



## Survey Report

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The sixth annual Austin Independent School District (AISD) High School Exit Survey was administered online to seniors in every AISD high school during Spring 2009. Facilitators on each campus, primarily *Project ADVANCE* counselors, were responsible for ensuring that all graduating seniors were given the opportunity to complete the survey.

This report contains the results for the LASA High School Class of 2009. Where available, longitudinal data are presented to compare with the 2009 responses. In addition, average results from all AISD high schools are presented alongside results for LASA for comparison purposes. In total, 3,365 students in the Class of 2009 completed the survey, including 192 students from LASA. Longitudinal tests for statistical significance were conducted with district-level data (see district-level report). Table 1 presents longitudinal response rates by campus and by district. Next, major findings are presented, followed by open-ended campus-level responses and, finally, responses to the multiple choice items from the survey.

The report is structured as follows. First, a brief summary of key findings from the 2009 High School Exit Survey is provided. This summary is followed by a selection of open-ended student comments that capture the predominant themes that emerged from the student comments. Last, the detailed, item-specific results for each question from the survey are presented.

**Table 1. High School Exit Survey Response Rates, Classes 2007-2009**

	Class of 2007	Class of 2008	Class of 2009
All high schools	82.0%	74.8%	78.8%
LASA	72.4%	80.3%	97.0%

### Major Findings

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

- **Activity participation and employment.** LASA seniors appeared to have higher levels of participation in music and environmental extracurriculars than AISD seniors as a whole. Thirty-four percent of LASA seniors report ‘not working’ during the school year in comparison to 19% 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 seemed to have taken more steps to apply for college than district seniors overall. They were also less likely to participate in several college preparation activities than their district-wide peers, including *Project ADVANCE*, *AVID*, and *ACC College Connections*.

## INDIVIDUAL ITEM RESPONSES FOR LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY (LASA) HIGH SCHOOL

### OPEN ENDED COMMENTS

The responses below are to the question, “*What is the ONE thing that you especially want the administration of AISD to know?*”

One hundred and twenty-four (65%) provided a response. Most comments focused on the exceptionality of LASA and internet use restrictions. Commonly identified themes expressed by the Class of 2009<sup>1</sup> include:

- **LASA and LBJ.** The split between LASA and LBJ seemed to create tension among the students. “*Please treat LASA better, we always get ignored, or have programs or rule applied to us that are onerous and unnecessary for us. We would really do better with our own campus too.*” “*No one likes the split between LBJ and LASA. It feels like segregation. Maybe you should give some more funding to LBJ. Maybe you should campaign to change people's attitudes and how the administrators/hall monitors treat the students differently from the two different schools. I'm just tired of seeing my black friends being told to 'go back downstairs' (the hall monitors think they're skipping class, because they think they're LBJ students hanging out upstairs when they're really LASA students).*” “*GIVE LASA THE ABILITY TO MANAGE ITS OWN SCHOOL. GIVE US OUR OWN BUILDING. OUR ADMINISTRATION KNOWS HOW TO EDUCATE US MORE PROFICIENTLY THAN AISD. SO PLEASE, IF YOU WISH US TO ACHIEVE HIGHER LEARNING, LEAVE US ALONE.*”
- **Internet restrictions.** Several students complained about the restrictions on internet usage. “*Seriously, remove the internet blocking. It's basic supply and demand, the reason we have a drug problem, etc. If you take something away, people want it more. If you removed the ban, it would not negatively effect schoolwork, it would improve moral, and it would result in fewer disciplinary actions.*” “*I believe that AISD is too strict about its internet policy. I don't understand why games, videos, and music are not allowed in class, as long as they are not disturbing others. Also, AISD's internet filters block some sites that contain information that could aid students in research projects.*”

<sup>1</sup> All student quotes are taken directly from the survey, as typed in by the students. Examples are given to illustrate common themes.

## POSTSECONDARY INTENTIONS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

**Table 2. Within A Year After Graduating From High School, What Do You Plan To Do? (Item 6)**

	LASA 2007	LASA 2008	LASA 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Continue my education*	96.7%	92.3%	95.3%	89.0%	92.2%	93.1%
Go into the military	1.6%	3.9%	2.1%	2.6%	2.8%	3.9%
Be a full-time parent	0.0%	2.6%	0.0%	2.2%	2.2%	1.7%
Work full-time	10.7%	8.4%	8.9%	13.2%	13.5%	11.7%
Work part-time	32.8%	54.2%	34.4%	35.5%	41.1%	32.9%
No plans	1.6%	3.9%	2.1%	5.6%	2.4%	2.3%

*Note.* Respondents could select more than one option, so percentages may not total 100%.

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

**Table 3. If You Are Not Planning To Pursue Further Education At This Time, What Are Your Primary Reasons? (Item 7)**

	LASA 2007	LASA 2008	LASA 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Cannot afford to attend school	40.0%	8.3%	37.5%	30.6%	16.9%	33.0%
Childcare or family responsibilities	0.0%	25.0%	0.0%	9.8%	14.9%	11.4%
Don't like attending school	0.0%	25.0%	0.0%	22.4%	19.4%	17.6%
Grades/test scores aren't high enough	20.0%	16.7%	37.5%	23.0%	16.5%	21.6%
Don't feel academically prepared	0.0%	8.3%	12.5%	15.8%	13.7%	17.0%
Need income to support myself	20.0%	8.3%	25.0%	34.4%	21.8%	28.4%
Need income to support others	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.4%	6.0%	10.8%
Other	7.1%	33.3%	50.0%	16.8%	22.6%	12.9%

*Note.* Respondents could select more than one option, so percentages may not total 100%.

**Table 4. If You Are Not Planning To Pursue Further Education At This Time, Do You Intend To Pursue It At A Later Time? (Item 8)**

	LASA 2007	LASA 2008	LASA 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Probably or definitely yes	100.0%	81.8%	87.5%	61.7%	59.2%	66.2%
Maybe	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	20.6%	19.3%	24.1%
Probably or definitely no	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.2%	10.5%	4.2%
Don't know	0.0%	18.2%	0.0%	11.5%	11.0%	5.6%

*Note.* Response options were collapsed for ease in reporting.

**Table 5. To What Extent Were Your Parents Involved In The Following School-Related Things? (Item 9)**

<i>*Percentage who responded parents were involved at least Occasionally</i>	LASA 2007	LASA 2008	LASA 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
<b>Volunteering at your school</b>	42.0%	31.2%	35.1%	38.6%	40.0%	30.3%
<b>Working with you on homework or school projects</b>	63.0%	37.4%	40.2%	54.8%	54.6%	46.8%
<b>Helping you decide what classes to take</b>	61.9%	42.2%	42.4%	60.1%	60.2%	53.4%
<b>Attending school meetings</b>	62.2%	47.1%	51.8%	57.4%	54.9%	45.9%
<b>Communicating with your teachers</b>	63.0%	49.0%	47.4%	59.6%	60.6%	52.1%
<b>Participating in school leadership opportunities</b>	.	18.2%	18.4%	.	29.0%	17.9%
<b>Attending athletic events</b>	.	41.3%	48.7%	.	58.8%	51.5%
<b>Attending academic events and competitions</b>	.	29.9%	23.8%	.	36.9%	25.4%
<b>Attending performance events</b>	.	56.8%	51.1%	.	53.3%	45.0%
<b>Joining and participating in the PTA</b>	.	21.9%	22.1%	.	27.1%	16.5%

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

\* Response options were *Never*, *Rarely*, *Occasionally*, and *Often*. In 2008, *Consistently* was an additional response option; in 2009, it was removed. Thus, results may not be equivalent between years.

**Table 6. How Far Did Your Parents Go In School? Indicate Your Mother And Father's Highest Level Of Education. (Item 12)**

	LASA Mother	LASA Father	LASA Sibling*	All HS Mother	All HS Father	All HS Siblings
Did not finish high school	13.1%	13.0%	9.0%	18.4%	18.7%	11.2%
Graduated from high school or earned a GED	13.1%	15.8%	19.7%	19.6%	18.0%	22.9%
Attended a 2-yr community/junior college or vocational/technical school, but no degree	7.5%	4.5%	0.8%	8.5%	6.0%	10.3%
Graduated from a 2-yr community/junior college or vocational/technical school	4.5%	2.6%	0.8%	5.2%	4.1%	3.6%
Attended a 4-yr college, but did not complete a degree	14.9%	14.5%	9.8%	14.0%	13.2%	8.0%
Graduated from college	16.2%	12.6%	21.3%	13.7%	12.5%	15.5%
Completed a Master's degree or equivalent	17.0%	17.5%	6.6%	11.1%	12.1%	3.5%
Completed a Ph.D., M.D., or other advanced professional degree	10.8%	14.5%	0.8%	3.6%	6.3%	1.4%
Don't Know or Does Not Apply	2.8%	5.0%	31.1%	5.9%	9.1%	23.6%

\* New response option in 2009

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

Table 7. How Many Different High Schools Have You Attended? (Item 3)

	LASA 2007	LASA 2008	LASA 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
1	94.0%	90.3%	88.9%	76.1%	77.6%	70.1%
2	4.3%	8.4%	8.0%	16.8%	16.8%	18.4%
3 or more	1.7%	1.3%	3.1%	7.2%	5.6%	11.5%

Table 8. Please Indicate The Number Of Years Of High School In Which You Participated In Each Of These Extracurricular Activities. (Items 13 &amp; 15)

<i>*Percentage who reported at least 1 year of participation</i>	LASA 2008	LASA 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
<i>In school</i>				
Music	53.9%	45.5%	35.1%	33.6%
Theater	19.2%	15.1%	20.4%	18.6%
Dance	17.6%	18.7%	23.2%	22.1%
Sports	59.2%	65.8%	58.8%	57.9%
UIL academic competitions	19.2%	32.6%	18.8%	20.0%
Speech/debate	18.4%	16.3%	21.2%	20.9%
Student government	13.5%	15.2%	16.4%	16.3%
Career and technical student organizations	.	12.9%	.	14.5%
<i>Outside school</i>				
Music	46.0%	45.2%	30.3%	30.5%
Theater	12.8%	6.5%	11.7%	7.9%
Dance	17.0%	11.4%	17.0%	15.0%
Sports	53.3%	48.4%	52.0%	50.9%
Community service/volunteering	75.0%	80.6%	57.1%	62.1%
Environmental project/activities	38.4%	35.8%	25.4%	28.0%
Boy/Girl Scouts	10.1%	14.6%	8.9%	8.0%
Family care	23.5%	22.7%	19.8%	22.4%

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

\*Respondents could select more than one option, so percentages may not total 100%.

**Table 9. For Each Of These Extracurricular Activities, Did You Spend More Than 10 Hours Per Week During Your Senior Year On Them? (Items 14 & 16)**

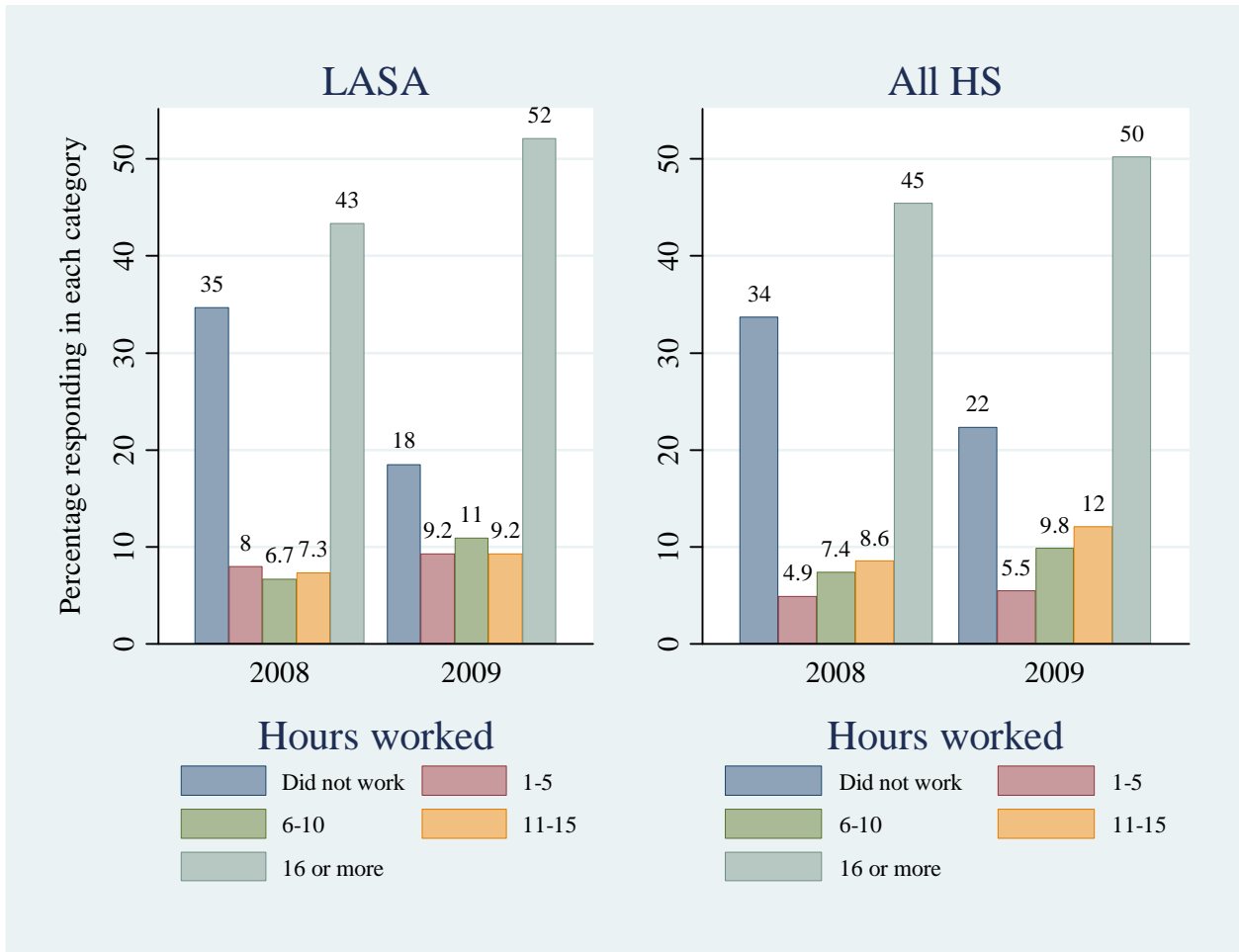
<i>*Percentage of seniors indicating they spent more than 10 hours per week on each activity.</i>	LASA 2009	All HS 2009
<i>Inside school</i>		
Music	12.2%	8.0%
Theater	4.9%	3.2%
Dance	2.7%	3.8%
Sports	17.5%	23.4%
UIL academic competitions	3.8%	2.3%
Speech/debate	3.8%	1.3%
Student government	1.1%	0.9%
Career and technical student organizations	1.6%	2.3%
<i>Outside school</i>		
Music	8.1%	6.6%
Theater	0.5%	1.5%
Dance	2.7%	2.9%
Sports	14.7%	19.1%
Community service/volunteering	9.0%	6.3%
Environmental project/activities	5.9%	1.8%
Boy/Girl Scouts	2.2%	0.6%
Family care	6.0%	7.2%

\* Respondents could select more than one option, so percentages may not total 100%.

**Table 10. Please Indicate The Number Of Years Of High School That You Have Been Employed (Either During The Year Or During The Summer). (Item 17)**

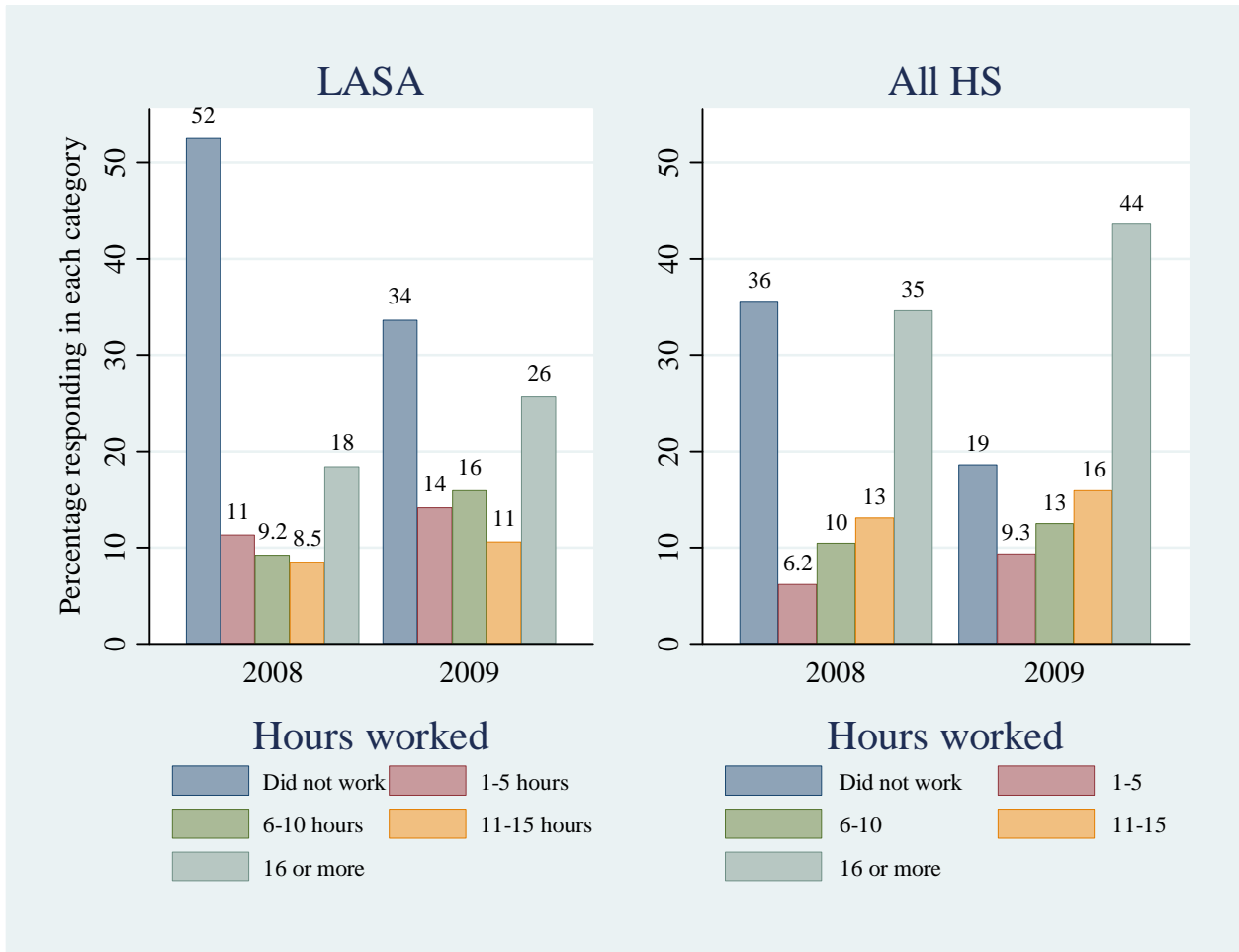
	LASA 2008	LASA 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
0	27.7%	37.7%	24.4%	27.9%
1	34.8%	25.7%	28.2%	26.8%
2	19.4%	20.9%	26.2%	24.5%
3	8.4%	8.9%	13.7%	12.9%
4	9.7%	6.8%	7.5%	7.9%

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

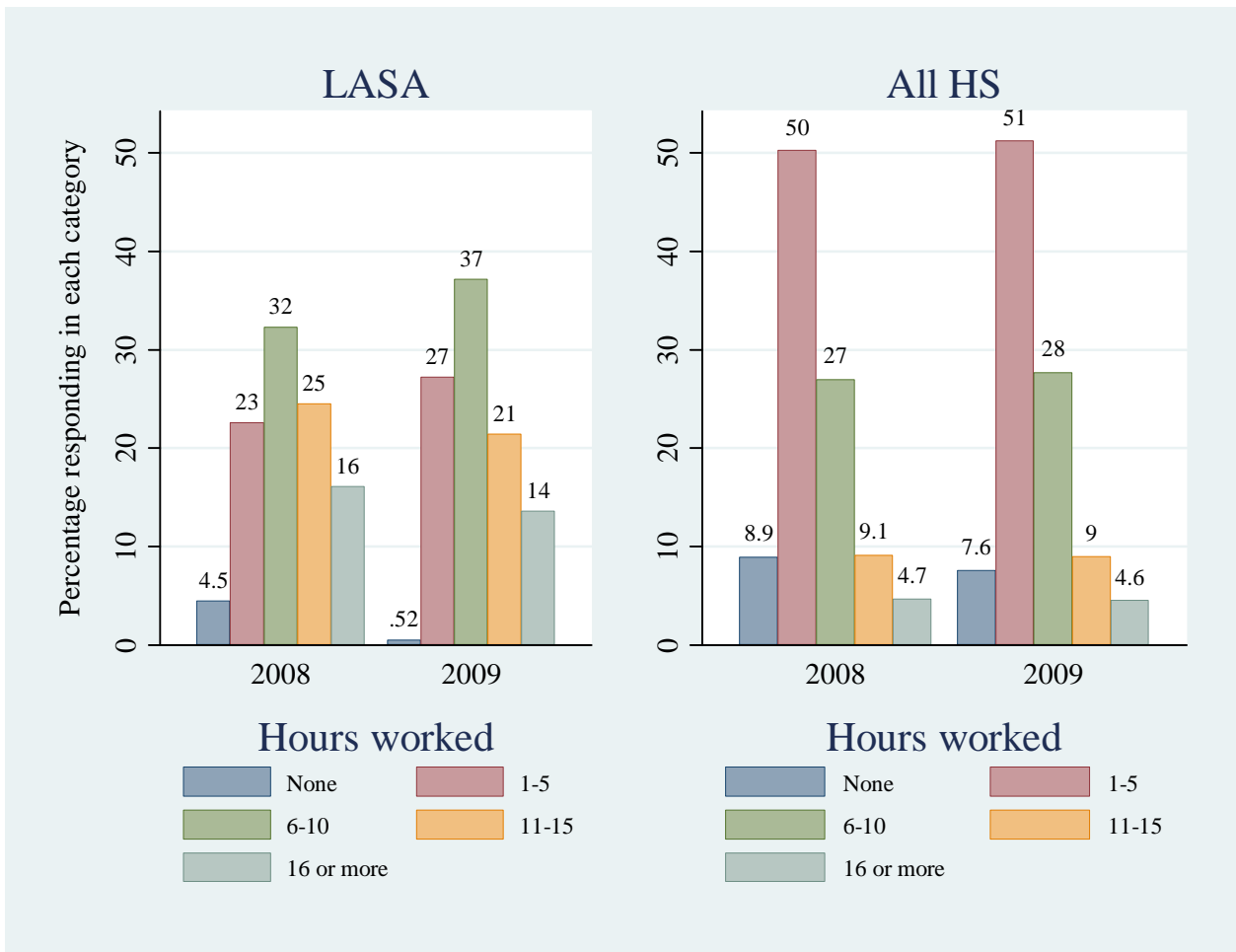




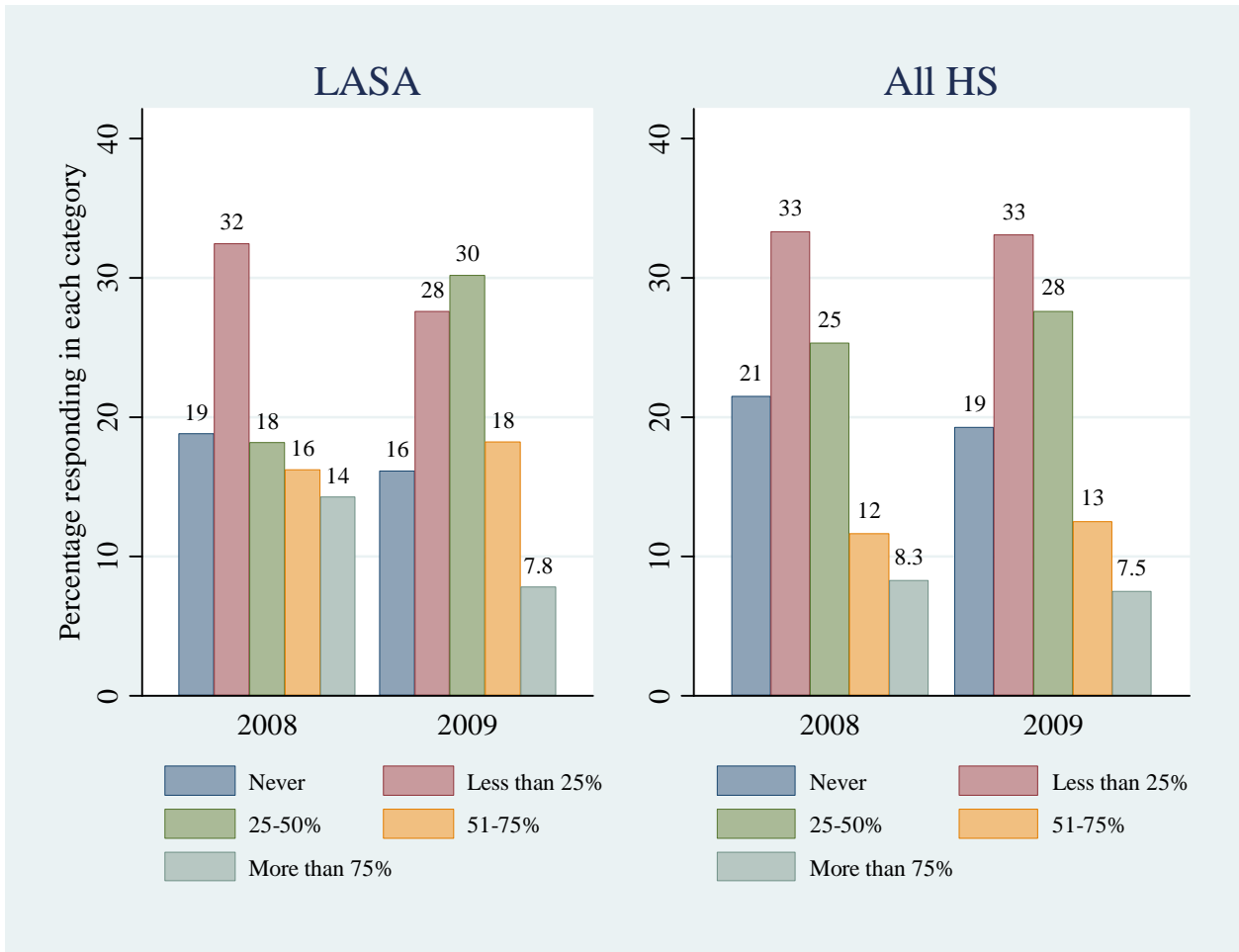
**Figure 2. Now Indicate The Number Of Hours Per Week That You Have Worked During Your Senior Year. (Q18b)**



**Figure 3. Thinking Back On Your Years In High School, How Many Hours Per Week Did You Typically Spend Studying, Doing Research, Or Completing Homework Assignments Outside Of Class? (Item 19)**



**Figure 4. On Average, What Percentage Of Your Study, Research And Homework Was Done Without Distractions (E.G., Television, Music, IM, Texting, Phone Calls)? (Item 20)**



**Table 11. Please Mark The Item That Best Indicates How You Feel: (Items 21a-21k)**

<i>*Percentage who responded Strongly agree or Agree</i>	LASA 2009	All HS 2009
I feel safe at my school	78.1%	78.7%
My classmates show respect to each other	58.4%	50.9%
The consequences for breaking school rules are the same for everyone	36.0%	41.1%
Adults at this school listen to student ideas and opinions	66.7%	53.1%
My homework helps me learn things I need to know	51.8%	58.6%
I know how I am doing in school	79.6%	82.9%
My teachers expected me to do my best work	80.0%	83.0%
My classes were rigorous and challenging	84.3%	59.6%
My high school coursework has been relevant to my life	45.8%	47.4%
There is at least one adult at my school who I can go to if I have a problem	75.4%	78.0%
My teachers are fair to everyone	43.2%	45.3%

\*Response options include *Strongly agree, Agree, Neither agree nor Disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree, and Don't know*. Response options changed from 2008. Therefore, longitudinal data were not available.

**Table 12. Please Answer The Following Questions About Your Civic Engagement. (Items 4 & 5)**

	LASA 2009	All HS 2009
Are you registered to vote?*	42.2%	41.4%
Have you voted in any school board, city, county, state, or national election?*	30.7%	22.9%
Will you register to vote after your 18th birthday?***	83.0%	77.3%

\* Only asked to students who were 18 years old or older

\*\* Only asked to students who were not 18 years or older at the time they completed the survey

## INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY

**Table 13. How Well Did Your High School Help You To Actively Develop Knowledge And Skills In The Following Areas? (Item 22)**

<i>*Percentage who responded Somewhat well or Well</i>	LASA 2007	LASA 2008	LASA 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Teamwork	.	85.2%	93.2%	.	88.6%	89.7%
Creative thinking	93.3%	91.6%	95.8%	90.8%	90.6%	91.7%
Problem solving	95.0%	92.3%	97.4%	92.9%	91.5%	92.0%
Conflict resolution	85.7%	76.6%	84.9%	84.6%	82.8%	84.1%
Personal health/fitness	89.0%	61.9%	75.9%	78.5%	78.6%	81.0%
Time management	.	79.9%	85.9%	.	80.8%	81.2%
Technology	.	92.3%	93.2%	.	84.6%	84.2%

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

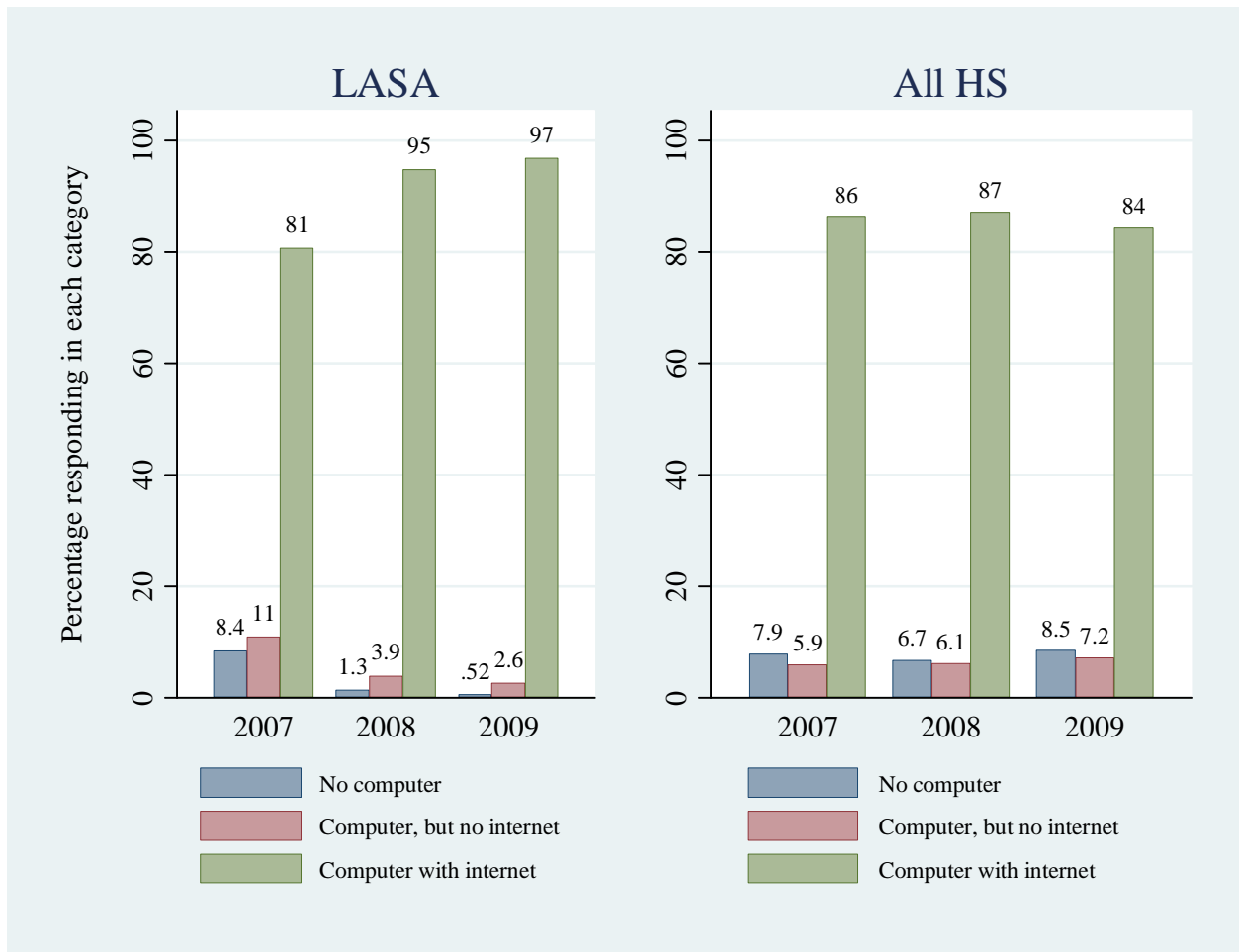
\*Responses were *Not well*, *Somewhat well*, and *Very well*.

**Table 14. Please Rate The Quality Of Instruction That You Feel That You Received In The Following Areas: (Item 23)**

<i>*Percentage who responded Good or Excellent</i>	LASA 2007	LASA 2008	LASA 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Writing	84.9%	81.9%	87.0%	82.6%	81.2%	81.6%
Mathematics	78.2%	82.6%	74.5%	71.3%	70.7%	70.8%
Science	62.2%	88.4%	80.2%	68.9%	69.5%	69.8%
Social Studies	90.8%	83.7%	90.6%	84.2%	82.8%	82.0%
Computer/Technology	82.2%	60.0%	71.9%	71.0%	71.8%	70.2%
Foreign Language	61.0%	63.9%	72.3%	64.5%	63.9%	64.3%
Performing/Fine Arts	80.7%	69.5%	73.2%	72.2%	73.8%	73.0%

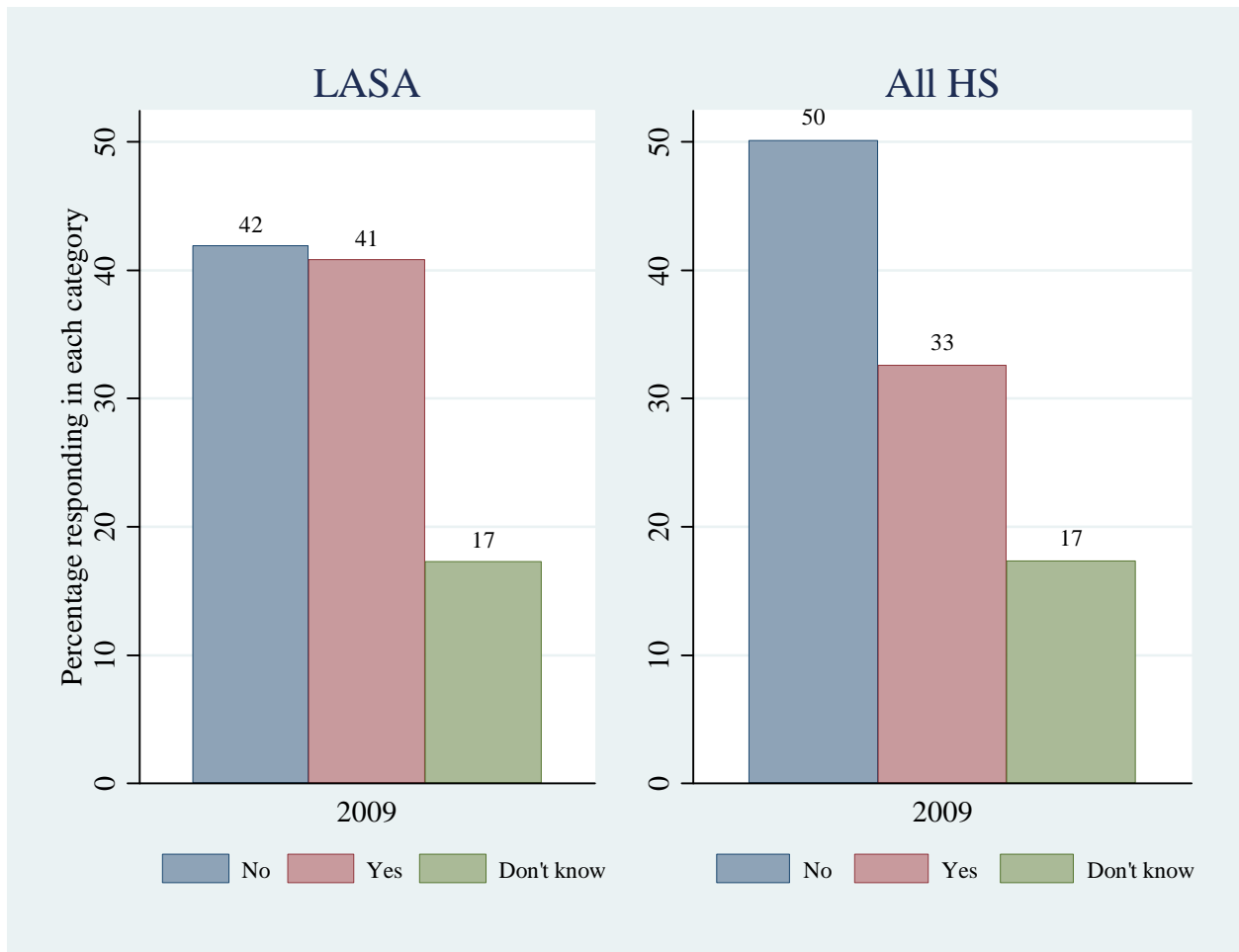
\* Responses were *Poor*, *Fair*, *Good*, and *Excellent*.

**Figure 5. Which Of The Following Describes Your Computer And Internet Access At Home?  
(Item 24)**



*Note.* This item was recoded to match longitudinal data. In prior years' surveys, students were asked to indicate the type of Internet service they had at home.

**Figure 6. Do Your Parents Use Parentconnect/Gradesped To Monitor Your Grades?  
(Item 27)**



*Note.* This item was new for 2009.

**Table 15. How Frequently Do You Use A Computer?: (Item 25)**

<i>*Percentage who responded At least once a week or more</i>	LASA 2007	LASA 2008	LASA 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
At home?	98.4%	97.4%	97.9%	86.4%	86.7%	83.9%
At school?	81.1%	84.5%	88.5%	70.8%	74.0%	73.1%
To present material in class, for example, using PowerPoint	20.5%	11.0%	14.7%	22.6%	23.5%	22.0%
To type a paper or class assignment?	78.7%	79.4%	77.1%	57.2%	55.3%	53.5%
To search the Internet to complete class-related assignments?	82.6%	80.0%	83.9%	62.3%	61.6%	62.7%
To research college/career choices?	57.9%	48.7%	59.5%	50.5%	50.6%	51.0%
To complete online forms or applications for college/employment?	53.7%	43.1%	49.7%	43.4%	44.0%	43.4%
To communicate with teachers (e.g., email, IM, etc.)?	32.8%	22.1%	22.0%	18.1%	20.8%	17.8%
To communicate with friends (e.g., email, IM, blog, Facebook, etc.)?	92.6%	88.3%	91.1%	74.1%	74.8%	72.5%
To monitor grades/progress in school?	.	.	42.2%	.	.	29.4%

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

\*Responses were *Never*, *Less than once a week*, *Once or twice a week*, *Every day*, and *Almost every day*. Reports prior to 2008 indicated item means; in 2009, percentages represented the number of students reporting *At least once a week* or more.



**Table 16. Indicate How Much You Agree With Each Of The Following Statements About Technology Use At School: (Item 26)**

<i>*Percentage who responded Agree or Strongly agree</i>	LASA 2008	LASA 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
My teachers effectively use the technology resources that are available.	87.5%	91.1%	85.7%	89.8%
I would like to use more electronic communication with my classmates as part of my schoolwork.	71.4%	73.2%	79.8%	82.3%
I would like to use more electronic communication with my teachers.	71.2%	72.3%	73.2%	76.0%
I would like to use more online resources.	70.6%	77.6%	82.1%	84.0%

\* Responses were *Strongly disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly disagree, and Don't know/Unsure.*

#### POSTSECONDARY PREPARATION AND ADVISING

**Table 17. At What Time In Your Life Did You Start Thinking About College As A Possibility After High School? (Item 29)**

	LASA 2007	LASA 2008	LASA 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
As long ago as I can remember*	62.8%	68.2%	63.5%	39.1%	40.5%	38.7%
In elementary school	8.3%	11.0%	9.4%	12.0%	8.5%	7.6%
In middle/junior high school	17.4%	6.5%	14.6%	21.0%	21.9%	21.0%
In high school	8.3%	12.3%	12.5%	25.3%	26.9%	30.9%
I've never thought about college as an option after high school	3.3%	1.9%	0.0%	2.5%	2.3%	1.8%

\* Item changed from 2007 surveys, when it was "When I was a child."

**Table 18. High School Preparation For Post-Graduation Opportunities (Item 30a-D)**

<i>*Percentage who responded Somewhat well or Well</i>	LASA 2007	LASA 2008	LASA 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
How well prepared were you to plan your high school course selections?	88.5%	85.7%	93.2%	88.7%	91.2%	91.2%
How well prepared were you to meet your college and career goals?	91.0%	91.5%	94.2%	86.9%	88.4%	86.1%
How well prepared have you been for the college/technical/vocational school application process?	84.3%	76.6%	89.1%	84.6%	83.4%	82.0%
How well informed are/were you about obtaining financial aid for education after high school (whether or not you applied)?	70.2%	71.4%	83.2%	84.2%	81.6%	81.0%

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

**Table 19. How Did You Prepare For Continuing Education? (Check All That Apply) (Item 32)**

	LASA 2007	LASA 2008	LASA 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Took the PSAT examination	89.3%	90.3%	92.2%	57.9%	67.9%	63.1%
Took AP/IB classes	91.8%	87.1%	91.7%	45.3%	48.6%	47.2%
Visited campuses	62.3%	65.2%	73.4%	44.0%	51.8%	55.8%
Attended college fairs	63.9%	63.2%	68.2%	44.4%	48.6%	45.3%
Completed and submitted a FASA	72.1%	76.1%	77.6%	41.3%	49.3%	48.6%
Completed and submitted a scholarship application	59.0%	67.1%	67.7%	30.8%	41.6%	40.3%
Took college entrance tests	93.4%	92.9%	93.8%	65.6%	72.4%	68.1%
Took test prep classes	38.5%	42.6%	48.4%	38.2%	41.7%	38.9%
Completed ACC courses	45.1%	54.8%	57.3%	23.3%	29.4%	33.1%
Ordered and submitted transcripts	77.9%	79.4%	82.8%	40.3%	50.3%	47.7%
Other college-level courses	.	.	7.3%	.	.	5.4%

Note. Respondents could select more than one option, so percentages may not total 100%. Missing values, denoted by a period, indicate the item was not included on the respective year’s survey.

**Table 20. In Which Of The Following College Preparation Programs Did You Participate While In High School? (Item 33)**

	LASA 2008	LASA 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Project ADVANCE	1.9%	13.0%	26.1%	17.9%
AVID	1.9%	1.6%	8.9%	8.8%
ACC College Connections	10.3%	12.0%	17.1%	18.0%
College Forward	0.6%	1.0%	3.0%	3.5%
Con mi MADRE	3.2%	0.5%	3.0%	1.9%
Talent Search/Trio	1.9%	5.7%	2.6%	2.6%
Upward Bound	0.6%	0.0%	1.8%	1.3%
Breakthrough	2.6%	3.6%	1.5%	1.3%
Immigrant College Access	.	2.1%	.	2.3%
I did not participate in any programs like this	72.9%	54.7%	41.6%	41.3%
Other	5.2%	5.7%	4.9%	3.0%

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

**Table 21. If You Participated In One Or More College Preparation Programs, What Did You Get Out Of It? (Item 34)**

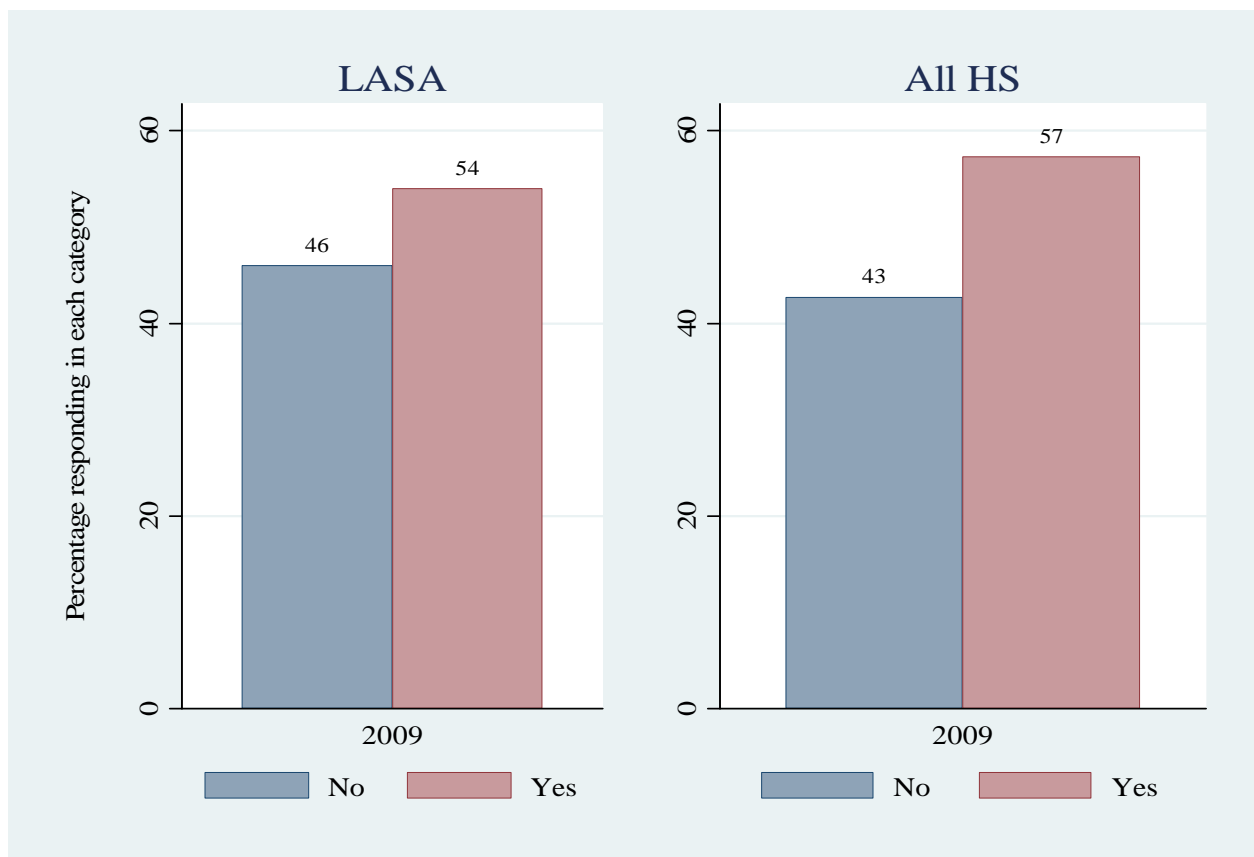
	LASA 2008	LASA 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
They encouraged me to attend school regularly	26.2%	26.4%	35.3%	31.8%
They helped me choose the HS courses to prepare for college	19.0%	23.0%	31.8%	28.5%
They explained the financial aid process to me	21.4%	35.6%	37.9%	33.2%
They were available to help with school-related issues	26.2%	29.9%	29.1%	26.2%
They helped me deal with personal issues	16.7%	13.8%	18.7%	15.4%
They helped me believe that college was right for me	19.0%	27.6%	33.4%	30.9%
They helped me apply to college	33.3%	35.6%	47.3%	38.7%
Other	2.4%	2.3%	8.6%	1.9%

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

	LASA 2007	LASA 2008	LASA 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Have you applied to a 2-year college	21.5%	13.5%	16.7%	49.8%	41.4%	41.3%
Have you applied to a 4-year college?	97.5%	89.7%	94.3%	69.1%	63.9%	62.7%
Have you applied to a business/technical/vocational school?	4.1%	3.9%	4.0%	13.7%	6.5%	8.5%

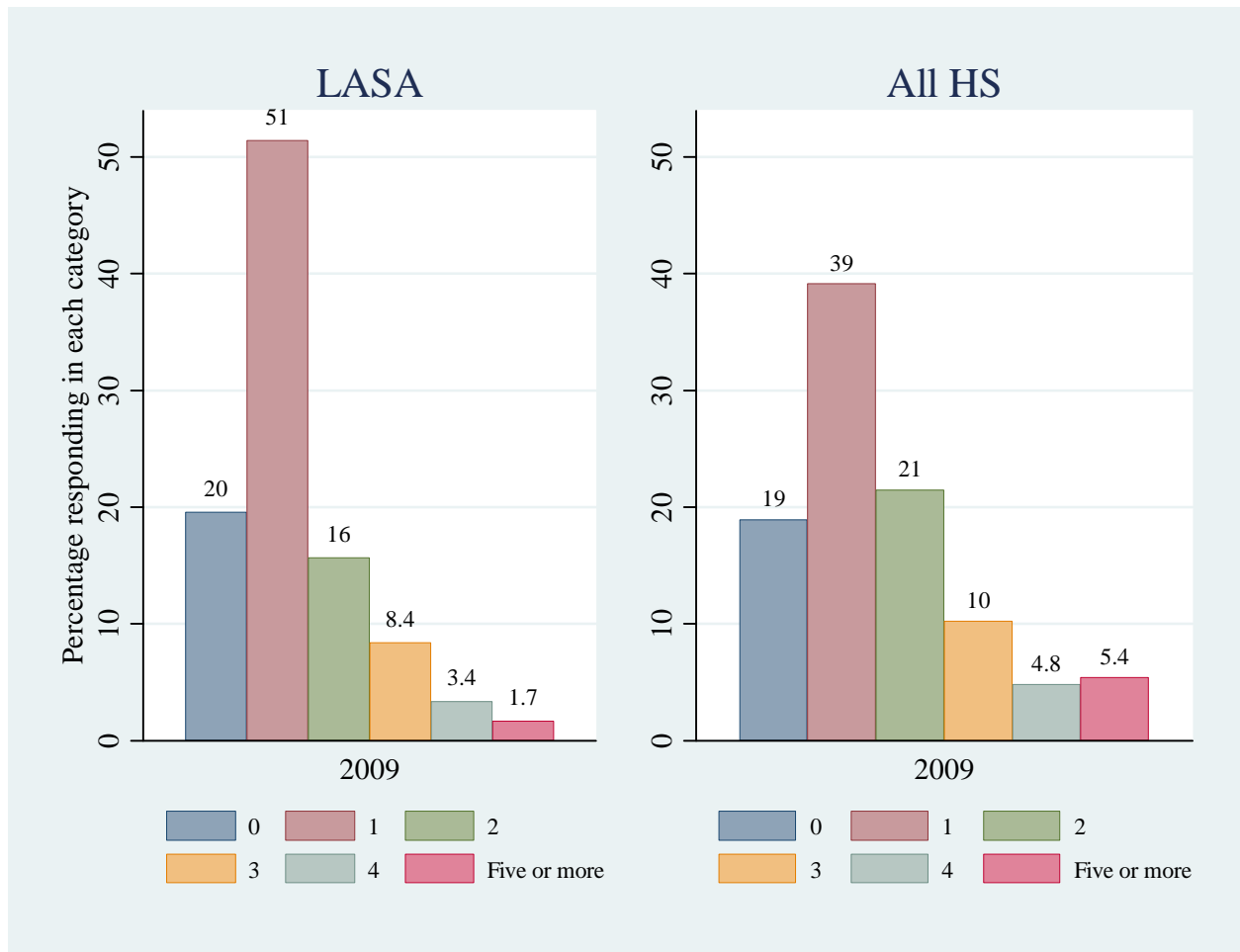
*Note.* On the 2009 survey, students were asked to indicate the number of schools to which they had applied, whereas in 2008, students were only prompted to indicate whether they had applied.

**Figure 7. Will You Be The First Of Your Siblings (Brothers Or Sisters) To Attend College?  
(Item 10)**



*Note.* This item was reworded for the 2009 survey. In past years, we asked students if they were the first person in their family to attend college. For 2009, we asked students separately about their siblings and parents. Therefore, no longitudinal data were available for this question.

**Figure 8. How Many Siblings (Brothers Or Sisters) Do You Have Who Are Either Enrolled In College Or Live With You (Item 11)**



Note. This item was new to the 2009 survey. This item is designed to gauge the number of dependent children either living at home or away at college.

**Table 23. How Easy Has It Been For You And Your Parents To Understand The Process Of Applying For Financial Aid? (Item 45)**

	LASA 2008	LASA 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Difficult	14.9%	14.6%	11.8%	12.8%
Some parts easy, some parts difficult	39.6%	54.7%	36.3%	43.7%
Easy	35.7%	21.9%	38.0%	22.2%
Did not apply for financial aid	9.7%	8.9%	13.8%	21.4%

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

	LASA 2008	LASA 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Scholarships and/or grants	72.3%	77.1%	54.8%	56.3%
Loans	70.3%	43.8%	63.7%	38.0%
Family or personal savings	74.2%	68.8%	56.8%	49.5%
Working during the school year	52.3%	58.9%	47.0%	46.4%
Working during the summer	48.4%	69.3%	45.3%	48.2%
I don't know	14.8%	4.7%	14.9%	14.6%

*Note.* Respondents could select more than one option, so percentages may not total 100%.

**Table 25. Which Of The Following Did A Family Member Do To Help You Prepare For Life After High School Graduation? (Item 43)**

	LASA 2009	All HS 2009
Encouraged you to apply to several different colleges	77.6%	57.0%
Talked to you about what college would be like	67.2%	62.9%
Helped you complete college applications	62.0%	42.0%
Helped you find scholarships	46.9%	34.2%
Helped you complete a FAFSA	73.4%	45.6%
Helped you decide which college to attend	63.0%	53.0%
Helped you write college essays/personal statements	51.6%	29.6%
Did not help	7.3%	14.2%

*Note.* This item was new in 2009.

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

	LASA 2009	All HS 2009
I do not need financial aid to attend college	27.8%	23.4%
My parents were not willing to submit private financial information	6.2%	6.9%
My family did not think we would qualify for or were eligible for financial aid	33.0%	23.5%
I do not plan to go to college	8.2%	9.8%
I did not know about the financial aid process	24.7%	36.3%

*Note.* This item was new in 2009.

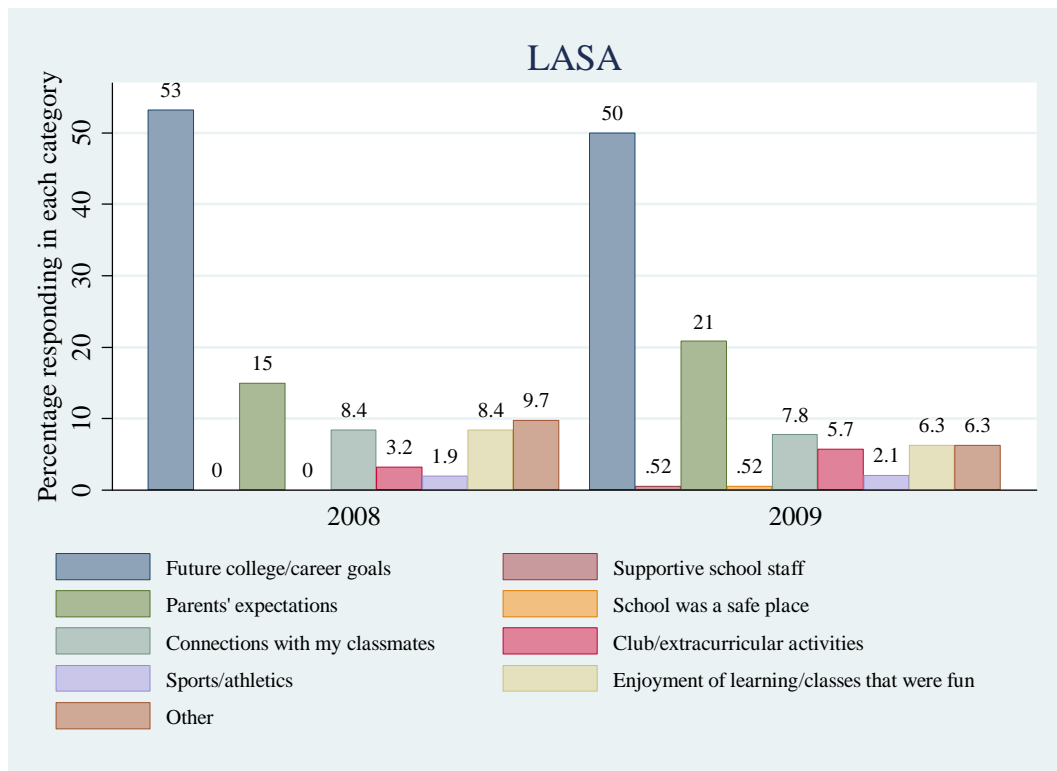
**Table 27. Which Of The Following Campus Staff Helped You With Any Of The Activities Listed Below: (Item 42)**

	LASA School counselor	LASA Advisory	LASA Teacher	LASA Advance Facilitator	LASA AVID Staff	LASA Early College Start Advisor	All HS School counselor	All HS Advisory	All HS Teacher	All HS Advance Facilitator	All HS AVID Staff	All HS Early College Start Advisor
<b>Selected courses for work or college</b>	53.6%	8.3%	32.8%	13.5%	0.0%	4.7%	48.3%	12.8%	28.0%	21.7%	4.2%	12.0%
<b>AP/honors courses</b>	39.1%	12.0%	51.6%	10.9%	0.0%	0.5%	35.4%	11.1%	47.4%	10.5%	3.8%	3.2%
<b>To continue education</b>	49.5%	18.8%	50.5%	24.0%	0.5%	3.6%	47.5%	22.6%	53.9%	26.1%	6.0%	9.8%
<b>Talked about colleges/schools</b>	44.8%	13.5%	41.7%	28.6%	0.5%	0.5%	37.7%	16.3%	37.1%	26.4%	4.7%	7.5%
<b>Discussed careers</b>	31.3%	8.3%	33.9%	19.3%	0.0%	0.5%	33.5%	16.8%	33.9%	24.1%	4.8%	7.6%
<b>Encouraged to apply to multiple schools</b>	43.8%	13.0%	39.1%	27.6%	0.0%	1.6%	37.6%	16.3%	34.4%	26.8%	4.9%	5.2%
<b>Helped complete applications for college</b>	31.8%	3.6%	25.0%	26.6%	0.0%	0.5%	25.2%	10.3%	20.3%	26.0%	3.8%	5.7%
<b>Helped find scholarships</b>	32.3%	5.2%	17.2%	28.1%	0.0%	0.5%	24.3%	9.8%	19.4%	26.2%	4.0%	4.1%
<b>Helped choose college</b>	24.5%	5.7%	26.0%	17.7%	0.0%	0.5%	22.8%	9.6%	22.9%	19.4%	3.0%	4.3%
<b>Helped plan for college expenses</b>	22.4%	4.7%	11.5%	22.4%	0.0%	0.5%	21.2%	10.3%	16.9%	21.7%	3.7%	4.5%
<b>Helped with college application essays or personal statements</b>	22.4%	6.3%	58.9%	19.8%	0.0%	0.0%	21.3%	9.3%	36.2%	19.9%	3.8%	3.9%

*Note.* The design of this question changed from what it was in 2008. In past years, students were asked to rate each type of staff member according to their effectiveness in one of the above college preparation domains. On the 2009 survey, students were asked to indicate whether any of these staff members had helped them with any of the activities listed above.

**ADDITIONAL RESULTS**

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





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

