



Survey Report

The sixth annual Austin Independent School District (AISD) High School Exit Survey was administered online to seniors in every AISD high school during Spring 2009. Facilitators on each campus, primarily Project ADVANCE counselors, were responsible for ensuring that all graduating seniors were given the opportunity to complete the survey.

This report contains the results for the Akins High School Class of 2009. Where available, longitudinal data are presented to compare with 2009 responses. In addition, average results from all AISD high schools are presented alongside results for Akins for comparison purposes. In total, 3,365 students in the Class of 2009 completed the survey, including 282 students from Akins. Longitudinal tests for statistical significance were conducted with district-level data (see district-level report). Table 1 presents longitudinal response rates by campus and by district. Next, major findings are presented, followed by open-ended campus responses and, finally, responses to the multiple choice items from the survey.

The report is structured as follows. First, a brief summary of key findings from the 2009 High School Exit Survey is provided. This summary is followed by a selection of open-ended student comments that capture the predominant themes that emerged from the student comments. Last, the detailed, item-specific results for each question from the survey are presented.

Table 1. High School Exit Survey Response Rates, Classes 2007-2009

	Class of 2007	Class of 2008	Class of 2009
All high schools	82.0%	74.8%	

Postsecondary Intentions and Family Support; High School Experiences, Campus Climate, and Engagement; Instruction and Technology; Postsecondary Preparation and Advising; and Final Thoughts. Some of the notable findings at this campus include:

- x Employment. Akins seniors appeared to have worked more hours during the school year than other AISD high school seniors. However, the percentage who reported working in the summer was similar to that of other high school seniors.
- x College preparation. More students at Akins began thinking about college as a possibility a high school later in school than their district peers. Compared to seniors district-wide, Akins seniors appeared to have less college preparation. Lower percentages of Akins seniors indicated taking college entrance tests, test preparation classes, and completing community college classes. Akins seniors were more likely to have applied to 2-year colleges, but were substantially less likely to have applied to a 4-year institution.

INDIVIDUAL ITEM RESPONSES FOR AKINS HIGH SCHOOL

OPEN ENDED COMMENTS

The responses below are to the question, "What is the ONE thing that you especially want the administration of AISD to know?"

Fifty-eight (21%) provided a response. Many students mentioned general positive feelings about Akins High School and expressed gratitude to the teachers and staff. Other students expressed concern about the counseling services offered by Akins. Last, several students mentioned overcrowding issues at Akins. Commonly identified themes expressed by the Class of 2009 include:

- x Positive comments Students felt teachers and staff were generally positive and helpful to

POSTSECONDARY INTENTIONS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Table 2. Within A Year After Graduating From High School, What Do You Plan To Do? (Item 6)

	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Continue my education*	89.5%	89.3%	91.8%	89.0%	92.2%	93.1%
Go into the military	5.6%	5.8%	6.7%	2.6%	2.8%	3.9%
Be a full-time parent	4.0%	3.7%	1.8%	2.2%	2.2%	1.7%
Work full-time	17.8%	25.2%	15.2%	13.2%	13.5%	11.7%
Work part-time	37.9%	42.9%	36.2%	35.5%	41.1%	32.9%
No plans	5.4%	4.3%	3.5%	5.6%	2.4%	2.3%

Note Respondents could select more than one option, so percentages may not total 100%.

* Item was recoded to match longitudinal data. In 2008, this was two items: "Attend a school or college for a business, technical, trade, or vocational certificate" and "Attend a college or university for a degree." The percentage represents all students who chose either or both options.

Table 3. If You Are Not Planning To Pursue Further Education At This Time, What Are Your Primary Reasons? (Item 7)

	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Cannot afford to attend school	28.0%	14.3%	23.5%	30.6%	16.9%	33.0%
Childcare or family responsibilities	16.0%	17.1%	5.9%	9.8%	14.9%	11.4%
Don't like attending school	28.0%	14.3%	17.6%	22.4%	19.4%	17.6%
Grades/test scores aren't high enough	20.0%	17.1%	17.6%	23.0%	16.5%	21.6%
Don't feel academically prepared	16.0%	22.9%	17.6%	15.8%	13.7%	17.0%
Need income to support myself	28.0%	20.0%	29.4%	34.4%	21.8%	28.4%
Need income to support others	8.0%	8.6%	5.9%	10.4%	6.0%	10.8%
Other	15.8%	25.7%	11.7%	16.8%	22.6%	12.9%

Note Respondents could select more than one option, so percentages may not total 100%.

Table 4. If You Are Not Planning To Pursue Further Education At This Time, Do You Intend To Pursue It At A Later Time? (Item 8)

	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Yes	10.3%	11.1%	10.3%	10.3%	11.1%
No	89.7%	88.9%	89.7%	89.7%	88.9%

Table 5. To What Extent Were Your Parents Involved In The Following School-Related Things? (Item 9)

*Percentage who responded parents were involved at least Occasionally	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Volunteering at your school	35.1%	32.3%	28.9%	38.6%	40.0%	30.3%
Working with you on homework or school projects	52.3%	55.6%	54.0%	54.8%	54.6%	46.8%
Helping you decide what classes to take	51.9%	57.6%	55.2%	60.1%	60.2%	53.4%
Attending school meetings	52.7%	43.8%	39.4%	57.4%	54.9%	45.9%
Communicating with your teachers	54.4%	57.7%	54.9%	59.6%	60.6%	52.1%
Participating in school leadership opportunities	.	25.2%	17.6%	.	29.0%	17.9%
Attending athletic events	.	50.8%	42.8%	.	58.8%	51.5%
Attending academic events and competitions	.	35.4%	20.4%	.	36.9%	25.4%
Attending performance events	.	46.6%	42.0%	.	53.3%	45.0%
Joining and participating in the PTA	.	14.6%	5.5%	.	27.1%	16.5%

Note

Did Your Parents Go In School? Indicate Your Mother And Father's Highest Level Of Education. (Item 12)

	Akins Mother	Akins Father	Akins Sibling*	All HS Mother	All HS Father	All HS Siblings
Did not finish high school	26.6%	26.5%	12.8%	18.4%	18.7%	11.2%

HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCES, CAMPUS CLIMATE , AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Table 7. How Many Different High Schools Have You Attended? (Item 3)

	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2007	All HS
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Figure 1. Now Indicate The Number Of Hours Per Week That You Have Worked During Last Summer. (Q18a)

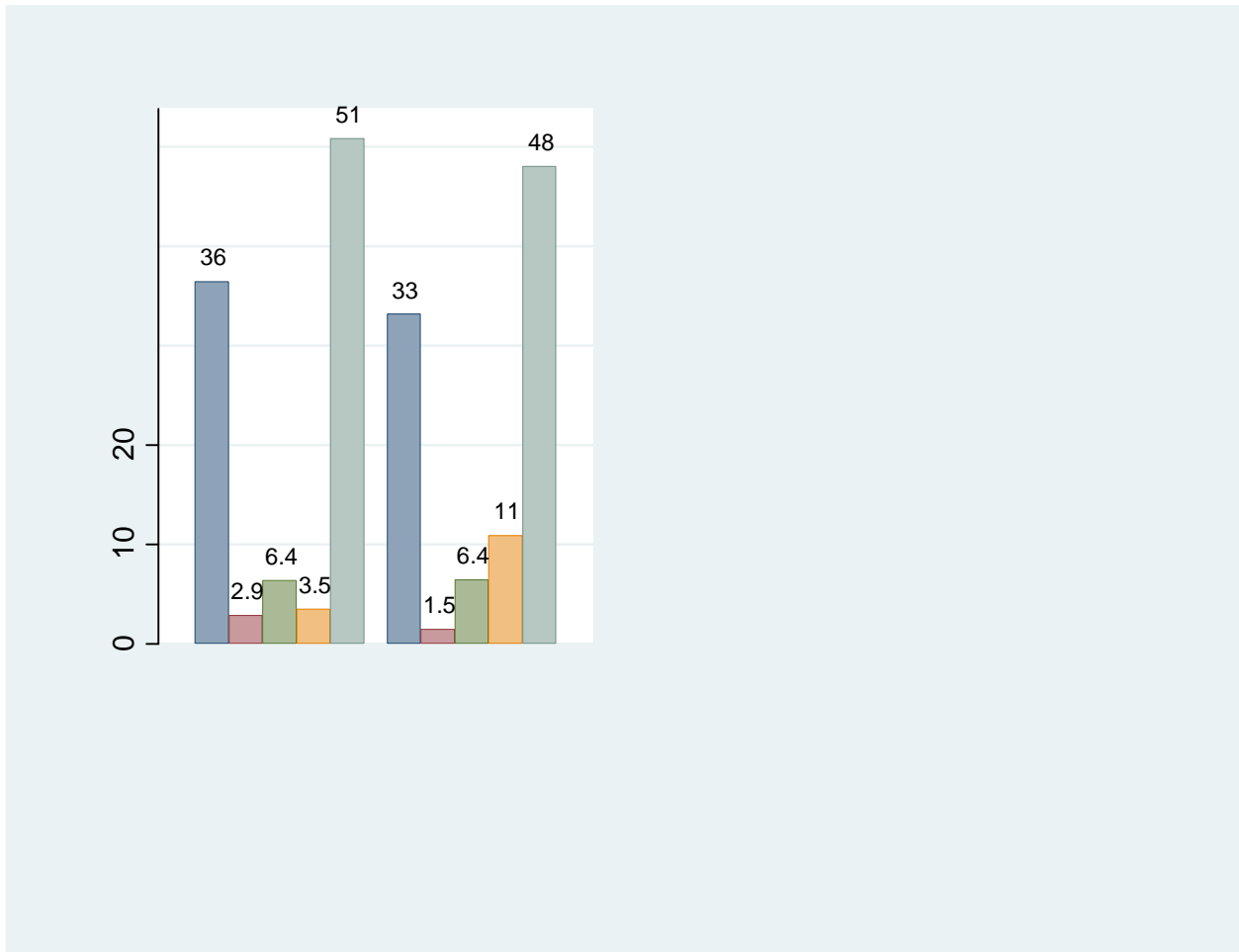


Figure 2. Now Indicate The Number Of Hours

Figure 3. Thinking Back On Your Years In High School, How Many Hours Per Week Did You Typically Spend Studying, Doing Research, Completing Homework Assignments Outside Of Class? (Item 19)

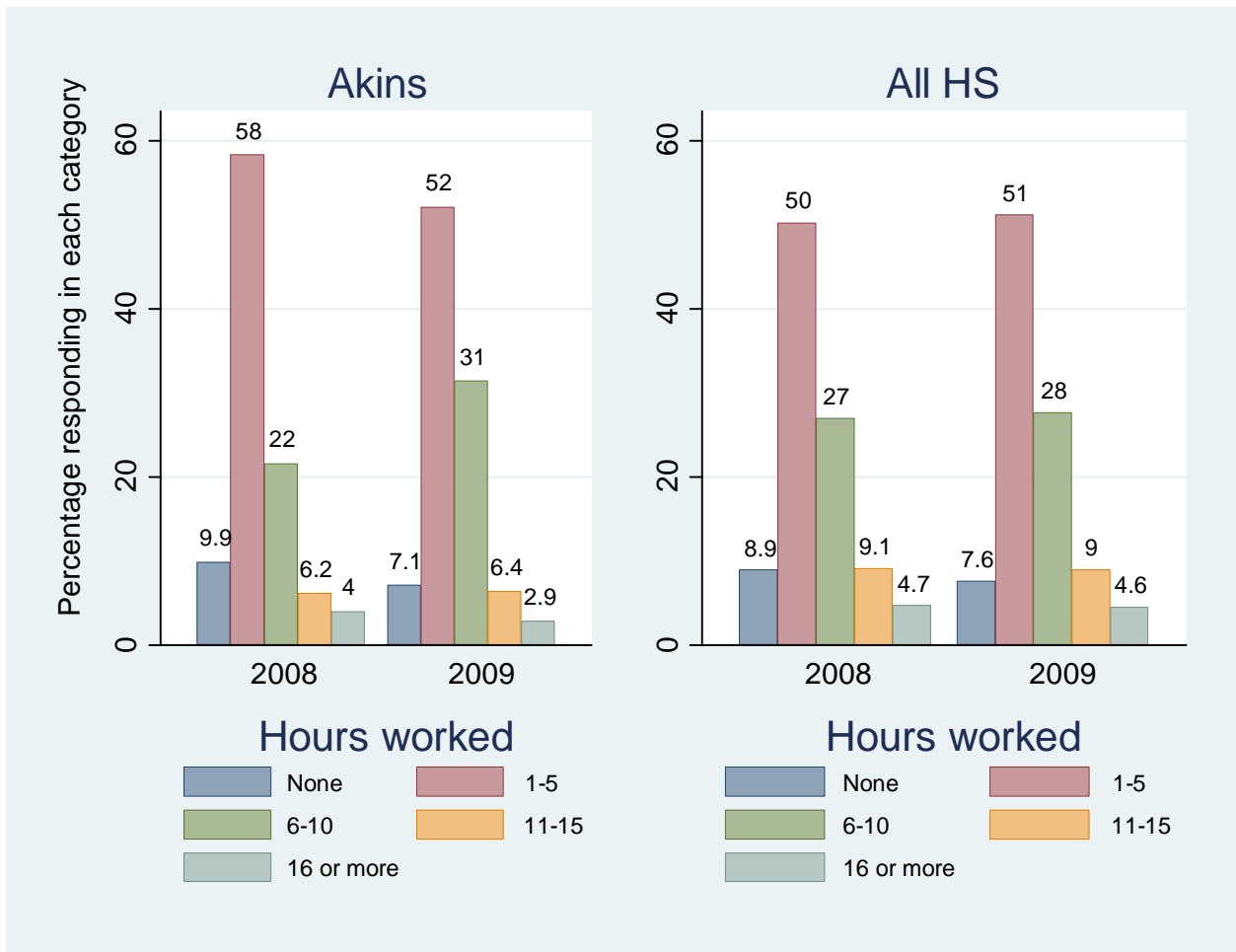


Figure 4. On Average, What Percentage Of You Study, Research And Homework Was Done Without Distractions (E.G., Television, Music, IM, Texting, Phone Calls)? (Item 20)

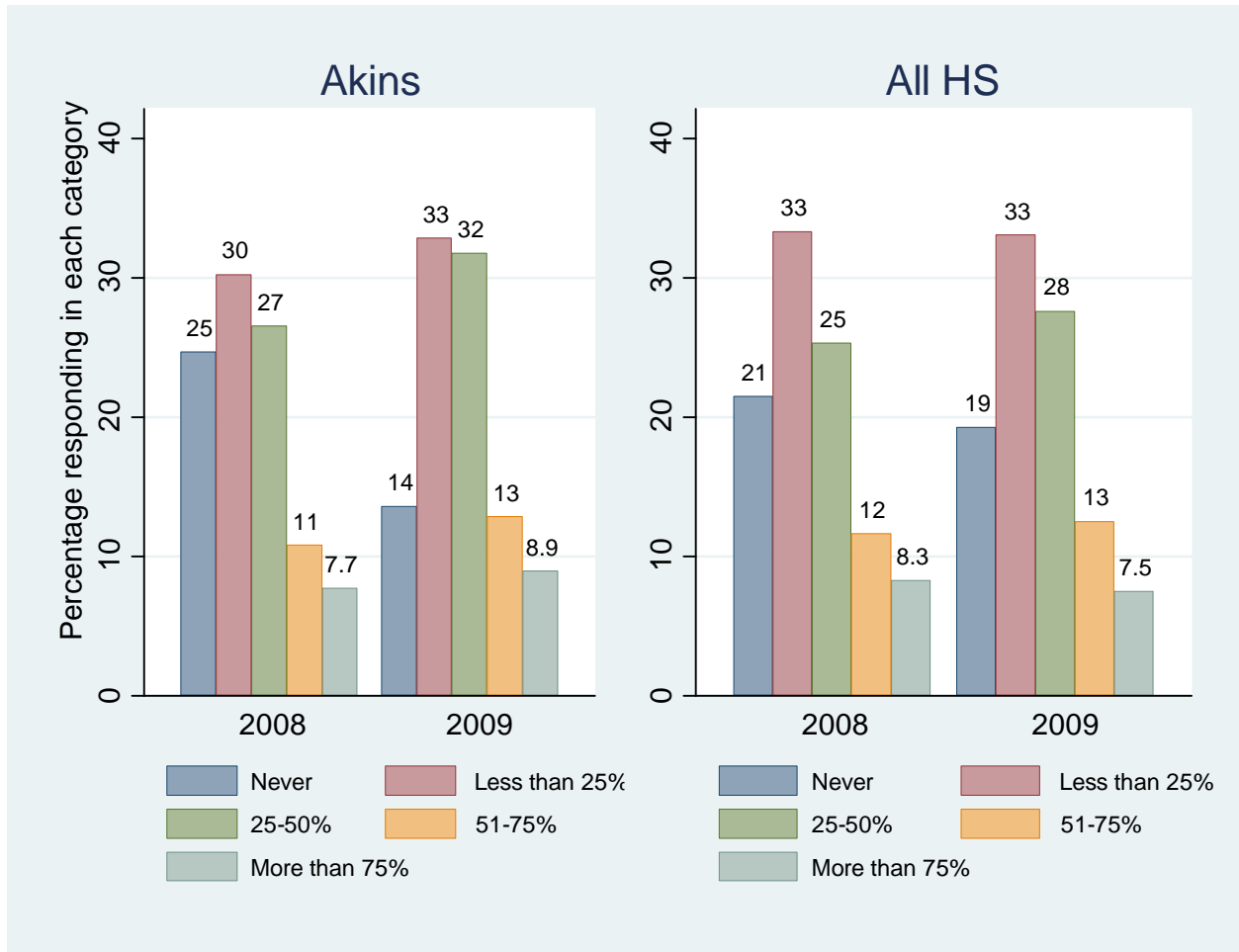


Table 11. Please Mark The Item That Best Indicates How You Feel: (Items 21a-21k)

* Percentage who responded Strongly agree or Agree	Akins 2009	All HS 2009
I feel safe at my school	82.1%	78.7%
My classmates show respect to each other	51.3%	50.9%
The consequences for breaking school rules are the same		

INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY

Table 13. How Well Did Your High School Help You To Actively Develop Knowledge And Skills In The Following Areas? (Item 22)

* Percentage who responded Somewhat well or Well	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Teamwork	.	89.8%	94.2%	.	88.6%	89.7%
Creative thinking	92.4%	92.3%	95.6%	90.8%	90.6%	91.7%
Problem solving	93.5%	92.5%	94.2%	92.9%	91.5%	92.0%
Conflict resolution	84.6%	84.9%	88.3%	84.6%	82.8%	84.1%
Personal health/fitness	82.3%	86.3%	87.5%	78.5%	78.6%	81.0%
Time management	.	82.0%	86.3%	.	80.8%	81.2%
Technology	.	84.8%	88.6%	.	84.6%	84.2%

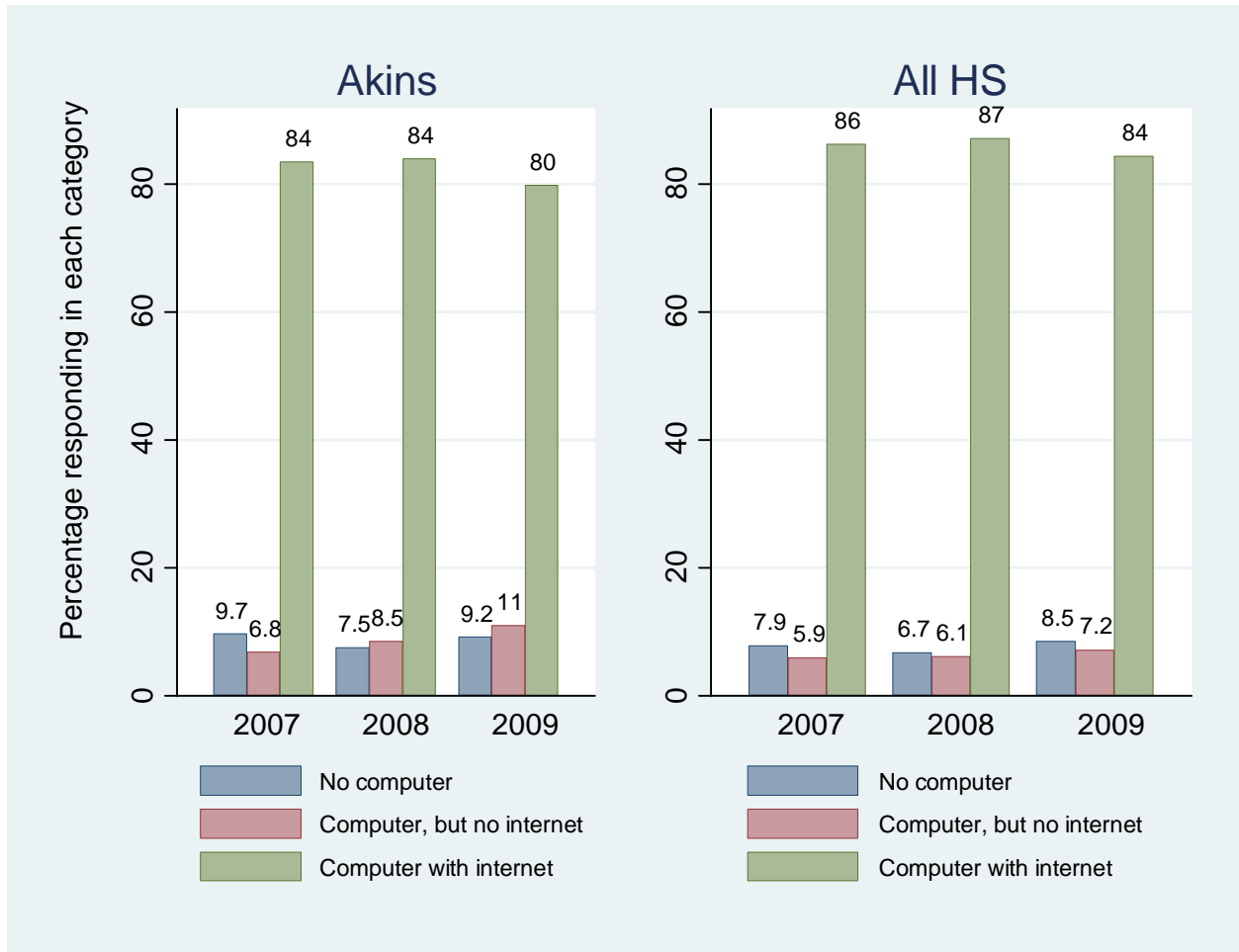
Note. Missing values, denoted by a period, indicate the item was not included on the respective year's survey.
 * Responses were Not well, Somewhat well and Very well

Table 14. Please Rate The Quality Of Instruction That You Feel That You Received In The Following Areas: (Item 23)

* Percentage who responded Good or Excellent	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Writing	82.7%	84.5%	80.8%	82.6%	81.2%	81.6%
Mathematics	68.9%	67.0%	69.2%	71.3%	70.7%	70.8%
Science	61.8%	59.6%	59.3%	68.9%	69.5%	69.8%
Social Studies	83.6%	86.9%	81.3%	84.2%	82.8%	82.0%
Computer/Technology	73.6%	76.1%	70.7%	71.0%	71.8%	70.2%
Foreign Language	64.3%	60.9%	67.4%	64.5%	63.9%	64.3%
Performing/Fine Arts	71.2%	71.9%	71.5%	72.2%	73.8%	73.0%

* Responses were Poor, Fair, Good and Excellent

Figure 5. Which Of The Following Describes Your Computer And Internet Access At Home? (Item 24)



Note: This figure is based on data from the 2007-2009 High School Exit Survey. The data is presented in the following table.

Figure 6. Do Your Parents Use Parentconnect/Gradespeed To Monitor Your Grades?

Table 15. How Frequently Do You Use A Computer?: (Item 25)

* Percentage who responded At least once a week or more	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
At home?	82.5%	81.7%	81.7%	86.4%	86.7%	83.9%
At school?	87.0%	75.5%	69.7%	70.8%	74.0%	73.1%
To present material in class, for example, using PowerPoint	27.0%	25.1%	26.4%	22.6%	23.5%	22.0%
To type a paper or class assignment?	55.1%	48.4%	47.8%	57.2%	55.3%	53.5%
To search the Internet to complete class-related assignments?	66.6%	60.0%	56.7%	62.3%	61.6%	62.7%
To research college/career choices?	48.4%	48.1%	50.2%	50.5%	50.6%	51.0%
To complete online forms or applications for college/employment?	44.6%	39.9%	41.5%	43.4%	44.0%	43.4%
To communicate with teachers (e.g., email, IM, etc.)?	28.1%	25.2%	18.8%	18.1%	20.8%	17.8%
To communicate with friends (e.g., email, IM, blog, Facebook, etc.)?	73.6%	70.0%	65.7%	74.1%	74.8%	72.5%
To monitor grades/progress in school?	.	.	33.6%	.	.	29.4%

Note Missing values, denoted by a period, indicate the item was not included on the respective year's survey.
 *Responses were Never, Less than once a week, Once a week, Every day, and Almost every day. Reports prior to 2008 indicated item means; in 2009, percentages represented the number of students at least once a week or more.

Table 16. Indicate How Much You Agree With Each Of The Following Statements About Technology Use At School: (Item 26)



Table 18. High School Preparation For Post-Graduation Opportunities (Item 30a-D)

* Percentage who responded Somewhat well or Well	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
How well prepared were you to plan your high school course selections?	81.8%	91.0%	89.5%	88.7%	91.2%	91.2%
How well prepared were you to meet your college and career goals?	78.5%	82.3%	84.4%	86.9%	88.4%	86.1%
How well prepared have you been for the college/technical/vocational school application process?	76.9%	77.4%	78.2%	84.6%	83.4%	82.0%
How well informed are/were you about obtaining financial aid for education after high school (whether or not you applied)?	78.8%	76.3%	81.9%	84.2%	81.6%	81.0%

* Response options were Not well, Somewhat well and Very well

Table 19. How Did You Prepare For Continuing Education? (Check All That Apply) (Item 32)

	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Took the PSAT examination	48.9%	55.5%	55.3%	57.9%	67.9%	63.1%
Took AP/IB classes	39.5%	39.0%	35.5%	45.3%	48.6%	47.2%
Visited campuses	34.2%	42.0%	42.6%	44.0%	51.8%	55.8%
Attended college fairs	52.0%	63.5%	52.5%	44.4%	48.6%	45.3%
Completed and submitted a FASA	33.3%	42.6%	39.7%	41.3%	49.3%	48.6%
Completed and submitted a scholarship application	25.1%	30.4%	26.2%	30.8%	41.6%	40.3%
Took college entrance tests	52.0%	59.8%	54.3%	65.6%	72.4%	68.1%
Took test prep classes	37.6%	33.1%	32.6%	38.2%	41.7%	38.9%
Completed ACC courses	13.3%	13.8%	18.4%	23.3%	29.4%	33.1%
Ordered and submitted transcripts	29.9%	37.7%	31.9%	40.3%	50.3%	47.7%
Other college-level courses	.	.	2.5%	.	.	5.4%

Note Respondents could select more than one option, so percentages may not total 100%. Missing values, denoted by a period, indicate the item was not included on the respective year's survey.

Table 20. In Which Of The Following College Preparation Programs Did You Participate While In High School? (Item 33)

	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Project ADVANCE	5.5%	7.1%	26.1%	12.9%
AVID	7.4%	8.2%	8.9%	8.8%
ACC College Connections	12.0%	16.0%		

Table 22. Have You Applied To The Following Types Of Postsecondary Institutions?
(Items 35, 36, And 37)

	Akins 2007	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Have you applied to a 2-year college	40.4%	52.1%	46.8%	49.8%	41.4%	41.3%
Have you applied to a 4-year college?	57.9%	46.0%	44.0%	69.1%	63.9%	62.7%
Have you applied to a business/technical/vocational school?	20.3%	7.4%	6.5%	13.7%	6.5%	8.5%

Note

Table 24. How Do You Plan To Pay For Your Education After High School? (Item 46)

	Akins 2008	Akins 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Scholarships and/or grants	54.0%	60.6%	54.8%	56.3%
Loans	67.2%	39.0%	63.7%	38.0%
Family or personal savings	53.4%	35.5%	56.8%	49.5%
Working during the school year	53.1%	51.4%	47.0%	46.4%
Working during the summer	48.5%	48.6%	45.3%	48.2%
I don't know	15.0%	13.8%	14.9%	14.6%

Note Respondents could select more than one option, so percentages may not total 100%.

Table 25. Which Of The Following Did A Family Member Do To Help You Prepare For Life After High School Graduation? (Item 43)

	Akins 2009	All HS 2009
Encouraged you to apply to several different colleges	51.1%	57.0%

ADDITIONAL RESULTS

Figure 9a. What Is TheOne ThingThat Was Most Important To Keeping You Going Through School All The Way ToGraduation? (Item 48,

Figure 9b. What Is The One Thing That Was Most Important To Keeping You Going Through School All The Way To Graduation? (Item 48, All High Schools)

