

High School Exit Survey: Richards

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, 85 Richards 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.

Almost 70% of Richards seniors planned to [work part time while attending college.](#)

Postsecondary plans	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
Continue my education	100%	94%	86%
Attend college or technical school <u>without working</u>	19%	19%	20%
Attend college or technical school while <u>working full time</u>	10%	8%	11%
Attend college or technical school while <u>working part time</u>	77%	67%	56%
Work full time only	0%	0%	4%
Work part time only	0%	0%	1%
Enlist in the military	2%	1%	3%
No plans/ not sure yet	0%	2%	4%
Other	4%	2%	2%

Table 2.

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

Semester enrollment	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
This summer	0%	3%	8%
This fall	100%	97%	85%
Next spring	0%	0%	7%

Table 3.

Almost 80% of Richards seniors planned to enroll in a **4-year institution**. Nineteen percent of seniors planned to enroll in a **2-year college and then transfer to a 4-year college**.

Type of institution	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
A 4-year college or university	96%	79%	57%
A 2-year college or university	0%	3%	10%
A 2-year community college and then transfer to a 4-year college	4%	19%	30%
A private career or trade school	0%	0%	2%

Table 4.

Twenty-one percent of Richards seniors planned to attend **Austin Community College**.

Postsecondary institutions	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
Austin Community College (ACC)	6%	21%	35%
Texas State University	10%	6%	8%
University of Texas-Austin	6%	4%	9%
University of Texas-San Antonio	16%	1%	4%
Texas A&M University	4%	3%	4%
St. Edward's University	2%	8%	2%
Blinn College	0%	0%	2%
University of North Texas	10%	3%	2%
Texas Tech University	0%	6%	3%
Stephen F. Austin University	0%	1%	1%
Other	49%	47%	31%

Table 5.

Engineering, health sciences, and natural sciences and mathematics were top areas Richards seniors planned to study in college. One percent of Richards seniors were interested in studying **computer and information sciences**, a 3% percentage point increase since 2014.

Jobs/careers	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
Health sciences	14%	19%	17%
Business	14%	8%	13%
Engineering	12%	20%	13%
Law, public safety, corrections, and security	8%	8%	6%
Computer and information sciences	4%	1%	5%
Human services	6%	19%	3%
I do not know	12%	3%	9%
Visual and performing arts	8%	4%	7%
Agricultural sciences and technologies	0%	1%	3%
Natural sciences and mathematics	14%	15%	7%
Education	4%	1%	5%
Communication	2%	5%	4%
Architecture	0%	1%	2%
Social sciences	10%	8%	3%
Hospitality and tourism	0%	0%	1%
Humanities	0%	4%	1%
Office skills	0%	0%	0%
Trade and industrial	0%	0%	1%

Table 6.

Most Richards seniors took a high school course in the area they planned to study in college.

	Richards 2015	District 2015
Yes	84%	65%
No	16%	35%

Table 7.

More than 8 in 10 Richards 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 Richards.**

Reasons	Richards 2015	District 2015
I wanted to, but my schedule would not allow it.	27%	51%
I wanted to, but there were no such courses offered at my school.	82%	27%
I was not interested in taking a course in this area in high school.	0%	18%
My parents did not want me to take a course in that area.	0%	1%
A counselor steered me away from those courses.	0%	1%
Other	0%	11%

Table 8.

Half of Richards seniors who did not plan to enroll in college immediately after high school cited **financial** reasons.

Reason	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
Financial	17%	50%	18%
Academic	8%	0%	7%
Personal obligation	7%	0%	7%
Personal preference	23%	0%	20%
Gap year	33%	25%	35%
Other	11%	25%	14%

Table 9.

Forty-four percent of Richards seniors' mother's education level was a **college degree or above.**

School status	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
Doctorate degree (e.g., PhD, EdD, etc.)	2%	4%	3%
Professional degree (e.g., MD, JD, etc.)	2%	2%	20%
Master's degree	6%	8%	9%
Bachelor's degree (4-year)	19%	23%	20%
Associate degree (2-year)	8%	7%	5%
Some college	21%	16%	13%
High school diploma or earned a GED	25%	18%	19%
Less than high school	17%	22%	24%
Don't know or does not apply	0%	0%	4%

Table 10.

Ninety percent of Richards seniors' parents expected them to [earn a college degree or industry license/certification](#).

Level of education	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
Doctorate degree (e.g., PhD, EdD, etc.)	10%	18%	12%
Master's degree	25%	27%	16%
Bachelor's degree (4-year)	52%	45%	37%
Associate degree (2-year)	0%	0%	5%
Industry license or certification	--	0%	3%
Some college	0%	1%	7%
High school or earned a GED	2%	1%	8%
I am not sure	2%	8%	12%

Table 11.

Almost all Richards seniors expected to earn a [college degree or certification](#) in their lifetime.

Level of education	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
Doctoral or professional degree	--	36%	20%
Master's degree	--	36%	28%
Bachelor's degree (4-yr college or university)	40%	27%	35%
Associate degree (2-year community college)	0%	0%	8%
Industry license or certification (e.g., trade/technical school)	0%	0%	4%
High school diploma	0%	0%	5%

Table 12.

Richards seniors have been told mostly by their [parents](#) they should go to college.

Level of education	Richards 2015	District 2015
Parents	92%	89%
Teachers	87%	78%
College and career advisor	87%	55%
School counselor	76%	55%
Coach(es)	55%	38%
Sibling(s) or other family member(s)	69%	63%
Friend(s)	85%	75%
Other adult in my life	66%	47%
No one	1%	3%

Table 13.

Richards seniors' parents were involved with their schooling mostly by **talking to them about how their doing in their classes and **attending school events**.**

Seniors who responded either <i>sometimes</i> or <i>often</i>	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
Talking to you about homework	64%	51%	68%
Making sure you completed your homework	56%	46%	65%
Asking you about what you're learning in school	60%	56%	65%
Helping you decide what classes to take	46%	42%	54%
Talking to you about how you're doing in your classes	79%	67%	79%
Rewarding you when you do well in school	42%	57%	56%
Communicating with your teachers	44%	38%	46%
Attending school meetings	64%	52%	47%
Attending school events	69%	65%	58%
Volunteering at your school	33%	35%	28%
Joining and participating in the PTA	23%	26%	18%
Use Parent Cloud to monitor your grades	46%	36%	51%

Table 14.

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

Teacher help	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
Would be willing to give you extra help with your school work if you needed it	96%	95%	88%
Would be willing to help you with a personal problem	90%	82%	74%
Cares about how you're doing in school	98%	89%	79%
Would be willing to write you a letter of recommendation for a job or college	98%	95%	81%
Knows what you will be doing next year	89%	85%	65%
Would be willing to help you even after you graduate	87%	76%	64%
I do not know a teacher who fits any of the items above.	--	4%	4%

Persistence and Motivation

Table 15.

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

Percentage who responded either <i>sometimes</i> or <i>always</i>	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
I can do even the hardest schoolwork if I try.	98%	97%	92%
I enjoy doing my schoolwork.	46%	73%	59%
I feel/felt well prepared for STAAR/EOC.	89%	97%	84%
I try hard to do my best work.	96%	94%	91%
I feel successful in my schoolwork.	92%	91%	89%
My teachers push us to think hard about the things we read.	96%	100%	87%
My teachers push everyone to work hard.	100%	99%	90%
I can reach the goals I set for myself.	100%	98%	96%
My homework helps me learn things I need to know.	87%	86%	78%
My schoolwork makes me think about things in new ways.	75%	83%	73%
My teachers connect what I am learning to life outside of class.	85%	90%	70%
I have fun learning in my classes.	90%	87%	77%
I like to come to school.	73%	80%	71%

Extracurricular Activities

Table 16.

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

In school	Did not participate	1-2 years	3-4 years
Music	46%	28%	26%
Theater/drama	78%	18%	5%
Dance	76%	24%	0%
Sports	29%	19%	52%
Academic clubs/UII competitions	46%	20%	34%
Speech/debate	62%	33%	5%
Student government	87%	8%	5%
Career and technical student organizations	81%	8%	11%

Table 17.

Richards seniors were mostly involved in **community service** and **environmental projects/activities** outside of school.

Outside of school	Did not participate	1-2 years	3-4 years
Music	71%	13%	16%
Theater/drama	88%	8%	3%
Dance	87%	11%	2%
Sports	58%	14%	28%
Providing routine care for family members	66%	17%	18%
Community service	2%	2%	95%
Environmental projects/activities	42%	22%	36%
Boy/Girl Scouts	87%	3%	9%

Work and Study Time

Table 18.

Most Richards seniors **did not work** during their senior year.

Work time	Percentage who worked <i>during</i> senior year		
	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
Did not work	54%	52%	39%
Less than 20 hours	23%	32%	28%
20 hours or more	23%	16%	33%

Table 19.

Most Richards seniors who worked during their senior year worked **to save money for college** or they **liked the freedom of having their own money**.

Reason	Richards 2015	District 2015
I like the freedom of having my own money	31%	52%
To help my family with bills/expenses	26%	20%
To save money for college	33%	19%
Other	10%	9%

Table 20.

Almost 7 in 10 Richards seniors studied **11 or more hours** each week.

Study time	Percentage who studied each week		
	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
None	2%	2%	9%
1 to 5 hours	14%	13%	40%
6 to 10 hours	31%	18%	22%
11 to 15 hours	35%	24%	12%
16 to 20 hours	14%	23%	9%
More than 20 hours	6%	20%	9%

Instructional Quality

Table 21.

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

Percentage who responded <i>somewhat well</i> or <i>very well</i>	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
Teamwork	98%	98%	91%
Creative thinking	98%	94%	90%
Problem solving	100%	98%	93%
Conflict resolution	98%	97%	87%
Personal health/fitness	98%	99%	81%
Time management	94%	94%	84%
Technology	100%	93%	84%

Table 22.

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

Percentage who responded <i>good</i> or <i>excellent</i>	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
English language arts	96%	89%	81%
Social studies	85%	85%	75%
Performing/Fine arts	71%	81%	73%
Career and technical (CTE)	83%	90%	71%
Science	85%	88%	70%
Mathematics	94%	92%	73%
Computer/Technology	81%	81%	64%
Foreign language	53%	70%	64%

Technology Access and Use

Table 23.

Most Richards seniors have a **computer with Internet access** at home.

Access	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
No computer	2%	4%	5%
No computer, but Internet access	6%	6%	12%
Computer, no Internet	4%	4%	4%
Computer with Internet access	89%	87%	79%

Table 24.

Richards seniors used Naviance mostly to **search colleges**.

Percentage answering <i>yes</i>	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
Class rank and GPA inquiry	92%	89%	82%
College search	100%	98%	70%
Counselor-directed activities	94%	91%	63%
College visit sign up	96%	95%	55%
Career exploration	85%	73%	48%
Resume building	87%	66%	36%

Postsecondary Preparation and Advising

Table 25.

Almost all Richards seniors thought about college by the time they were in **middle/junior high school**.

Time frame	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
As long as I can remember	39%	33%	37%
In elementary school	10%	13%	9%
In middle/junior high school	37%	44%	21%
In high school	15%	11%	31%
I've never thought about college	0%	0%	3%

Table 26.

Forty-four percent of Richards seniors who did not think about college until high school did not think about it until their junior and senior years.

Grade	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
9 th Grade	10%	44%	20%
10 th Grade	4%	11%	25%
11 th Grade	2%	33%	37%
12 th Grade	0%	11%	18%

Table 27.

Richards seniors prepared for postsecondary education mostly by taking Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate classes, test prep classes, and college entrance tests; attending college fairs and visiting colleges; meeting with school counselors/Project ADVANCE staff; and ordering transcripts and submitting FAFSA and scholarship applications.

Type of preparation	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
Took one or more Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate classes	96%	94%	51%
Took college entrance tests (e.g., SAT, ACT, THEA, COMPASS, ASSET)	100%	95%	60%
Took test prep class for the PSAT, SAT, ACT, etc.	98%	94%	45%
Completed or are currently enrolled in ACC courses	15%	27%	32%
Took other college level courses (e.g., Texas State, Texas Tech, TSTC)	0%	9%	9%
Visited one or more colleges or technical schools	98%	96%	58%
Attended one or more college fairs	90%	93%	43%
Met with the school counselor/ADVANCE staff to discuss college plans/processes	96%	94%	50%
Met with a college representative or recruiter at my high school	90%	89%	41%
Participated in ACC College Connections	45%	30%	24%
Attended Financial Aid Saturday event(s)	--	31%	10%
Completed and submitted the FAFSA	100%	92%	68%
Completed and submitted a scholarship application	94%	94%	47%
Ordered and submitted a transcript to a college or trade/ technical school.	94%	95%	56%
I have not completed any activities to prepare for continuing my education	0%	0%	17%
I have done nothing to academically prepare for continuing my education	0%	1%	19%
I have not completed any forms to prepare for continuing my education	0%	1%	19%

Table 28.

Richards 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 finances**.

Form of help	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
Talked to you about career and/or college options	90%	84%	79%
Talked to you about your responsibilities as an adult	89%	78%	75%
Talked to you about finances	89%	82%	65%
Talked to you about what a career and/or college would be like	69%	61%	62%
Helped you with financial aid (FAFSA and/or scholarships)	81%	78%	55%
Encouraged you to apply to several different colleges	71%	61%	53%
Helped you complete applications for colleges or trade/technical schools	42%	44%	40%
No one in my family talked to me about or helped me with these things.	0%	4%	6%

Table 29.

Richards seniors' teachers helped them most by **pushing their academic abilities**. School counselors encouraged them to **take AP/honors courses** and helped them **select courses needed for work or college**. Project ADVANCE staff helped them by encouraging them to **continue their education after high school** and encouraging them to **apply to multiple colleges**.

Activity	None of these people	School counselor	Teacher	College & career advisor
Select courses needed for work or admission to college	29%	48%	20%	47%
Push your academic abilities further	14%	28%	75%	29%
Take AP / honors courses	11%	49%	60%	41%
Take dual credit or articulated credit courses	43%	35%	27%	29%
Get information about careers/occupations	24%	32%	42%	49%
Continue your education after high school	8%	56%	67%	73%
Apply to multiple schools	10%	42%	33%	71%
Decide what school to attend	35%	18%	20%	49%
Fill out applications for postsecondary education	24%	26%	24%	60%
Write college application essays or personal statements	21%	27%	62%	51%

Table 30.

Most Richards 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.	76%	88%
I tried to talk to this person and wasn't able to meet with him/her.	7%	7%
I never tried to meet with this person.	17%	5%

Applications to Postsecondary Institutions

Table 31.

Richards seniors who applied to 4-year institutions submitted 4 or more applications, on average, while those who applied to 2-year institutions submitted 1 to 3 applications, on average.

Institution type	0 applications	1-3 applications	4 or more applications
2-year	17%	78%	5%
4-year	0%	13%	87%
Business/technical/vocational school	96%	0%	4%

Table 32.

Richards seniors who applied to 4-year institutions received 4 or more acceptances, on average, while those who applied to 2-year institutions received 1 to 3 acceptances, on average.

Institution type	0 acceptances	1-3 acceptances	4 or more acceptances
2-year	14%	81%	5%
4-year	0%	28%	72%
Business/technical/vocational school	96%	1%	3%

Postsecondary Financial Literacy

Table 33.

Nine in 10 Richards seniors planned to pay for college with scholarships and/or grants.

Source	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
Scholarships and/or grants	96%	90%	68%
Family or personal savings	75%	60%	63%
Working during the summer	87%	78%	61%
Working during the school year	83%	80%	59%
Loans	83%	59%	42%
Tuition and fees exemption	6%	6%	10%
I don't know	0%	3%	4%

Table 34.

Richards seniors learned about financial aid for college mostly from their school counselor or Project ADVANCE advisor or from their parents or other adults.

Source of information	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
Parents or other adults	79%	73%	63%
Talked to school counselor/college and career advisor/Project ADVANCE staff	94%	80%	48%
Information from a college or university (e.g., website, brochures)	77%	60%	35%
U.S. Department of Education or FAFSA websites	50%	39%	23%
Senior economics class	27%	29%	21%
College recruiter	23%	27%	18%
Financial Aid Saturday events	23%	24%	16%
Social media (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, etc.)	8%	8%	12%
None of these	0%	7%	10%

Table 35.

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

Degree of ease	Richards 2014	Richards 2015	District 2015
Easy	33%	212	24%
Some parts easy, some parts difficult	60%	74%	47%
Difficult	8%	14%	12%
I did not apply for financial aid	0%	0%	16%

Table 36.

All Richards seniors applied for financial aid.

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

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