

Introduction to Results for the Class of 2012

The purpose of this survey is to monitor high school student 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 strategic plan's Goal 3, which includes the measures of student self-confidence and attitudes toward school, work, and success. Seniors' responses to the multiple choice questions are organized into the following categories: postsecondary intentions and family support; high school experiences and campus climate; instruction and technology; postsecondary preparation and advising; and additional results.

Postsecondary Intentions and Family Support

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

	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	District 2012
Continue my education	92.5%	91.0%	90.8%
Attend a 4-year college or university	59.3%	56.9%	54.0%
Attend a 2-year and eventually transfer to a 4-year college	21.0%	32.5%	32.4%
Attend a 2-year community college only (not planning to transfer to a 4-year)	14.9%	6.3%	8.1%
Attend a private career or trade school	.	3.1%	2.3%
Go into the military	4.0%	2.9%	4.3%
Be a full-time parent	1.0%	0.6%	0.9%
Work full-time	5.5%	5.4%	8.9%
Work part-time	31.9%	26.5%	27.5%
Take a year off to do other things, then enroll in school	.	7.1%	5.6%
No plans/ not sure yet	4.2%	4.2%	3.9%
Other	5.0%	4.0%	4.1%

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

In 2012, most students who indicated "Other" were entering military service.

About this survey.

The 10th annual Austin Independent School District (AISD) High School Exit Survey was administered online to seniors in every AISD high school during Spring 2012. On each campus, Project ADVANCE facilitators primarily were responsible for ensuring all seniors were given the opportunity to complete the survey. Special education chairs at each campus were tasked with providing eligible special education students with guidance and assistance in completing the survey.

This report contains the results for the AISD Class of 2012 at this campus. Where available, data are presented from previous senior classes and the district-level to compare with 2012 responses. At this school, 478 students in the Class of 2012 completed the survey, for an overall response rate of 89.7%.

At the district level, 3,413 students in the Class of 2012 completed the survey, for an overall response rate of 76.4%. District-level survey results are provided in a separate report and is available online.

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

	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	District 2012
Grades / test scores are not high enough	4.0%	12.5%	14.5%
Cannot afford to attend school	20.0%	25.0%	18.2%
Don't feel academically prepared for further education	4.0%	2.5%	11.6%
Family responsibilities or child care	12.0%	2.5%	6.9%
Need to earn an income to support myself / others	8.0%	32.5%	25.1%
Attending a college/trade/technical school is not for me	.	5.0%	5.3%
Want some time off from school to do other things, but plan to enroll after a year	.	52.5%	31.7%
My goals do not require additional education	20.0%	7.5%	11.2%
Not sure what I want to do yet	.	22.5%	26.1%
Other (please specify)	40.0%	17.5%	17.8%

Financial concerns were important in seniors' postsecondary plans.

Students who postpone education after high school are less likely to enroll in college and earn a degree than are students who do not postpone enrollment (Niu & Tienda, 2011).

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

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often
Talking to you about homework	9.2%	20.2%	35.0%	35.6%
Making sure you completed your homework	12.6%	21.2%	36.3%	29.9%
Asking you about what you're learning in school	12.6%	21.9%	39.4%	24.4%
Helping you decide what classes to take	21.3%	23.6%	30.3%	24.8%
Talking to you about how you're doing in your classes	5.8%	15.1%	33.5%	45.5%
Rewarding you when you do well in school	20.5%	25.5%	30.5%	23.4%
Communicating with your teachers (e.g., teacher conferences, email and phone calls)	21.5%	32.8%	27.3%	18.4%
Attending school meetings	32.9%	22.1%	23.6%	21.3%
Attending school events (e.g., sports, performances)	22.1%	19.2%	24.8%	35.4%
Volunteering at your school	48.8%	22.4%	19.2%	10.0%
Joining and participating in the PTA	67.4%	13.3%	12.1%	7.1%

Note. Question changed in 2012 and precludes comparison to prior years' results.

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

	Mother	Father	Sibling
Did not finish high school	14.4%	18.5%	8.0%
Graduated: high school or earned a GED	22.1%	21.9%	22.1%
Currently attending: 2-year college /technical school	2.2%	1.6%	12.9%
Currently attending: 4-year college	0.4%	0.5%	23.7%
Attended: 2-year college but did not complete degree	3.3%	1.6%	3.6%
Graduated: 2-year college/technical school	4.9%	2.8%	1.6%
Attended: 4-year college but did not complete degree	7.1%	8.2%	4.4%
Graduated: 4-year Bachelor's degree	27.0%	24.0%	18.1%
Graduated: Master's degree or equivalent	15.0%	12.8%	4.8%
Graduated: PhD, MD, JD, or other advanced degree	3.5%	8.4%	0.8%

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

Note. Question changed in 2012 and precludes comparison to prior years' results.

High School Experiences and Campus Climate

5. Including your current school, how many different high schools have you attended?

	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	District 2012
1	73.7%	78.8%	76.0%
2	16.4%	16.1%	15.9%
3 or more	9.9%	5.1%	8.1%

Multiple school changes can disrupt students' academic lives, particularly for Hispanic youth, because important relationships are disrupted and curricula may differ between schools (Bregman, 2010).

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

In School	Did Not Participate	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	Avg. # of years	Avg. # hours per week
Music	76.4%	7.7%	2.7%	2.1%	10.9%	2.9	1.6
Theater	81.3%	10.1%	2.7%	2.3%	3.6%	2.1	1.0
Dance	81.5%	7.5%	4.4%	3.6%	2.9%	2.2	1.1
Sports	44.1%	9.6%	8.6%	7.3%	30.3%	3.3	1.8
Academic clubs or UIL academic competitions	68.1%	9.0%	5.0%	3.5%	14.3%	2.9	1.4
Speech/debate	70.8%	23.1%	4.8%	0.6%	0.6%	1.3	0.7
Student government	82.5%	9.9%	3.6%	1.5%	2.5%	1.9	0.6
Career and technical organizations	86.7%	5.2%	4.8%	1.5%	1.7%	2.1	1.0

Note. Question changed in 2012 and precludes comparison to prior years' results.

Outside of School	Did Not Participate	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	Avg. # of years	Avg. # of hours per week
Music	74.3%	5.7%	3.6%	1.7%	14.7%	3.3	1.7
Theater	90.1%	4.2%	1.1%	1.7%	2.9%	2.3	1.2
Dance	88.0%	4.8%	1.7%	2.3%	3.1%	2.4	1.4
Sports	49.6%	8.8%	6.3%	7.5%	27.7%	3.3	1.8
Care for family members	85.1%	4.4%	2.5%	.6%	7.3%	3.0	2.1
Community service	41.8%	13.6%	8.8%	4.6%	31.1%	3.1	1.6
Environmental projects	75.2%	10.5%	5.9%	2.3%	6.1%	2.3	1.2
Boy Scouts or Girls Scouts	93.5%	2.3%	1.2%	0.4%	2.5%	1.0	1.0

Note. Question changed in 2012 and precludes comparison to prior years' results.

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

7. Please indicate the average number of hours per week you worked last summer and during your senior year.

	Percentage who worked <u>summer prior</u> to senior year		Percentage who worked <u>during</u> senior year	
	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	Campus 2011	Campus 2012
Did not work	49.3%	10.6%	51.6%	12.5%
1 to 5 hours	8.3%	12.9%	10.6%	14.3%
6 to 10 hours	9.5%	41.2%	9.0%	34.6%
11 to 15 hours	7.2%	11.5%	8.8%	15.0%
16 or more hours	25.7%	23.8%	20.0%	23.6%

Average # of hours worked per week	
Summer 2011	12.3%
School year 2011-2012	11.8%

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

Percentage who studied each week	Campus 2011	Campus 2012
Did not study	7.0%	2.4%
1 to 5 hours	42.0%	46.9%
6 to 10 hours	32.0%	9.9%
11 to 15 hours	12.0%	9.9%
16 or more hours	7.0%	31.0%

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

9. Please mark the answer that best indicates how you feel.

Percentage who responded either Sometimes or Always	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	District 2012
I can do even the hardest schoolwork if I try	94.0%	91.8%	90.6%
I enjoy doing my schoolwork	57.1%	51.9%	55.8%
I feel/felt well prepared for TAKS	91.6%	91.4%	91.6%
I try hard to do my best work	92.4%	90.1%	90.4%
I feel successful in my schoolwork	88.4%	88.3%	88.8%
My teachers push us to think hard about the things we read.	.	84.2%	83.5%
My teachers push everyone to work hard.	.	89.3%	86.8%
I can reach the goals I set for myself	95.8%	94.7%	94.3%
My homework helps me learn things I need to know	76.8%	77.0%	76.0%
My schoolwork makes me think about things in new ways	67.0%	68.6%	69.2%
I have fun learning in my classes	76.7%	66.9%	75.2%
My teachers connect what I am learning life outside of class	65.6%	74.5%	65.0%
I like to come to school	68.8%	66.2%	70.7%

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

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

Percentage who responded Somewhat well or Very well	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	District 2012
Teamwork	90.1	91.3%	91.2%
Creative thinking	90.4	93.2%	92.0%
Problem solving	93.1	92.6%	92.7%
Conflict resolution	84.1	86.0%	86.5%
Personal health/fitness	79.4	75.7%	82.7%
Time management	81.2	83.0%	83.6%
Technology	86.6	88.8%	87.0%

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

"21st-century skills" is a term generally used to refer to competencies such as collaboration, digital literacy, critical thinking, and problem-solving that will help students thrive in today's world.

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

Percentage who responded Good or Excellent	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	District 2012
English Language Arts	86.7%	86.8%	81.6%
Mathematics	64.2%	54.5%	68.6%
Science	64.1%	61.0%	68.7%
Social Studies	77.9%	77.9%	79.5%
Computer/Technology	69.6%	58.6%	66.3%
Foreign Language	55.5%	67.7%	59.9%
Performing/Fine Arts	76.8%	80.4%	72.8%
Career and Technical (CTE)	57.6%	73.5%	62.4%

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

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

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

	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	District 2012
No computer	3.0%	3.0%	5.2%
No computer, but Internet access (e.g, cell phone, iPad or iTouch)	3.0%	3.0%	5.3%
Computer, no Internet	3.0%	2.0%	5.4%
Computer with Internet access	90.0%	92.0%	84.1%

13. Do your parents use Parent Connect/Gradespeed to monitor your grades?

	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	District 2012
Yes	33.9%	57.0%	49.8%
No	57.9%	34.0%	39.7%
Don't know	8.1%	9.0%	10.4%

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

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

	Never	Less than once a week	Once or twice a week	Every day or almost every day
At home?	2.8%	3.6%	10.0%	83.6%
At school?	1.9%	12.3%	27.1%	58.7%
To present material in class, for example, using PowerPoint?	12.4%	57.3%	23.0%	7.2%
To type a paper or class assignment?	3.2%	38.1%	42.9%	15.7%
To search the Internet to complete class-related assignments?	2.1%	22.3%	47.9%	27.6%
To research college / career choices?	11.4%	36.9%	34.2%	17.4%
To complete online forms or applications for college or employment?	13.2%	46.1%	29.1%	11.5%
To communicate with teachers ?	13.2%	46.1%	29.1%	11.5%
To monitor grades/progress in school?	26.4%	43.9%	20.3%	9.4%

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

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Text books should be put online.	42.1%	34.4%	12.2%	4.8%	6.3%
My teachers need more training to use technology more in the classroom.	19.4%	39.1%	26.3%	2.3%	12.8%
We need newer software.	30.2%	37.2%	21.8%	1.3%	9.5%
My teachers effectively use the technology resources that are available.	21.5%	58.5%	14.4%	1.45%	4.0%
My school's technology is up to date. It does not need upgrading.	8.2%	36.0%	37.3%	7.2%	11.2%
Web sites that are blocked (e.g., YouTube, Facebook) should be unblocked.	48.3%	30.0%	11.9%	3.2%	6.6%
Homework assignments should be online.	32.2%	30.9%	18.0%	7.8%	11.0%

Note. Question changed in 2012 and precludes comparison to prior years' results.

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

	Never	Less than once a week	Once or twice a week	Every day or almost every day
Career exploration	47.4%	37.8%	11.5%	3.2%
Class rank and GPA inquiry	27.7%	52.7%	16.8%	2.8%
College search	31.7%	45.1%	20.8%	3.2%
College visit sign up	41.1%	45.6%	11.4%	1.9%
Counselor-directed activities (such as "Personality Type Questionnaire" or "Explore Careers")	51.1%	40.2%	7.5%	1.3%
Resume building	46.3%	42.7%	8.9%	1.9%
Other	49.3%	42.7%	8.9%	1.9%

16b. How frequently do you log into Naviance/Family Connection for the following activities?

Percentage who responded once a week or more	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	District 2012
Career exploration	20.6%	14.7%	21.6%
Class rank and GPA inquiry	9.9%	19.6%	21.7%
College search	12.0%	23.2%	21.4%
College visit sign up	12.2%	13.3%	13.0%
Counselor-directed activities (e.g., personality questionnaire, career exploration)	18.3%	8.8%	11.0%
Resume building	9.0%	10.9%	10.7%
Other	13.5%	16.9%	17.8%

Postsecondary Preparation and Advising

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

	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	District 2012
As long ago as I can remember	41.3%	44.0%	38.7%
In elementary school	8.3%	10.0%	8.6%
In middle school / junior high	22.9%	19.0%	20.8%
In high school	25.6%	27.0%	29.3%
Never thought of college as an option	1.8%	1.0%	3.0%

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

18. Overall, how well prepared or informed...

Percentage who responded Somewhat well or Very well	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	District 2012
Were you to plan your high school course selections?	92.8%	83.4%	88.6%
Were you to meet your college and career goals?	86.5%	84.5%	84.3%
Have you been for the college or trade / technical school application process?	81.5%	77.7%	78.9%
Have you been about obtaining financial aid for education after high school?	86.4%	77.6%	82.4%

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

19. How did you prepare for your education after high school (Select all)?

	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	District 2012
Took college entrance tests (SAT, ACT, THEA, Compass, Asset)	72.6%	49.5%	73.5%
Completed and submitted the FAFSA	55.8%	57.2%	58.2%
Visited one or more colleges or technical schools	58.3%	58.3%	57.8%
Ordered and submitted a transcript to a college or trade/ technical school.	56.0%	54.2%	55.9%
Took one or more Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate classes	58.5%	56.2%	53.9%
Met with a college recruiter at my high school	50.3%	43.8%	47.0%
Took test prep class for the PSAT, SAT, ACT, etc.	54.0%	49.5%	46.1%
Completed and submitted a scholarship application	42.7%	43.0%	44.8%
Met with the school counselor/ADVANCE staff to discuss college plans/processes	52.8%	41.5%	44.5%
Attended one or more college fairs	38.9%	37.4%	43.9%
Completed or are currently enrolled in ACC courses	32.4%	26.8%	40.3%
Participated in ACC College Connections	.	30.0%	35.6%
Took other college level courses (e.g. Texas State, Texas Tech, TSTC)	7.5%	6.9%	8.8%
None of the above	9.0%	6.9%	7.0%

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

	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	District 2012
2-year	65.6%	73.5%	73.0%
4-year	73.4%	80.4%	78.5%
Business/technical/vocational school	9.5%	7.3%	10.1%

On average, Austin HS's Class of 2012 seniors applied to 3.93 postsecondary institutions. Students who submitted 4 or more applications were found significantly more likely to become enrolled than were students who submitted fewer applications (Garland, 2008).

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

	Campus 2012	District 2012
2-year	91.5%	89.5%
4-year	95.0%	94.6%
Business/technical/vocational school	95.0%	87.2%

Note: Method of calculation changed in 2012 and precludes comparison to prior years' results.

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

	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	District 2012
Talked to you about career and/or college options	85.0%	86.0%	80.8%
Talked to you about finances	74.0%	74.0%	72.2%
Talked to you about your responsibilities as an adult	77.8%	80.0%	79.1%
Talked to you about what a career and/or college would be like	72.8%	74.0%	70.6%
Helped you with financial aid (FAFSA and/or scholarships)	58.8%	58.0%	56.1%
Helped you complete applications for colleges or trade/technical schools	48.0%	54.0%	48.3%
Encouraged you to apply to several different colleges	62.3%	63.0%	61.7%
No one in my family talked to me about or helped me with these things.	8.0%	6.0%	7.5%

23. Indicate if you know at least one teacher who would do the following.

	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	District 2012
Would be willing to give you extra help with your school work if you needed it	89.4%	89.0%	90.2%
Would be willing to help you with a personal problem	77.2%	78.0%	77.5%
Cares about how you're doing in school	85.5%	85.0%	84.8%
Would be willing to write you a letter of recommendation for a job or college	87.0%	90.0%	87.1%
Knows what you will be doing next year	71.0%	67.0%	69.1%
Would be willing to help you even after you graduate	66.1%	69.0%	70.3%

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

	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	District 2012
Yes, they were available and I talked to them.	58.9%	42.7%	52.2%
Yes, they were available, but I didn't try to talk to them.	25.0%	39.5%	28.8%
No, I tried and wasn't able to meet with them.	7.3%	8.3%	10.4%
No, they were not available, but I never tried to meet with them.	8.9%	9.3%	8.6%

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

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

	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	District 2012
Yes, they were available and I talked to them.	54.5%	36.7%	45.3%
Yes, they were available, but I didn't try to talk to them.	25.7%	32.8%	28.7%
No, I tried and wasn't able to meet with them.	4.5%	5.9%	6.0%
No, they were not available, but I never tried to meet with them.	15.4%	24.6%	19.9%

26. Indicate whether the following people helped you with or encouraged you in any of the following activities (Select all).

	School Counselor	Advisory teacher	Teacher	Project ADVANCE staff	None of these
Select courses needed for work or admission to college	34.1%	6.9%	18.4%	15.7%	25.0%
Push your academic abilities further (e.g., challenging courses, science fair or summer learning, extra credit work)	15.1%	9.5%	44.9%	10.5%	20.1%
Take AP / honors courses	17.4%	7.0%	38.0%	7.7%	29.9%
Take dual credit or articulated credit courses	22.1%	5.8%	21.6%	14.0%	36.6%
Discussed career information and/or occupations you might want to pursue	19.7%	8.8%	26.1%	15.5%	30.0%
Continue your education after high school	24.4%	13.2%	33.1%	18.1%	11.3%
Talked to you about colleges suited to your interests and abilities	21.1%	7.3%	26.4%	21.4%	23.8%
Encouraged you to apply to multiple schools	21.7%	5.9%	25.0%	21.7%	25.6%
Helped you decide what school to attend	9.6%	4.9%	16.5%	16.5%	52.5%
Helped you fill out applications for postsecondary	15.4%	4.0%	13.6%	22.1%	44.8%
Helped you with your college application essays or personal statements	10.8%	4.3%	33.1%	16.3%	35.5%
Helped you with financial aid (e.g., FAFSA and/or scholarships)	13.3%	4.8%	9.7%	25.4%	46.7%
Helped you plan how to pay for college/technical school and/or for living expenses	8.0%	3.7%	10.0%	18.8%	59.5%
Talked to you about meeting your financial needs	10.8%	3.9%	12.9%	20.7%	51.6%

Note. Question changed in 2012 and precludes comparison to prior years' results.

27. In which of these programs did you participate?

	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	District 2012
AVID	6.6%	9.7%	8.4%
ACC Early College Start / Dual Credit	30.6%	22.9%	37.5%
ACC College Connections	23.2%	18.1%	20.1%
None of the above	51.1%	58.6%	46.0%

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) students had higher aspirations, more college knowledge, and significantly higher academic preparation, than did other students in the same schools (Watt, et al, 2007).

Dual credit course enrollment is an effective strategy for encouraging student access to and persistence in postsecondary education (Karp & Hughes, 2008).

28. Indicate whether any of the programs helped you with or encourage you in any of the following (Select all)?

	AVID	ACC - Early College Start	ACC - College Connections
I wasn't in this program or class	41.9%	25.6%	32.5%
Selecting courses needed for work or admission to college	34.6%	40.6%	24.7%
Pushing your academic abilities further (e.g., challenging courses, science fair or summer learning, extra credit work)	39.4%	43.4%	17.2%
Taking AP / honors courses	45.0%	36.2%	18.7%
Taking dual credit or articulated credit courses	35.8%	47.4%	16.8%
Discussing career information and/or occupations you might want to pursue	46.4%	34.5%	19.0%
Continuing your education after high school	36.7%	42.2%	21.1%
Discussing colleges / schools that were suited to your interests and abilities	42.0%	24.7%	33.3%
Applying to multiple schools	37.4%	38.5%	24.2%
Deciding what school to attend	39.8%	36.1%	24.1%
Filling out applications for colleges or trade / technical schools	41.8%	31.7%	26.6%
Completing college application essays or personal statements	38.6%	31.3%	30.1%
Applying for financial aid (FAFSA and/or scholarships)	38.0%	31.7%	30.4%
Planning how to pay for college/technical school and/or for living expenses	35.4%	35.4%	29.1%
Talked to you about how to meet your financial needs/ goals	38.5%	32.1%	29.5%

Note. Question changed in 2012 and precludes comparison to prior years' results.

29. How do you plan to pay for your education after high school (Select all)?

	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	District 2012
Scholarships and/or grants	63.6%	63.0%	67.2%
Loans	37.7%	40.0%	40.8%
Family or personal savings	65.8%	69.0%	58.7%
Tuition and fees exemption (e.g., military, foster care, adoption, deaf, blind, etc.)	.	8.0%	9.6%
Working during the school year	47.2%	54.0%	56.4%
Working during the summer	53.3%	57.0%	59.2%
I don't know	10.6%	5.0%	5.6%

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

	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	District 2012
Easy	11.9%	23.0%	21.8%
Some parts easy, some parts difficult	46.3%	44.0%	47.4%
Difficult	25.0%	12.0%	13.2%
I did not apply for financial aid	16.8%	21.0%	17.5%

The completion of the FAFSA is important to entering and completing postsecondary education, especially for economically disadvantaged students. Students who completed the FAFSA were found 50% more likely to enroll in a 4-year college than were those who had not. Eighty-three percent of AISD's Class of 2010 who were enrolled in a postsecondary institution after high school completed a FAFSA (Looby, 2011).

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

	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	District 2012
I do not need financial aid to attend college	33.8%	22.0%	19.3%
My parents were not willing to submit private financial information	12.0%	3.0%	6.4%
My family did not think we would qualify or be eligible for financial aid	24.1%	20.0%	18.8%
I do not plan to go to college	5.3%	9.0%	16.2%
I did not know about the financial aid process	24.8%	46.0%	39.2%

District-wide about 38% of students reported they did not need financial aid, and almost 40% did not know about the process.

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

Austin Community College		University of Texas		Harvard University		Total cost of books for one school year	
\$100	0.0%	\$1,000	1.0%	\$1,000	0.0%	\$100	2.0%
\$400	9.0%	\$5,000	7.0%	\$5,000	1.0%	\$1,500	45.0%
\$900	23.0%	\$10,000	17.0%	\$10,000	3.0%	\$5,000	10.0%
\$5,000	15.0%	\$15,000	14.0%	\$20,000	14.0%	\$10,000	3.0%
\$10,000	2.0%	\$20,000	23.0%	\$50,000	39.0%	\$15,000	3.0%
Don't know	50.0%	Don't know	38.0%	Don't know	42.0%	Don't know	37.0%

Researchers consistently show that most parents and students are uninformed or poorly informed about college prices and financial aid, and students' postsecondary decisions are influenced by this limited knowledge (Perna, Lundy-Wagner, Yee, Brill, & Tadal, 2009).

Full-time tuition and fees for a semester cost about \$900 at ACC, ranged between \$4,673 and \$5,369 at UT, and were \$20,433 at Harvard. The total cost of books and supplies for one year of college is estimated at \$1,100 by the College Board.

33. What is the one thing that "kept you going" through school all the way to graduation?

	Campus 2011	Campus 2012	District 2012
Club / extracurricular activities	7.0%	8.0%	8.4%
Connections with classmates	15.1%	12.0%	13.3%
Enjoyment of learning / classes that were fun	7.7%	5.0%	4.5%
Future college / career goals	29.5%	23.0%	21.9%
Parents' expectations	19.7%	20.0%	22.0%
School was a safe place	1.9%	1.0%	1.2%
Sports / athletics	9.4%	13.0%	12.5%
Supportive school staff	3.8%	3.0%	3.9%
Other (please specify)	6.0%	15.0%	12.1%

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