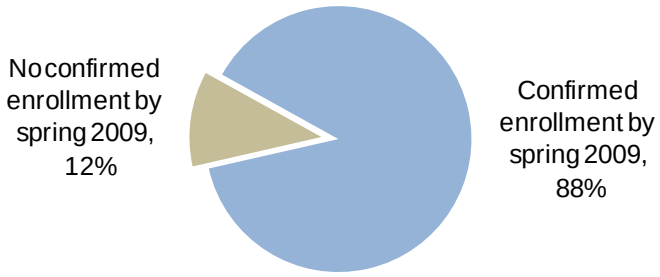
No confirmed enrollment by spring 2009, 12%
Confirmed enrollment by spring 2009, 88%

2009 LASA Postsecondary Outcomes

AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Department of Program Evaluation

About the Department of Program Evaluation. The Department of Program Evaluation (DPE) was established in 1972 to support program decision and strategic planning in the district. The department is housed in the Office of Accountability and is charged with evaluating federal, state, and locally funded programs in AISD. DPE staff integrate best and innovative evaluation practices with educational and institutional knowledge. DPE staff work with program staff throughout the district to design and conduct formative and summative program evaluations. DPE's methods for evaluating programs vary depending on the research question, program design, and reporting requirements. The evaluations report objectively about program implementation and outcomes, and serve to inform program staff, decision makers, and planners in the district. DPE reports can be accessed online.

About the Author. Ginger Gossman completed a Ph.D. in demography at the University of Texas at Austin in 2006. Her academic interests include maternal and child health, secondary education, infectious disease, and obesity research. She has presented her research findings at regional and national conferences and has been a member of the American Evaluation Association since 2007. Ginger joined the Program Evaluation team in September 2008.

Funding Sources. Funding for this report was provided by district local funds. NSC data were obtained at no cost to AISD through a year long grant from the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

District Strategic Plan. This report speaks to goal 3, measurable outcome 8. Goal 3: All students will graduate college and career ready. Measurable Outcome 8: Postsecondary enrollment.

Technical Notes. This report used data provided by the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) on June 8, 2010. The data included 93% of postsecondary institutions nationwide. A list of participating colleges is on the NSC website, under "Resource Center." The U.S. Department of Education's Family Policy Compliance Office (FPCO) has certified that NSC practices are compliant with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). These data included a unique record for every occurrence of enrollment per semester, quarter or year. The unit of enrollment time varied by institution and depended on program/degree offerings. The University of Texas at Austin did not participate in NSC in previous years; however, UT AUSTIN began sending enrollment records to NSC in March of this year.

Data were parsed down to a single record per student using the following sequenced selections: (1) fall over spring semester, (2) 4 year over 2 year institution, (3) full time over part time, (4) latest enrollment begin date, and (5) latest enrollment end date. Records for enrollment in summer 2009 only were considered "unmatched" to align reporting with best practices. Enrollment records for students identified by NSC as withdrawn, deceased or on leave of absence were omitted from these analyses. All methods followed NSC practices where known.

Data from NSC were then matched to AISD student records from the 2009 AISD student graduate records submitted to the Texas Education Agency's Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS). This file includes students who graduated at any point during the 2008 2009 academic year. Records were matched using a unique identifier, either students' social security number or state identification number. Note, NSC does