



## Survey Report

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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 Garza High School Class of 2009. Where available, longitudinal data are presented to compare with the 2009 responses. In addition, 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%
Garza	63.1%	44.1%	54.0%

### 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:

... more actively than did district seniors as a whole.

- x **College preparation.** Compared to seniors district-wide, it seemed lower percentages of Garza seniors took the PSAT exam, AP/IB classes, college entrance tests, and ordered and submitted transcripts. Garza seniors also seemed less likely to report applying to 4-year colleges. However, among those who did participate in a college preparation program, a greater share of Garza seniors reported that staff were helpful in several stages of the college application process than seniors at other campuses.

## **INDIVIDUAL ITEM RESPONSES FOR GARZA 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 Garza High School and expressed gratitude to the teachers and staff. Other students expressed concern about the counseling services offered by Garza. Last, several students mentioned overcrowding issues at Garza. Commonly identified themes expressed by the Class of 2009<sup>1</sup> in5 Tc-.0si 255 xHi



**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	Garza 2007	Garza 2008	Garza 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
<b>Volunteering at your school</b>	18.4%	25.0%	25.3%	38.6%	40.0%	30.3%
<b>Working with you on homework or school projects</b>	41.9%	45.3%	47.7%	54.8%	54.6%	46.8%
<b>Helping you decide what classes to take</b>	44.2%	50.0%	42.4%	60.1%	60.2%	53.4%
<b>Attending school meetings</b>	50.0%	52.4%	43.7%	57.4%	54.9%	45.9%
<b>Communicating with your teachers</b>	69.8%	68.8%	63.2%	59.6%	60.6%	52.1%
<b>Participating in school leadership opportunities</b>	.	20.3%	19.5%	.	29.0%	17.9%
<b>Attending athletic events</b>	.	34.4%	27.6%	.	58.8%	51.5%
<b>Attending academic events and competitions</b>	.	29.7%	29.9%	.	36.9%	25.4%
<b>Attending performance events</b>	.	40.6%	41.4%	.	53.3%	45.0%
<b>Joining and participating in the PTA</b>	.	19.0%	14.9%	.	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)**

	Garza Mother	Garza Father	Garza Sibling*	All HS Mother	All HS Father	All HS Siblings
Did not finish high school	12.4%	14.5%	3.6%	18.4%	18.7%	11.2%
Graduated from high school or earned a GED	15.0%	15.9%	16.1%	19.6%	18.0%	22.9%
Attended a 2-yr community/junior college or vocational/technical school, but no degree	12.0%	6.2%	14.3%	8.5%	6.0%	10.3%
Graduated from a 2-yr community/junior college or vocational/technical school	8.2%	5.7%	7.1%	5.2%	4.1%	3.6%
Attended a 4-yr college, but did not complete a degree	18.5%	15.0%	12.5%	14.0%	13.2%	8.0%
Graduated from college	14.2%	11.9%	12.5%	13.7%	12.5%	15.5%
Completed a Master's degree or equivalent	13.3%	15.0%	1.8%	11.1%	12.1%	3.5%
Completed a Ph.D., M.D., or other advanced professional degree	2.6%	7.5%	3.6%	3.6%	6.3%	1.4%
Don't Know or Does Not Apply	3.9%	8.4%	28.6%	5.9%	9.1%	23.6%

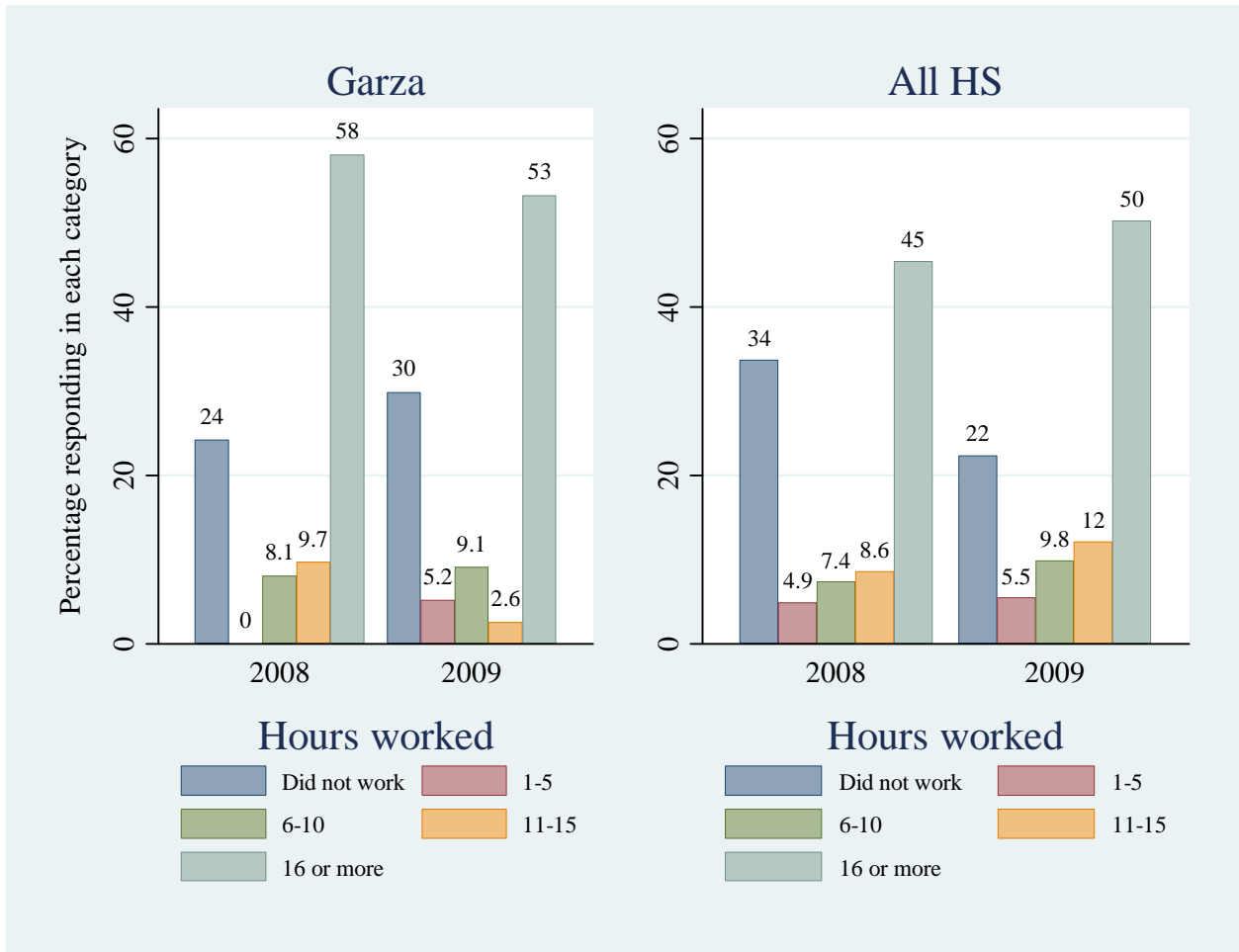
\* New response option in 2009

**HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCES, CAMPUS CLIMATE, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

**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)**

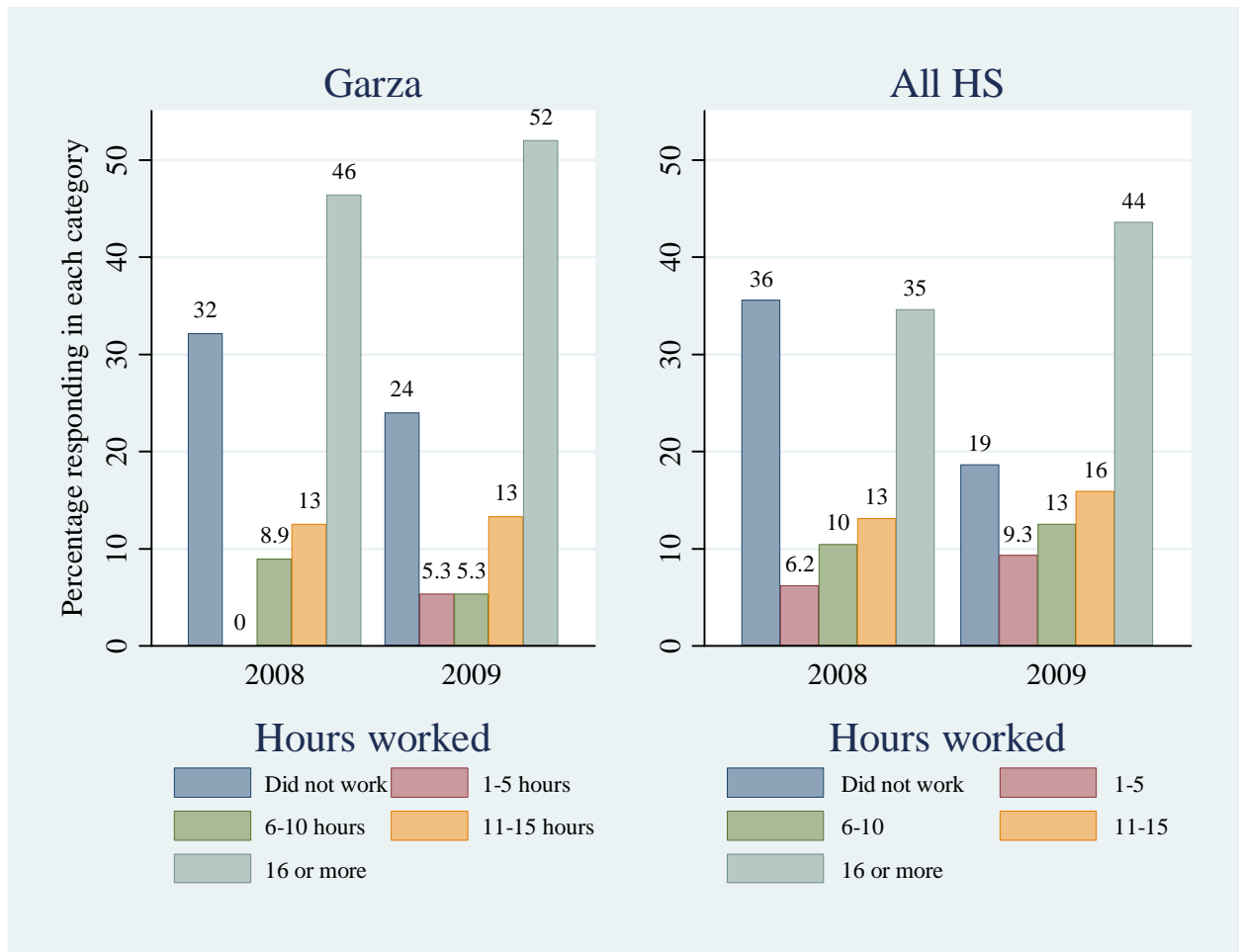
*Percentage of seniors indicating they spent more than 10 hours per week on each activity.	Garza 2009	All HS 2009
Inside school		
Music	1.2%	8.0%
Theater	3.5%	3.2%
Dance	0.0%	3.8%
Sports	4.7%	23.4%
UIL academic competitions	0.0%	2.3%
Speech/debate	0.0%	1.3%
Student government	2.4%	0.9%
Career and technical student organizations	4.8%	2.3%
Outside school		
Music		

**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 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**



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

*Percentage who responded Strongly agree or Agree	Garza 2009	All HS 2009
I feel safe at my school	93.0%	78.7%
My classmates show respect to each other	93.0%	50.9%
The consequences for breaking school rules are the same for everyone	75.6%	41.1%
Adults at this school listen to student ideas and opinions	94.3%	53.1%
My homework helps me learn things I need to know		

## 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	Garza 2007	Garza 2008	Garza 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Teamwork	.	96.9%	88.5%	.	88.6%	89.7%
Creative thinking	97.7%	98.4%	94.3%	90.8%	90.6%	91.7%
Problem solving	98.8%	96.8%	98.9%	92.9%	91.5%	92.0%
Conflict resolution	95.4%	98.4%	95.4%	84.6%	82.8%	84.1%
Personal health/fitness	82.6%	82.8%	79.1%	78.5%	78.6%	81.0%
Time management	.	95.3%	85.1%	.	80.8%	81.2%
Technology	.	93.8%	93.0%	.	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*.

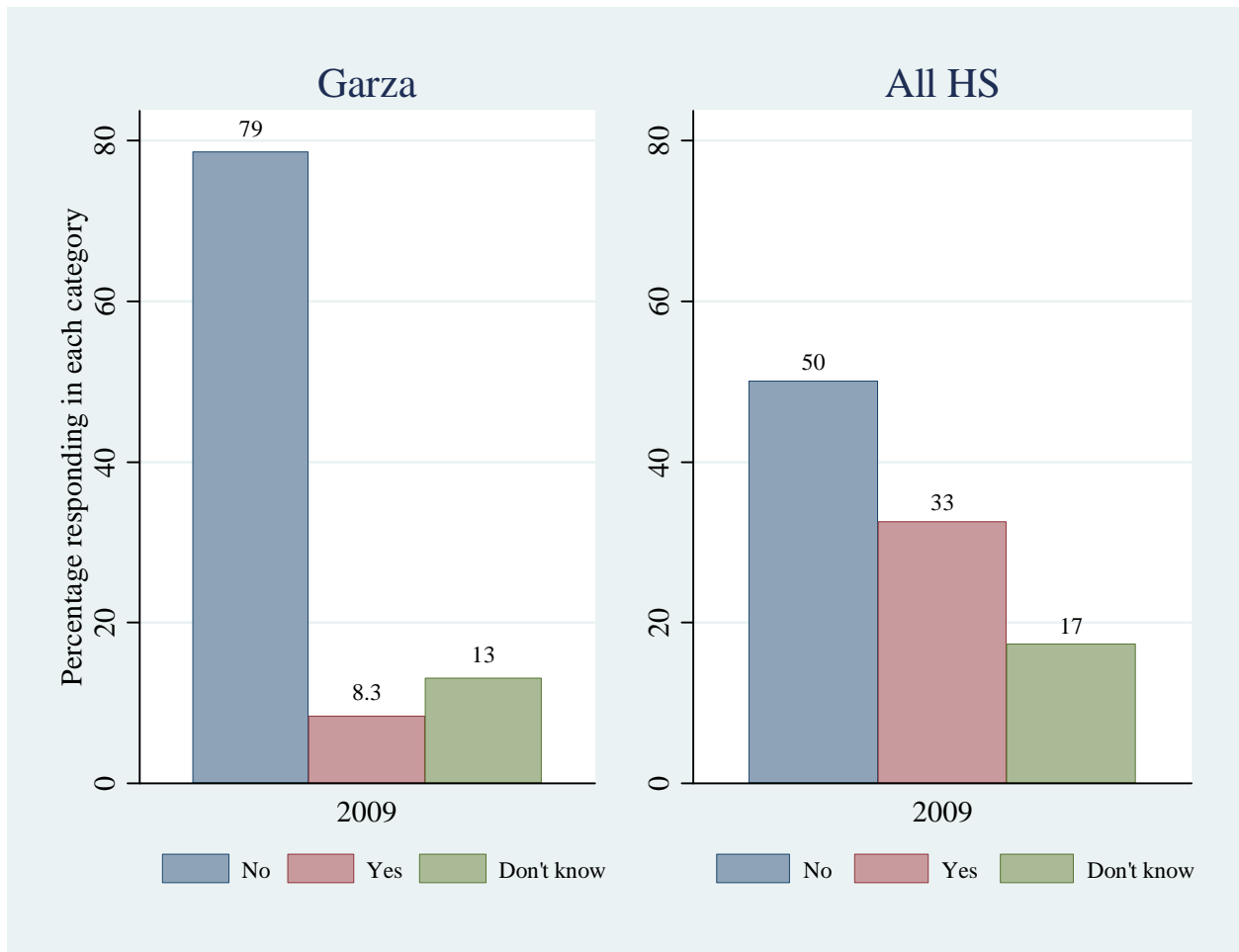
**Table 14. Please Rate The Quality Of Instruction That You Feel That You Received In The Following Areas: (Item 23)**

*Percentage who responded Good or Excellent	Garza 2007	Garza 2008	Garza 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Writing	95.4%	93.7%	93.1%	82.6%	81.2%	81.6%
Mathematics	82.7%	93.5%	82.6%	71.3%	70.7%	70.8%
Science	82.3%	87.1%	83.7%	68.9%	69.5%	69.8%
Social Studies	95.1%	91.9%	83.7%	84.2%	82.8%	82.0%
Computer/Technology	80.3%	90.3%	83.5%	71.0%	71.8%	70.2%
Foreign Language	60.0%	72.9%	72.6%	64.5%	63.9%	64.3%
Performing/Fine Arts	75.4%	81.7%	79.0%	72.2%	73.8%	73.0%

\* Responses were *Poor*, *Fair*, *Good*, and *Excellent*.



**Figure 6. Do Your Parents Use Parentconnect/Gradespeed To Monitor Your Grades?  
(Item 27)**



Note. This item was new for 2009.

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

*Percentage who responded At least once a week or more	Garza 2007	Garza 2008	Garza 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
At home?	81.6%	78.1%	85.1%	86.4%	86.7%	83.9%
At school?	98.9%	92.2%	96.5%	70.8%	74.0%	73.1%
To present material in class, for example, using PowerPoint	43.0%	47.6%	43.0%	22.6%	23.5%	22.0%
To type a paper or class assignment?	95.3%	84.4%	90.7%	57.2%	55.3%	53.5%
To search the Internet to complete class-related assignments?	91.9%	90.6%	89.5%	62.3%	61.6%	62.7%
To research college/career choices?	58.1%	50.8%	48.8%	50.5%	50.6%	51.0%
To complete online forms or applications for college/employment?	39.1%	34.4%	38.8%	43.4%	44.0%	43.4%
To communicate with teachers (e.g., email, IM, etc.)?	11.5%	28.1%	21.2%	18.1%	20.8%	17.8%
To communicate with friends (e.g., email, IM, blog, Facebook, etc.)?	60.9%	59.4%	73.2%	74.1%	74.8%	72.5%
To monitor grades/progress in school?	.	.	23.3%	.	.	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 or twice a week*, *Every day*, and *Almost every day*. Reports prior to 2008 indicated item means; in 2009, percentages represented the number of students reporting *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)**

*Percentage who responded Agree or Strongly agree	Garza 2008	Garza 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
My teachers effectively use the technology resources that are available.	100.0%	98.8%	85.7%	89.8%
I would like to use more electronic communication with my classmates as part of my schoolwork.	54.7%	62.8%	79.8%	82.3%
I would like to use more electronic communication with my teachers.	58.2%	70.2%	73.2%	76.0%
I would like to use more online resources.	73.2%	68.6%	82.1%	84.0%

\* Responses were *Strongly disagree*, *Disagree*, *Agree*, *Strongly disagree*, and *Don't know/Unsure*.

#### POSTSECONDARY PREPARATION AND ADVISING

**Table 17. At What Time In Your Life Did You Start Thinking About College As A Possibility After High School? (Item 29)**

	Garza 2007	Garza 2008	Garza 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
As long ago as I can remember	33.7%	44.4%	41.9%	39.1%	40.5%	38.7%
In elementary school	10.5%	14.3%	10.5%	12.0%	8.5%	7.6%
In middle/junior high school	23.3%	14.3%	16.3%	21.0%	21.9%	21.0%
In high school	26.7%	27.0%	29.1%	25.3%	26.9%	30.9%
I've never thought about college as an option after high school	5.8%	0.0%	2.3%	2.5%	2.3%	1.8%

\* Item changed from 2007 surveys, when it was "When I was a child."

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

*Percentage who responded Somewhat well or Well	Garza 2007	Garza 2008	Garza 2009	All HS 2007	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
How well prepared were you to plan your high school course selections?	94.3%	93.8%	87.2%	88.7%	91.2%	91.2%
How well prepared were you to meet your college and career goals?	90.9%	90.6%	80.2%	86.9%	88.4%	86.1%
How well prepared have you been for the						

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

	Garza 2008	Garza 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
Project ADVANCE	10.9%	20.7%	26.1%	17.9%
AVID	12.5%	6.9%	8.9%	8.8%
ACC College Connections	25.0%	27.6%	17.1%	18.0%
College Forward	1.6%	3.4%	3.0%	3.5%
Con mi MADRE	0.0%	1.1%	3.0%	1.9%
Talent Search/Trio	0.0%	1.1%	2.6%	2.6%
Upward Bound	1.6%	2.3%	1.8%	1.3%
Breakthrough	0.0%	2.3%	1.5%	1.3%
Immigrant College Access	.	3.4%	.	2.3%
I did not participate in any programs like this	48.4%	46.0%	41.6%	41.3%
Other	6.3%	4.6%	4.9%	3.0%

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

**Table 21. If You Participated In One Or More College Preparation Programs, What Did You Get Out Of It? (Item 34)**

	Garza 2008	Garza 2009	All HS 2008	All HS 2009
They encouraged me to attend school regularly	60.6%	40.4%	35.3%	31.8%
They helped me choose the HS courses to prepare for college	48.5%	46.8%	31.8%	28.5%
They explained the financial aid process to me	54.5%	53.2%	37.9%	33.2%
They were available to help with school-related issues	45.5%	42.6%	29.1%	26.2%
They helped me deal with personal issues	33.3%	34.0%	18.7%	15.4%
They helped me believe that college was right for me	42.4%	42.6%	33.4%	30.9%
They helped me apply2a96 41013.8 ref5 56.				



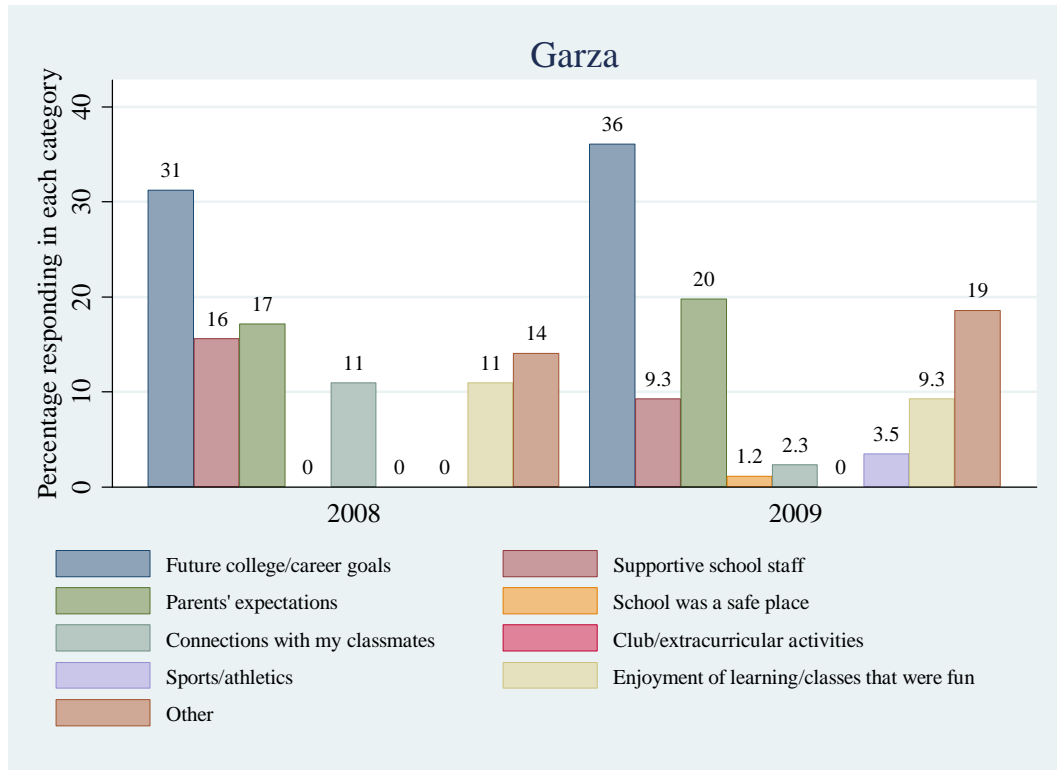






**ADDITIONAL RESULTS**

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





**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)**

