

# High School Exit Survey: Eastside

## Austin Independent School District

Class of 2015

### Purpose

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Austin Independent School District (AISD) High School Exit Survey (HSES) was administered online to seniors in every AISD high school during Spring 2015. In total, 96 Eastside High School seniors completed the survey, for a response rate of 92%.

On each campus, Project ADVANCE facilitators primarily were responsible for ensuring all seniors were given the opportunity to complete the survey. Special education chairs at each campus may have provided eligible special education students with guidance and assistance in completing the survey.

The purpose of the HSES was to monitor high school students' perceptions of their high school experience. Results are used to improve the campus environment and program supports for students. Survey results also are used in the monitoring of the district's strategic plan *Goal 3: All students will graduate ready for college, career, and life in a globally competitive economy.*

## Postsecondary Aspirations, Parental Engagement, & Support

Table 1.

Over half of Eastside seniors planned to **work part time while attending college.**

Postsecondary plans	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
Continue my education	84%	75%	86%
Attend college or technical school <u>without working</u>	11%	5%	20%
Attend college or technical school while <u>working full time</u>	19%	14%	11%
Attend college or technical school while <u>working part time</u>	58%	56%	56%
Work full time only	12%	6%	4%
Work part time only	4%	3%	1%
Enlist in the military	2%	4%	3%
No plans/ not sure yet	7%	8%	4%
Other	2%	3%	2%

Table 2.

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

Semester enrollment	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
This summer	8%	10%	8%
<b>This fall</b>	79%	<b>78%</b>	85%
Next spring	12%	13%	7%

Table 3.

**One in 4 Eastside seniors planned to enroll in a **4-year institution**. Forty-two percent of seniors planned to enroll in a **2-year college and then transfer to a 4-year college**.**

Type of institution	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
<b>A 4-year college or university</b>	22%	<b>25%</b>	57%
A 2-year college or university	22%	32%	10%
<b>A 2-year community college and then transfer to a 4-year college</b>	57%	<b>42%</b>	30%
A private career or trade school	3%	1%	2%

Table 4.

**Almost 3 in 4 Eastside seniors planned to attend **Austin Community College**.**

Postsecondary institutions	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
<b>Austin Community College (ACC)</b>	70%	<b>73%</b>	35%
Texas State University	15%	4%	8%
University of Texas-Eastside	6%	5%	9%
University of Texas-San Antonio	2%	2%	4%
Texas A&M University	4%	4%	4%
St. Edward's University	2%	2%	2%
Blinn College	4%	2%	2%
University of North Texas	2%	0%	2%
Texas Tech University	0%	0%	3%
Stephen F. Eastside University	0%	0%	1%
Other	7%	9%	31%

Table 5.

Health sciences; visual and performing arts; business; and law, public safety, corrections, and security were top areas Eastside seniors planned to study in college. Four percent of Eastside seniors were interested in studying computer and information sciences, a 1% percentage point increase since 2014.

Jobs/careers	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
Health sciences	31%	29%	17%
Business	6%	10%	13%
Engineering	15%	6%	13%
Law, public safety, corrections, and security	8%	10%	6%
Computer and information sciences	3%	4%	5%
Human services	3%	3%	3%
I do not know	6%	7%	9%
Visual and performing arts	10%	11%	7%
Agricultural sciences and technologies	0%	3%	3%
Natural sciences and mathematics	3%	6%	7%
Education	3%	7%	5%
Communication	0%	0%	4%
Architecture	2%	0%	2%
Social sciences	2%	3%	3%
Hospitality and tourism	4%	0%	1%
Humanities	0%	0%	1%
Office skills	0%	1%	0%
Trade and industrial	4%	0%	1%

Table 6.

Almost half of Eastside seniors did not take a high school course in the area they planned to study in college.

	Eastside 2015	District 2015
Yes	54%	65%
No	46%	35%

Table 7.

Almost 7 and 10 Eastside seniors who did not take a course in the area they planned to study in college did not do so because **there were no such courses offered at Eastside.**

Reasons	Eastside 2015	District 2015
I wanted to, but there were no such courses offered at my school.	67%	27%
My parents did not want me to take a course in that area.	0%	1%
I wanted to, but my schedule would not allow it.	27%	51%
I was not interested in taking a course in this area in high school.	7%	18%
A counselor steered me away from those courses.	0%	1%
Other	3%	11%

Table 8.

Almost 40% of Eastside seniors who did not plan to enroll in college immediately after high school, planned to **take a year off from school to pursue other things.**

Reason	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
Financial	13%	25%	18%
Academic	13%	17%	7%
Personal obligation	27%	0%	7%
Personal preference	13%	17%	20%
Gap year	27%	38%	35%
Other	7%	4%	14%

Table 9.

Three in 4 Eastside seniors' mother's education level was a **high school diploma/GED or below.**

School status	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
Doctorate degree (e.g., PhD, EdD, etc.)	3%	4%	3%
Professional degree (e.g., MD, JD, etc.)	0%	0%	20%
Master's degree	0%	1%	9%
Bachelor's degree (4-year)	1%	2%	20%
Associate degree (2-year)	7%	0%	5%
Some college	10%	6%	13%
High school diploma or earned a GED	33%	19%	19%
Less than high school	41%	56%	24%
Don't know or does not apply	5%	12%	4%

Table 10.

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

Level of education	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
Doctorate degree (e.g., PhD, EdD, etc.)	1%	9%	12%
Master's degree	9%	18%	16%
Bachelor's degree (4-year)	31%	45%	37%
Associate degree (2-year)	12%	4%	5%
Industry license or certification	--	2%	3%
Some college	11%	4%	7%
High school or earned a GED	16%	6%	8%
I am not sure	17%	12%	12%

Table 11.

Almost 9 in 10 Eastside seniors expected to earn a **college degree or certification** in their lifetime.

Level of education	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
Doctoral or professional degree	--	7%	20%
Master's degree	--	17%	28%
Bachelor's degree (4-yr college or university)	41%	36%	35%
Associate degree (2-year community college)	20%	18%	8%
Industry license or certification (e.g., trade/technical school)	6%	9%	4%
High school diploma	7%	13%	5%

Table 12.

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

Level of education	Eastside 2015	District 2015
<b>Parents</b>	<b>84%</b>	89%
<b>Teachers</b>	<b>77%</b>	78%
College and career advisor	64%	55%
School counselor	62%	55%
Coach(es)	40%	38%
Sibling(s) or other family member(s)	52%	63%
Friend(s)	65%	75%
Other adult in my life	34%	47%
No one	5%	3%

Table 13.

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

Seniors who responded either <i>sometimes</i> or <i>often</i>	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
Talking to you about homework	68%	64%	68%
<b>Making sure you completed your homework</b>	67%	<b>70%</b>	65%
Asking you about what you're learning in school	66%	64%	65%
Helping you decide what classes to take	52%	49%	54%
<b>Talking to you about how you're doing in your classes</b>	82%	<b>73%</b>	79%
Rewarding you when you do well in school	71%	55%	56%
Communicating with your teachers	57%	44%	46%
Attending school meetings	42%	38%	47%
Attending school events	46%	21%	58%
Volunteering at your school	20%	16%	28%
Joining and participating in the PTA	9%	23%	18%
Use Parent Cloud to monitor your grades	43%	60%	51%

Table 14.

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

Teacher help	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
Would be willing to give you extra help with your school work if you needed it	92%	80%	88%
Would be willing to help you with a personal problem	79%	66%	74%
Cares about how you're doing in school	91%	65%	79%
Would be willing to write you a letter of recommendation for a job or college	82%	66%	81%
Knows what you will be doing next year	70%	56%	65%
Would be willing to help you even after you graduate	76%	54%	64%
I do not know a teacher who fits any of the items above.	--	8%	4%

## Persistence and Motivation

Table 15.

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

Percentage who responded either <i>sometimes</i> or <i>always</i>	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
I can do even the hardest schoolwork if I try.	89%	73%	92%
I enjoy doing my schoolwork.	72%	71%	59%
I feel/felt well prepared for STAAR/EOC.	82%	83%	84%
I try hard to do my best work.	95%	95%	91%
I feel successful in my schoolwork.	87%	91%	89%
My teachers push us to think hard about the things we read.	87%	88%	87%
My teachers push everyone to work hard.	90%	88%	90%
I can reach the goals I set for myself.	100%	94%	96%
My homework helps me learn things I need to know.	83%	74%	78%
My schoolwork makes me think about things in new ways.	81%	78%	73%
My teachers connect what I am learning to life outside of class.	80%	73%	70%
I have fun learning in my classes.	84%	78%	77%
I like to come to school.	84%	69%	71%

## Extracurricular Activities

Table 16.

The school-affiliated activities Eastside seniors were mostly involved in were **sports** and **speech/debate**.

In school	Did not participate	1-2 years	3-4 years
Music	60%	23%	16%
Theater/drama	74%	25%	1%
Dance	66%	27%	7%
<b>Sports</b>	45%	<b>24%</b>	<b>31%</b>
Academic clubs/UII competitions	66%	20%	14%
<b>Speech/debate</b>	50%	<b>48%</b>	<b>1%</b>
Student government	62%	37%	1%
Career and technical student organizations	89%	10%	1%

Table 17.

Eastside seniors were mostly involved in **community service** and **sports** outside of school.

Outside of school	Did not participate	1-2 years	3-4 years
Music	72%	17%	11%
Theater/drama	91%	9%	0%
Dance	78%	16%	7%
<b>Sports</b>	54%	<b>22%</b>	<b>24%</b>
Providing routine care for family members	79%	12%	9%
<b>Community service</b>	69%	<b>26%</b>	<b>5%</b>
Environmental projects/activities	71%	27%	2%
Boy/Girl Scouts	97%	3%	0%

## Work and Study Time

Table 18.

Almost 6 in 10 Eastside seniors **did not work** during their senior year.

Work time	Percentage who worked <i>during</i> senior year		
	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
<b>Did not work</b>	46%	<b>58%</b>	39%
Less than 20 hours	15%	11%	28%
20 hours or more	40%	30%	33%

Table 19.

Forty-five and 43% of Eastside seniors who worked during their senior year worked **to help their family with bills/expenses** and because they **liked the freedom of having their own money**, respectively.

Reason	Eastside 2015	District 2015
To save money for college	3%	19%
<b>To help my family with bills/expenses</b>	<b>45%</b>	20%
<b>I like the freedom of having my own money</b>	<b>43%</b>	52%
Other	10%	9%



Table 20.

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

Study time	Percentage who studied each week		
	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
None	12%	18%	9%
<b>1 to 5 hours</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>45%</b>	40%
6 to 10 hours	17%	15%	22%
11 to 15 hours	10%	8%	12%
16 to 20 hours	4%	5%	9%
More than 20 hours	9%	8%	9%

## Instructional Quality

Table 21.

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

Percentage who responded <i>somewhat well</i> or <i>very well</i>	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
Teamwork	95%	87%	91%
Creative thinking	96%	94%	90%
Problem solving	99%	93%	93%
Conflict resolution	91%	88%	87%
Personal health/fitness	94%	84%	81%
Time management	88%	87%	84%
Technology	89%	87%	84%

Table 22.

Eastside seniors rated the quality of their **English language arts** and **computer/technology** instruction most favorably.

Percentage who responded <i>good</i> or <i>excellent</i>	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
<b>English language arts</b>	78%	<b>72%</b>	81%
Social studies	81%	64%	75%
Performing/Fine arts	68%	67%	73%
Career and technical (CTE)	75%	64%	71%
Science	69%	60%	70%
Mathematics	65%	62%	73%
<b>Computer/Technology</b>	73%	<b>71%</b>	64%
Foreign language	64%	62%	64%

## Technology Access and Use

Table 23.

Fifty-three percent of Eastside seniors have a **computer with Internet access** at home. Almost 30% of seniors **did not have a computer, but they did have Internet access at home**.

Access	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
No computer	13%	11%	5%
<b>No computer, but Internet access</b>	24%	<b>29%</b>	12%
Computer, no Internet	12%	6%	4%
<b>Computer with Internet access</b>	50%	<b>53%</b>	79%

Table 24.

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

Percentage answering <i>yes</i>	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
<b>Class rank and GPA inquiry</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>76%</b>	82%
College search	73%	69%	70%
Counselor-directed activities	73%	46%	63%
College visit sign up	62%	67%	55%
Career exploration	60%	44%	48%
Resume building	37%	31%	36%

## Postsecondary Preparation and Advising

Table 25.

Four in 10 Eastside seniors did not start thinking about college until **high school**.

Time frame	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
As long as I can remember	20%	16%	37%
In elementary school	5%	7%	9%
In middle/junior high school	30%	29%	21%
<b>In high school</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>41%</b>	31%
I've never thought about college	5%	2%	3%

Table 26.

**More than 8 in 10 Eastside seniors who did not think about college until high school did not think about it until their junior and senior years.**

Grade	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	18%	8%	20%
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	27%	8%	25%
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	46%	55%	37%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9%	29%	18%

Table 27.

**Eastside seniors prepared for postsecondary education mostly by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).**

Type of preparation	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
Took college entrance tests (e.g., SAT, ACT, THEA, COMPASS, ASSET)	39%	30%	60%
Took one or more Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate classes	33%	25%	51%
Took test prep class for the PSAT, SAT, ACT, etc.	19%	30%	45%
Completed or are currently enrolled in ACC courses	26%	23%	32%
Took other college level courses (e.g., Texas State, Texas Tech, TSTC)	5%	3%	9%
Visited one or more colleges or technical schools	58%	45%	58%
Met with the school counselor/ADVANCE staff to discuss college plans/processes	46%	41%	50%
Attended one or more college fairs	41%	40%	43%
Met with a college representative or recruiter at my high school	33%	32%	41%
Participated in ACC College Connections	38%	28%	24%
Attended Financial Aid Saturday event(s)	--	17%	10%
<b>Completed and submitted the FAFSA</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>68%</b>
Completed and submitted a scholarship application	33%	33%	47%
Ordered and submitted a transcript to a college or trade/ technical school.	29%	25%	56%
I have not completed any activities to prepare for continuing my education	18%	11%	17%
I have done nothing to academically prepare for continuing my education	33%	34%	19%
I have not completed any forms to prepare for continuing my education	14%	25%	19%

Table 28.

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

Form of help	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
Talked to you about career and/or college options	68%	63%	79%
Talked to you about finances	50%	49%	65%
<b>Talked to you about your responsibilities as an adult</b>	70%	<b>71%</b>	75%
Talked to you about what a career and/or college would be like	57%	50%	62%
Helped you with financial aid (FAFSA and/or scholarships)	45%	35%	55%
Helped you complete applications for colleges or trade/technical schools	20%	22%	40%
Encouraged you to apply to several different colleges	39%	32%	53%
No one in my family talked to me about or helped me with these things.	6%	10%	6%

Table 29.

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

Activity	None of these people	School counselor	Teacher	College & career advisor
Select courses needed for work or admission to college	21%	39%	21%	40%
<b>Push your academic abilities further</b>	19%	29%	<b>49%</b>	29%
Take AP / honors courses	41%	26%	36%	12%
Take dual credit or articulated credit courses	38%	31%	31%	17%
Get information about careers/occupations	14%	31%	32%	49%
<b>Continue your education after high school</b>	12%	<b>41%</b>	<b>48%</b>	50%
Apply to multiple schools	32%	20%	20%	45%
Decide what school to attend	39%	20%	25%	37%
<b>Fill out applications for postsecondary education</b>	17%	25%	17%	<b>55%</b>
Write college application essays or personal statements	30%	16%	35%	37%

Table 30.

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

Availability	School Counselor	College & Career Advisor
Yes, this person was available and I talked to him/her.	71%	86%
I tried to talk to this person and wasn't able to meet with him/her.	7%	6%
I never tried to meet with this person.	21%	21%

## Applications to Postsecondary Institutions

Table 31.

Eastside seniors who applied to 2-year institutions submitted **1 to 3 applications**, on average.

Institution type	0 applications	1-3 applications	4 or more applications
2-year	22%	74%	4%
4-year	57%	34%	9%
Business/technical/vocational school	83%	12%	5%

Table 32.

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

Institution type	0 acceptances	1-3 acceptances	4 or more acceptances
2-year	42%	54%	4%
4-year	70%	26%	4%
Business/technical/vocational school	87%	6%	7%

## Postsecondary Financial Literacy

Table 33.

**Three in 4 Eastside seniors planned to pay for college with scholarships and/or grants.**

Source	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
Scholarships and/or grants	60%	75%	68%
Loans	36%	32%	42%
Family or personal savings	48%	33%	63%
Tuition and fees exemption	15%	6%	10%
Working during the school year	76%	53%	59%
Working during the summer	76%	58%	61%
I don't know	11%	4%	4%

Table 34.

**Eastside seniors learned about financial aid for college mostly from their school counselor and Project ADVANCE advisor.**

Source of information	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
Senior economics class	18%	16%	21%
Financial Aid Saturday events	52%	27%	16%
Talked to school counselor/college and career advisor/Project ADVANCE staff	70%	72%	48%
Information from a college or university (e.g., website, brochures)	38%	29%	35%
College recruiter	32%	19%	18%
U.S. Department of Education or FAFSA websites	29%	19%	23%
Parents or other adults	47%	42%	63%
Social media (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, etc.)	17%	10%	12%
None of these	4%	4%	10%

Table 35.

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

Degree of ease	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
Easy	28%	34%	24%
Some parts easy, some parts difficult	60%	45%	47%
Difficult	5%	8%	12%
I did not apply for financial aid	8%	13%	16%

Table 36.

Half of Eastside seniors who did not submit the FAFSA did not do so because they did not plan to go to college.

Reason	Eastside 2014	Eastside 2015	District 2015
I did not need financial aid to attend college	0%	0%	18%
My parents were not willing to submit private financial information	0%	17%	6%
My family did not think we would qualify or be eligible for financial aid	33%	8%	19%
I did not plan to go to college	0%	50%	18%
I did not know about the financial aid process	67%	25%	38%

## Acronym Key

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

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