



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 Eastside High School Class of 2009. Where available, longitudinal data are presented to compare with the 2009 responses. In addition, average results from all AISD high schools are presented alongside results for Eastside for comparison purposes. In total, 3,365 students in the Class of 2009 completed the survey, including 94 students from Eastside. 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-level 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%	78.8%
Eastside	78.2%	72.4%	89.5%

Major Findings

Student responses are organized into seven general topics areas: Open-Ended Comments; Postsecondary Intentions and Family Support; High School Experiences, Campus Climate, and Civic Engagement; Instruction and Technology; Postsecondary Preparation and Advising; and Final Thoughts. Some of the notable trends at this campus include:

- **Quality of instruction.** Eastside seniors seemed to have rated the quality of the instruction they received in writing and mathematics lower than other seniors. However, Eastside seniors appeared to have rated the quality of computer/technology instruction at their school more favorably than did seniors district-wide.
- **College preparation.** Compared to seniors across the district, fewer Eastside seniors appeared to have reported taking the PSAT exam, AP/IB classes, visiting college campuses, attending college fairs, taking college entrance exams, taking test preparation classes,

completing ACC courses, and ordering and submitting transcripts. More Eastside seniors said they had applied to a 2-year college than did other seniors. However, fewer Eastside seniors reported having applied to a 4-year college.

- **Financial aid:** Of those Eastside seniors who did not submit a financial aid application, they were far more likely than seniors at other campuses to claim they did not do so because their parents were unwilling to submit private financial information.

INDIVIDUAL ITEM RESPONSES FOR EASTSIDE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

OPEN ENDED COMMENTS

POSTSECONDARY INTENTIONS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

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

	Eastside 2007	Eastside 2008	Eastside 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS
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Table 5. To What Extent Were Your Parents Involved In The Following School-Related Things? (Item 9)

<i>*Percentage who responded parents were involved at least Occasionally</i>	Eastside 2007	Eastside 2008	Eastside 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Volunteering at your school	31.6%	35.0%	36.6%	38.6%	40.0%	30.3%
Working with you on homework or school projects	42.1%	52.9%	49.5%	54.8%	54.6%	46.8%
Helping you decide what classes to take	46.2%	42.3%	43.0%	60.1%	60.2%	53.4%
Attending school meetings	48.1%	58.3%	45.2%	57.4%	54.9%	45.9%
Communicating with your teachers	48.1%	65.0%	61.1%	59.6%	60.6%	52.1%
Participating in school leadership opportunities	.	27.2%	24.2%	.	29.0%	17.9%
Attending athletic events	.	50.0%	49.5%	.	58.8%	51.5%
Attending academic events and competitions	.	33.0%	25.3%	.	36.9%	25.4%
Attending performance events	.	45.2%	35.5%	.	53.3%	45.0%
Joining and participating in the PTA	.	24.3%	16.5%	.	27.1%	16.5%

Note. Missing values, denoted by a period, indicate the item was not included on the respective year's survey.

* Response options were *Never, Rarely, Occasionally, and Often*. In 2008, *Consistently* was an additional response option; in 2009, it was removed. Thus, results may not be equivalent between years.

Table 6. How Far Did Your Parents Go In School? Indicate Your Mother And Father's Highest Level Of Education. (Item 12)

	Eastside Mother	Eastside Father	Eastside Sibling*	All HS Mother	All HS Father	All HS Siblings
Did not finish high school	50.0%	50.8%	19.4%	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)

	Eastside 2007	Eastside 2008	Eastside 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
1	60.0%	65.7%	54.3%	76.1%	77.6%	70.1%
2	28.0%	28.6%	28.6%	16.8%	16.8%	18.4%
3 or more	12.0%	5.7%	17.1%	7.2%	5.6%	11.5%

Table 8. Please Indicate The Number Of Years Of High School In Which You Participated In Each Of These Extracurricular Activities. (Items 13 & 15)

<i>*Percentage who reported at least 1 year of participation</i>	Eastside 2008	Eastside 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
<i>In school</i>				
Music	29.5%	35.9%	35.1%	33.6%
Theater	11.7%	12.4%	20.4%	18.6%
Dance	28.6%	28.6%	23.2%	22.1%
Sports	63.8%	69.6%	58.8%	57.9%
UIL academic competitions				

Table 9. For Each Of These Extracurricular Activities, Did You Spend More Than 10 Hours Per Week During Your Senior Year On Them? (Items 14 & 16)

<i>*Percentage of seniors indicating they spent more than 10 hours per week on each activity.</i>	Eastside 2009	All HS 2009
<i>Inside school</i>		
Music	2.2%	8.0%
Theater	0.0%	3.2%
Dance	4.4%	3.8%
Sports	30.8%	23.4%
UIL academic competitions	0.0%	2.3%
Speech/debate	0.0%	1.3%
Student government	1.1%	0.9%
Career and technical student organizations	0.0%	2.3%
<i>Outside school</i>		
Music	6.7%	6.6%
Theater	0.0%	1.5%
Dance	3.3%	2.9%
Sports	25.8%	19.1%
Community service/volunteering	4.4%	6.3%
Environmental project/activities	0.0%	1.8%
Boy/Girl Scouts	0.0%	0.6%
Family care	5.6%	7.2%

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

Table 10. Please Indicate The Number Of Years Of High School That You Have Been Employed (Either During The Year Or During The Summer). (Item 17)

	Eastside 2008	Eastside 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
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Figure 2. Now Indicate The Number Of Hours Per Week That You Have Worked During Your Senior Year. (Q18b)

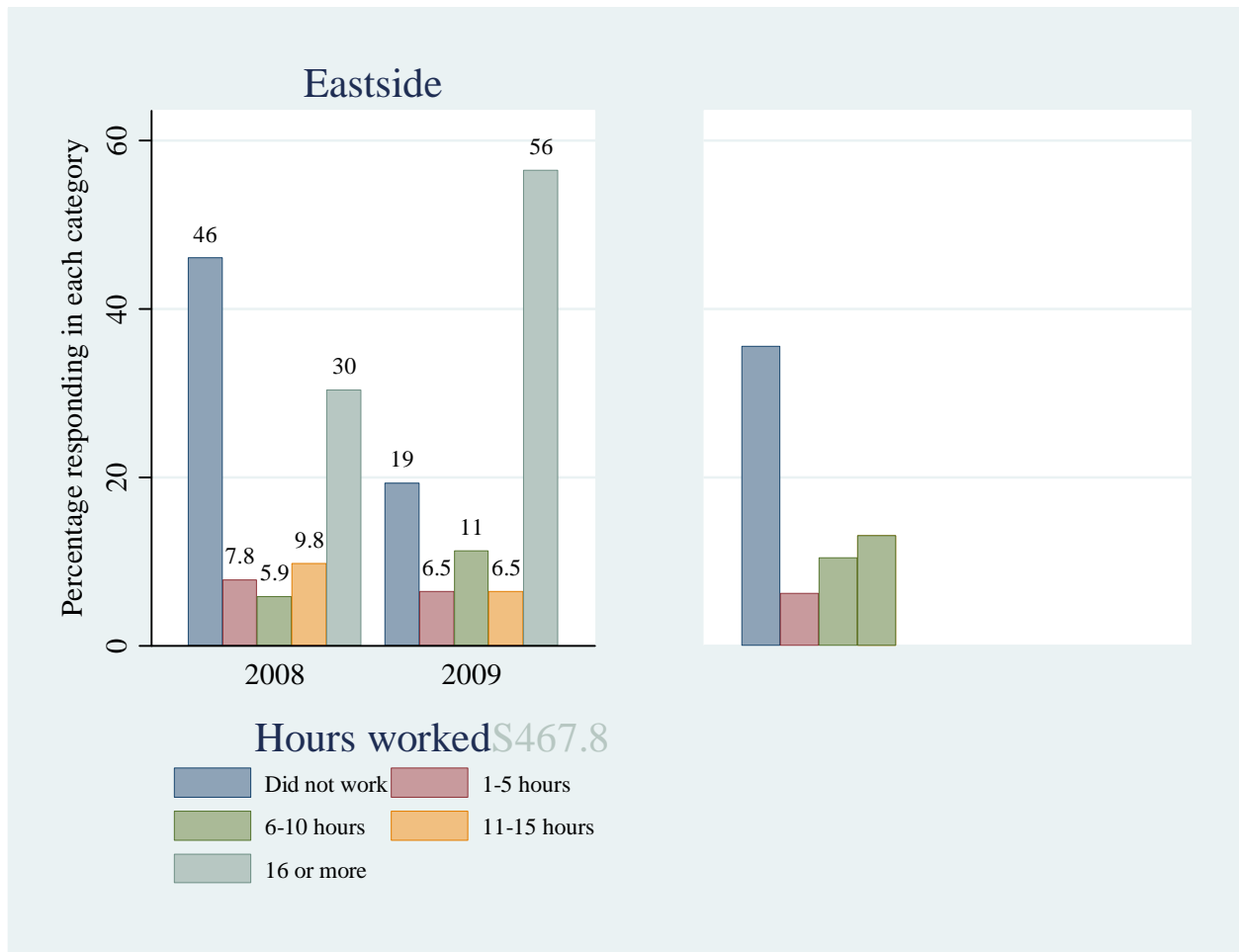


Figure 3. Thinking Back On Your Years In High School, How Many Hours Per Week Did You Typically Spend Studying, Doing Research, Or Completing Homework Assignments Outside Of Class? (Item 19)

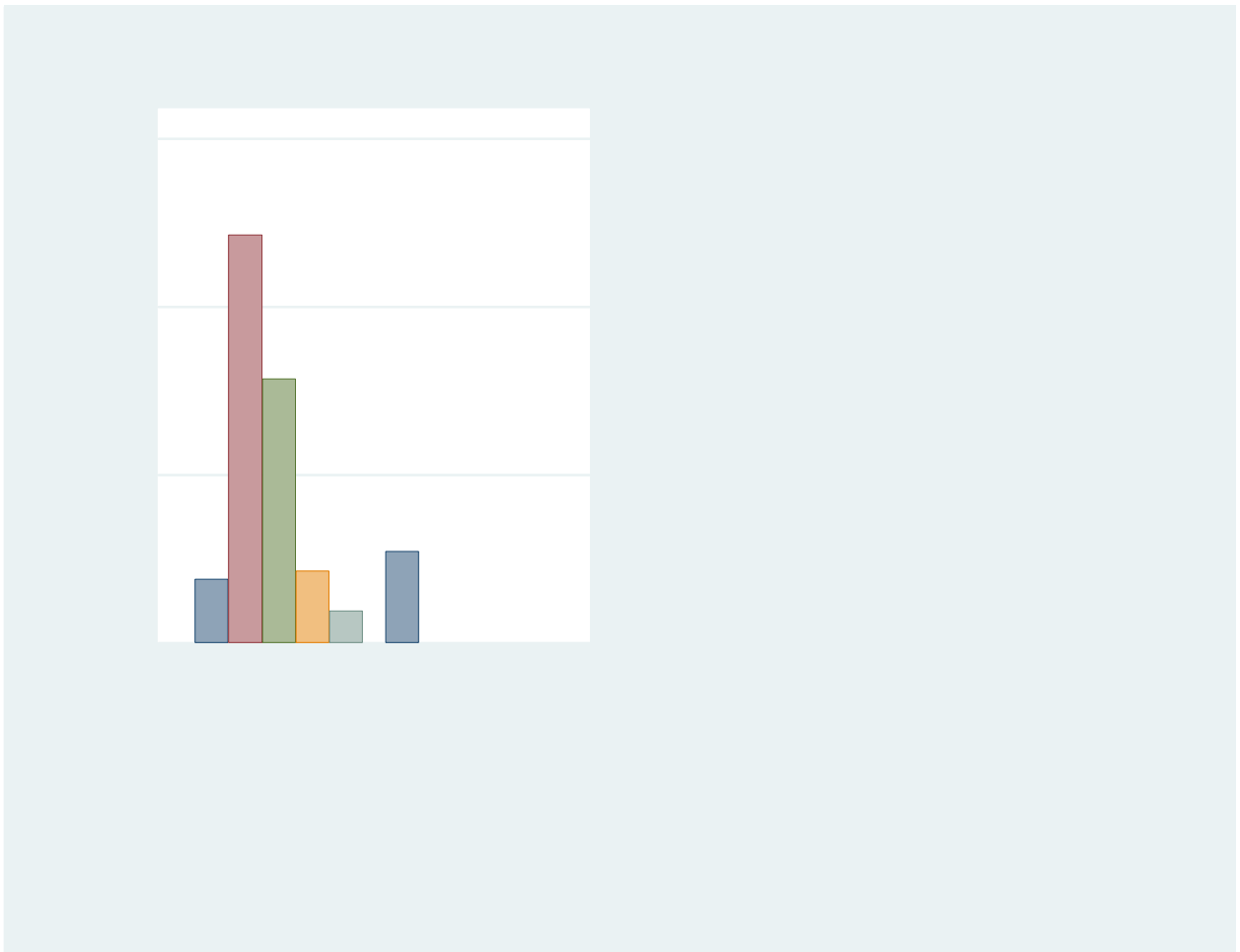


Figure 4. On Average, What Percentage Of Your Study, Research And Homework Was Done Without Distractions (E.G., Television, Music, IM, Texting, Phone Calls)? (Item 20)

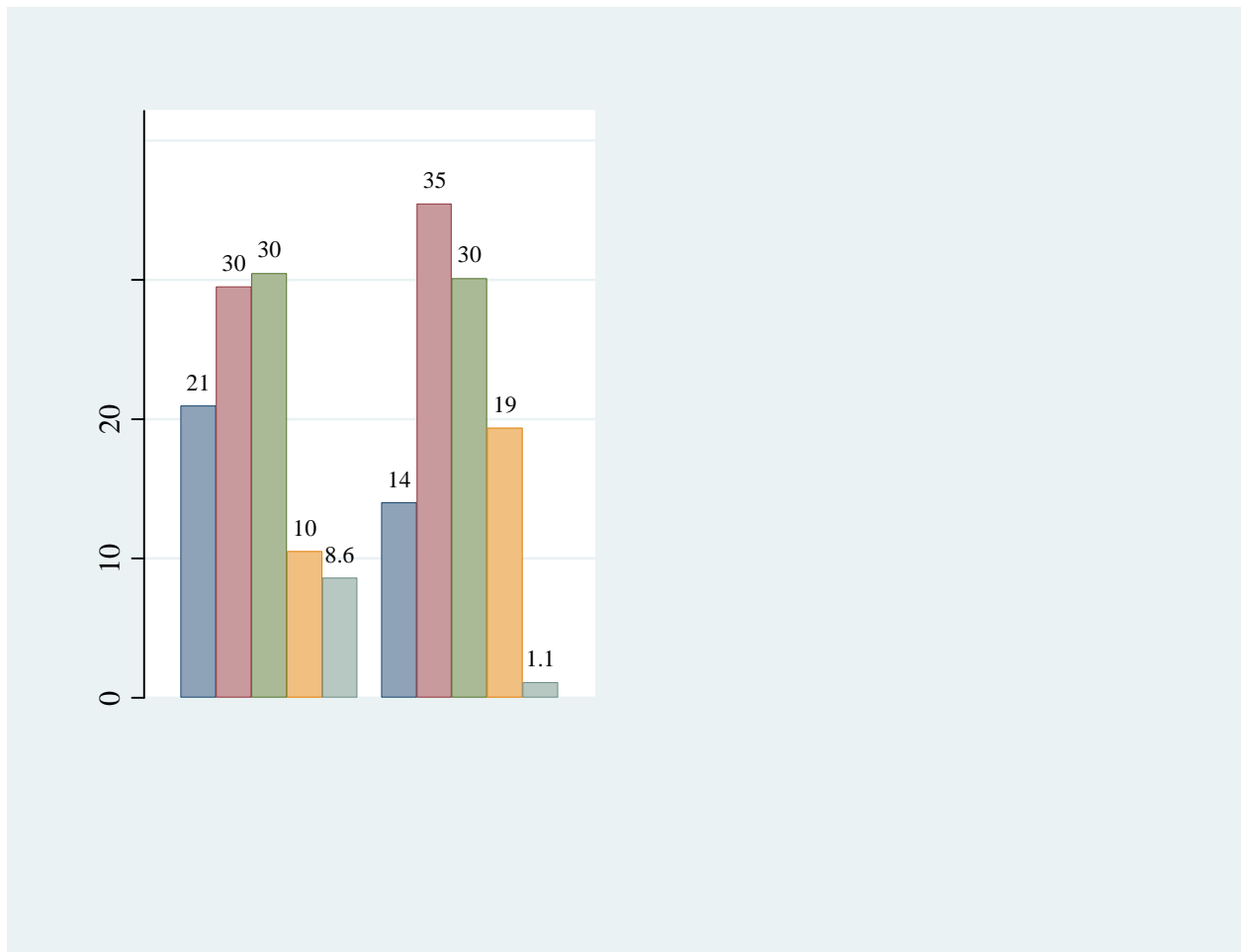


Table 11. Please Mark The Item That Best Indicates How You Feel: (Items 21a-21k)

<i>*Percentage who responded Strongly agree or Agree</i>	Eastside 2009	All HS 2009
I feel safe at my school	89.2%	78.7%

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)

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



Note. This item was recoded to match longitudinal data. In prior years' surveys, students were asked to indicate the type of Internet service they had at home.

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

<i>*Percentage who responded At least once a week or more</i>	Eastside 2007	Eastside 2008	Eastside 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
At home?	62.8%	67.0%	55.9%	86.4%	86.7%	83.9%
At school?	92.3%	88.3%	64.9%	70.8%	74.0%	73.1%
To present material in class, for example, using PowerPoint	22.1%	33.3%	34.4%	22.6%	23.5%	22.0%
To type a paper or class assignment?	56.4%	62.7%	51.6%	57.2%	55.3%	53.5%
To search the Internet to complete class-related assignments?	66.7%	70.9%	59.1%	62.3%	61.6%	62.7%
To research college/career choices?	48.7%	59.6%	47.9%	50.5%	50.6%	51.0%
To complete online forms or applications for college/employment?	41.0%	53.4%	44.7%	43.4%	44.0%	43.4%
To communicate with teachers (e.g., email, IM, etc.)?	15.8%	22.1%	17.2%	18.1%	20.8%	17.8%
To communicate with friends (e.g., email, IM, blog, Facebook, etc.)?	64.9%	66.3%	49.5%	74.1%	74.8%	72.5%

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

**Percentage who responded Agree or Strongly agree*

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

<i>*Percentage who responded Somewhat well or Well</i>	Eastside 2007	Eastside 2008	Eastside 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
How well prepared were you to plan your high school course selections?	91.0%	92.2%	94.6%	88.7%	91.2%	91.2%
How well prepared were you to meet your college and career goals?	91.0%	88.2%	90.2%	86.9%	88.4%	86.1%
How well prepared have you been for the college/technical/vocational school application process?	88.3%	81.4%	84.9%	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)?	84.6%	82.4%	90.3%	84.2%	81.6%	81.0%

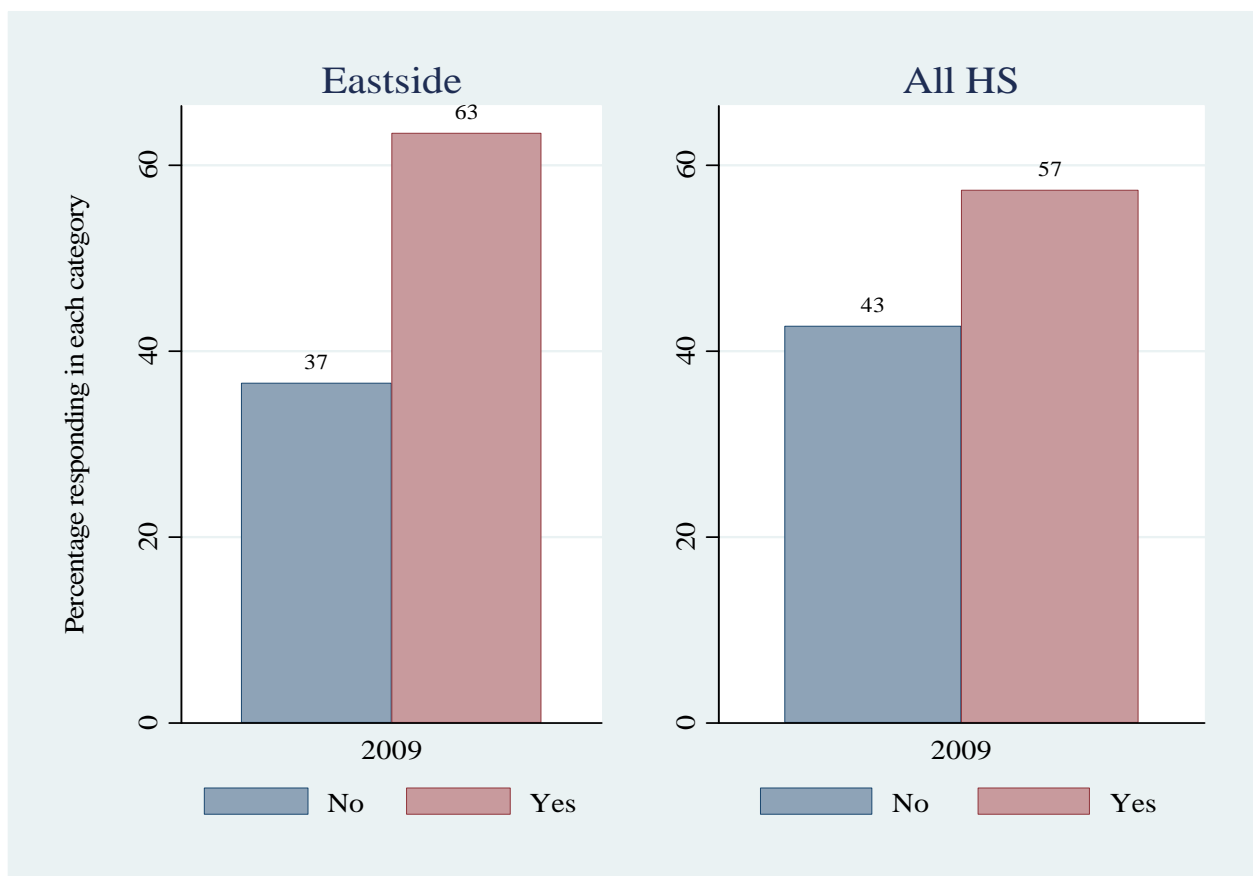
* Response options were

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

	Eastside 2007	Eastside 2008	Eastside 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Have you applied to a 2-year college	58.2%	59.0%	52.1%	49.8%	41.4%	41.3%
Have you applied to a 4-year college?	53.2%	39.0%	36.2%	69.1%	63.9%	62.7%
Have you applied to a business/technical/vocational school?	17.7%	4.8%	21.0%	13.7%	6.5%	8.5%

Note. On the 2009 survey, students were asked to indicate the number of schools to which they had applied, whereas in 2008, students were only prompted to indicate whether they had applied.

Figure 7. Will You Be The First Of Your Siblings (Brothers Or Sisters) To Attend College? (Item 10)



Note. This item was reworded for the 2009 survey. In past years, we asked students if they were the first person in their family to attend college. For 2009, we asked students separately about their siblings and parents. Therefore, no longitudinal data were available for this question.

Figure 8. How Many Siblings (Brothers Or Sisters) Do You Have Who Are Either Enrolled In College Or Live With You (Item 11)



Note. This item was new to the 2009 survey. This item is designed to gauge the number of dependent children either living at home or away at college.

Table 23. How Easy Has It Been For You And Your Parents To Understand The Process Of Applying For Financial Aid? (Item 45)

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

	Eastside 2008	Eastside 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Scholarships and/or grants	66.7%	52.1%	54.8%	56.3%
Loans	71.4%	36.2%	63.7%	38.0%
Family or personal savings	38.1%	20.2%	56.8%	49.5%
Working during the school year	47.6%	37.2%	47.0%	46.4%
Working during the summer	48.6%	31.9%	45.3%	48.2%
I don't know	16.2%	25.5%	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)

	Eastside 2009	All HS 2009
Encouraged you to apply to several different colleges	31.9%	57.0%
Talked to you about what college would be like	44.7%	62.9%
Helped you complete college applications	24.5%	42.0%
Helped you find scholarships	20.2%	34.2%
Helped you complete a FAFSA	34.0%	45.6%
Helped you decide which college to attend	33.0%	53.0%
Helped you write college essays/personal statements	14.9%	29.6%
Did not help	24.5%	14.2%

Note. This item was new in 2009.

Table 26. If You Did Not Submit A Financial Aid Application, Why Not? (Item 47)

	Eastside 2009	All HS 2009
I do not need financial aid to attend college	2.6%	23.4%
My parents were not willing to submit private financial information	17.9%	6.9%
My family did not think we would qualify for or were eligible for financial aid	20.5%	23.5%
I do not plan to go to college	10.3%	9.8%
I did not know about the financial aid process	48.7%	36.3%

Note. This item was new in 2009.

Table 27. Which Of The Following Campus Staff Helped You With Any Of The Activities Listed Below: (Item 42)

	Eastside School counselor	Eastside Advisory	Eastside Teacher	Eastside Advance Facilitator	Eastside AVID Staff	Eastside Early College Start Advisor	All HS School counselor	All HS Advisory	All HS Teacher	All HS Advance Facilitator	All HS AVID Staff	All HS Early College Start Advisor
Selected courses for work or college	37.5%	29.2%	26.0%	28.1%	3.1%	18.8%	48.3%	12.8%	28.0%	21.7%	4.2%	12.0%
AP/honors courses	32.3%	17.7%	43.8%	6.3%	4.2%	6.3%	35.4%	11.1%	47.4%	10.5%	3.8%	3.2%
To continue education	41.7%	44.8%	61.5%	30.2%	8.3%	18.8%	47.5%	22.6%	53.9%	26.1%	6.0%	9.8%
Talked about colleges/schools	33.3%	36.5%	38.5%	26.0%	5.2%	12.5%	37.7%	16.3%	37.1%	26.4%	4.7%	7.5%
Discussed careers	22.9%	40.6%	35.4%	32.3%	6.3%	18.8%	33.5%	16.8%	33.9%	24.1%	4.8%	7.6%
Encouraged to apply to multiple schools	27.1%	30.2%	49.0%	29.2%	6.3%	12.5%	37.6%	16.3%	34.4%	26.8%	4.9%	5.2%
Helped complete applications for college	18.8%	20.8%	22.9%	31.3%	4.2%	14.6%	25.2%	10.3%	20.3%	26.0%	3.8%	5.7%
Helped find scholarships	25.0%	16.7%	24.0%	35.4%	3.1%	10.4%	24.3%	9.8%	19.4%	26.2%	4.0%	4.1%
Helped choose college	19.8%	14.6%	27.1%	24.0%	3.1%	11.5%	22.8%	9.6%	22.9%	19.4%	3.0%	4.3%
Helped plan for college expenses	26.0%	16.7%	26.0%	28.1%	3.1%	11.5%	21.2%	10.3%	16.9%	21.7%	3.7%	4.5%
Helped with college application essays or personal statements	20.8%	27.1%	30.2%	21.9%	2.1%	12.5%	21.3%	9.3%	36.2%	19.9%	3.8%	3.9%

Note. The design of this question changed from what it was in 2008. In past years, students were asked to rate each type of staff m

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)

