

# High School Exit Survey: Reagan

## 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, 185 Reagan High School seniors completed the survey, for a response rate of 96%.

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 Reagan seniors planned to [work part time while attending college](#).**

Postsecondary plans	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
Continue my education	91%	87%	86%
Attend college or technical school <u>without working</u>	9%	9%	20%
Attend college or technical school while <u>working full time</u>	15%	14%	11%
<a href="#">Attend college or technical school while working part time</a>	64%	<b>54%</b>	56%
Work full time only	10%	9%	4%
Work part time only	8%	2%	1%
Enlist in the military	3%	3%	3%
No plans/ not sure yet	6%	8%	4%
Other	2%	3%	2%

Table 2.

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

Semester enrollment	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
This summer	11%	7%	8%
<b>This fall</b>	75%	<b>82%</b>	85%
Next spring	14%	11%	7%

Table 3.

**Forty-one percent of Reagan seniors planned to enroll in a **4-year institution**. Thirty-eight percent of seniors planned to enroll in a **2-year college and then transfer to a 4-year college**.**

Type of institution	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
<b>A 4-year college or university</b>	38%	<b>41%</b>	57%
A 2-year college or university	25%	20%	10%
<b>A 2-year community college and then transfer to a 4-year college</b>	48%	<b>38%</b>	30%
A private career or trade school	2%	1%	2%

Table 4.

**Almost 50% of Reagan seniors planned to attend **Austin Community College**.**

Postsecondary institutions	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
<b>Austin Community College (ACC)</b>	51%	<b>48%</b>	35%
Texas State University	16%	8%	8%
University of Texas-Reagan	3%	4%	9%
University of Texas-San Antonio	3%	1%	4%
Texas A&M University	8%	8%	4%
St. Edward's University	0%	0%	2%
Blinn College	6%	0%	2%
University of North Texas	1%	0%	2%
Texas Tech University	0%	1%	3%
Stephen F. Reagan University	2%	0%	1%
Other	25%	31%	31%

Table 5.

**Health sciences; engineering; and law, public safety, corrections, and security** were top areas Reagan seniors planned to study in college. Three percent of Reagan seniors were interested in studying **computer and information sciences**, a 3% percentage point decrease since 2014.

Jobs/careers	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
Health sciences	33%	26%	17%
Business	14%	8%	13%
Engineering	6%	16%	13%
Law, public safety, corrections, and security	9%	12%	6%
Computer and information sciences	6%	3%	5%
Human services	3%	1%	3%
I do not know	9%	9%	9%
Visual and performing arts	4%	2%	7%
Agricultural sciences and technologies	1%	1%	3%
Natural sciences and mathematics	2%	1%	7%
Education	3%	9%	5%
Communication	5%	3%	4%
Architecture	2%	5%	2%
Social sciences	2%	0%	3%
Hospitality and tourism	2%	1%	1%
Humanities	1%	0%	1%
Office skills	0%	0%	0%
Trade and industrial	1%	1%	1%

Table 6.

**Over half of Reagan seniors took a high school course in the area they planned to study in college.**

	Reagan 2015	District 2015
Yes	56%	65%
No	44%	35%

Table 7.

The top 2 reasons Reagan seniors who did not take a course in the area they planned to study in college did not do so was because **there were no such courses offered at Reagan** and **their schedule would not allow it**.

Reasons	Reagan 2015	District 2015
I wanted to, but there were no such courses offered at my school.	43%	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.	41%	51%
I was not interested in taking a course in this area in high school.	9%	18%
A counselor steered me away from those courses.	5%	1%
Other	7%	11%

Table 8.

Almost 1/3 of Reagan 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	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
Financial	27%	27%	18%
Academic	15%	5%	7%
Personal obligation	12%	11%	7%
Personal preference	15%	16%	20%
Gap year	19%	32%	35%
Other	12%	9%	14%

Table 9.

More than 70% of Reagan seniors' mother's education level was a **high school diploma or below**.

School status	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
Doctorate degree (e.g., PhD, EdD, etc.)	0%	2%	3%
Professional degree (e.g., MD, JD, etc.)	0%	1%	20%
Master's degree	2%	1%	9%
Bachelor's degree (4-year)	2%	3%	20%
Associate degree (2-year)	3%	2%	5%
Some college	5%	11%	13%
High school diploma or earned a GED	18%	19%	19%
Less than high school	60%	52%	24%
Don't know or does not apply	11%	2%	4%

Table 10.

**Fifty-five percent of Reagan seniors' parents expected them to [earn a college degree or industry license/certification](#).**

Level of education	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
Doctorate degree (e.g., PhD, EdD, etc.)	15%	9%	12%
Master's degree	11%	14%	16%
Bachelor's degree (4-year)	24%	26%	37%
Associate degree (2-year)	7%	4%	5%
Industry license or certification	--	2%	3%
Some college	12%	9%	7%
High school or earned a GED	13%	21%	8%
I am not sure	25%	15%	12%

Table 11.

**Eighty-eight percent of Reagan seniors expected to [earn a college degree or certification](#) in their lifetime.**

Level of education	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
Doctoral or professional degree	--	13%	20%
Master's degree	--	21%	28%
Bachelor's degree (4-yr college or university)	47%	36%	35%
Associate degree (2-year community college)	14%	16%	8%
Industry license or certification (e.g., trade/technical school)	5%	2%	4%
High school diploma	8%	12%	5%

Table 12.

**Reagan seniors have been told mostly by their [parents](#) and [teachers](#) they should go to college.**

Level of education	Reagan 2015	District 2015
Parents	80%	89%
Teachers	78%	78%
College and career advisor	65%	55%
School counselor	42%	55%
Coach(es)	41%	38%
Sibling(s) or other family member(s)	56%	63%
Friend(s)	73%	75%
Other adult in my life	42%	47%
No one	2%	3%

Table 13.

Reagan seniors' parents were involved with their schooling mostly by **talking to them about how their doing in their classes** and **asking about what they were learning in school**.

Seniors who responded either <i>sometimes</i> or <i>often</i>	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
Talking to you about homework	62%	60%	68%
Making sure you completed your homework	66%	64%	65%
Asking you about what you're learning in school	68%	65%	65%
Helping you decide what classes to take	49%	52%	54%
Talking to you about how you're doing in your classes	77%	78%	79%
Rewarding you when you do well in school	56%	60%	56%
Communicating with your teachers	52%	53%	46%
Attending school meetings	46%	57%	47%
Attending school events	54%	56%	58%
Volunteering at your school	29%	27%	28%
Joining and participating in the PTA	22%	20%	18%
Use Parent Cloud to monitor your grades	49%	55%	51%

Table 14.

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

Teacher help	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
Would be willing to give you extra help with your school work if you needed it	86%	80%	88%
Would be willing to help you with a personal problem	67%	68%	74%
Cares about how you're doing in school	77%	75%	79%
Would be willing to write you a letter of recommendation for a job or college	72%	72%	81%
Knows what you will be doing next year	66%	58%	65%
Would be willing to help you even after you graduate	63%	59%	64%
I do not know a teacher who fits any of the items above.	--	6%	4%

## Persistence and Motivation

Table 15.

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

Percentage who responded either <i>sometimes</i> or <i>always</i>	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
I can do even the hardest schoolwork if I try.	89%	88%	92%
I enjoy doing my schoolwork.	73%	68%	59%
I feel/felt well prepared for STAAR/EOC.	78%	83%	84%
I try hard to do my best work.	94%	93%	91%
I feel successful in my schoolwork.	93%	88%	89%
My teachers push us to think hard about the things we read.	87%	89%	87%
My teachers push everyone to work hard.	85%	90%	90%
I can reach the goals I set for myself.	95%	93%	96%
My homework helps me learn things I need to know.	89%	83%	78%
My schoolwork makes me think about things in new ways.	82%	81%	73%
My teachers connect what I am learning to life outside of class.	74%	78%	70%
I have fun learning in my classes.	84%	78%	77%
I like to come to school.	80%	80%	71%

## Extracurricular Activities

Table 16.

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

In school	Did not participate	1-2 years	3-4 years
Music	63%	30%	7%
Theater/drama	67%	30%	3%
Dance	71%	19%	9%
<b>Sports</b>	38%	<b>26%</b>	<b>37%</b>
Academic clubs/UII competitions	72%	16%	12%
<b>Speech/debate</b>	49%	<b>50%</b>	<b>1%</b>
Student government	65%	34%	1%
Career and technical student organizations	78%	18%	4%

Table 17.

Reagan 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	74%	17%	10%
Theater/drama	81%	19%	1%
Dance	76%	16%	8%
<b>Sports</b>	46%	<b>20%</b>	<b>34%</b>
Providing routine care for family members	72%	19%	10%
<b>Community service</b>	58%	<b>26%</b>	<b>17%</b>
Environmental projects/activities	74%	20%	7%
Boy/Girl Scouts	94%	5%	2%

## Work and Study Time

Table 18.

More than 6 in 10 Reagan seniors **worked** during their senior year.

Work time	Percentage who worked <i>during</i> senior year		
	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
Did not work	42%	34%	39%
<b>Less than 20 hours</b>	20%	<b>20%</b>	28%
<b>20 hours or more</b>	38%	<b>46%</b>	33%

Table 19.

Over 40% each of Reagan seniors who worked during their senior year worked because they **helped their families with bills/expenses** and **liked the freedom of having their own money**.

Reason	Reagan 2015	District 2015
To save money for college	9%	19%
<b>To help my family with bills/expenses</b>	<b>41%</b>	20%
<b>I like the freedom of having my own money</b>	<b>41%</b>	52%
Other	9%	9%



Table 20.

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

Study time	Percentage who studied each week		
	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
None	16%	15%	9%
<b>1 to 5 hours</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>44%</b>	40%
6 to 10 hours	22%	18%	22%
11 to 15 hours	7%	7%	12%
16 to 20 hours	5%	5%	9%
More than 20 hours	11%	12%	9%

## Instructional Quality

Table 21.

Reagan High School helped seniors to actively develop [Twenty-first Century Skills](#).

Percentage who responded <i>somewhat well</i> or <i>very well</i>	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
Teamwork	96%	92%	91%
Creative thinking	92%	91%	90%
Problem solving	94%	93%	93%
Conflict resolution	92%	91%	87%
Personal health/fitness	92%	89%	81%
Time management	91%	88%	84%
Technology	89%	91%	84%

Table 22.

Reagan seniors rated the quality of their **English language arts** and **science** instruction most favorably.

Percentage who responded <i>good</i> or <i>excellent</i>	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
<b>English language arts</b>	85%	<b>86%</b>	81%
Social studies	77%	70%	75%
Performing/Fine arts	72%	71%	73%
Career and technical (CTE)	71%	74%	71%
<b>Science</b>	70%	<b>78%</b>	70%
Mathematics	65%	64%	73%
Computer/Technology	61%	68%	64%
Foreign language	58%	71%	64%

## Technology Access and Use

Table 23.

Over half of Reagan seniors have a **computer with Internet access** at home.

Access	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
No computer	14%	14%	5%
No computer, but Internet access	28%	24%	12%
Computer, no Internet	5%	7%	4%
<b>Computer with Internet access</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>79%</b>

Table 24.

Reagan seniors used Naviance mostly to check their **class rank and grade point average (GPA)** or to **search colleges**.

Percentage answering <i>yes</i>	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
<b>Class rank and GPA inquiry</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>82%</b>
<b>College search</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>70%</b>
Counselor-directed activities	62%	61%	63%
College visit sign up	42%	47%	55%
Career exploration	56%	53%	48%
Resume building	36%	37%	36%

## Postsecondary Preparation and Advising

Table 25.

Almost 40% of Reagan seniors did not start thinking about college until they were in **high school**.

Time frame	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
As long as I can remember	20%	21%	37%
In elementary school	8%	9%	9%
In middle/junior high school	24%	27%	21%
<b>In high school</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>31%</b>
I've never thought about college	5%	6%	3%

Table 26.

Sixty-three percent of Reagan seniors who did not think about college until high school did not think about it until their **junior and senior years**.

Grade	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	18%	14%	20%
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	20%	23%	25%
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	44%	42%	37%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	18%	21%	18%

Table 27.

Reagan seniors prepared for postsecondary education mostly by **completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**, **attending one or more college fairs**, and **taking college entrance exams**.

Type of preparation	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
<b>Took college entrance tests (e.g., SAT, ACT, THEA, COMPASS, ASSET)</b>	62%	44%	60%
Took one or more Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate classes	38%	38%	51%
Took test prep class for the PSAT, SAT, ACT, etc.	35%	39%	45%
Completed or are currently enrolled in ACC courses	37%	29%	32%
Took other college level courses (e.g., Texas State, Texas Tech, TSTC)	17%	7%	9%
Visited one or more colleges or technical schools	46%	40%	58%
Met with the school counselor/ADVANCE staff to discuss college plans/processes	53%	42%	50%
<b>Attended one or more college fairs</b>	51%	51%	43%
Met with a college representative or recruiter at my high school	30%	34%	41%
Participated in ACC College Connections	23%	22%	24%
Attended Financial Aid Saturday event(s)	--	10%	10%
<b>Completed and submitted the FAFSA</b>	58%	55%	68%
Completed and submitted a scholarship application	52%	39%	47%
Ordered and submitted a transcript to a college or trade/ technical school.	49%	36%	56%
I have not completed any activities to prepare for continuing my education	21%	23%	17%
I have done nothing to academically prepare for continuing my education	18%	26%	19%
I have not completed any forms to prepare for continuing my education	22%	36%	19%

Table 28.

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

Form of help	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
Talked to you about career and/or college options	73%	69%	79%
Talked to you about finances	56%	43%	65%
Talked to you about your responsibilities as an adult	75%	64%	75%
Talked to you about what a career and/or college would be like	54%	38%	62%
Helped you with financial aid (FAFSA and/or scholarships)	34%	32%	55%
Helped you complete applications for colleges or trade/technical schools	25%	15%	40%
Encouraged you to apply to several different colleges	45%	38%	53%
No one in my family talked to me about or helped me with these things.	2%	12%	6%

Table 29.

Reagan 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 **complete college applications**.

Activity	None of these people	School counselor	Teacher	College & career advisor
Select courses needed for work or admission to college	21%	29%	23%	42%
Push your academic abilities further	19%	22%	55%	30%
Take AP / honors courses	31%	28%	41%	19%
Take dual credit or articulated credit courses	32%	28%	39%	17%
Get information about careers/occupations	19%	17%	45%	53%
Continue your education after high school	15%	24%	48%	53%
Apply to multiple schools	20%	15%	33%	59%
Decide what school to attend	31%	11%	31%	47%
Fill out applications for postsecondary education	17%	13%	30%	63%
Write college application essays or personal statements	21%	10%	49%	50%

Table 30.

Most Reagan 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.	57%	82%
I tried to talk to this person and wasn't able to meet with him/her.	18%	7%
I never tried to meet with this person.	24%	10%

## Applications to Postsecondary Institutions

Table 31.

Most Reagan seniors who applied to 2-year institutions submitted **1 to 3 applications**.

Institution type	0 applications	1-3 applications	4 or more applications
2-year	25%	66%	9%
4-year	41%	30%	29%
Business/technical/vocational school	85%	11%	4%

Table 32.

Over half of Reagan seniors who applied to 2-year institutions received **1 to 3 acceptances**.

Institution type	0 acceptances	1-3 acceptances	4 or more acceptances
2-year	39%	52%	9%
4-year	54%	30%	16%
Business/technical/vocational school	85%	12%	3%

## Postsecondary Financial Literacy

Table 33.

Seventy-three percent of Reagan seniors planned to pay for college with family or personal savings.

Source	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
Scholarships and/or grants	70%	67%	68%
Loans	36%	40%	42%
Family or personal savings	38%	42%	63%
Tuition and fees exemption	11%	12%	10%
Working during the school year	72%	62%	59%
Working during the summer	68%	63%	61%
I don't know	6%	6%	4%

Table 34.

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

Source of information	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
Senior economics class	18%	18%	21%
Financial Aid Saturday events	23%	24%	16%
Talked to school counselor/college and career advisor/Project ADVANCE staff	62%	62%	48%
Information from a college or university (e.g., website, brochures)	33%	36%	35%
College recruiter	27%	33%	18%
U.S. Department of Education or FAFSA websites	18%	19%	23%
Parents or other adults	43%	39%	63%
Social media (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, etc.)	9%	12%	12%
None of these	12%	12%	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	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
Easy	23%	18%	24%
<b>Some parts easy, some parts difficult</b>	49%	<b>51%</b>	47%
Difficult	14%	8%	12%
I did not apply for financial aid	15%	23%	16%

Table 36.

Most Reagan seniors who did not submit the FAFSA did not do so because **they did not know about the financial aid process**.

Reason	Reagan 2014	Reagan 2015	District 2015
I did not need financial aid to attend college	5%	5%	18%
My parents were not willing to submit private financial information	14%	5%	6%
My family did not think we would qualify or be eligible for financial aid	23%	27%	19%
I did not plan to go to college	14%	10%	18%
<b>I did not know about the financial aid process</b>	46%	<b>54%</b>	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