

High School Exit Survey: LASA

Austin Independent School District

Class of 2015

Purpose

The 13th 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, 232 LASA High School seniors completed the survey, for a response rate of 100%.

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 LASA seniors planned to **work part time while attending college.**

Postsecondary plans	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
Continue my education	100%	95%	86%
Attend college or technical school <u>without working</u>	47%	38%	20%
Attend college or technical school while <u>working full time</u>	3%	3%	11%
Attend college or technical school while <u>working part time</u>	56%	54%	56%
Work full time only	2%	1%	4%
Work part time only	1%	0%	1%
Enlist in the military	0%	0%	3%
No plans/ not sure yet	1%	1%	4%
Other	1%	3%	2%

Table 2.

Almost all LASA seniors who planned to enroll in college planned to enroll **Fall 2015.**

Semester enrollment	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
This summer	1%	0%	8%
This fall	98%	99%	85%
Next spring	2%	0%	7%

Table 3.

Almost all LASA seniors planned to enroll in a **4-year institution.**

Type of institution	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
A 4-year college or university	97%	96%	57%
A 2-year college or university	1%	0%	10%
A 2-year community college and then transfer to a 4-year college	4%	4%	30%
A private career or trade school	0%	0%	2%

Table 4.

Most LASA seniors planned to attend **“other” colleges or universities.**

Postsecondary institutions	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
Austin Community College (ACC)	3%	4%	35%
Texas State University	1%	2%	8%
University of Texas-LASA	16%	18%	9%
University of Texas-San Antonio	4%	8%	4%
Texas A&M University	9%	3%	4%
St. Edward’s University	3%	3%	2%
Blinn College	0%	0%	2%
University of North Texas	4%	0%	2%
Texas Tech University	2%	0%	3%
Stephen F. LASA University	1%	0%	1%
Other	59%	61%	31%

Table 5.

Engineering, natural sciences and mathematics, and computer and information sciences were top areas LASA seniors planned to study in college. Eleven percent of LASA seniors planned to major in **computer and information sciences** in 2014 and 2015.

Jobs/careers	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
Health sciences	11%	7%	17%
Business	11%	10%	13%
Engineering	16%	22%	13%
Law, public safety, corrections, and security	2%	4%	6%
Computer and information sciences	11%	11%	5%
Human services	1%	1%	3%
I do not know	4%	6%	9%
Visual and performing arts	6%	5%	7%
Agricultural sciences and technologies	2%	1%	3%
Natural sciences and mathematics	17%	18%	7%
Education	1%	2%	5%
Communication	2%	1%	4%
Architecture	2%	1%	2%
Social sciences	8%	7%	3%
Hospitality and tourism	0%	0%	1%
Humanities	8%	5%	1%
Office skills	0%	0%	0%
Trade and industrial	0%	0%	1%

Table 6.

Almost 9 in 10 LASA seniors took a high school course in the area they planned to study in college.

	LASA 2015	District 2015
Yes	89%	65%
No	11%	35%

Table 7.

More than half of LASA 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 LASA.**

Reasons	LASA 2015	District 2015
I wanted to, but there were no such courses offered at my school.	55%	27%
My parents did not want me to take a course in that area.	5%	1%
I wanted to, but my schedule would not allow it.	15%	51%
I was not interested in taking a course in this area in high school.	30%	18%
A counselor steered me away from those courses.	10%	1%
Other	10%	11%

Table 8.

More than 7 in 10 LASA 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	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
Financial	0%	9%	18%
Academic	0%	0%	7%
Personal obligation	0%	0%	7%
Personal preference	1%	9%	20%
Gap year	0%	73%	35%
Other	0%	9%	14%

Table 9.

Seventy-one percent of LASA seniors' mother's education level was a **college degree or above.**

School status	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
Doctorate degree (e.g., PhD, EdD, etc.)	12%	0%	3%
Professional degree (e.g., MD, JD, etc.)	11%	14%	20%
Master's degree	23%	26%	9%
Bachelor's degree (4-year)	32%	28%	20%
Associate degree (2-year)	5%	3%	5%
Some college	7%	10%	13%
High school diploma or earned a GED	7%	7%	19%
Less than high school	3%	12%	24%
Don't know or does not apply	1%	1%	4%

Table 10.

Eighty-seven percent of LASA seniors' parents expected them to **earn a college degree or industry license/certification**.

Level of education	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
Doctorate degree (e.g., PhD, EdD, etc.)	14%	27%	12%
Master's degree	29%	26%	16%
Bachelor's degree (4-year)	29%	34%	37%
Associate degree (2-year)	1%	0%	5%
Industry license or certification	--	0%	3%
Some college	1%	1%	7%
High school or earned a GED	2%	1%	8%
I am not sure	12%	10%	12%

Table 11.

Almost 80% of LASA seniors expected to earn a **graduate degree** in their lifetime.

Level of education	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
Doctoral or professional degree	--	39%	20%
Master's degree	--	41%	28%
Bachelor's degree (4-yr college or university)	22%	18%	35%
Associate degree (2-year community college)	0%	1%	8%
Industry license or certification (e.g., trade/technical school)	0%	0%	4%
High school diploma	0%	0%	5%

Table 12.

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

Level of education	LASA 2015	District 2015
Parents	95%	89%
Teachers	82%	78%
College and career advisor	63%	55%
School counselor	78%	55%
Coach(es)	40%	38%
Sibling(s) or other family member(s)	72%	63%
Friend(s)	87%	75%
Other adult in my life	58%	47%
No one	3%	3%

Table 13.

LASA seniors' parents were involved with their schooling mostly by **talking to them about how their doing in their classes** and **talking to them about their homework**.

Seniors who responded either <i>sometimes</i> or <i>often</i>	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
Talking to you about homework	68%	70%	68%
Making sure you completed your homework	56%	61%	65%
Asking you about what you're learning in school	72%	67%	65%
Helping you decide what classes to take	55%	46%	54%
Talking to you about how you're doing in your classes	78%	80%	79%
Rewarding you when you do well in school	53%	51%	56%
Communicating with your teachers	33%	34%	46%
Attending school meetings	54%	51%	47%
Attending school events	61%	67%	58%
Volunteering at your school	33%	26%	28%
Joining and participating in the PTA	21%	18%	18%
Use Parent Cloud to monitor your grades	53%	52%	51%

Table 14.

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

Teacher help	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
Would be willing to give you extra help with your school work if you needed it	99%	96%	88%
Would be willing to help you with a personal problem	85%	83%	74%
Cares about how you're doing in school	90%	86%	79%
Would be willing to write you a letter of recommendation for a job or college	99%	97%	81%
Knows what you will be doing next year	90%	86%	65%
Would be willing to help you even after you graduate	83%	76%	64%
I do not know a teacher who fits any of the items above.	--	0%	4%

Persistence and Motivation

Table 15.

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

Percentage who responded either <i>sometimes</i> or <i>always</i>	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
I can do even the hardest schoolwork if I try.	95%	94%	92%
I enjoy doing my schoolwork.	60%	68%	59%
I feel/felt well prepared for STAAR/EOC.	96%	98%	84%
I try hard to do my best work.	91%	92%	91%
I feel successful in my schoolwork.	91%	91%	89%
My teachers push us to think hard about the things we read.	97%	95%	87%
My teachers push everyone to work hard.	96%	98%	90%
I can reach the goals I set for myself.	98%	95%	96%
My homework helps me learn things I need to know.	85%	90%	78%
My schoolwork makes me think about things in new ways.	79%	91%	73%
My teachers connect what I am learning to life outside of class.	81%	88%	70%
I have fun learning in my classes.	87%	93%	77%
I like to come to school.	81%	82%	71%

Extracurricular Activities

Table 16.

The school-affiliated activities LASA seniors were mostly involved in were **sports** and **academic clubs**.

In school	Did not participate	1-2 years	3-4 years
Music	60%	13%	27%
Theater/drama	76%	14%	9%
Dance	87%	8%	5%
Sports	32%	23%	46%
Academic clubs/UII competitions	29%	24%	47%
Speech/debate	85%	7%	8%
Student government	88%	9%	3%
Career and technical student organizations	85%	11%	4%

Table 17.

LASA 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	58%	13%	28%
Theater/drama	92%	6%	2%
Dance	89%	5%	6%
Sports	52%	15%	32%
Providing routine care for family members	80%	7%	14%
Community service	21%	19%	59%
Environmental projects/activities	63%	17%	20%
Boy/Girl Scouts	87%	3%	9%

Work and Study Time

Table 18.

Six in 10 LASA seniors **did not work** during their senior year.

Work time	Percentage who worked <i>during</i> senior year		
	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
Did not work	57%	60%	39%
Less than 20 hours	35%	31%	28%
20 hours or more	9%	9%	33%

Table 19.

Most LASA seniors who worked during their senior year worked because they **liked the freedom of having their own money**.

Reason	LASA 2015	District 2015
To save money for college	26%	19%
To help my family with bills/expenses	5%	20%
I like the freedom of having my own money	60%	52%
Other	8%	9%

Table 20.

On average, LASA seniors studied **6 to 15 hours** each week.

Study time	Percentage who studied each week		
	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
None	3%	3%	9%
1 to 5 hours	15%	13%	40%
6 to 10 hours	24%	28%	22%
11 to 15 hours	28%	23%	12%
16 to 20 hours	20%	14%	9%
More than 20 hours	11%	19%	9%

Instructional Quality

Table 21.

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

Percentage who responded <i>somewhat well</i> or <i>very well</i>	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
Teamwork	95%	94%	91%
Creative thinking	97%	98%	90%
Problem solving	98%	99%	93%
Conflict resolution	90%	93%	87%
Personal health/fitness	70%	75%	81%
Time management	91%	94%	84%
Technology	93%	96%	84%

Table 22.

LASA seniors rated the quality of their **science**, **mathematics**, **social studies**, and **career and technical education** instruction most favorably.

Percentage who responded <i>good</i> or <i>excellent</i>	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
English language arts	98%	87%	81%
Social studies	90%	93%	75%
Performing/Fine arts	92%	87%	73%
Career and technical (CTE)	89%	90%	71%
Science	93%	95%	70%
Mathematics	93%	93%	73%
Computer/Technology	90%	81%	64%
Foreign language	75%	72%	64%

Technology Access and Use

Table 23.

Almost all LASA seniors have a **computer with Internet access** at home.

Access	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
No computer	1%	0%	5%
No computer, but Internet access	0%	3%	12%
Computer, no Internet	1%	0%	4%
Computer with Internet access	99%	97%	79%

Table 24.

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

Percentage answering <i>yes</i>	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
Class rank and GPA inquiry	98%	94%	82%
College search	89%	88%	70%
Counselor-directed activities	79%	80%	63%
College visit sign up	89%	89%	55%
Career exploration	34%	40%	48%
Resume building	26%	36%	36%

Postsecondary Preparation and Advising

Table 25.

Seven in 10 LASA seniors started thinking about college by the time they were in **elementary school**.

Time frame	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
As long as I can remember	73%	70%	37%
In elementary school	6%	9%	9%
In middle/junior high school	15%	11%	21%
In high school	7%	10%	31%
I've never thought about college	0%	0%	3%

Table 26.

Almost 3 in 4 LASA seniors who did not think about college until high school thought about it by their **sophomore year**.

Grade	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
9 th Grade	50%	50%	20%
10 th Grade	21%	23%	25%
11 th Grade	29%	18%	37%
12 th Grade	0%	9%	18%

Table 27.

LASA seniors prepared for postsecondary education mostly by **taking college entrance exams** and **Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate classes**, and **submitting transcripts to colleges**.

Type of preparation	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
Took college entrance tests (e.g., SAT, ACT, THEA, COMPASS, ASSET)	93%	94%	60%
Took one or more Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate classes	91%	93%	51%
Took test prep class for the PSAT, SAT, ACT, etc.	56%	62%	45%
Completed or are currently enrolled in ACC courses	56%	54%	32%
Took other college level courses (e.g., Texas State, Texas Tech, TSTC)	5%	15%	9%
Visited one or more colleges or technical schools	85%	84%	58%
Met with the school counselor/ADVANCE staff to discuss college plans/processes	89%	84%	50%
Attended one or more college fairs	57%	59%	43%
Met with a college representative or recruiter at my high school	81%	80%	41%
Participated in ACC College Connections	13%	7%	24%
Attended Financial Aid Saturday event(s)	--	6%	10%
Completed and submitted the FAFSA	82%	80%	68%
Completed and submitted a scholarship application	79%	77%	47%
Ordered and submitted a transcript to a college or trade/ technical school.	94%	92%	56%
I have not completed any activities to prepare for continuing my education	3%	5%	17%
I have done nothing to academically prepare for continuing my education	1%	1%	19%
I have not completed any forms to prepare for continuing my education	3%	4%	19%

Table 28.

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

Form of help	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
Talked to you about career and/or college options	93%	86%	79%
Talked to you about finances	84%	81%	65%
Talked to you about your responsibilities as an adult	78%	81%	75%
Talked to you about what a career and/or college would be like	72%	72%	62%
Helped you with financial aid (FAFSA and/or scholarships)	80%	74%	55%
Helped you complete applications for colleges or trade/technical schools	63%	54%	40%
Encouraged you to apply to several different colleges	79%	72%	53%
No one in my family talked to me about or helped me with these things.	3%	2%	6%

Table 29.

LASA seniors' teachers helped them most by **pushing their academic abilities.** School counselors helped them **select courses needed for work or college.** Project ADVANCE staff helped by encouraging them to **continue their education after high school** and to **apply to multiple schools.**

Activity	None of these people	School counselor	Teacher	College & career advisor
Select courses needed for work or admission to college	22%	68%	13%	20%
Push your academic abilities further	20%	38%	66%	10%
Take AP / honors courses	20%	56%	54%	8%
Take dual credit or articulated credit courses	41%	46%	24%	7%
Get information about careers/occupations	40%	36%	24%	22%
Continue your education after high school	20%	56%	43%	46%
Apply to multiple schools	27%	44%	19%	46%
Decide what school to attend	53%	25%	13%	29%
Fill out applications for postsecondary education	37%	29%	13%	43%
Write college application essays or personal statements	21%	37%	56%	37%

Table 30.

Most LASA 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.	85%	86%
I tried to talk to this person and wasn't able to meet with him/her.	1%	1%
I never tried to meet with this person.	15%	13%

Applications to Postsecondary Institutions

Table 31.

Eight in 10 LASA seniors who applied to 4-year institution submitted **4 or more applications**.

Institution type	0 applications	1-3 applications	4 or more applications
2-year	88%	10%	2%
4-year	3%	17%	80%
Business/technical/vocational school	94%	3%	3%

Table 32.

Over 50% of LASA seniors who applied 4-year institutions received **4 or more acceptances**.

Institution type	0 acceptances	1-3 acceptances	4 or more acceptances
2-year	88%	10%	2%
4-year	3%	44%	53%
Business/technical/vocational school	94%	3%	3%

Postsecondary Financial Literacy

Table 33.

Eighty-five percent of LASA seniors planned to pay for college with scholarships and/or grants.

Source	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
Scholarships and/or grants	84%	85%	68%
Loans	42%	44%	42%
Family or personal savings	85%	80%	63%
Tuition and fees exemption	6%	7%	10%
Working during the school year	60%	56%	59%
Working during the summer	69%	61%	61%
I don't know	2%	0%	4%

Table 34.

LASA seniors learned about financial aid for college mostly from their parents or other adults.

Source of information	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
Senior economics class	2%	4%	21%
Financial Aid Saturday events	5%	7%	16%
Talked to school counselor/college and career advisor/Project ADVANCE staff	59%	61%	48%
Information from a college or university (e.g., website, brochures)	59%	63%	35%
College recruiter	25%	24%	18%
U.S. Department of Education or FAFSA websites	25%	27%	23%
Parents or other adults	85%	81%	63%
Social media (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, etc.)	8%	5%	12%
None of these	6%	11%	10%

Table 35.

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

Degree of ease	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
Easy	21%	20%	24%
Some parts easy, some parts difficult	55%	62%	47%
Difficult	15%	12%	12%
I did not apply for financial aid	9%	6%	16%

Table 36.

Almost 50% of LASA seniors who did not submit the FAFSA did not do so because **their family did not think they were eligible for financial aid.**

Reason	LASA 2014	LASA 2015	District 2015
I did not need financial aid to attend college	29%	38%	18%
My parents were not willing to submit private financial information	12%	0%	6%
My family did not think we would qualify or be eligible for financial aid	53%	46%	19%
I did not plan to go to college	6%	8%	18%
I did not know about the financial aid process	0%	8%	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
ACC	Austin Community College
ACT	American College Testing
AP	Advanced Placement
ASSET	American College Testing (ACT) placement exam for students in community/technical colleges
COMPASS	American College Testing (ACT) Computer-adapted Placement Assessment and Support Services
EOC	End of Course exam
FAFSA	Free Application for Federal Student Aid
GPA	grade point average
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
PSAT	Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)
SAT	Scholastic Aptitude Test
STAAR	State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness
TAKS	Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills
THEA	Texas Higher Education Assessment
TSTC	Texas State Technical College
UIL	University Interscholastic League