

Introduction to Results for the Class of 2013

The purpose of this survey is 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 districts' strategic plan 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

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

| Postsecondary Plans | Campus 2012 | Campus 2013 | District 2013 |
|---|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Continue my education | 84.7% | 91.3% | 95.0% |
| Attend a 4-year college or university | 24.0% | 19.0% | 51.7% |
| Attend a 2-year and eventually transfer to a 4-year college | 48.0% | 57.1% | 31.1% |
| Attend a 2-year community college only (not planning to transfer to a 4-year) | 17.0% | 23.0% | 10.0% |
| Attend a private career or trade school | 3.0% | 4.8% | 2.2% |
| Go into the military | 11.0% | 2.4% | 3.8% |
| Be a full-time parent | 4.0% | 0.8% | 1.1% |
| Work full-time or part-time | . | 19.0% | 17.8% |
| Take a year off to do other things, then enroll in school | 8.0% | 9.5% | 6.0% |
| No plans/ not sure yet | 4.0% | 3.2% | 3.9% |
| Other | 6.0% | 1.6% | 2.6% |

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

Compared to their 2012 counterparts, Eastside Memorial's Class of 2013 seniors were more likely to plan to attend a 2-year college and then transfer to a 4-year college.

About this survey.

The 11th annual Austin Independent School District (AISD) High School Exit Survey was administered online to seniors in every AISD high school during Spring 2013. 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 2013 at this campus. Where available, data are presented from previous senior classes and the district-level to compare with 2013 responses. At Eastside Memorial High School, 126 students in the Class of 2013 completed the survey, for an overall response rate of 94.0%.

At the district level, 3,772 students in the Class of 2013 completed the survey, for an overall response rate of 87.9%. District-level survey results are provided in a separate report and are available online.

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

| Reason | Campus 2012 | Campus 2013 | District 2013 |
|--|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Grades / test scores are not high enough | 27.0% | 14.3% | 16.1% |
| Cannot afford to attend school | 18.0% | 39.3% | 24.8% |
| Don't feel academically prepared for further education | 9.0% | 25.0% | 12.1% |
| Family responsibilities or child care | 9.0% | 7.1% | 9.8% |
| Need to earn an income to support myself / others | 9.0% | 21.4% | 29.3% |
| Attending a college/trade/technical school is not for me | 9.0% | 3.6% | 5.2% |
| Want some time off from school to do other things, but plan to enroll after a year | 9.0% | 42.9% | 33.9% |
| My goals do not require additional education | 18.0% | 3.6% | 10.3% |
| Not sure what I want to do yet | 27.0% | 28.6% | 30.3% |
| Other (please specify) | 18.0% | 10.7% | 11.4% |

Eastside Memorial's Class of 2013 seniors were more likely than the 2012 cohort to desire time off before pursuing postsecondary education.

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

| Activity | Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Often |
|--|-------|--------|-----------|-------|
| Talking to you about homework | 14.4% | 21.6% | 38.4% | 25.6% |
| Making sure you completed your homework | 16.3% | 17.9% | 35.8% | 30.1% |
| Asking you about what you're learning in school | 16.8% | 24.0% | 35.2% | 24.0% |
| Helping you decide what classes to take | 27.2% | 20.8% | 33.6% | 18.4% |
| Talking to you about how you're doing in your classes | 10.5% | 15.3% | 36.3% | 37.9% |
| Rewarding you when you do well in school | 21.8% | 18.5% | 31.5% | 28.2% |
| Communicating with your teachers (e.g., teacher conferences, email, and phone calls) | 16.1% | 30.6% | 31.5% | 21.8% |
| Attending school meetings | 21.8% | 28.2% | 29.8% | 20.2% |
| Attending school events (e.g., sports, performances) | 25.0% | 25.0% | 29.0% | 21.0% |
| Volunteering at your school | 55.3% | 15.4% | 22.8% | 6.5% |
| Joining and participating in the PTA | 62.1% | 14.5% | 16.1% | 7.3% |

Note. This question was changed in 2013, which precluded comparison with prior years' results.

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

| School status | Mother | Father | Sibling |
|---|--------|--------|---------|
| Did not finish high school | 49.2% | 48.7% | 17.0% |
| Graduated: high school or earned a GED | 26.3% | 28.3% | 35.1% |
| Currently attending: 2-year college /technical school | 5.1% | 0.9% | 6.4% |
| Currently attending: 4-year college | 0.8% | 0.9% | 4.3% |
| Attended: 2-year college but did not complete degree | 2.5% | 2.7% | 4.3% |
| Graduated: 2-year college/technical school | 0.8% | 0.0% | 1.1% |
| Attended: 4-year college but did not complete degree | 2.5% | 0.9% | 1.1% |
| Graduated: 4-year Bachelor's degree | 2.5% | 0.9% | 3.2% |
| Graduated: Master's degree or equivalent | 1.7% | 0.9% | 1.1% |
| Graduated: PhD, MD, JD, or other advanced degree | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Do not know or does not apply | 8.5% | 15.9% | 26.6% |

Note. This question was changed in 2013, which precluded comparison with prior years' results.

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

High School Experiences and Campus Climate

Table 5a. Please indicate the number of years of high school in which you participated in each of these school-affiliated extracurricular activities.

| In school | Did not participate | 1 year | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | Avg. # of years |
|--|---------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| Music | 52.9% | 14.0% | 16.5% | 7.4% | 9.1% | 1.06 |
| Theater | 76.9% | 19.0% | 2.5% | 1.7% | 0.0% | 0.29 |
| Dance | 65.0% | 12.5% | 8.3% | 10.0% | 4.2% | 0.76 |
| Sports | 39.8% | 19.5% | 11.4% | 11.4% | 17.9% | 1.48 |
| Academic clubs or UIL academic competitions ¹ | 76.3% | 8.5% | 4.2% | 4.2% | 6.8% | 0.57 |
| Speech/debate | 57.1% | 39.5% | 2.5% | 0.0% | 0.8% | 0.48 |
| Student government | 66.1% | 23.7% | 5.1% | 2.5% | 2.5% | 0.52 |
| Career and technical organizations | 83.3% | 5.8% | 5.8% | 2.5% | 2.5% | 0.35 |

¹Note: An acronym key is available at the end of this report.

Eastside Memorial High School senior's comment:

Eastside Memorial has offered me various opportunities to move forward with my life. I have received many internship opportunities, and I feel like all students should be allowed to have the same chances.

Eastside Memorial High School senior's advice to incoming freshmen: Start off strong with your academics, and join a team or an extracurricular activity.

Start off strong with your academics, and join a team or an extracurricular activity.

Table 5b. Please indicate the number of years of high school in which you participated in each of these activities outside of school.

| Outside school | Did not participate | 1 year | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | Avg. # of years |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| Music | 87.0% | 7.8% | 1.7% | 1.7% | 1.7% | 0.23 |
| Theater | 74.4% | 5.8% | 7.4% | 6.6% | 5.8% | 0.64 |
| Dance | 37.7% | 18.9% | 11.5% | 9.0% | 23.0% | 1.61 |
| Sports | 70.8% | 12.5% | 0.8% | 3.3% | 12.5% | 0.74 |
| Care for family members | 93.3% | 3.4% | 0.0% | 2.5% | 0.8% | 0.14 |
| Community service | 55.8% | 22.5% | 7.5% | 6.7% | 7.5% | 0.88 |
| Environmental projects | 68.9% | 17.6% | 10.1% | 1.7% | 1.7% | 0.50 |
| Boy Scouts or Girls Scouts | 70.2% | 8.3% | 6.6% | 3.3% | 11.6% | 0.78 |

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

Table 6. Please indicate the average number of hours per week you worked at a paid job during your senior year.

| Work time | Percentage who worked during senior year | | |
|--------------------|--|--------|----------|
| | Campus | Campus | District |
| | 2012 | 2013 | 2013 |
| Did not work | . | 55.7% | 47.3% |
| Less than 20 hours | . | 27.9% | 25.2% |
| 20 hours or more | . | 16.4% | 25.5% |

Note. This question was changed in 2013, which precluded comparison with prior years' results.

Table 7. How many hours per week did you typically spend studying, doing research, or completing homework assignments outside of class?

| Study time | Percentage who studied each week | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------|----------|
| | Campus | Campus | District |
| | 2012 | 2013 | 2013 |
| Did not study | . | 20.3% | 10.9% |
| 1 to 5 hours | . | 50.4% | 41.8% |
| 6 to 10 hours | . | 12.2% | 21.9% |
| 11 to 15 hours | . | 4.9% | 12.0% |
| 16 to 20 hours | . | 3.3% | 6.2% |
| More than 20 hours | . | 8.9% | 5.8% |

Note. This question was changed in 2013, which precluded comparison with prior years' results.

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).

In general, the 2013 cohort's responses were less positive than those of their 2012 counterparts.

Table 8. Please mark the answer that best indicates how you feel.

| Percentage who responded either <i>Sometimes</i> or <i>Always</i> | Campus 2012 | Campus 2013 | District 2013 |
|---|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| I can do even the hardest schoolwork if I try. | 90.0% | 88.0% | 91.4% |
| I enjoy doing my schoolwork. | 76.8% | 68.0% | 58.4% |
| I feel/felt well prepared for TAKS. | 90.0% | 80.8% | 90.0% |
| I try hard to do my best work. | 91.4% | 88.8% | 90.0% |
| I feel successful in my schoolwork. | 87.1% | 89.6% | 88.0% |
| My teachers push us to think hard about the things we read. | 89.7% | 87.0% | 82.6% |
| My teachers push everyone to work hard. | 91.7% | 85.6% | 85.9% |
| I can reach the goals I set for myself. | 97.2% | 95.1% | 94.5% |
| My homework helps me learn things I need to know. | 83.1% | 73.6% | 75.6% |
| My schoolwork makes me think about things in new ways. | 84.7% | 73.6% | 70.4% |
| I have fun learning in my classes. | 83.2% | 76.0% | 67.0% |
| My teachers connect what I am learning life outside of class. | 80.3% | 70.7% | 74.6% |
| I like to come to school. | 84.7% | 79.8% | 69.8% |

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

Table 9. 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 2012 | Campus 2013 | District 2013 |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Teamwork | 91.6% | 94.4% | 90.8% |
| Creative thinking | 97.2% | 96.0% | 90.7% |
| Problem solving | 95.8% | 97.6% | 92.6% |
| Conflict resolution | 94.3% | 94.4% | 87.3% |
| Personal health/fitness | 90.1% | 95.1% | 82.7% |
| Time management | 90.3% | 91.9% | 84.4% |
| Technology | 94.3% | 91.9% | 86.9% |

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

“Twenty-first-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.

Table 10. Rate the quality of instruction you feel you received in the following areas.

| Percentage who responded Good or Excellent | Campus 2012 | Campus 2013 | District 2013 |
|---|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| English language arts | 81.9% | 74.4% | 81.3% |
| Mathematics | 59.2% | 58.9% | 69.4% |
| Science | 77.5% | 65.6% | 69.1% |
| Social studies | 78.6% | 70.7% | 76.7% |
| Computer/Technology | 73.8% | 71.0% | 62.7% |
| Foreign language | 63.5% | 53.3% | 57.95 |
| Performing/Fine arts | 65.4% | 68.5% | 64.7% |
| Career and technical (CTE) | 52.9% | 46.8% | 42.9% |

Note. 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).

Table 11. Which of the following describes your computer access at home?

| Access | Campus 2012 | Campus 2013 | District 2013 |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| No computer | 19.0% | 10.4% | 4.9% |
| No computer, but Internet access (e.g., cell phone, iPad, or iTouch) | 7.0% | 16.5% | 8.7% |
| Computer, no Internet | 6.0% | 7.0% | 4.6% |
| Computer with Internet access | 67.0% | 66.1% | 81.8% |

Table 12. To what extent did your parents use Parent Connect/Gradespeed to monitor your grades?

| Use | Campus 2012 | Campus 2013 | District 2013 |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Never | . | 44.4% | 28.5% |
| Rarely | . | 14.5% | 14.7% |
| Sometimes | . | 21.8% | 21.6% |
| Often | . | 19.4% | 35.1% |

Note. The question was changed in 2013, which precluded comparison with prior years’ results.

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).

Table 13. How frequently do you use a computer or other Internet-capable devices (e.g., cell phone, iPod, or iPad)?

| Use | Never | Less than once a week | Once or twice a week | Every day or almost every day |
|---|-------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| To present material in class, for example, using PowerPoint? | 23.4% | 40.3% | 26.6% | 9.7% |
| To type a paper or class assignment? | 11.4% | 35.0% | 39.8% | 13.8% |
| To search the Internet to complete class-related assignments? | 4.8% | 31.5% | 42.7% | 21.0% |
| To research college / career choices? | 11.3% | 37.1% | 39.5% | 12.1% |
| To complete online forms or applications for college or employment? | 18.5% | 41.9% | 29.8% | 9.7% |
| To communicate with teachers? | 35.8% | 35.8% | 17.9% | 10.6% |
| To monitor grades/progress in school? | 17.7% | 29.8% | 27.4% | 25.0% |

Table 14. Indicate how much you agree with each of the following statements about technology use at school.

| Statement | Strongly agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know |
|--|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| Text books should be put online. | 23.4% | 48.4% | 15.3% | 2.4% | 10.5% |
| We need newer software. | 34.1% | 47.2% | 9.8% | 0.0% | 8.9% |
| My teachers effectively use the technology resources that are available. | 21.3% | 57.4% | 13.1% | 3.3% | 4.9% |
| My school's technology is up to date. It does not need upgrading. | 11.5% | 31.1% | 32.0% | 10.7% | 14.8% |
| Homework assignments should be online. | 25.4% | 32.8% | 20.5% | 8.2% | 13.1% |

Table 15. How frequently do you log into Naviance/Family Connection for the following activities?

| Activity | Never | Sometimes | Often | Very often |
|---|-------|-----------|-------|------------|
| Career exploration | 37.7% | 50.0% | 12.3% | 0.0% |
| Class rank and GPA inquiry | 30.3% | 40.2% | 17.2% | 12.3% |
| College search | 35.5% | 54.0% | 9.7% | 0.8% |
| College visit sign up | 32.3% | 46.8% | 15.3% | 5.6% |
| Counselor-directed activities (e.g., Personality Type Questionnaire or Explore Careers) | 44.7% | 43.1% | 10.6% | 1.6% |
| Resume building | 48.4% | 41.9% | 8.1% | 1.6% |

Postsecondary Preparation and Advising

Table 16. At what time in your life did you start thinking about college as a possibility after high school?

| Time frame | Campus 2012 | Campus 2013 | District 2013 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| As long ago as I can remember | 28.0% | 22.6% | 36.8% |
| In elementary school | 8.0% | 8.9% | 8.3% |
| In middle school / junior high | 30.0% | 24.2% | 21.6% |
| In high school | 30.0% | 39.5% | 30.4% |
| Never thought of college as an option | 4.0% | 4.8% | 2.8% |

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

Table 17. Overall, how well prepared or informed...

| Percentage who responded <i>Somewhat well</i> or <i>Very well</i> | Campus 2012 | Campus 2013 | District 2013 |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Were you to plan your high school course selections? | 92.9% | 92.2% | 89.5% |
| Were you to meet your college and career goals? | 81.7% | 89.7% | 87.9% |
| Have you been for the college or trade / technical school application process? | 83.0% | 81.6% | 83.5% |
| Have you been about obtaining financial aid for education after high school? | 89.9% | 93.3% | 85.4% |

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

At the district level, the percentage of students who indicated they were somewhat well or very well prepared for postsecondary activities increased over the past year.

Table 18. How did you prepare for your education after high school? (Select all that apply.)

| Type of Preparation | Campus 2012 | Campus 2013 | District 2013 |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Took college entrance tests (SAT, ACT, THEA, Compass, Asset) | 54.0% | 34.9% | 65.9% |
| Completed and submitted the FAFSA | 50.0% | 65.9% | 64.0% |
| Visited one or more colleges or technical schools | 50.0% | 48.4% | 55.7% |
| Ordered and submitted a transcript to a college or trade/ technical school. | 26.0% | 23.8% | 54.8% |
| Took one or more Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate classes | 39.0% | 27.8% | 50.0% |
| Met with a college recruiter at my high school | 41.0% | 27.8% | 41.3% |
| Took test prep class for the PSAT, SAT, ACT, etc. | 39.0% | 23.8% | 38.6% |
| Completed and submitted a scholarship application | 34.0% | 24.6% | 45.0% |
| Met with the school counselor/ADVANCE staff to discuss college plans/processes | 44.0% | 48.4% | 56.2% |
| Attended one or more college fairs | 46.0% | 41.3% | 39.1% |
| Completed or are currently enrolled in ACC courses | 40.0% | 32.5% | 36.8% |
| Participated in ACC College Connections | 29.0% | 38.9% | 5.4% |
| Took other college level courses (e.g., Texas State, Texas Tech, TSTC) | 3.0% | 6.3% | 15.3% |
| None of the above | 6.0% | 11.9% | 7.0% |

Table 19. Have you applied to the following types of postsecondary institutions?

| Institution Type | Campus 2012 | Campus 2013 | District 2013 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| 2-year | 76.1% | 60.7% | 60.1% |
| 4-year | 44.8% | 94.2% | 67.3% |
| Business/technical/vocational school | 17.4% | 3.1% | 8.7% |

Table 20. Of those who applied, what percentage of students reported being accepted to the following types of postsecondary institutions?

| Institution | Campus 2012 | Campus 2013 | District 2013 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| 2-year | 88.2% | 100.0% | 88.2% |
| 4-year | 84.6% | 88.9% | 74.0% |
| Business/technical/vocational school | 100.0% | 100.0% | 77.5% |

On average, Eastside Memorial High School's Class of 2013 seniors applied to 4.20 postsecondary institutions. Students who submitted four or more applications were found significantly more likely to become enrolled than were students who submitted fewer applications (Garland, 2008).

Based on survey responses, 8.7% of Eastside Memorial's Class of 2013 seniors planned to attend Austin Community College after graduation. Just over 7% reported plans to attend Texas State University, while 4.0% chose University of Texas–Austin.

Approximately 2.4% of seniors planned to enroll at University of Texas–San Antonio.

Table 21. Which of the following did a family member help you with to prepare for life after high school? (Select all that apply.)

| Form of help | Campus 2012 | Campus 2013 | District 2013 |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Talked to you about career and/or college options | 63.0% | 70.6% | 80.1% |
| Talked to you about finances | 61.0% | 45.2% | 67.0% |
| Talked to you about your responsibilities as an adult | 75.0% | 67.5% | 74.2% |
| Talked to you about what a career and/or college would be like | 54.0% | 50.8% | 66.2% |
| Helped you with financial aid (FAFSA and/or scholarships) | 38.0% | 52.4% | 55.0% |
| Helped you complete applications for colleges or trade/technical schools | 27.0% | 25.4% | 40.1% |
| Encouraged you to apply to several different colleges | 41.0% | 40.5% | 53.6% |
| No one in my family talked to me about or helped me with these things. | 11.0% | 8.7% | 6.0% |

Table 22. Indicate if you know at least one teacher who would do the following:

| Teacher help | Campus 2012 | Campus 2013 | District 2013 |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Would be willing to give you extra help with your school work if you needed it | 90.0% | 75.4% | 85.0% |
| Would be willing to help you with a personal problem | 72.0% | 61.1% | 71.7% |
| Cares about how you're doing in school | 87.0% | 61.9% | 76.8% |
| Would be willing to write you a letter of recommendation for a job or college | 79.0% | 59.5% | 77.8% |
| Knows what you will be doing next year | 60.0% | 46.0% | 63.1% |
| Would be willing to help you even after you graduate | 63.0% | 53.2% | 61.8% |

Table 23. Were your school counselors available to talk to you about college and careers?

| Availability | Campus 2012 | Campus 2013 | District 2013 |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Yes, this person was available and I talked to him/her. | . | 83.2% | 68.4% |
| I tried to talk to this person and wasn't able to meet with him/her. | . | 4.4% | 12.4% |
| I never tried to meet with this person. | . | 12.4% | 19.1% |

Note. This question was changed in 2013, which precluded comparison with prior years' results.

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

Table 24. Was your Project ADVANCE staff available to talk to you about college and careers?

| Availability | Campus 2012 | Campus 2013 | District 2013 |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Yes, this person was available and I talked to him/her. | . | 85.6% | 74.5% |
| I tried to talk to this person and wasn't able to meet with him/her. | . | 9.9% | 6.0% |
| I never tried to meet with this person. | . | 4.5% | 19.5% |

Note. This question was changed in 2013, which precluded comparison with prior years' results.

Table 25. Indicate whether the following people helped you with or encouraged you in any of the following activities (select all that apply).

| Activity | School counselor | Advisory teacher | Teacher | Project ADVANCE staff | ACC staff | None of these |
|--|------------------|------------------|---------|-----------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Select courses needed for work or admission to college | 34.1% | 13.5% | 16.7% | 34.1% | 15.9% | 16.7% |
| Push your academic abilities further (e.g., challenging courses, science fair or summer learning, extra credit work) | 38.9% | 16.7% | 39.7% | 17.5% | 4.0% | 19.0% |
| Take AP / honors courses | 31.7% | 9.5% | 28.6% | 14.3% | 3.2% | 38.9% |
| Take dual credit or articulated credit courses | 29.4% | 9.5% | 22.2% | 19.8% | 4.8% | 35.7% |
| Discussed career information and/or occupations you might want to pursue | 33.3% | 21.4% | 30.2% | 33.3% | 7.1% | 15.1% |
| Continue your education after high school | 42.1% | 19.8% | 35.7% | 33.3% | 8.7% | 11.1% |
| Talked to you about colleges suited to your interests and abilities | 34.1% | 15.1% | 32.5% | 32.5% | 6.3% | 15.9% |
| Encouraged you to apply to multiple schools | 27.0% | 9.5% | 20.6% | 28.6% | 2.4% | 24.6% |
| Helped you decide what school to attend | 26.2% | 12.7% | 19.0% | 24.6% | 6.3% | 27.8% |
| Helped you fill out applications for postsecondary | 25.4% | 15.1% | 15.9% | 31.0% | 5.6% | 23.0% |
| Helped you with your college application essays or personal statements | 21.4% | 9.5% | 30.2% | 25.4% | 3.2% | 23.8% |

Table 26. How do you plan to pay for your education after high school? (Select all that apply.)

| Source | Campus 2012 | Campus 2013 | District 2013 |
|---|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Scholarships and/or grants | 70.0% | 59.5% | 58.7% |
| Loans | 25.0% | 19.8% | 35.1% |
| Family or personal savings | 33.0% | 23.0% | 51.1% |
| Tuition and fees exemption (e.g., military, foster care, adoption, deaf, blind) | 16.0% | 9.5% | 8.3% |
| Working during the school year | 64.0% | 46.0% | 51.9% |
| Working during the summer | 52.0% | 47.6% | 54.2% |
| I don't know | 7.0% | 9.5% | 5.5% |

The completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (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, 2012).

Table 27. How easy has it been for you and your parents to understand the process of applying for financial aid?

| Degree of ease | Campus 2012 | Campus 2013 | District 2013 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Easy | 25.0% | 8.2% | 26.3% |
| Some parts easy, some parts difficult | 39.0% | 56.6% | 47.9% |
| Difficult | 14.0% | 27.9% | 10.6% |
| I did not apply for financial aid | 21.0% | 7.4% | 15.2% |

Eastside Memorial High School senior's comment: The teachers helped me understand things that I struggled with, like college information and grades and other things.

Table 28. If you did not submit a financial aid application, why not?

| Reason | Campus 2012 | Campus 2013 | District 2013 |
|---|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| I do not need financial aid to attend college | 7.0% | 11.1% | 22.7% |
| My parents were not willing to submit private financial information | 13.0% | 11.1% | 7.2% |
| My family did not think we would qualify or be eligible for financial aid | 13.0% | 0.0% | 16.6% |
| I do not plan to go to college | 20.0% | 0.0% | 13.7% |
| I did not know about the financial aid process | 47.0% | 77.8% | 39.9% |

Compared to the average senior in AISD, Eastside Memorial High School's 2013 seniors were significantly more likely to report that they did not submit a financial aid application because they were not aware of the financial aid process.

Table 29. 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 | 4.3% | \$1,000 | 4.3% | \$1,000 | 4.4% | \$100 | 6.1% |
| \$400 | 5.2% | \$5,000 | 8.7% | \$5,000 | 1.8% | \$1,500 | 28.1% |
| \$900 | 27.6% | \$10,000 | 13.0% | \$10,000 | 4.4% | \$5,000 | 9.6% |
| \$5,000 | 14.7% | \$15,000 | 13.9% | \$20,000 | 13.3% | \$10,000 | 4.4% |
| \$10,000 | 2.6% | \$20,000 | 16.5% | \$50,000 | 27.4% | \$15,000 | 5.3% |
| Don't know | 45.7% | Don't know | 43.5% | Don't know | 48.7% | Don't know | 46.5% |

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 1 year of college was estimated at \$1,100 by the College Board. 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).

Table 30. Where did you learn about options for paying for your education after high school? (Select all that apply.)

| Source of information | Campus 2012 | Campus 2013 | District 2013 |
|---|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Senior economics class | . | 13.5% | 19.1% |
| Financial Aid Saturday events | . | 53.2% | 19.1% |
| Talked to school counselor/college and career advisor/Project ADVANCE staff | . | 65.1% | 54.9% |
| Information from a college or university (e.g., website, brochures) | . | 25.4% | 35.7% |
| College recruiter | . | 14.3% | 18.6% |
| U.S. Department of Education or FAFSA websites | . | 26.2% | 24.6% |
| Parents or other adults | . | 34.9% | 61.7% |
| None of these | . | 5.6% | 7.6% |

Note. This question was changed in 2013, which precluded comparison with prior years' results.

At the district level, seniors most frequently reported their parents or other adults as sources of information regarding postsecondary financial support, while Eastside Memorial High School seniors most frequently indicated that their information came from Financial Aid Saturday events.

Acronym Key

The following table contains a list of acronyms being used in the High School Exit Survey summary reports. Where relevant, each acronym has a link to an external URL.

| Acronym | Definition |
|-----------------------|--|
| ACC | Austin Community College |
| AP | Advanced Placement |
| FAFSA | Free Application for Federal Student Aid |
| GPA | grade point average |
| TAKS | Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills |
| THEA | Texas Higher Education Assessment |
| TSTC | Texas State Technical College |
| UIL | University Interscholastic League |

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