

High School Exit Survey: Lanier

Austin Independent School District

Class of 2015

Purpose

The 13th annual Austin Independent School District (AISD) High School Exit Survey (HSES) was administered online to seniors in every AISD high school during Spring 2015. In total, 278 Lanier High School seniors completed the survey, for a response rate of 96%.

On each campus, Project ADVANCE facilitators primarily were responsible for ensuring all seniors were given the opportunity to complete the survey. Special education chairs at each campus may have provided eligible special education students with guidance and assistance in completing the survey.

The purpose of the HSES was to monitor high school students' perceptions of their high school experience. Results are used to improve the campus environment and program supports for students. Survey results also are used in the monitoring of the district's strategic plan *Goal 3: All students will graduate ready for college, career, and life in a globally competitive economy.*

Postsecondary Aspirations, Parental Engagement, & Support

Table 1.

Over half of Lanier seniors planned to [work part time while attending college](#).

Postsecondary plans	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
Continue my education	91%	90%	86%
Attend college or technical school <u>without working</u>	12%	9%	20%
Attend college or technical school while <u>working full time</u>	24%	17%	11%
Attend college or technical school while working part time	53%	56%	56%
Work full time only	10%	4%	4%
Work part time only	7%	2%	1%
Enlist in the military	5%	3%	3%
No plans/ not sure yet	5%	6%	4%
Other	4%	2%	2%

Table 2.

Most Lanier seniors who planned to enroll in college planned to enroll **Fall 2015.**

Semester enrollment	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
This summer	16%	17%	8%
This fall	70%	74%	85%
Next spring	15%	9%	7%

Table 3.

Almost 1/3 of Lanier seniors planned to enroll in a **4-year institution. Almost half of seniors planned to enroll in a **2-year college and then transfer to a 4-year college**.**

Type of institution	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
A 4-year college or university	36%	32%	57%
A 2-year college or university	25%	20%	10%
A 2-year community college and then transfer to a 4-year college	44%	46%	30%
A private career or trade school	6%	2%	2%

Table 4.

Over 6 in 10 Lanier seniors planned to attend **Austin Community College.**

Postsecondary institutions	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
Austin Community College (ACC)	69%	62%	35%
Texas State University	14%	5%	8%
University of Texas-Lanier	11%	6%	9%
University of Texas-San Antonio	6%	6%	4%
Texas A&M University	6%	1%	4%
St. Edward's University	2%	1%	2%
Blinn College	2%	0%	2%
University of North Texas	1%	0%	2%
Texas Tech University	2%	0%	3%
Stephen F. Lanier University	1%	1%	1%
Other	23%	20%	31%

Table 5.

Health sciences, business, and engineering were top areas Lanier seniors planned to study in college. Eight percent of Lanier seniors were interested in studying computer and information sciences, a 1% percentage point increase since 2014.

Jobs/careers	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
Health sciences	18%	23%	17%
Business	11%	14%	13%
Engineering	16%	10%	13%
Law, public safety, corrections, and security	8%	6%	6%
Computer and information sciences	9%	8%	5%
Human services	2%	4%	3%
I do not know	7%	9%	9%
Visual and performing arts	5%	5%	7%
Agricultural sciences and technologies	7%	3%	3%
Natural sciences and mathematics	1%	2%	7%
Education	6%	6%	5%
Communication	2%	1%	4%
Architecture	1%	3%	2%
Social sciences	1%	2%	3%
Hospitality and tourism	1%	1%	1%
Humanities	1%	0%	1%
Office skills	1%	0%	0%
Trade and industrial	6%	3%	1%

Table 6.

Almost half of Lanier seniors did not take a high school course in the area they planned to study in college.

	Lanier 2015	District 2015
Yes	53%	65%
No	47%	35%

Table 7.

More than 4 in 10 Lanier seniors who did not take a course in the area they planned to study in college did not do so because **there were no such courses offered at Lanier.**

Reasons	Lanier 2015	District 2015
I wanted to, but there were no such courses offered at my school.	43%	27%
My parents did not want me to take a course in that area.	0%	1%
I wanted to, but my schedule would not allow it.	31%	51%
I was not interested in taking a course in this area in high school.	16%	18%
A counselor steered me away from those courses.	2%	1%
Other	12%	11%

Table 8.

Thirty-five percent of Lanier seniors who did not plan to enroll in college immediately after high school, planned to **take a year off from school to pursue other things.**

Reason	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
Financial	20%	15%	18%
Academic	9%	7%	7%
Personal obligation	6%	7%	7%
Personal preference	26%	26%	20%
Gap year	31%	35%	35%
Other	6%	11%	14%

Table 9.

More than 3 in 4 Lanier seniors' mother's education level was a **high school diploma/GED or below.**

School status	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
Doctorate degree (e.g., PhD, EdD, etc.)	1%	3%	3%
Professional degree (e.g., MD, JD, etc.)	1%	0%	20%
Master's degree	1%	1%	9%
Bachelor's degree (4-year)	3%	3%	20%
Associate degree (2-year)	3%	2%	5%
Some college	7%	9%	13%
High school diploma or earned a GED	26%	22%	19%
Less than high school	54%	54%	24%
Don't know or does not apply	5%	6%	4%

Table 10.

Seventy-two percent of Lanier seniors' parents expected them to **earn a college degree or industry license/certification.**

Level of education	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
Doctorate degree (e.g., PhD, EdD, etc.)	9%	10%	12%
Master's degree	8%	11%	16%
Bachelor's degree (4-year)	29%	29%	37%
Associate degree (2-year)	8%	8%	5%
Industry license or certification	--	7%	3%
Some college	8%	7%	7%
High school or earned a GED	19%	12%	8%
I am not sure	15%	15%	12%

Table 11.

Almost all Lanier seniors expected to earn a **college degree or certification** in their lifetime.

Level of education	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
Doctoral or professional degree	--	13%	20%
Master's degree	--	18%	28%
Bachelor's degree (4-yr college or university)	37%	39%	35%
Associate degree (2-year community college)	15%	13%	8%
Industry license or certification (e.g., trade/technical school)	8%	10%	4%
High school diploma	10%	7%	5%

Table 12.

Lanier seniors have been told mostly by their **parents, teachers,** and **friends** they should go to college.

Level of education	Lanier 2015	District 2015
Parents	86%	89%
Teachers	76%	78%
College and career advisor	73%	55%
School counselor	53%	55%
Coach(es)	38%	38%
Sibling(s) or other family member(s)	62%	63%
Friend(s)	74%	75%
Other adult in my life	44%	47%
No one	3%	3%

Table 13.

Lanier seniors' parents were involved with their schooling mostly by **talking to them about how their doing in their classes, making sure they complete their homework, and talking to them about their homework.**

Seniors who responded either <i>sometimes</i> or <i>often</i>	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
Talking to you about homework	72%	67%	68%
Making sure you completed your homework	71%	68%	65%
Asking you about what you're learning in school	68%	59%	65%
Helping you decide what classes to take	60%	44%	54%
Talking to you about how you're doing in your classes	83%	72%	79%
Rewarding you when you do well in school	65%	53%	56%
Communicating with your teachers	54%	41%	46%
Attending school meetings	41%	35%	47%
Attending school events	49%	42%	58%
Volunteering at your school	28%	20%	28%
Joining and participating in the PTA	18%	37%	18%
Use Parent Cloud to monitor your grades	55%	61%	51%

Table 14.

Most Lanier seniors know at least one teacher who supported their personal lives, high school academics, and postsecondary aspirations.

Teacher help	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
Would be willing to give you extra help with your school work if you needed it	88%	81%	88%
Would be willing to help you with a personal problem	70%	64%	74%
Cares about how you're doing in school	77%	71%	79%
Would be willing to write you a letter of recommendation for a job or college	78%	67%	81%
Knows what you will be doing next year	63%	53%	65%
Would be willing to help you even after you graduate	62%	59%	64%
I do not know a teacher who fits any of the items above.	--	6%	4%

Persistence and Motivation

Table 15.

Lanier seniors indicated their feelings about their persistence, motivation, and interactions with teachers.

Percentage who responded either <i>sometimes</i> or <i>always</i>	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
I can do even the hardest schoolwork if I try.	92%	92%	92%
I enjoy doing my schoolwork.	68%	64%	59%
I feel/felt well prepared for STAAR/EOC.	79%	87%	84%
I try hard to do my best work.	92%	96%	91%
I feel successful in my schoolwork.	93%	92%	89%
My teachers push us to think hard about the things we read.	86%	87%	87%
My teachers push everyone to work hard.	91%	89%	90%
I can reach the goals I set for myself.	97%	96%	96%
My homework helps me learn things I need to know.	84%	85%	78%
My schoolwork makes me think about things in new ways.	78%	76%	73%
My teachers connect what I am learning to life outside of class.	79%	69%	70%
I have fun learning in my classes.	83%	76%	77%
I like to come to school.	77%	77%	71%

Extracurricular Activities

Table 16.

The school-affiliated activities Lanier seniors were mostly involved in were **sports** and **speech/debate**.

In school	Did not participate	1-2 years	3-4 years
Music	68%	16%	16%
Theater/drama	75%	20%	5%
Dance	76%	18%	6%
Sports	34%	35%	31%
Academic clubs/UII competitions	66%	19%	15%
Speech/debate	51%	48%	1%
Student government	66%	32%	2%
Career and technical student organizations	62%	23%	15%

Table 17.

Lanier seniors were mostly involved in **sports** and **community service** outside of school.

Outside of school	Did not participate	1-2 years	3-4 years
Music	74%	11%	14%
Theater/drama	87%	11%	2%
Dance	82%	15%	4%
Sports	42%	23%	31%
Providing routine care for family members	67%	16%	17%
Community service	50%	34%	17%
Environmental projects/activities	69%	21%	9%
Boy/Girl Scouts	96%	4%	1%

Work and Study Time

Table 18.

Almost 7 in 10 Lanier seniors **worked** during their senior year.

Work time	Percentage who worked <i>during</i> senior year		
	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
Did not work	31%	34%	39%
Less than 20 hours	19%	23%	28%
20 hours or more	50%	44%	33%

Table 19.

Forty-three percent of Lanier seniors who worked during their senior year worked because they **liked the freedom of having their own money**.

Reason	Lanier 2015	District 2015
To save money for college	14%	19%
To help my family with bills/expenses	34%	20%
I like the freedom of having my own money	43%	52%
Other	9%	9%

Table 20.

On average, Lanier seniors studied **1 to 5 hours** each week.

Study time	Percentage who studied each week		
	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
None	15%	10%	9%
1 to 5 hours	45%	46%	40%
6 to 10 hours	21%	20%	22%
11 to 15 hours	6%	7%	12%
16 to 20 hours	7%	5%	9%
More than 20 hours	6%	12%	9%

Instructional Quality

Table 21.

Lanier High School helped seniors to actively develop **Twenty-first Century Skills**.

Percentage who responded <i>somewhat well</i> or <i>very well</i>	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
Teamwork	93%	89%	91%
Creative thinking	93%	89%	90%
Problem solving	94%	90%	93%
Conflict resolution	93%	88%	87%
Personal health/fitness	89%	83%	81%
Time management	89%	83%	84%
Technology	89%	84%	84%

Table 22.

Lanier seniors rated the quality of their **English language arts**, **social studies**, and **career and technical education** instruction most favorably.

Percentage who responded <i>good</i> or <i>excellent</i>	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
English language arts	87%	81%	81%
Social studies	78%	75%	75%
Performing/Fine arts	73%	61%	73%
Career and technical (CTE)	79%	74%	71%
Science	72%	70%	70%
Mathematics	70%	69%	73%
Computer/Technology	68%	64%	64%
Foreign language	69%	66%	64%

Technology Access and Use

Table 23.

More than 6 in 10 Lanier seniors have a **computer with Internet access** at home.

Access	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
No computer	7%	7%	5%
No computer, but Internet access	18%	22%	12%
Computer, no Internet	6%	9%	4%
Computer with Internet access	69%	63%	79%

Table 24.

Lanier seniors used Naviance mostly to check their **class rank and grade point average (GPA)**.

Percentage answering <i>yes</i>	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
Class rank and GPA inquiry	78%	77%	82%
College search	64%	68%	70%
Counselor-directed activities	62%	61%	63%
College visit sign up	52%	54%	55%
Career exploration	46%	53%	48%
Resume building	35%	42%	36%

Postsecondary Preparation and Advising

Table 25.

Almost half of Lanier seniors did not start thinking until **high school**.

Time frame	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
As long as I can remember	14%	19%	37%
In elementary school	7%	6%	9%
In middle/junior high school	31%	22%	21%
In high school	42%	48%	31%
I've never thought about college	7%	4%	3%

Table 26.

Six in 10 Lanier seniors who did not think about college until high school did not think about it until their **junior and senior years**.

Grade	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
9 th Grade	18%	11%	20%
10 th Grade	18%	29%	25%
11th Grade	43%	39%	37%
12th Grade	21%	21%	18%

Table 27.

Lanier seniors prepared for postsecondary education mostly by **completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**.

Type of preparation	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
Took college entrance tests (e.g., SAT, ACT, THEA, COMPASS, ASSET)	50%	44%	60%
Took one or more Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate classes	36%	32%	51%
Took test prep class for the PSAT, SAT, ACT, etc.	28%	45%	45%
Completed or are currently enrolled in ACC courses	47%	34%	32%
Took other college level courses (e.g., Texas State, Texas Tech, TSTC)	8%	11%	9%
Visited one or more colleges or technical schools	59%	49%	58%
Met with the school counselor/ADVANCE staff to discuss college plans/processes	47%	48%	50%
Attended one or more college fairs	31%	35%	43%
Met with a college representative or recruiter at my high school	34%	31%	41%
Participated in ACC College Connections	40%	26%	24%
Attended Financial Aid Saturday event(s)	--	13%	10%
Completed and submitted the FAFSA	68%	80%	68%
Completed and submitted a scholarship application	37%	32%	47%
Ordered and submitted a transcript to a college or trade/ technical school.	43%	35%	56%
I have not completed any activities to prepare for continuing my education	16%	26%	17%
I have done nothing to academically prepare for continuing my education	24%	28%	19%
I have not completed any forms to prepare for continuing my education	18%	14%	19%

Table 28.

Lanier seniors' family members helped them prepare for life after high school mostly by **talking to them about their responsibilities as an adult** and **talking to them about their career and/or college options**.

Form of help	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
Talked to you about career and/or college options	77%	72%	79%
Talked to you about finances	61%	58%	65%
Talked to you about your responsibilities as an adult	73%	73%	75%
Talked to you about what a career and/or college would be like	55%	52%	62%
Helped you with financial aid (FAFSA and/or scholarships)	48%	45%	55%
Helped you complete applications for colleges or trade/technical schools	28%	27%	40%
Encouraged you to apply to several different colleges	50%	44%	53%
No one in my family talked to me about or helped me with these things.	5%	6%	6%

Table 29.

Lanier seniors' teachers and school counselors helped them most by encouraging them to **continue their education after high school**. Teachers also helped them **push their academic abilities further**, encouraged them to **continue their education after high school**, and helped them **write college applications**. Project ADVANCE staff helped by encouraging them **complete college applications**.

Activity	None of these people	School counselor	Teacher	College & career advisor
Select courses needed for work or admission to college	22%	31%	16%	56%
Push your academic abilities further	20%	35%	51%	27%
Take AP / honors courses	39%	33%	36%	17%
Take dual credit or articulated credit courses	42%	30%	28%	22%
Get information about careers/occupations	19%	27%	30%	54%
Continue your education after high school	13%	40%	52%	58%
Apply to multiple schools	22%	22%	24%	63%
Decide what school to attend	34%	17%	23%	47%
Fill out applications for postsecondary education	13%	15%	23%	72%
Write college application essays or personal statements	18%	14%	52%	47%

Table 30.

Most Lanier seniors were able to meet with their school counselor and Project ADVANCE advisor.

Availability	School Counselor	College & Career Advisor
Yes, this person was available and I talked to him/her.	63%	88%
I tried to talk to this person and wasn't able to meet with him/her.	12%	5%
I never tried to meet with this person.	24%	7%

Applications to Postsecondary Institutions

Table 31.

Lanier seniors who applied to 2-year and 4-year institutions submitted 1 to 3 applications, on average.

Institution type	0 applications	1-3 applications	4 or more applications
2-year	27%	63%	10%
4-year	31%	50%	19%
Business/technical/vocational school	83%	13%	4%

Table 32.

Lanier seniors who applied to 2-year institutions received 1 to 3 acceptances, on average.

Institution type	0 acceptances	1-3 acceptances	4 or more acceptances
2-year	43%	55%	2%
4-year	55%	36%	9%
Business/technical/vocational school	87%	11%	2%

Postsecondary Financial Literacy

Table 33.

Seventy-two percent of Lanier seniors planned to pay for college with **scholarships and/or grants**.

Source	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
Scholarships and/or grants	70%	72%	68%
Loans	30%	36%	42%
Family or personal savings	49%	45%	63%
Tuition and fees exemption	9%	7%	10%
Working during the school year	66%	69%	59%
Working during the summer	70%	69%	61%
I don't know	7%	4%	4%

Table 34.

Lanier seniors learned about financial aid for college mostly from their **school counselor or Project ADVANCE advisor**.

Source of information	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
Senior economics class	28%	28%	21%
Financial Aid Saturday events	28%	23%	16%
Talked to school counselor/college and career advisor/Project ADVANCE staff	63%	68%	48%
Information from a college or university (e.g., website, brochures)	37%	29%	35%
College recruiter	23%	19%	18%
U.S. Department of Education or FAFSA websites	24%	26%	23%
Parents or other adults	43%	45%	63%
Social media (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, etc.)	9%	7%	12%
None of these	13%	11%	10%

Table 35.

Almost half of Akins seniors who submitted the FAFSA indicated it was “some parts easy, some parts difficult” for their parents to complete.

Degree of ease	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
Easy	35%	33%	24%
Some parts easy, some parts difficult	40%	45%	47%
Difficult	10%	14%	12%
I did not apply for financial aid	15%	8%	16%

Table 36.

Almost 6 in 10 Lanier seniors who did not submit the FAFSA did not do so because they did not know about the financial aid process.

Reason	Lanier 2014	Lanier 2015	District 2015
I did not need financial aid to attend college	9%	5%	18%
My parents were not willing to submit private financial information	6%	5%	6%
My family did not think we would qualify or be eligible for financial aid	13%	19%	19%
I did not plan to go to college	34%	14%	18%
I did not know about the financial aid process	38%	57%	38%

Acronym Key

The following acronyms are used in the High School Exit Survey summary reports. Where relevant, acronyms have a link to an external URL.

Acronym	Definition
ACC	Austin Community College
ACT	American College Testing
AP	Advanced Placement
ASSET	American College Testing (ACT) placement exam for students in community/technical colleges
COMPASS	American College Testing (ACT) Computer-adapted Placement Assessment and Support Services
EOC	End of Course exam
FAFSA	Free Application for Federal Student Aid
GPA	grade point average
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
PSAT	Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)
SAT	Scholastic Aptitude Test
STAAR	State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness
TAKS	Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills
THEA	Texas Higher Education Assessment
TSTC	Texas State Technical College
UIL	University Interscholastic League