

Financial Aid and ApplyTexas Submissions

Austin Independent School District (AISD) and Campus Summary

2018–2019

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Purpose

This report summarizes the college and financial aid application submissions of aspiring college-goers in their senior year prior to high school graduation.

What percentage of AISD’s seniors completed the ApplyTexas application in 2019?

Sixty-nine percent of seniors submitted an ApplyTexas application in 2018–2019. This was the same percentage observed in 2017–2018 (Figure 1). Five of the 14 high schools in AISD had an ApplyTexas submission rate higher than the year before. However, ApplyTexas did not include applications for out-of-state institutions and may not have included applications for in-state institutions that provided their own applications (e.g., Austin Community College). On the AISD High School Exit Survey in 2019, 80% of seniors reported completing applications to 4-year colleges.

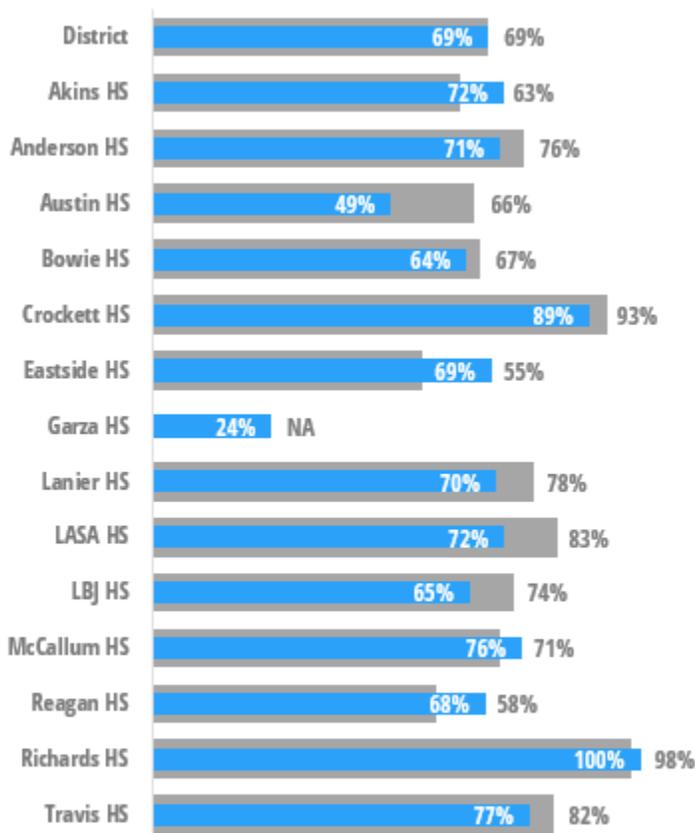
About the Data

Most aspiring college goers complete applications for postsecondary enrollment and financial aid prior to high school graduation. Through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), ApplyTexas offers a centralized site for prospective students to apply to postsecondary institutions across Texas. The U.S. Department of Education’s (USDE) Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) also provides the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which can be completed annually by students to determine eligibility for federal student financial aid to defray the personal costs of enrolling in college.

AISD Department of Research and Evaluation (DRE) staff obtained ApplyTexas and FAFSA submission data from the THECB and FSA to provide support to AISD seniors as they prepared for college. Following a strict security protocol, the THECB provided student-level ApplyTexas and FAFSA submission data back to the district. However, student-level FAFSA data were not all inclusive due to data matching inconsistencies or students opting out of data sharing. FSA also reported FAFSA filing in aggregate for high schools. The overall FAFSA results in this report were based on the source that produced the greatest count.

Figure 1

The AISD senior ApplyTexas submission rate remained the same from 2018 to 2019.



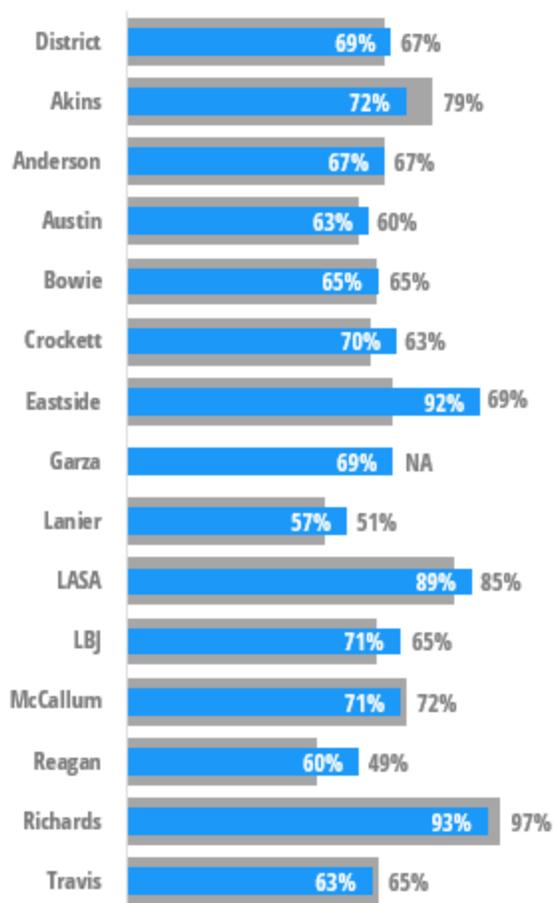
Source. THECB, ApplyTexas Administrative and Counselor Reporting Suite, October 2019

What percentage of AISD's seniors in 2018–2019 completed the FAFSA?

A higher percentage of AISD seniors completed the FAFSA in 2018–2019 (69%) than in 2017–2018 (67%). In addition, the district met the goal of having 55% of seniors submit a FAFSA each year (Figure 2). The estimated financial impact was \$31,665,600 for seniors who submitted a FAFSA in 2019. On the 2019 High School Exit Survey, seniors who indicated they did not submit a FAFSA were asked why they did not submit an application. Most often they reported that they did not know about the financial aid process or that they did not plan to enroll in college (Figure 3). However, the percentage of high school seniors who reported not knowing about the financial aid process decreased from 2017–2018 (35%) to 2018–2019 (30%).

Figure 2

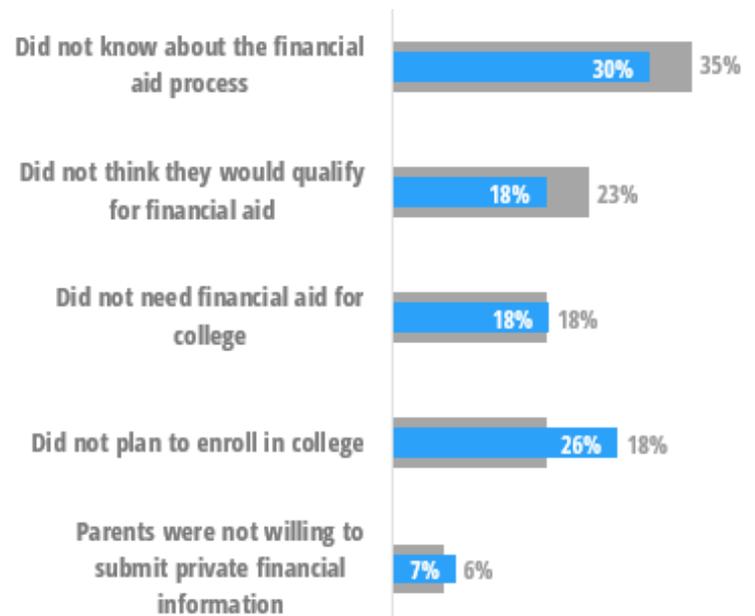
District-level FAFSA submission rates were higher in 2019 than in 2018 and met the district goal of 55%.



Source: FAFSA filing records from USDE's Office of FSA and the THECB, prepared by AISD DRE staff, as of November 2019

Figure 3

Approximately one-third of seniors who did not submit a FAFSA in 2018–2019 reported that they did not know about the financial aid process.



Source: AISD High School Exit Survey, May 2019

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