



# Austin Independent School District

## Department of Program Evaluation

### RESULTS OF THE AISD HIGH SCHOOL EXIT SURVEY CLASS OF 2008

#### LASA HIGH SCHOOL

The sixth annual AISD High School Exit Survey was administered online<sup>1</sup> to seniors in every AISD High School during the Spring of 2008. This report contains the results for the LASA High School Class of 2008. Where available, longitudinal data are presented to compare with the current 2008 responses. In addition, average results from all AISD high schools are presented alongside results for LASA for comparison purposes. In total, 3,192 students in the Class of 2008 completed the survey, including 155 students from LASA. Longitudinal tests for statistical significance were conducted with district-level data (see district-level report).

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

|                  | Percentage of Enrolled Seniors Responding <sup>2</sup> |               |               |               |
|------------------|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                  | Class of 2005  | Class of 2006 | Class of 2007 | Class of 2008 |
| LASA             | NA   | 96.7%         | 72.4%         | 80.3%         |
| All High Schools | 85.3%  | 86.0%         | 82.0%         | 74.8% ↓       |

Student responses are organized into seven general topics areas: Open-Ended Comments; Postsecondary Intentions and Family Support; High School Experiences, Campus Climate, and Civic Engagement; Instruction and Technology; Postsecondary Preparation and Advising; and Final Thoughts. Some of the notable trends at this campus include:

- **Activity participation and employment.** LASA seniors appeared to have higher levels of participation in music and environmental extracurriculars than AISD seniors as a whole. Fifty-three percent of LASA seniors report 'not working' during the school year in comparison to 36% of all seniors; however, LASA seniors worked at rates comparable to the rest of the district during the summer before their senior year.
- **Study time.** LASA seniors appeared to study more hours per week and to study with fewer distractions than other AISD seniors.
- **Postsecondary preparation and advising.** LASA seniors appeared to feel slightly less prepared for the college and financial aid application processes, but seemed to have taken more steps to apply for college than district seniors overall. Seniors appeared to have rated

<sup>1</sup> Facilitators on each campus, primarily *Project ADVANCE* counselors, were responsible for ensuring that all graduating seniors were given the opportunity to complete the survey. *Note: LASA does not have a Project ADVANCE counselor, so students were not asked to respond to items about Project ADVANCE.*

<sup>2</sup> Corrected response rate is 80.3%(see Appendix in district-level report for detailed information about response rates for 2008). Response rates are based on enrollment during the sixth 6-week reporting period. Due to the enrollment of some special education seniors with severe cognitive disabilities, a 100% uncorrected response rate was not expected.

the assistance received from campus staff (i.e., counselors, advisors, teachers) lower than that of parents/family, friends, and their own research.

## INDIVIDUAL ITEM RESPONSES FOR LASA HIGH SCHOOL

### OPEN ENDED COMMENTS

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

One hundred and twenty-six LASA students (83%) provided a response<sup>3</sup>. Comments mostly focused on scheduling, TAKS testing, and the split between LASA and LBJ high schools. LASA seniors reported that the long school day plus the amount of their homework decreased their time spent preparing for college. Most students said studying for the TAKS distracted them from their class work and they disliked the division between LASA and LBJ. Commonly identified themes expressed by the Class of 2008 include:

- **Scheduling.** Many students talked about the problems they experienced because of schedule changes. *“During the year there were many disorganizations that I have noticed and they have cost time. For example, “C” days on Mondays really do not accomplish that much because time is constricted in all 8 classes;” “You really made it harder on us by making the school year end later because we have less time to prepare for AP Tests;” and “LASA should get a shorter school day or at least less homework.”* Some students mentioned final exemptions should be restored. *“Taking away final exemptions was probably the worst decision I feel that this administration made. We work hard all year for the grades we receive and felt it was a snub of sorts to have not be rewarded any more for our hard work. It made us feel less motivated.”* and *“Students, even seniors, need to be able to exempt from finals somehow. Whether through AP testing or some other path, final exam exemptions need to be available.”*
- **TAKS testing.** Students reported the benchmark and TAKS tests were unnecessary. *“The TAKS benchmark tests take away time that we could be learning in class. I feel that I lost days of valuable information because I was forced to bubble in answers of information that I learned in elementary school.”* Another student said, *“The TAKS test is a complete waste of time, and the only thing worse is when people ‘teach to the test’.”*
- **LASA and LBJ.** The split between LASA and LBJ seemed to create tension among the students. *“The split between LBJ and LASA needs to be evaluated; if it is helping LBJ that is wonderful but otherwise it is making for an odd dynamic in our school.” “The schools motto “Two schools one goal” is frighteningly reminiscent to the 60’s concerning civil right ‘separate but equal’;”* and *“If there are going to be two schools with two different cultures there should be different buildings to avoid tension between students and staff.”*

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<sup>3</sup> All student quotes are taken directly from the survey, as typed by the students. Examples are given to illustrate common themes.

## POSTSECONDARY INTENTIONS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

**Table 2. Within a Year After Graduating From High School, What Do You Plan To Do? (Item 7)**

| Plan                   | All HS    |           | LASA HS   |           |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                        | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 |
| Continue my education* | 89.0%     | 92.2%     | 96.7%     | 92.3%     |
| Travel                 | 18.3%     | 19.3%     | 18.9%     | 31.0%     |
| Be a full-time parent  | 2.2%      | 2.2%      | 0.0%      | 2.6%      |
| Go into the military   | 2.6%      | 2.8%      | 1.6%      | 3.9%      |
| Work full-time         | 13.2%     | 13.6%     | 10.7%     | 8.4%      |
| Work part-time         | 35.5%     | 41.1%     | 32.8%     | 54.2%     |
| No plans               | 5.6%      | 2.4%      | 1.6%      | 3.9%      |

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

\*Item was recoded to match longitudinal data. In 2008, this involved two items: “Attend a school or college for a business, technical, trade, or vocational certificate” and “Attend a college or university for a degree.” The percentage represents the total percent of students who chose either or both options.

**Table 3. If You Are Not Planning to Pursue Further Education at This Time, What Are Your Primary Reasons? (Item 8)**

| Reason   | All HS    |           | LASA HS   |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|  | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 |
| Cannot afford to attend school                   | 25.9%     | 16.9%     | 33.3%     | 8.3%      |
| Childcare responsibilities                       | 7.8%      | 4.4%      | 0.0%      | 8.3%      |
| Other family responsibilities                    | **        | 11.7%     | *         | 16.7%     |
| Don’t like attending school                      | 15.8%     | 19.4%     | 0.0%      | 25.0%     |
| Grades/test scores aren’t high enough            | 19.8%     | 16.5%     | 0.0%      | 16.7%     |
| Don’t feel academically prepared                 | 13.4%     | 13.7%     | 33.3%     | 8.3%      |
| Need income to support myself                    | 28.9%     | 21.8%     | 66.7%     | 8.3%      |
| Need income to support others                    | 9.6%      | 6.1%      | 0.0%      | 0.0%      |
| My career goals do not require further education | **        | 10.1%     | 33.3%     | 0.0%      |
| Other  | 16.8%     | 22.6%     | 33.3%     | 0.0%      |

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

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

**Table 4. If You Are Not Planning to Pursue Further Education at This Time, Do You Intend to Pursue It at a Later Time? (Item 9)**

| Response                    | All HS    |           | LASA HS   |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                             | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 |
| Probably or Definitely Yes* | 51.9%     | 59.2%     | 0.0%      | 81.8%     |
| Maybe                       | 21.3%     | 19.3%     | 0.0%      | 0.0%      |
| Probably or Definitely No*  | 4.7%      | 10.5%     | 100.0%    | 0.0%      |
| Don’t know                  | 22.1%     | 11.0%     | 0.0%      | 18.2%     |

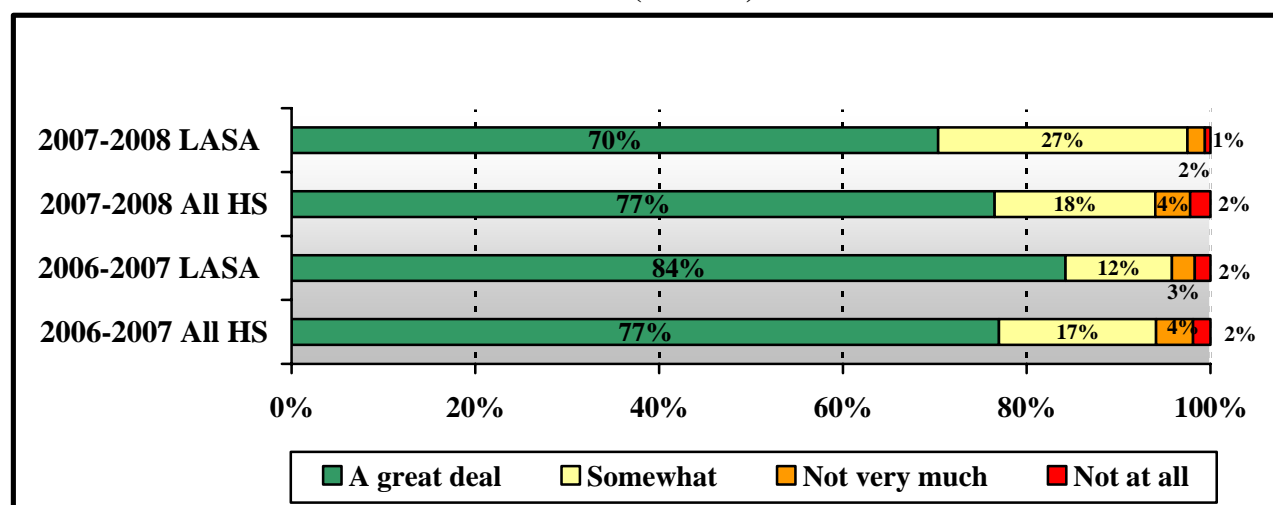
\*Response options were collapsed for ease in reporting. Because very few students indicated that they would not pursue further education within a year, percentages should be interpreted with caution.

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

| Response | 2007-2008 |         |
|----------|-----------|---------|
|          | All HS    | LASA HS |
| Yes      | 26.6%     | 18.2%   |
| No       | 30.13%    | 36.4%   |
| Not Sure | 43.2%     | 45.5%   |

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

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



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

| Activity   | 2007-2008 |         |
|--|-----------|---------|
|  | All HS    | LASA HS |
| Working with you on homework or school projects                                    | 54.6%     | 37.4%   |
| Volunteering at your school  | 40.0%     | 31.2%   |
| Helping you decide what classes to take  | 60.2%     | 42.2%   |
| Attending school activities or meetings  | 54.9%     | 47.1%   |
| Communicating with your teachers.  | 60.6%     | 49.0%   |
| School leadership opportunities (Campus Advisory Council, event committees, etc.)* | 29.1%     | 18.2%   |
| Attending athletic events and competitions*  | 58.8%     | 41.3%   |
| Attending academic events and competitions*  | 37.0%     | 29.9%   |
| Attending performance events (e.g., dance, theater, band)*                         | 53.3%     | 56.8%   |
| Joining and participating in the PTA*  | 27.1%     | 21.9%   |

*Note.* Percentage is of the number of students reporting that parents were involved at least "Occasionally." Response options include: Never, Rarely, Occasionally, Often, and Consistently.

\*New items included corresponding with items from the AISD Parent Survey.

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

|              | All HS    |           | LASA HS   |           |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|              | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 |
| <b>“Yes”</b> | 29.1%     | 30.0%     | 10.0%     | 15.4%     |

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

| Education Level   | 2007-2008 |        |         |        |
|---|-----------|--------|---------|--------|
|   | All HS    |        | LASA HS |        |
|   | Mother    | Father | Mother  | Father |
| <b>Did not finish high school</b>   | 18.6%     | 17.9%  | 11.0%   | 9.1%   |
| <b>Graduated from high school or earned a GED</b>   | 17.4%     | 16.9%  | 9.7%    | 9.7%   |
| <b>Attended a 2-yr community/junior college or vocational/technical school, but no degree</b> | 8.6%      | 6.5%   | 2.6%    | 1.9%   |
| <b>Graduated from a 2-yr community/junior college or vocational/technical school</b>          | 5.4%      | 3.9%   | 5.8%    | 3.2%   |
| <b>Attended a 4-yr college, but did not complete a degree</b>                                 | 6.5%      | 7.0%   | 5.8%    | 9.1%   |
| <b>Graduated from college</b>   | 21.6%     | 19.2%  | 26.6%   | 19.5%  |
| <b>Completed a Master’s degree or equivalent</b>  | 12.1%     | 12.5%  | 23.4%   | 24.0%  |
| <b>Completed a Ph.D., M.D., or other advanced professional degree</b>                         | 3.8%      | 6.4%   | 13.6%   | 20.8%  |
| <b>Don’t Know or Does Not Apply</b>   | 6.0%      | 9.6%   | 1.3%    | 2.6%   |

## HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCES, CAMPUS CLIMATE, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

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

| # of schools     | All HS    |           | LASA HS   |           |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                  | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 |
| <b>1</b>         | 76.1%     | 77.5%     | 90.2%     | 90.3%     |
| <b>2</b>         | 16.8%     | 16.8%     | 4.1%      | 8.4%      |
| <b>3 or more</b> | 7.2%      | 5.6%      | 1.6%      | 1.3%      |

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

|                                   | All HS<br>2007-2008<br>Percentage<br>participating<br>1 or more years | LASA HS<br>2007-2008<br>Percentage<br>participating<br>1 or more years |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>In school</b>                  |   |  |
| Music                             | 35.2%   | 53.9%  |
| Theater/Drama                     | 20.4%   | 19.2%  |
| Dance                             | 23.2%   | 17.6%  |
| Sports                            | 58.8%   | 59.2%  |
| UIL Academic Competition          | 18.8%   | 19.2%  |
| Speech/Debate                     | 21.2%   | 18.4%  |
| Student Government                | 16.5%   | 13.5%  |
| Other                             | 30.7%   | 37.1%  |
| <b>Outside of school</b>          |   |  |
| Music                             | 30.3%   | 46.0%  |
| Theater/Drama                     | 11.7%   | 12.8%  |
| Dance                             | 17.0%   | 17.0%  |
| Sports                            | 52.0%   | 53.3%  |
| Community Service/Volunteering    | 57.1%   | 53.3%  |
| Environmental Projects/Activities | 25.4%   | 38.4%  |
| Boy/Girl Scouts                   | 8.9%  | 10.1%  |
| Family Care                       | 19.8%   | 23.5%  |
| Other Organizations               | 13.1%   | 16.4%  |

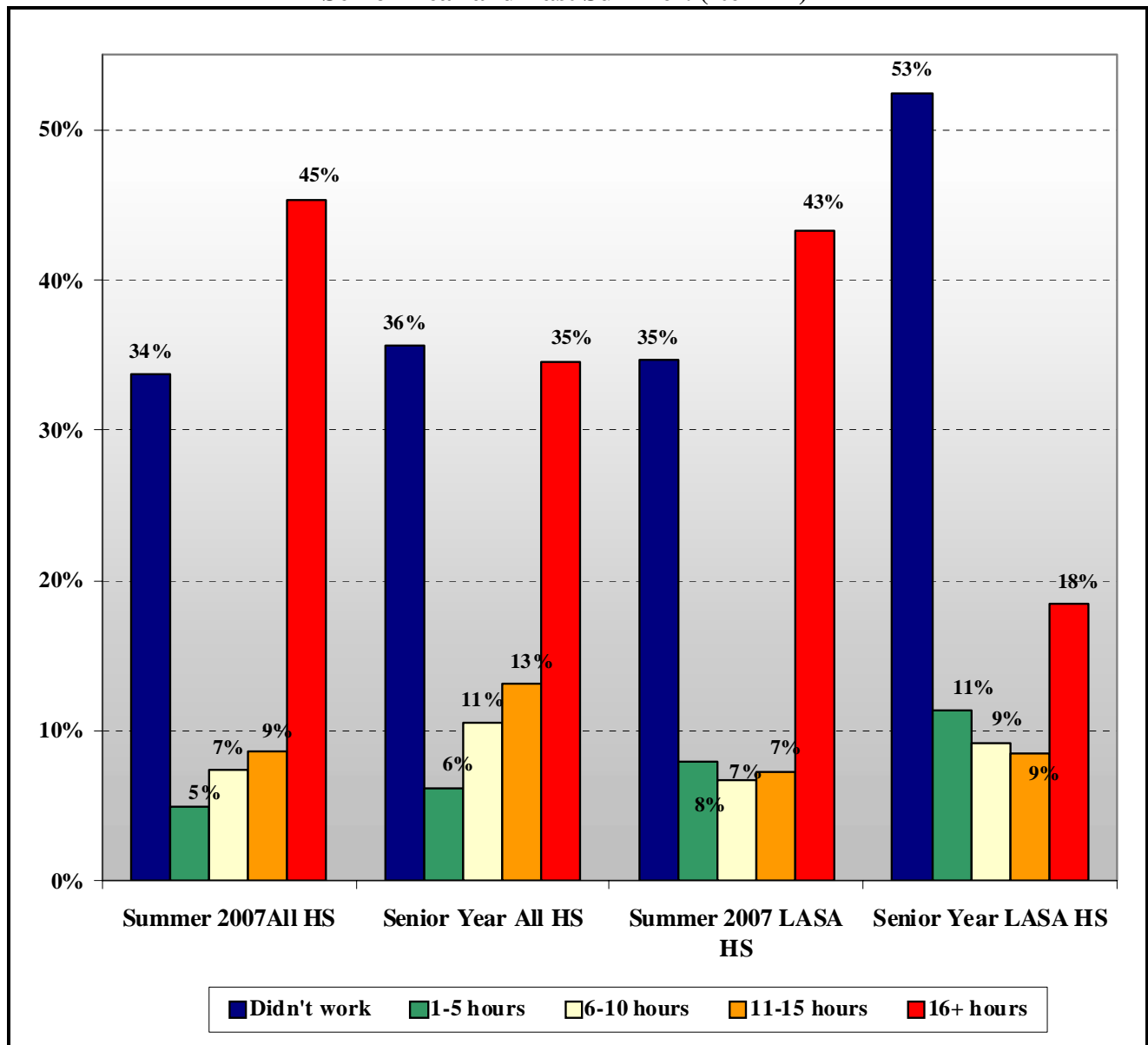
*Note.* Respondents may select more than one option; percentages will not total 100%. Percentages indicate the number of students who reported at least one year of participation.

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

| Years   | 2007-2008 |         |
|---------|-----------|---------|
|         | All HS    | LASA HS |
| 0 Years | 24.4%     | 27.7%   |
| 1 Year  | 28.2%     | 34.8%   |
| 2 Years | 26.2%     | 19.4%   |
| 3 Years | 13.7%     | 8.4%    |
| 4 Years | 7.5%      | 9.7%    |

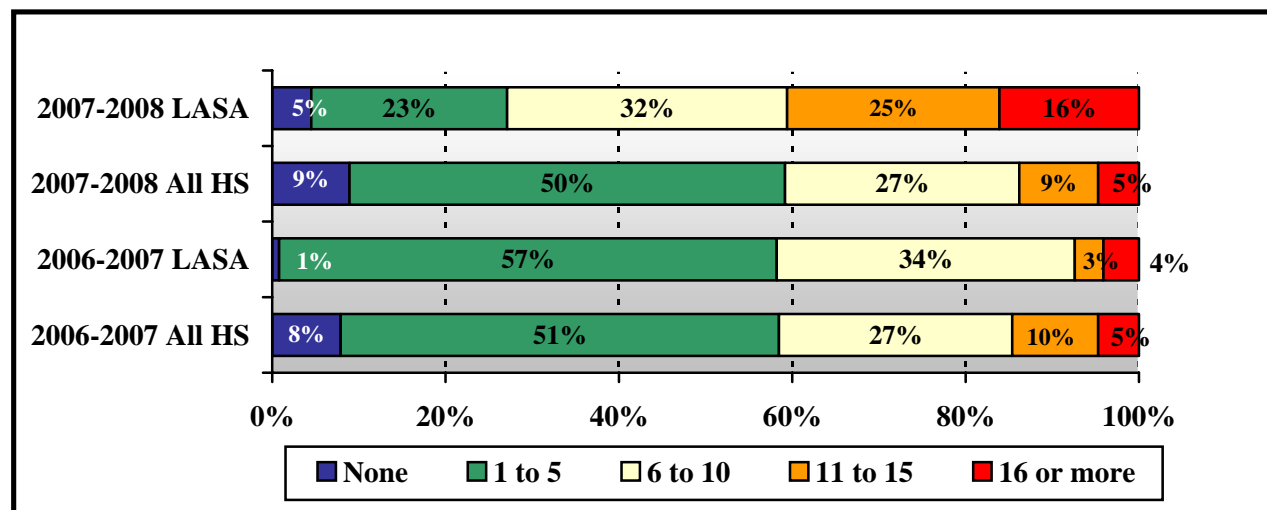
Note. This item was new in 2008.

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

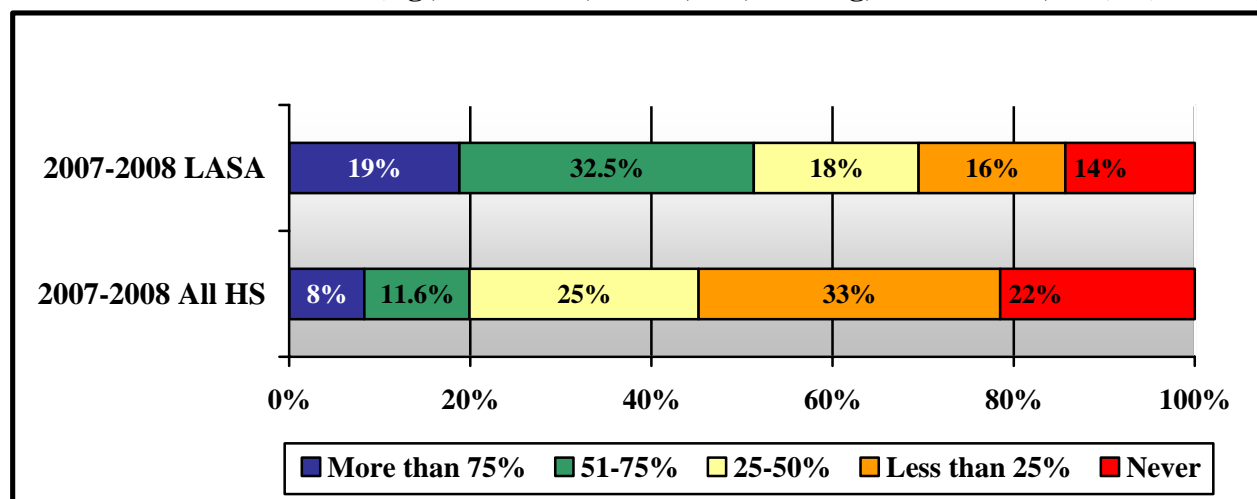


Note. This item was new in 2008.

**Figure 3. Thinking Back on Your Years in High School, How Many Hours per Week Did You Typically Spend Studying, Doing Research, or Completing Homework Assignments Outside of Class? (Item 23)**



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



*Note.* This item was new in 2008.



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

|   |           | 2007-2008     |         |
|---|-----------|---------------|---------|
|   | All<br>HS | LASA HS       | LASA HS |
|   | Seniors   | Grade<br>9-11 | Seniors |
| School climate  |           |               |         |
| I feel safe at my school  | 3.4       | 3.4           | 3.3     |
| My classmates show respect to each other  | 2.9       | 3.3           | 3.0     |
| The consequences for breaking school rules<br>are the same for everyone         | 2.7       | 3.2           | 2.6     |
| Adults at this school listen to student ideas<br>and opinions                   | 2.8       | 3.1           | 2.9     |
| There is at least one adult at my school who I<br>can go to if I have a problem | 3.3       | 3.4           | 3.1     |
| My teachers are fair to everyone  | 2.9       | 3.1           | 2.9     |
| Academic climate  |           |               |         |
| My homework helps me learn things I need<br>to know.                            | 2.9       | 2.9           | 2.8     |
| I know how I am doing in school   | 3.4       | 3.3           | 3.5     |
| My teachers expected me to do my best work.                                     | 3.6       | 3.7           | 3.6     |
| My classes were rigorous and challenging*                                       | 3.1       | *             | 3.5     |
| My high school coursework has been relevant<br>to my life*                      | 2.7       | *             | 2.7     |

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

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

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

| Question   | 2007-2008         |                      |                   |                      |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
|  | All HS            |                      | LASA HS           |                      |
|  | Students Under 18 | Students 18 or older | Students Under 18 | Students 18 or older |
| Are you registered to vote?  | n/a               | 51.0%                | n/a               | 62.6%                |
| Have you voted in any school board, city, county, state, or national election? | n/a               | 23.3%                | n/a               | 34.6%                |
| Will you register to vote after your 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday?                | 77.3%             | n/a                  | 85.4%             | n/a                  |
| Do you plan to vote in the presidential election in November? *                | 66.2%             | 70.3%                | 75.0%             | 72.9%                |

\*This response option was new in 2008.

## INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY

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

| Area                    | Somewhat well or Very well |           |           |           |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                         | All HS                     |           | LASA HS   |           |
|                         | 2006-2007                  | 2007-2008 | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 |
| Teamwork                | *                          | 88.6%     | *         | 85.2%     |
| Creative Thinking       | 90.8%                      | 90.6%     | 93.3%     | 91.6%     |
| Problem Solving         | 92.9%                      | 91.5%     | 95.0%     | 92.3%     |
| Conflict Resolution     | 84.6%                      | 82.8%     | 85.7%     | 76.6%     |
| Personal Health/Fitness | 78.5%                      | 78.6%     | 89.0%     | 61.9%     |
| Time Management         | *                          | 80.8%     | *         | 79.9%     |
| Technology              | *                          | 84.6%     | *         | 92.3%     |

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

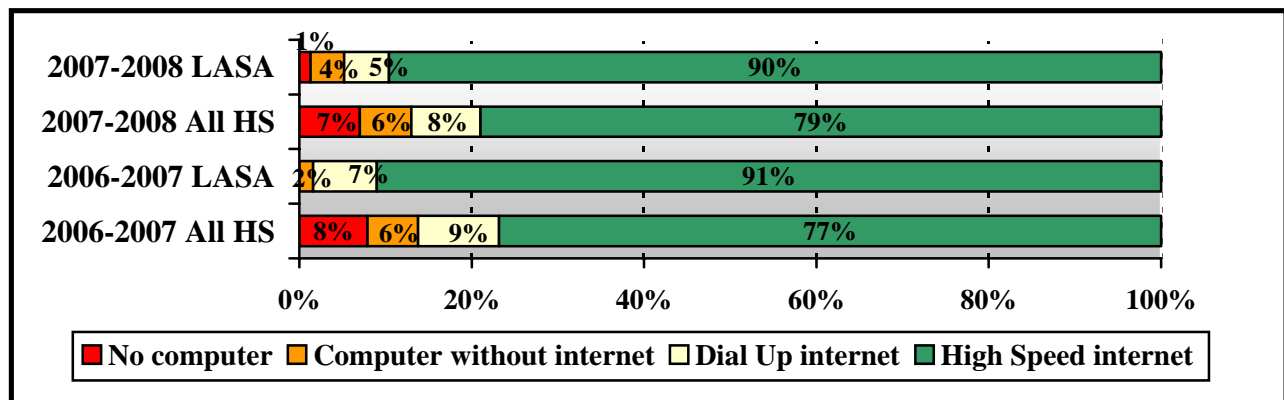
\*Indicates a response option added in 2008.

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

| Area                 | Good or Excellent |           |           |           |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                      | All HS            |           | LASA HS   |           |
|                      | 2006-2007         | 2007-2008 | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 |
| Writing              | 82.6%             | 81.3%     | 84.9%     | 81.9%     |
| Mathematics          | 71.3%             | 70.7%     | 78.2%     | 82.6%     |
| Science              | 68.9%             | 69.5%     | 62.2%     | 88.4%     |
| Social Studies       | 84.2%             | 82.8%     | 90.8%     | 83.7%     |
| Computer/Technology  | 71.0%             | 71.9%     | 82.2%     | 83.7%     |
| Foreign Language     | 64.5%             | 63.9%     | 61.0%     | 63.9%     |
| Performing/Fine Arts | 72.2%             | 73.9%     | 80.7%     | 63.9%     |

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

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



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

| Use  | Once a Week or More<br>2007-2008 |         |
|--|----------------------------------|---------|
|  | All HS                           | LASA HS |
| At home?   | 86.7%                            | 97.4%   |
| At school?   | 74.0%                            | 84.5%   |
| To present material in class, for example, using PowerPoint?                     | 23.5%                            | 11.0%   |
| To type a paper or class assignment?   | 55.4%                            | 79.4%   |
| To search the Internet to complete class-related assignments?                    | 61.6%                            | 80.0%   |
| To research college/career choices?  | 50.6%                            | 48.7%   |
| To complete online forms or applications for college/employment?                 | 44.0%                            | 43.1%   |
| To communicate with teachers (e.g., email, IM, etc.)?                            | 20.8%                            | 22.1%   |
| To communicate with friends (e.g., email, IM, blog, Facebook, etc.)?             | 74.8%                            | 88.3%   |
| To participate in online communities (Facebook, blogs, discussion boards, etc.)? | 56.9%                            | 72.1%   |

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

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

| Use  | Agree or Strongly Agree<br>2007-2008 |         |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------|
|  | All HS                               | LASA HS |
| My teachers effectively use the technology resources that are available.                       | 85.7%                                | 87.5%   |
| I would like to use more electronic communication with my classmates as part of my schoolwork. | 79.9%                                | 71.4%   |
| I would like to use more electronic communication with my teachers.                            | 73.2%                                | 71.2%   |
| I would like to use more online resources.   | 82.1%                                | 70.6%   |

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

## POST-SECONDARY PREPARATION AND ADVISING

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

| Time   | All HS    |           | LASA HS   |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|  | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 |
| As long as I can remember  | 39.1%     | 40.5%     | 29.9%     | 68.2%     |
| In elementary school   | *         | 8.5%      | 12.8%     | 11.0%     |
| In middle/junior high school                                     | 21.0%     | 21.8%     | 24.8%     | 6.5%      |
| In high school   | 25.3%     | 26.8%     | 30.8%     | 12.3%     |
| I've never thought about college as an option after high school. | 2.5%      | 2.3%      | 1.7%      | 1.9%      |

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

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

| Preparation  | Somewhat well or Very well 2007-2008 |         |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------|
|  | All HS                               | LASA HS |
| How well prepared were you to plan your high school course selections?   | 91.2%                                | 85.7%   |
| How well prepared were you to meet your college and career goals?  | 88.4%                                | 91.5%   |
| How well prepared are/were you for the college/technical/vocational school application process?                            | 83.4%                                | 76.6%   |
| How well informed are/were you about obtaining financial aid for education after high school (whether or not you applied)? | 81.6%                                | 71.4%   |
| I received extra help early in the school year so I could graduate on time (percent responding "yes")                      | 23.4%                                | 6.5%    |

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

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

| Preparation  | All HS    |           | LASA HS   |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|  | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 |
| Took the PSAT examination                          | 57.9%     | 68.0%     | 89.3%     | 90.3%     |
| Took AP/IB classes                                 | 45.3%     | 48.6%     | 91.8%     | 87.1%     |
| Visited campuses                                   | 44.0%     | 51.8%     | 62.3%     | 65.2%     |
| Attended college fairs                             | 44.4%     | 48.6%     | 63.9%     | 63.2%     |
| Completed and submitted a FAFSA                    | 41.3%     | 49.3%     | 72.1%     | 76.1%     |
| Completed and submitted a scholarship application  | 30.8%     | 41.5%     | 59.0%     | 76.1%     |
| Took college entrance tests                        | 65.6%     | 72.4%     | 93.4%     | 92.9%     |
| Took test prep class                               | 38.2%     | 41.7%     | 38.5%     | 42.6%     |
| Completed ACC courses                              | 23.3%     | 29.4%     | 45.1%     | 54.8%     |
| Ordered and submitted transcripts                  | 40.3%     | 50.3%     | 77.9%     | 79.4%     |
| Applied to a 2-year college (including ACC)*       | 49.8%     | 41.1%     | 22.1%     | 13.5%     |
| Applied to a 4-year college*                       | 69.1%     | 63.9%     | 97.5%     | 89.7%     |
| Applied to a business/technical/vocational school* | 13.8%     | 6.5%      | 4.9%      | 3.9%      |

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

\*An answer to this item was required in 2006-07, therefore percentages may not be entirely comparable.

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

| Program   | 2007-2008 |         |
|---|-----------|---------|
|   | All HS    | LASA HS |
| Project ADVANCE                                 | 26.1%     | 1.9%    |
| AVID  | 8.9%      | 1.9%    |
| ACC College Connections                         | 17.1%     | 10.3%   |
| College Forward                                 | 3.0%      | 0.6%    |
| Hispanic Mother/Daughter                        | 3.0%      | 3.2%    |
| Talent Search/Trio                              | 2.6%      | 1.9%    |
| Upward Bound                                    | 1.8%      | 0.6%    |
| Gear Up   | 3.1%      | 0.6%    |
| Breakthrough                                    | 1.5%      | 2.6%    |
| College 101                                     | 3.3%      | 1.3%    |
| I did not participate in any programs like this | 41.6%     | 72.9%   |
| Other   | 4.9%      | 5.2%    |

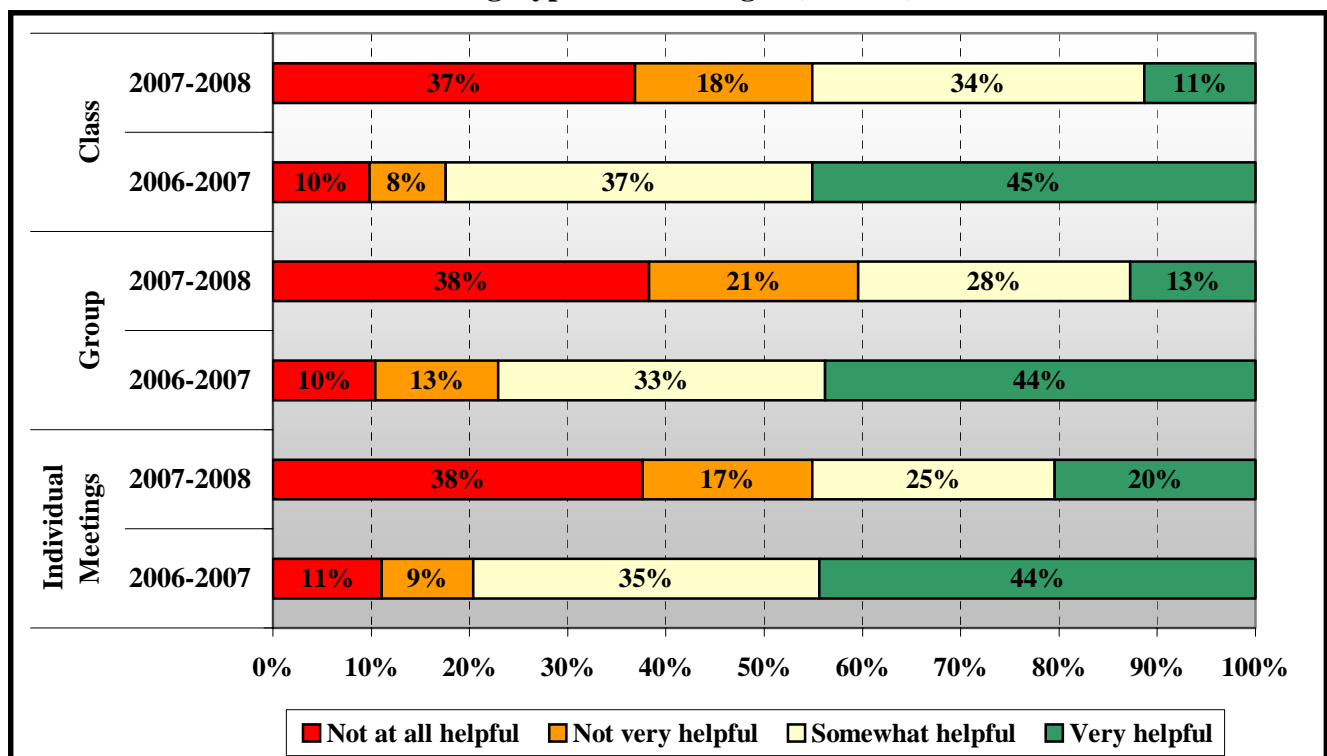
*Note.* This item is new to the 2008 Exit Survey.

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

| Benefit   | 2007-2008 |         |
|---|-----------|---------|
|   | All HS    | LASA HS |
| They encouraged me to attend school regularly               | 35.3%     | 26.2%   |
| They helped me choose the HS courses to prepare for college | 31.8%     | 19.1%   |
| They explained the financial aid process to me              | 37.9%     | 21.4%   |
| They were available to help with school-related issues      | 29.1%     | 26.2%   |
| They helped me deal with personal issues                    | 18.7%     | 16.7%   |
| They helped me believe that college was right for me        | 33.4%     | 19.1%   |
| They helped me apply to college                             | 47.3%     | 33.3%   |
| Other   | 8.6%      | 2.4%    |

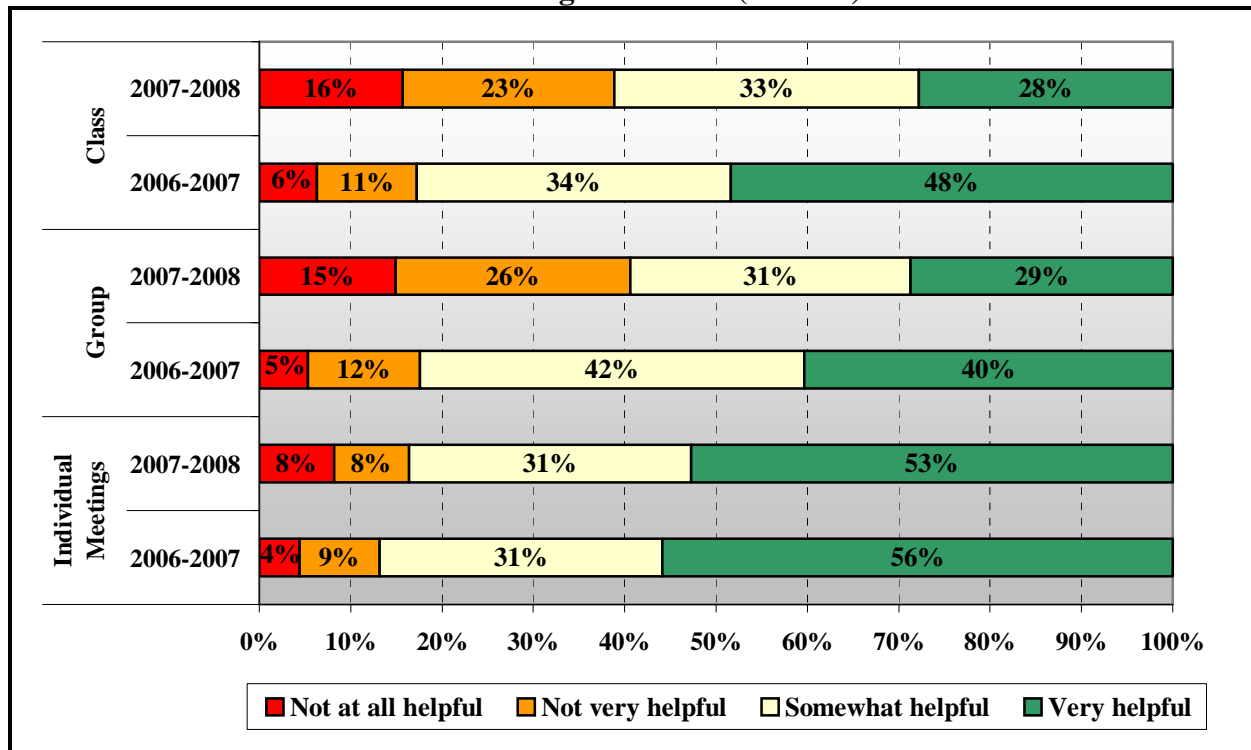
*Note.* This item was new in 2008.

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

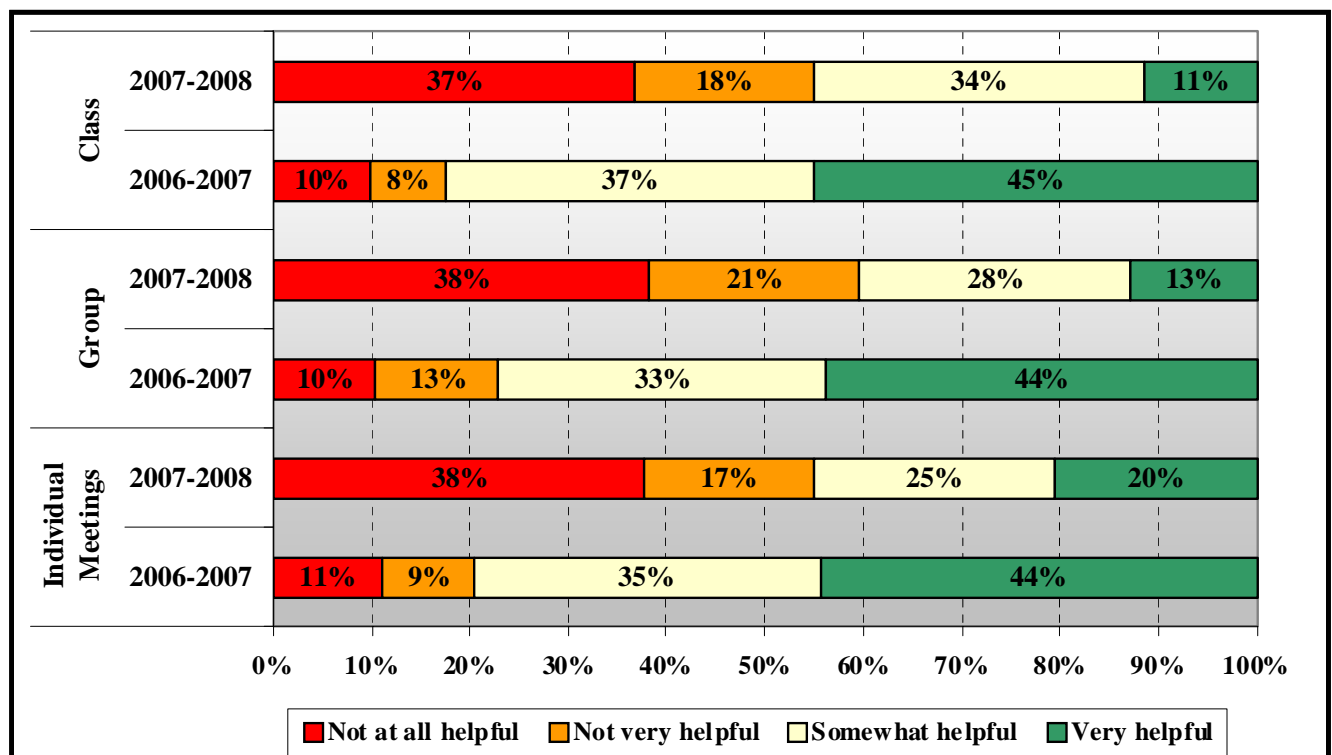


*Note.* In 2007, there were separate items for Advocate and Advisory teachers. The 2006-2007 data reported here are regarding Advisory teachers only.

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

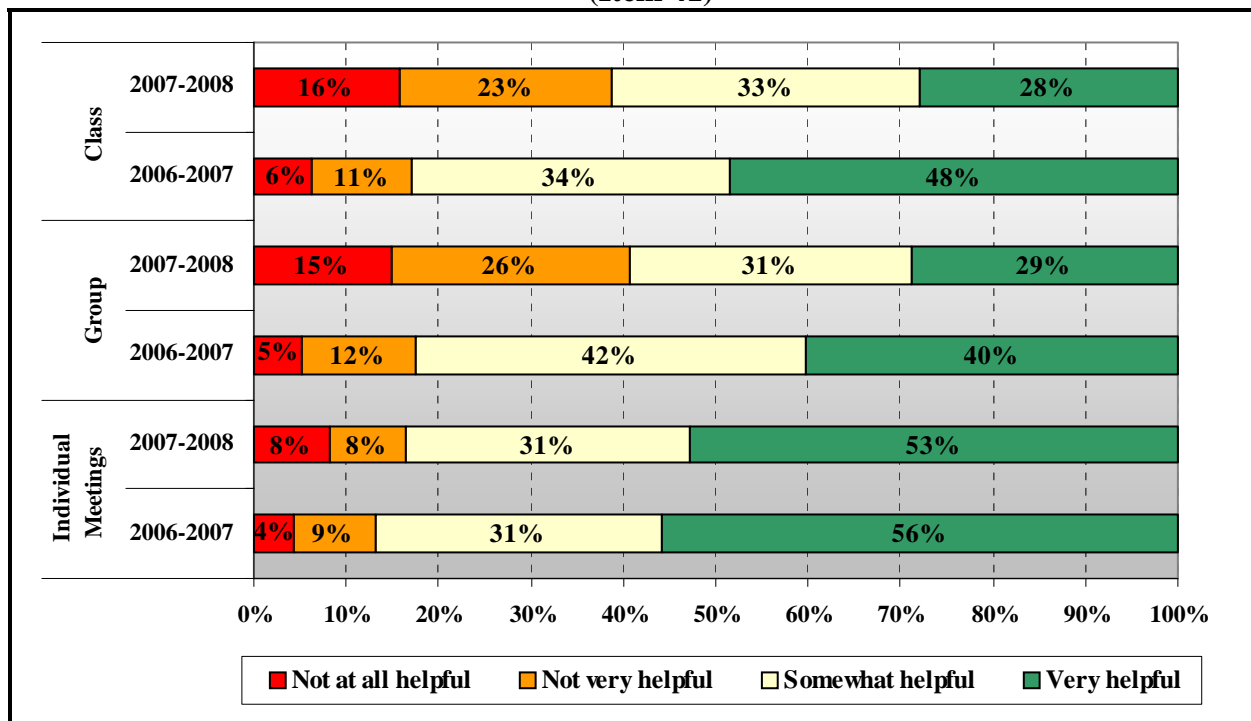


**Figure 8. How Helpful Was Your Advocate/Advisory Teacher in the Following Types of Meetings? (Item 40)**



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

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



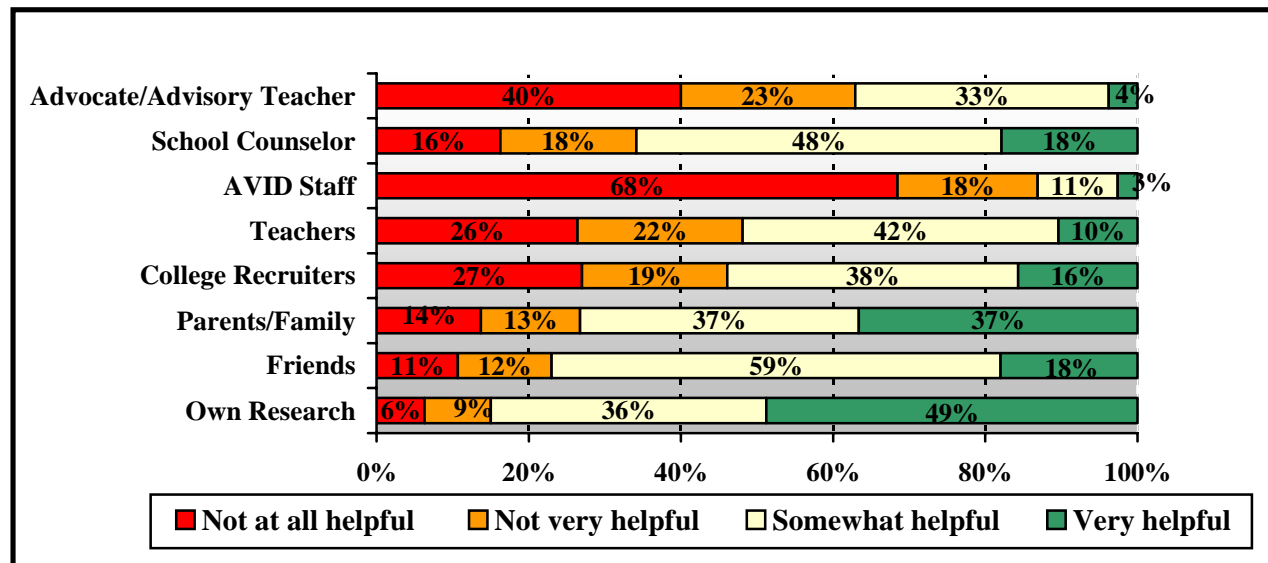
**Table 23. For Which of the Following Issues Did You Meet With a School Counselor?  
(Item 42)**

| Issue                                   | 2007-2008 |         |
|---|-----------|---------|
|   | All HS    | LASA HS |
| Scheduling                              | 77.5%     | 85.8%   |
| Course selection & placement            | 58.4%     | 60.0%   |
| Graduation plans                        | 53.2%     | 65.2%   |
| 4 year plan                             | 26.4%     | 29.7%   |
| Graduation credit verification          | 37.4%     | 42.6%   |
| Testing interpretation                  | 17.0%     | 10.3%   |
| Career information                      | 18.5%     | 13.5%   |
| College information/applications        | 38.8%     | 72.3%   |
| Writing resumes/ job applications       | 11.2%     | 11.0%   |
| Financial aid information/ applications | 21.3%     | 36.8%   |
| Scholarship information/applications    | 24.1%     | 36.8%   |
| Writing college essays                  | 11.5%     | 13.5%   |
| Conflict resolution                     | 12.2%     | 10.3%   |
| Personal and/or family issues           | 13.2%     | 13.5%   |
| Parent conference                       | 10.4%     | 11.0%   |
| Teacher conference                      | 6.4%      | 5.2%    |
| Grades/test scores/academic performance | 41.6%     | 46.5%   |
| Other                                   | 3.2%      | 3.9%    |

\*Response option was new in 2008.



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



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

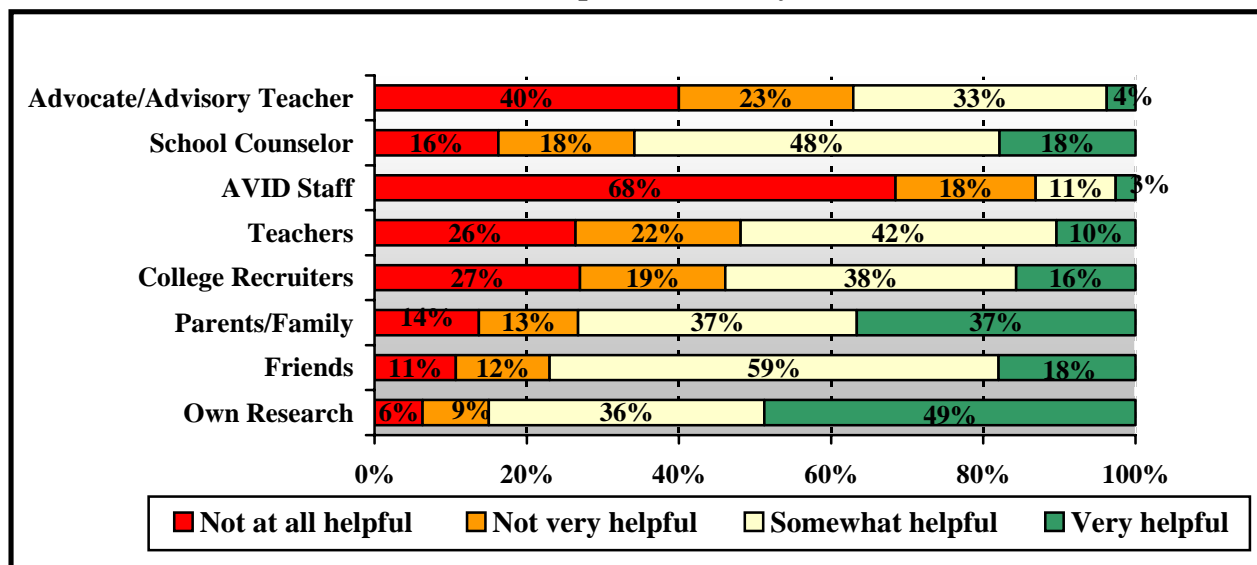
**Table 24. How Important Is Each of the Following in Choosing a College? (Item 36)**

| Reason  | Somewhat or Very important<br>2007-2008 |         |
|---|---|---------|
|   | All HS                                  | LASA HS |
| College expenses                                  | 91.7%                                   | 94.8%   |
| Availability of financial aid                     | 90.1%                                   | 92.9%   |
| Availability of specific courses or curriculum    | 95.1%                                   | 98.0%   |
| Reputation of the college in athletic programs    | 61.4%                                   | 44.2%   |
| Social life at the college                        | 86.4%                                   | 87.7%   |
| Ability to live at home and attend college        | 61.5%                                   | 37.0%   |
| Ability to live away from home*                   | 78.3%                                   | 81.0%   |
| Job or employment placement record of the college | 81.9%                                   | 78.6%   |
| Reputation of the college in academic programs    | 90.1%                                   | 78.6%   |
| Easy admission standards                          | 72.0%                                   | 49.4%   |
| Ability to take courses online                    | 54.5%                                   | 27.9%   |
| Study abroad opportunities*                       | 77.1%                                   | 76.0%   |
| Service learning opportunities*                   | 74.9%                                   | 61.7%   |
| The school accepts dual-credit courses*           | 75.5%                                   | 69.5%   |
| The school accepts AP/IB credits*                 | 77.0%                                   | 79.2%   |

*Note.* Response options include: Not Important, Somewhat Important, and Very Important.

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

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



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

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

| Degree of ease                    | 2007-2008 |         |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------|
|                                   | All HS    | LASA HS |
| Very Easy                         | 17.0%     | 11.7%   |
| Easy                              | 21.2%     | 24.0%   |
| Somewhat Easy, Somewhat Difficult | 36.2%     | 39.6%   |
| Difficult                         | 7.9%      | 11.7%   |
| Very Difficult                    | 3.9%      | 3.2%    |
| Did Not Apply for Financial Aid   | 13.9%     | 9.7%    |

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

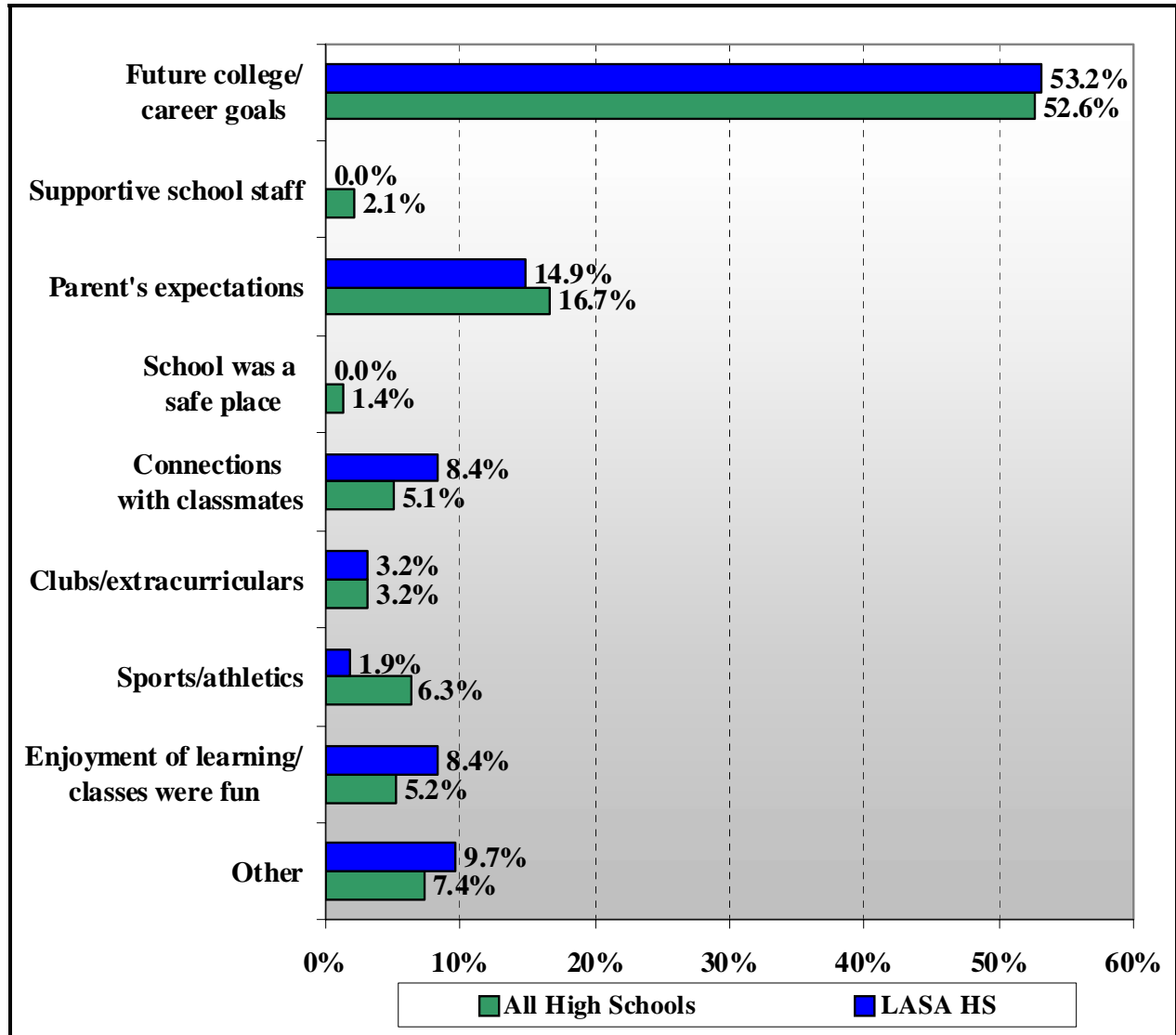
**Table 26. How Do You Plan to Pay for Your Education After High School? (Item 45)**

| <b>Means of payment</b>               | <b>2007-08</b> |                |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                       | <b>All HS</b>  | <b>LASA HS</b> |
| <b>Financial aid</b>                  | 57.1%          | 61.3%          |
| <b>Scholarships</b>                   | 48.9%          | 69.7%          |
| <b>Personal savings</b>               | 36.0%          | 49.0%          |
| <b>Family savings</b>                 | 45.8%          | 65.8%          |
| <b>Family members will take loans</b> | 13.5%          | 19.4%          |
| <b>I will take loans</b>              | 28.0%          | 39.4%          |
| <b>Grants</b>                         | 26.7%          | 27.1%          |
| <b>Working during the school year</b> | 42.3%          | 54.8%          |
| <b>Working during summer</b>          | 45.4%          | 65.8%          |
| <b>Work-study programs on campus</b>  | 19.0%          | 31.6%          |
| <b>Don't know/unsure</b>              | 14.8%          | 16.1%          |

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

## FINAL THOUGHTS

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



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