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RESULTS OF THE AISD HIGH SCHOOL EXIT SURVEY CLASS OF 2007

The fifth annual AISD High School Exit Survey was administered electronically to seniors in every AISD High School during the Spring of 2007¹. This report contains the results for the Class of 2007, along with a longitudinal summary of responses, where available².

The survey is organized into five general topics: Postsecondary Intentions, Campus Climate and High School Experiences, Technology Usage, Postsecondary Preparation and Advising, and

- For those students who do not plan to continue their education right away, 62.0% indicated that they do intend to pursue it at a later time, an increase of more than ten points over the previous year. A large percentage (45.8%) indicated that they “definitely” plan to do so at a later time.
- Sixty-nine percent of 12th graders reported that they had applied to one or more 4-year colleges, mostly in Texas. This is a ten percentage point increase over the Class of 2005, and slightly higher (approximately 1 percentage point) than the Class of 2006.
- Financing continues to be the primary reported barrier to pursuing further education for AISD students; 65% of those not planning to attend college in the next year indicated that the need for income, or inability to afford further schooling, were their primary reasons.

Campus Climate and High School Experiences.

- When asked about the “one thing” that was most important to keeping them going through school all the way to graduation, nearly 50% of students indicated “future goals/career goals.” Other common responses included parental expectations and extracurricular activities.
- Most students (72.5%) reported working during High School, and approximately 40% of 12th

homework or attended school activities or meetings. Students reported that their parents were least involved in volunteering at school.

INDIVIDUAL ITEM RESPONSES FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOLS⁴

Open-Ended Responses

What is the ONE thing that you especially want the administration of AISD to know. (Item 1)

Students made 2,411 total comments; 41.5% of the comments were positive, 57.9% of comments were negative. Themes from this open-ended comment section have been identified and summarized each year. Generally, comments remain consistent from year to year; commonly identified themes expressed by the Class of 2007 include:

- **Respect.** Students continued to express a desire to be treated with respect and fairness by school staff, including administrators, office/attendance staff, hall monitors, security and parking lot personnel. Many felt that they were treated with suspicion and disrespect as a result of the behavior of other students. Students also were concerned that some rules (e.g., parking, dress code, off-campus lunch) were enforced inconsistently.

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“I moved to AISD when I started high school, and I believe it has helped me reach goals that would have been impossible in my previous school district. AISD showed me how to be successful.”-12th grader at Akins HS.

“I Love my School!”-12th grader at Bowie HS

learning process. Many would have liked to wear hats.

- **Food.** Students at many campuses were unhappy with the cafeteria food and wished for better tasting, healthier options. Some also complained about losing vending machines.
- **Facilities.** Students were disheartened by lack of attention to school facilities, particularly the cleanliness of restrooms. Many students commented on the lack of paper towels and soap.
- The most frequently mentioned topics were **General Positive Comments** (positive comments about school or AISD with no particular topic mentioned) and comments about **Academics** (especially negative comments about TAKS).

Multiple-Choice Items

The following tables contain a summary of the responses to the multiple-choice survey items. Some tables contain average responses and others indicate the percentage of students who chose or agreed with a particular item. Longitudinal data are provided where available, and black arrows indicate statistically meaningful changes from one year to the next⁵.

Within a year after graduating from high school, what do you plan to do? (Item 2⁶)

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
Continue my education	74.6%	84.0% →	89.0% →
Travel	11.6%	13.1%	18.3% →
Full-time parent	2.6%	1.8% →	2.2%
Military	3.3%	3.4%	2.6%
Work full-time	14.0%	12.3% →	13.2%
Work part-time	32.4%	30.5%	35.5% →
No plans	9.2%	8.0%	5.6% →

Notes: Respondents may select more than one option; percentages will not total 100%; arrows indicate statistically meaningful changes from one year to the next; the direction of arrow indicates the direction of the change.

How many different high schools have you attended? (Item 4)

	2005-2006	2006-2007
1	73.9%	76.1% →
2	17.5%	16.8%
3 or more	8.6%	7.2% →

Note: Arrows indicate statistically meaningful changes from one year to the next; the direction of arrow indicates the direction of the change.

⁵ Effect sizes are a calculation of the magnitude of difference between two values. For mean values, Cohen's *d* was calculated and effect sizes above $d=.20$ are indicated as being significant with an arrow; for percentages, z-values were calculated, and those that met or exceeded the critical value at $p<.05$ were flagged as significant with an arrow.

⁶ Although survey item numbers are indicated, the items are presented according to content in the full transcript.

CAMPUS CLIMATE AND HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE


Climate (Item 6a-n)

School Climate

Here is a list of community organizations found in and around Austin. Please indicate which of them, if any, you have participated in while in High School. (Item 8)

NUMBER OF STUDENTS PER CAMPUS RESPONDING FOR EACH ORGANIZATION		
Organization	AKINS	A

Thinking back on your years in high school, how many hours per week did you typically spend studying, doing research, or completing homework assignments OUTSIDE of class? (Item 9)

A large empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a response.

How well did your high school help you to further develop knowledge and skills in the following areas? (Item 11)

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
Creative Thinking	2.4	2.4	2.3
Problem Solving	2.4	2.3	2.3
Conflict Resolution	2.2	2.0	2.2

TECHNOLOGY USAGE

How frequently, on average, did you use a computer during or outside of class for your most recent high school classes in each of the subjects listed below? (Item 13)

	2005-2006	2006-2007
Math	1.4	1.5
Science	1.8	1.9
English	2.5	2.5
Social Studies	2.0	2.1

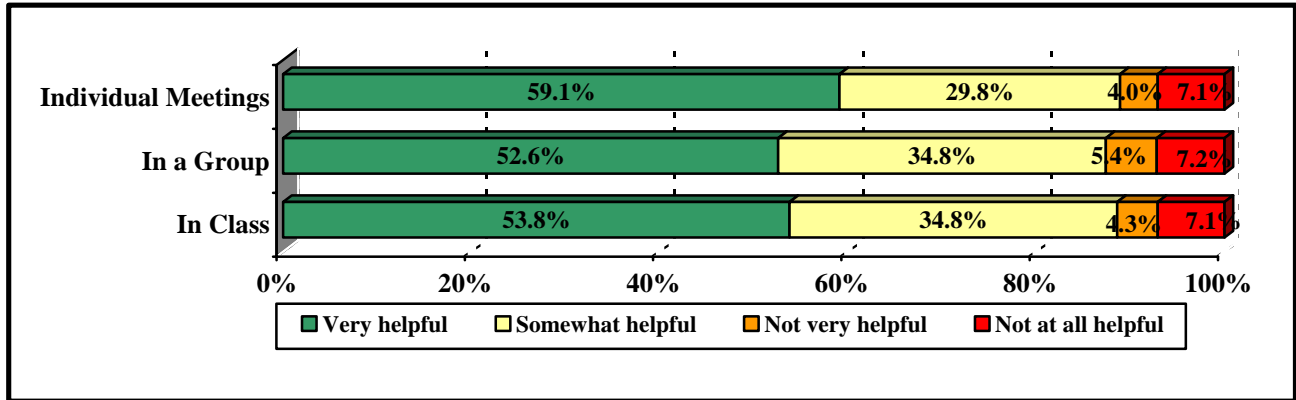
Note: Responses can range from 1 (never) to 4 (daily).

How often do you use a computer... (Item 14)

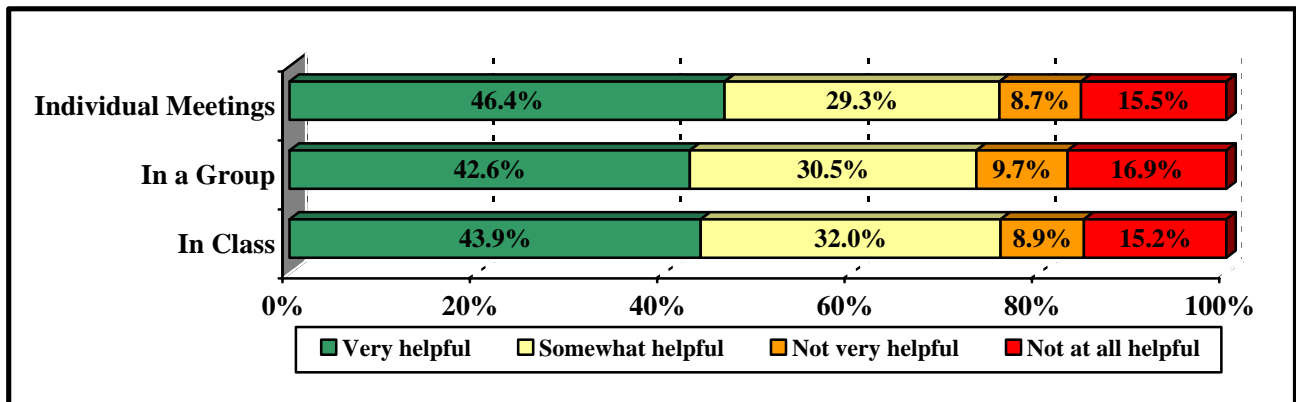
	2005-2006	2006-2007
At home?	3.6	3.5
At school?	3.0	3.1
To present material in class, for example, using PowerPoint?	**	2.1
To type a paper or class assignment?	**	2.7
To search the Internet to comp	2.7	

P

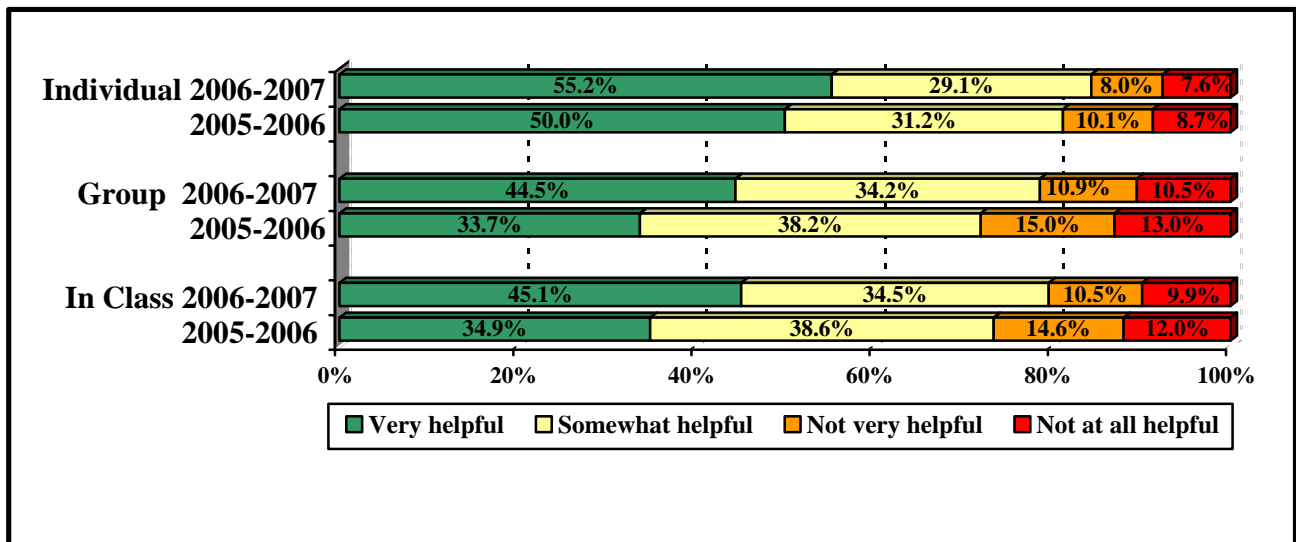
How helpful was your Advocate in the following types of meetings? (Item 21)



How helpful was your Advisory Teacher in the following types of meetings? (Item 22)



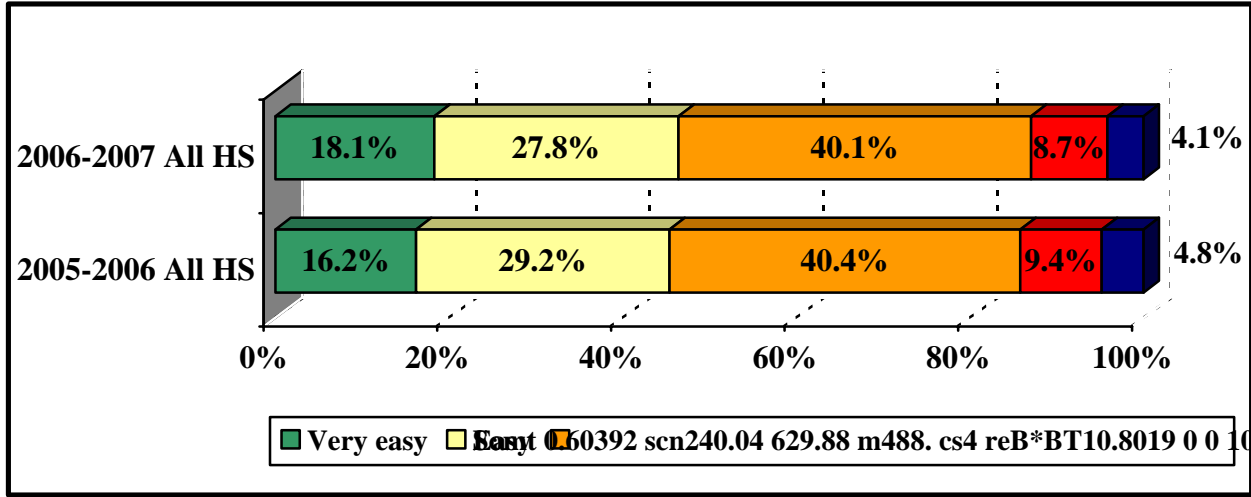
How helpful was your School Counselor in the following types of meetings? (Item 22)



For which of the following issues did you meet with a school counselor? (Item 24)

	2005-2006	2006-2007
Scheduling	81.5%	76.7%
Course selection & placement	60.1%	56.2%
Graduation plans	52.3%	53.0%
4 year plan	21.5%	21.2%
Graduation credit verification	41.0%	39.1%
Testing interpretation		

How easy has it been for you and your parents to understand the process of financial aid (whether or not you applied)? (Item 27)



PLANNING FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

To which of the following have you submitted applications; to which of the following have you already been accepted? (Items 30-35)

	Applied			Accepted		
	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
2-yr college	25.4%	54.5% ^á	49.8% ^â	21.1%	45.2% ^á	44.4%
4-yr college	59.9%	68.0% ^á	69.1%	50.6%	56.5% ^á	59.0% ^á
Business/technical/ vocational school	8.1%	14.7% ^á	13.8%	6.6%	13.7% ^á	17.3% ^á

For those students who plan to attend a school for postsecondary education or certification:

Will you be the first person in your immediate family to attend college? (Item 38)

	2005-2006	2006-2007
"Yes"	27.9%	29.1%

FINAL GENERAL ITEMS

For all students:

Voting (Items 45-47)

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
Are you eligible to vote in the U.S.?	59.9%	54.0% ^â	58.1% ^á
If you are eligible, have you registered to vote?			38.5% ^â
Have you voted in any school board, city, county, state, or national election?			

APPENDIX

Table A.1. Response Rate and Respondent Demographic Characteristics

Seniors Enrolled	# Surveys	Initial Response Rate	African Am	Hispanic	White	Female	Male	# Removed	Final N	Corrected
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AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

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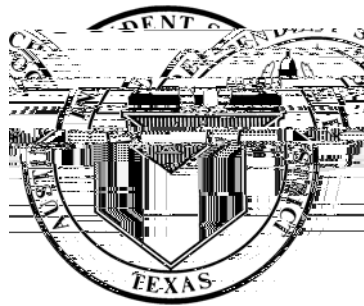
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