2011 SENIOR FAFSA SUBMISSION SUMMARY

DPE Publication 10.92 RB Karen Looby, Ph.D.
November 2011

About the FAFSA data. In 2010,
AISD was one of 20 school districts
selected by the USDE Federal
Student Aid (FSA) to receive access
to its student FAFSA completion
data through the Federal FAFSA
Pilot Project. In 2011, the Texas
Higher Education Board (THECB)
also provided AISD with its student
FAFSA completion data. Following
strict security guidelines consistent
with the expectations of the Family
Educational Rights and Privacy Act
(FERPA), AISD staff submitted
student directory information (e.g.,
name, date of birth, zip code) to
the FSA and the THECB to access
its student FAFSA submission and
completion status information. The
FAFSA completion data from the
USDE and THECB was returned to
the district to be merged,
summarized, and used
programmatically.
Note. The USDE and THECB used
slightly different algorithms to
match student records. Although
the datasets were largely
comparable, some students were
found in only one dataset or the
other. The use of both sources
enabled school district staff to
merge both sources and build a

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 for college by working (56%) or through personal or family savings (44%), compared with other student groups
who based their plans on these reasons (50% and 65%, respectively).
Table 1.What percentage of AISD’s 2011 seniors completed the FAFSA process? Using data provided
through the Federal FAFSA Pilot Project, a significant increase in the percentage of seniors who completed the
FAFSA in 2011 (40.7%) was observed, compared with the increase in percentage the prior year (29%; Table 1).
FAFSA data provided by the THECB were merged with the data from the Federal FAFSA Pilot Project, and
additional FAFSA completions were documented. Fifty-four percent of seniors in 2011 were found to have
completed the FAFSA. This total is surprisingly consistent with the 57% of seniors self-reporting a FAFSA

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Who is concerned with college
affordability? Everyone! Affordability is a
key element in accessing postsecondary
education. Most American families have
college affordability concerns (College
Board, 2011; National Center for Public
Policy and Higher Education, 2002). From
1980 to 2010, average family income
declined, and the largest declines were for
the families in the lowest 20% of the
population and for those in the highest
5%. Tuition and fees at public universities
increased almost 130% over the last 20
years, while middle class incomes
stagnated. The share of family income that
is needed to pay for tuition and other
college expenses also has increased. More

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