	31.5%	24.4%	27.9%
1	27.5%	25.4%	28.2%	26.8%
2	26.2%	23.9%	26.2%	24.5%
3	14.1%	10.2%	13.7%	12.9%
4	10.0%	9.0%	7.5%	7.9%

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

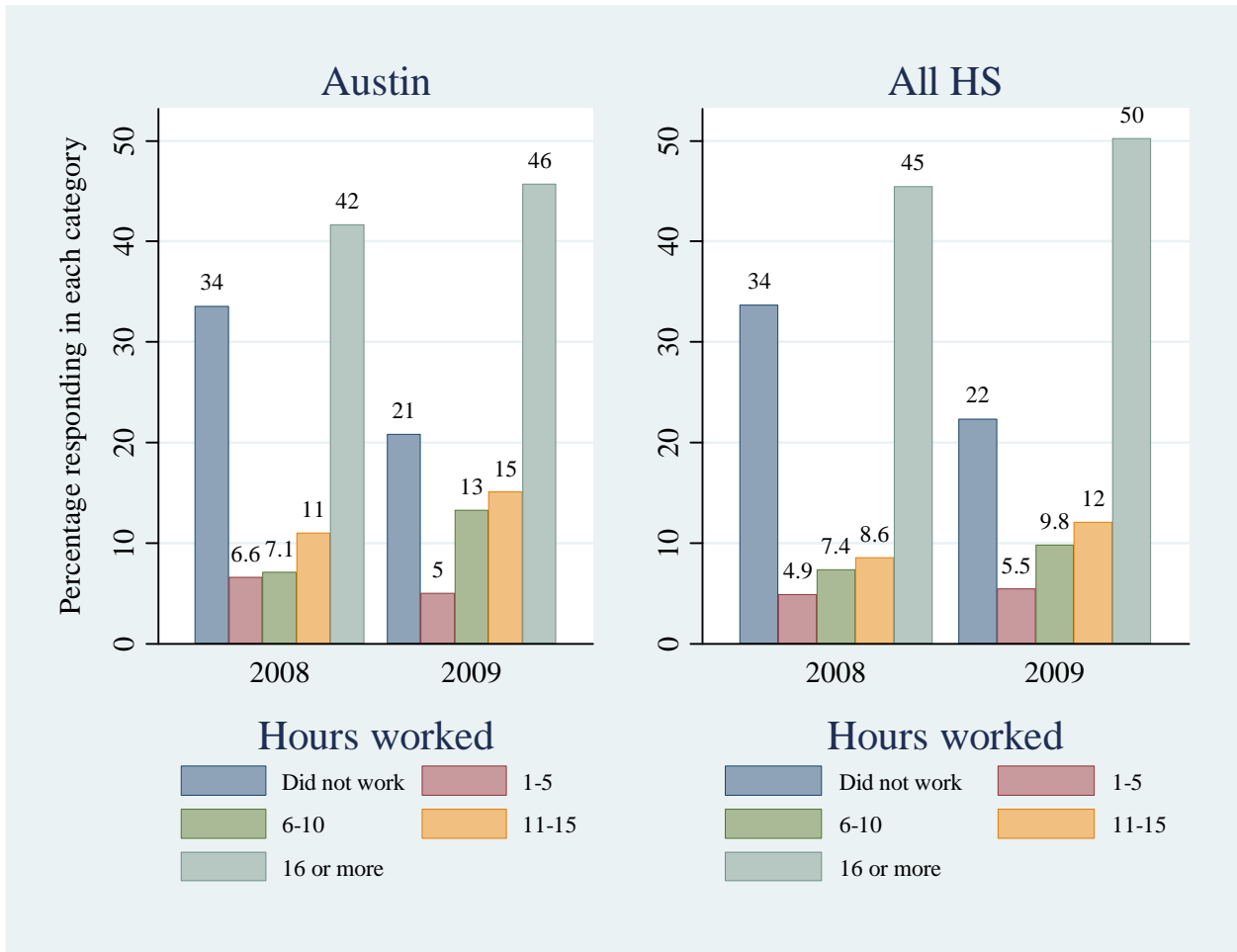


Figure 2. Now Indicate The Number Of Hours Per Week That You Have Worked During Your Senior Year. (Q18b)



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>	Austin 2009	All HS 2009
I feel safe at my school	81.7%	78.7%
My classmates show respect to each other	50.7%	50.9%
The consequences for breaking school rules are the same for everyone	33.9%	41.1%
Adults at this school listen to student ideas and opinions	55.4%	53.1%
My homework helps me learn things I need to know	57.2%	58.6%
I know how I am doing in school	81.2%	82.9%
My teachers expected me to do my best work	81.8%	83.0%
My classes were rigorous and challenging	58.5%	59.6%
My high school coursework has been relevant to my life	40.7%	47.4%
There is at least one adult at my school who I can go to if I have a problem	82.0%	78.0%
My teachers are fair to everyone	43.1%	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)

	Austin 2009	All HS 2009
Are you registered to vote?*	48.3%	41.4%
Have you voted in any school board, city, county, state, or national election?*	30.9%	22.9%
Will you register to vote after your 18th birthday?***	87.2%	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>	Austin 2007	Austin 2008	Austin 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Teamwork	.	89.8%	91.2%	.	88.6%	89.7%
Creative thinking	87.6%	92.4%	93.8%	90.8%	90.6%	91.7%
Problem solving	90.5%	93.5%	93.0%	92.9%	91.5%	92.0%
Conflict resolution	81.4%	82.4%	85.4%	84.6%	82.8%	84.1%
Personal health/fitness	68.7%	73.0%	80.1%	78.5%	78.6%	81.0%
Time management	.	80.1%	81.8%	.	80.8%	81.2%
Technology	.	82.4%	84.4%	.	84.6%	84.2%

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

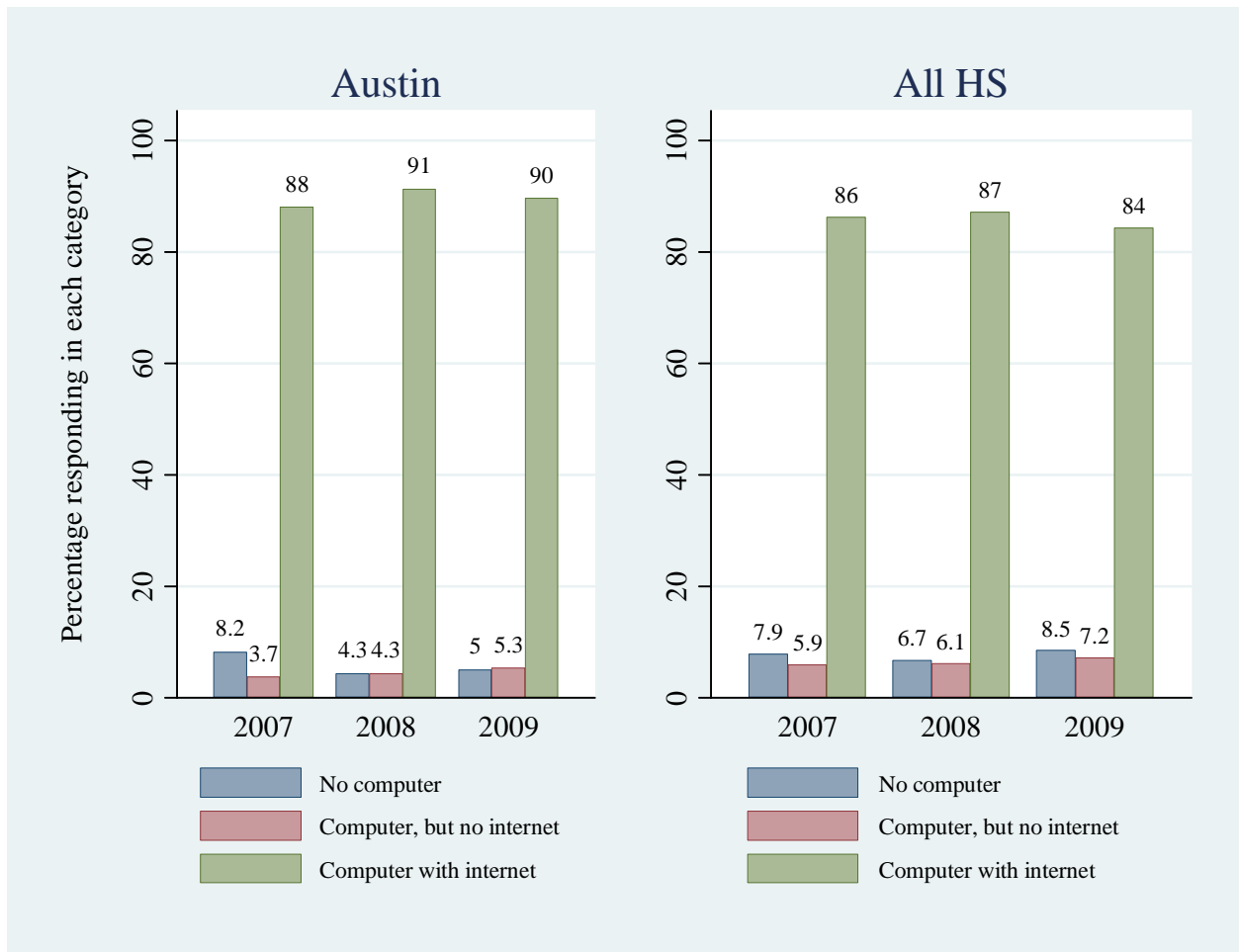
*Responses were *Not well*, *Somewhat well*, and *Very well*.

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>	Austin 2007	Austin 2008	Austin 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Writing	78.9%	84.8%	83.3%	82.6%	81.2%	81.6%
Mathematics	66.5%	64.9%	67.7%	71.3%	70.7%	70.8%
Science	54.9%	61.3%	69.1%	68.9%	69.5%	69.8%
Social Studies	81.9%	84.3%	85.2%	84.2%	82.8%	82.0%
Computer/Technology	63.5%	69.2%	70.2%	71.0%	71.8%	70.2%
Foreign Language	62.4%	64.0%	65.2%	64.5%	63.9%	64.3%
Performing/Fine Arts	69.8%	75.8%	77.0%	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/Gradespeed 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>	Austin 2007	Austin 2008	Austin 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
At home?	88.7%	92.4%	89.7%	86.4%	86.7%	83.9%
At school?	64.8%	70.5%	77.2%	70.8%	74.0%	73.1%
To present material in class, for example, using PowerPoint	14.4%	15.1%	17.6%	22.6%	23.5%	22.0%
To type a paper or class assignment?	61.3%	61.9%	68.6%	57.2%	55.3%	53.5%
To search the Internet to complete class-related assignments?	60.5%	66.5%	69.6%	62.3%	61.6%	62.7%
To research college/career choices?	50.5%	49.2%	54.0%	50.5%	50.6%	51.0%
To complete online forms or applications for college/employment?	41.8%	42.5%	43.0%	43.4%	44.0%	43.4%
To communicate with teachers (e.g., email, IM, etc.)?	11.8%	14.6%	15.1%	18.1%	20.8%	17.8%
To communicate with friends (e.g., email, IM, blog, Facebook, etc.)?	74.1%	75.2%	80.1%	74.1%	74.8%	72.5%
To monitor grades/progress in school?	.	.	29.6%	.	.	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>	Austin 2008	Austin 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
My teachers effectively use the technology resources that are available.	89.1%	91.6%	85.7%	89.8%
I would like to use more electronic communication with my classmates as part of my schoolwork.	75.1%	79.9%	79.8%	82.3%
I would like to use more electronic communication with my teachers.	64.1%	76.5%	73.2%	76.0%
I would like to use more online resources.	82.5%	81.6%	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)

	Austin 2007	Austin 2008	Austin 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
As long ago as I can remember*	43.8%	45.6%	48.9%	39.1%	40.5%	38.7%
In elementary school	13.6%	9.3%	8.1%	12.0%	8.5%	7.6%
In middle/junior high school	18.6%	22.0%	18.4%	21.0%	21.9%	21.0%
In high school	21.0%	21.5%	24.3%	25.3%	26.9%	30.9%
I've never thought about college as an option after high school	2.9%	1.6%	0.2%	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>	Austin 2007	Austin 2008	Austin 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
How well prepared were you to plan your high school course selections?	84.4%	91.0%	94.7%	88.7%	91.2%	91.2%
How well prepared were you to meet your college and career goals?	84.8%	86.8%	89.0%	86.9%	88.4%	86.1%
How well prepared have you been for the college/technical/vocational school application process?	78.7%	83.0%	84.7%	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)?	83.5%	81.8%	83.0%	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)

	Austin 2007	Austin 2008	Austin 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Took the PSAT examination	66.6%	79.2%	75.2%	57.9%	67.9%	63.1%
Took AP/IB classes	42.3%	51.1%	51.2%	45.3%	48.6%	47.2%
Visited campuses	42.0%	57.2%	57.8%	44.0%	51.8%	55.8%
Attended college fairs	40.2%	44.8%	33.7%	44.4%	48.6%	45.3%
Completed and submitted a FASA	34.7%	46.4%	43.9%	41.3%	49.3%	48.6%
Completed and submitted a scholarship application	24.5%	39.8%	40.6%	30.8%	41.6%	40.3%
Took college entrance tests	71.8%	79.4%	80.4%	65.6%	72.4%	68.1%
Took test prep classes	43.9%	51.8%	45.0%	38.2%	41.7%	38.9%
Completed ACC courses	15.4%	25.8%	26.7%	23.3%	29.4%	33.1%
Ordered and submitted transcripts	41.5%	58.8%	56.8%	40.3%	50.3%	47.7%
Other college-level courses	.	.	3.1%	.	.	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)

	Austin 2008	Austin 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Project ADVANCE	71.0%	16.0%	26.1%	17.9%
AVID	8.1%	8.0%	8.9%	8.8%
ACC College Connections	23.3%	13.9%	17.1%	18.0%
College Forward	0.5%	0.5%	3.0%	3.5%
Con mi MADRE	2.9%	0.7%	3.0%	1.9%
Talent Search/Trio	0.5%	0.0%	2.6%	2.6%
Upward Bound	2.5%	0.5%	1.8%	1.3%
Breakthrough	1.6%	0.2%	1.5%	1.3%
Immigrant College Access	.	1.2%	.	2.3%
I did not participate in any programs like this	32.6%	49.3%	41.6%	41.3%
Other	2.7%	2.8%	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)

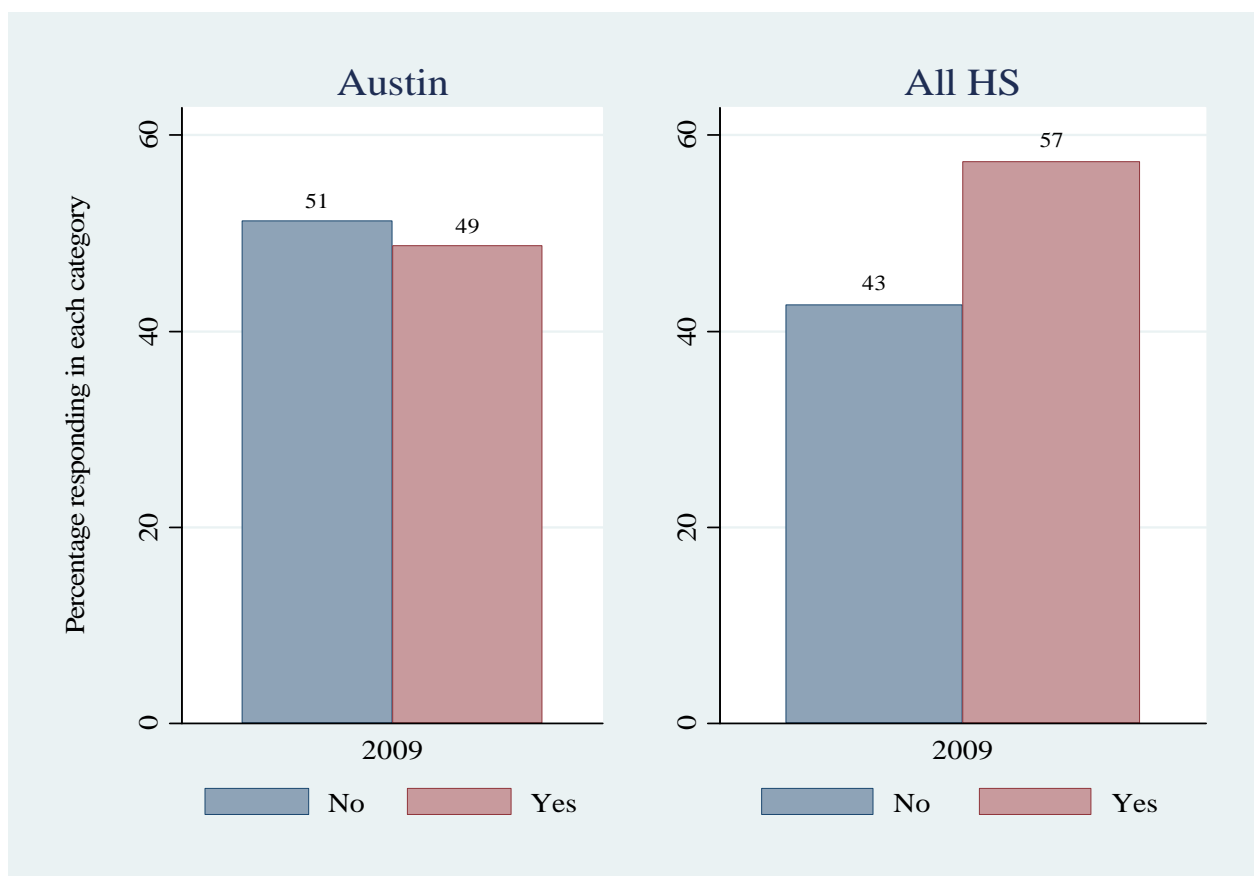
	Austin 2008	Austin 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
They encouraged me to attend school regularly	26.8%	28.4%	35.3%	31.8%
They helped me choose the HS courses to prepare for college	24.8%	27.9%	31.8%	28.5%
They explained the financial aid process to me	35.9%	31.6%	37.9%	33.2%
They were available to help with school-related issues	23.8%	24.7%	29.1%	26.2%
They helped me deal with personal issues	12.4%	15.8%	18.7%	15.4%
They helped me believe that college was right for me	25.5%	27.4%	33.4%	30.9%
They helped me apply to college	63.4%	43.3%	47.3%	38.7%
Other	8.4%	1.4%	8.6%	1.9%

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

	Austin 2007	Austin 2008	Austin 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Have you applied to a 2-year college	45.4%	41.0%	38.4%	49.8%	41.4%	41.3%
Have you applied to a 4-year college?	65.0%	69.0%	70.0%	69.1%	63.9%	62.7%
Have you applied to a business/technical/vocational school?	7.8%	4.5%	5.7%	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)

	Austin 2008	Austin 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Difficult	13.6%	10.3%	11.8%	12.8%
Some parts easy, some parts difficult	34.5%	39.1%	36.3%	43.7%
Easy	37.4%	24.3%	38.0%	22.2%
Did not apply for financial aid	14.5%	26.3%	13.8%	21.4%

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

	Austin 2008	Austin 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Scholarships and/or grants	51.6%	57.3%	54.8%	56.3%
Loans	59.7%	38.9%	63.7%	38.0%
Family or personal savings	64.7%	60.6%	56.8%	49.5%
Working during the school year	45.5%	42.5%	47.0%	46.4%
Working during the summer	43.7%	47.6%	45.3%	48.2%
I don't know	17.2%	7.5%	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)

	Austin 2009	All HS 2009
Encouraged you to apply to several different colleges	63.4%	57.0%
Talked to you about what college would be like	71.9%	62.9%
Helped you complete college applications	53.1%	42.0%
Helped you find scholarships	35.4%	34.2%
Helped you complete a FAFSA	44.6%	45.6%
Helped you decide which college to attend	60.6%	53.0%
Helped you write college essays/personal statements	36.6%	29.6%
Did not help	9.0%	14.2%

Note. This item was new in 2009.

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

	Austin 2009	All HS 2009
I do not need financial aid to attend college	35.6%	23.4%
My parents were not willing to submit private financial information	3.0%	6.9%
My family did not think we would qualify for or were eligible for financial aid	25.2%	23.5%
I do not plan to go to college	5.4%	9.8%
I did not know about the financial aid process	30.7%	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)

	Austin School counselor	Austin Advisory	Austin Teacher	Austin Advance Facilitator	Austin AVID Staff	Austin 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	52.8%	12.0%	26.7%	18.9%	5.7%	10.4%	48.3%	12.8%	28.0%	21.7%	4.2%	12.0%
AP/honors courses	38.0%	11.1%	48.8%	6.4%	5.4%	1.4%	35.4%	11.1%	47.4%	10.5%	3.8%	3.2%
To continue education	51.2%	25.9%	53.5%	22.2%	6.4%	7.5%	47.5%	22.6%	53.9%	26.1%	6.0%	9.8%
Talked about colleges/schools	38.7%	16.3%	32.5%	25.7%	5.7%	6.6%	37.7%	16.3%	37.1%	26.4%	4.7%	7.5%
Discussed careers	34.0%	17.2%	28.5%	20.5%	5.0%	7.1%	33.5%	16.8%	33.9%	24.1%	4.8%	7.6%
Encouraged to apply to multiple schools	38.9%	17.9%	30.7%	23.1%	5.4%	3.3%	37.6%	16.3%	34.4%	26.8%	4.9%	5.2%
Helped complete applications for college	23.6%	9.7%	15.8%	22.4%	5.4%	5.7%	25.2%	10.3%	20.3%	26.0%	3.8%	5.7%
Helped find scholarships	20.3%	9.0%	19.1%	23.1%	5.4%	3.1%	24.3%	9.8%	19.4%	26.2%	4.0%	4.1%
Helped choose college	21.0%	8.5%	17.9%	13.7%	3.8%	3.3%	22.8%	9.6%	22.9%	19.4%	3.0%	4.3%
Helped plan for college expenses	18.2%	8.5%	13.0%	17.5%	5.4%	3.8%	21.2%	10.3%	16.9%	21.7%	3.7%	4.5%
Helped with college application essays or personal statements	18.4%	8.0%	39.2%	16.7%	5.4%	3.1%	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, Austin)

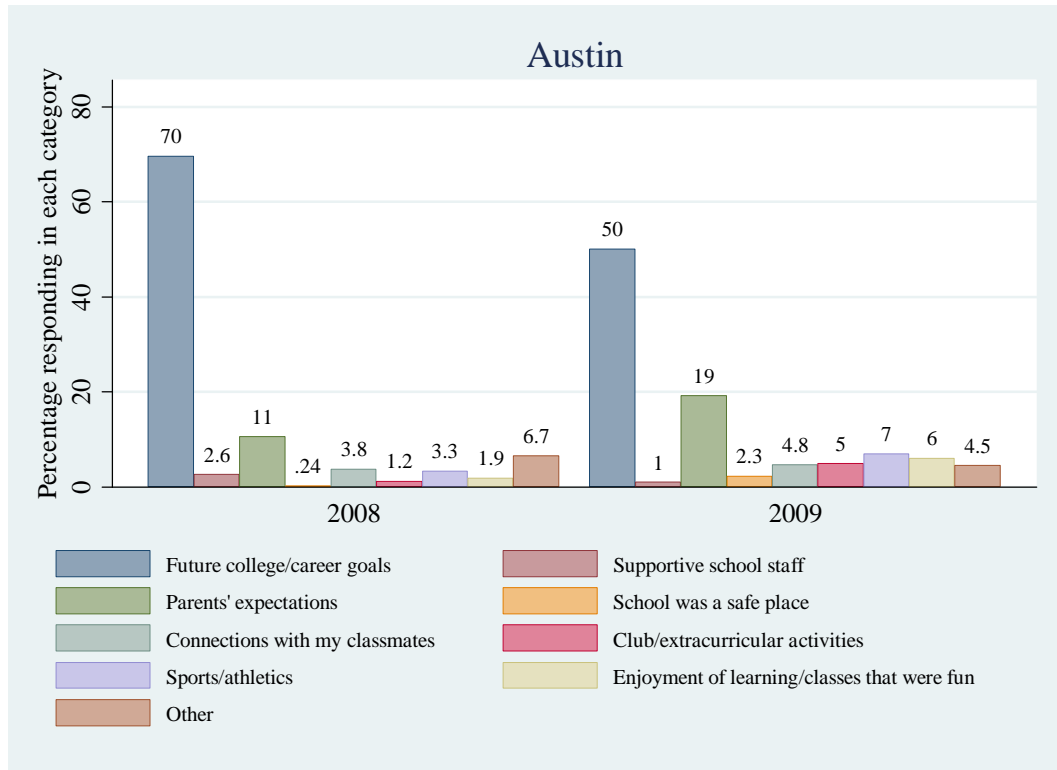


Figure 9b. What Is The *One Thing* That Was Most Important To Keeping You Going Through School All The Way To Graduation? (Item 48, All High Schools)

