



CENTRAL TEXAS
StudentFutures
PROJECT

Recent Research Findings

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Austin Area Research Organization Briefing

Austin, TX

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Project Partners



Partnership of

- Ray Marshall Center, LBJ School, UT-Austin
- 11 Central Texas ISDs

Project funders

- Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce
- TG
- Participating ISDs

School District Partners



By 1st year of participation:

2004-05

**Austin ISD
Del Valle ISD
Pflugerville ISD
Round Rock ISD**

2005-06

**Leander ISD
Manor ISD**

2006-07

**Eanes ISD
San Marcos CISD**

2007-08

**Bastrop ISD
Hays CISD**

2010-11

Hutto ISD

Research Questions



- What are graduating seniors' **high school experiences, plans and preparation** for life after high school?
- What share of high school graduates **enroll in postsecondary education and/or become employed**, in the fall after graduation?
- What share of graduates are **enrolled and/or employed** over time?
- Which **factors** are **significantly associated** with positive **postsecondary education, employment and other outcomes**?
- How do these outcomes **change over time**?

Current Data Sources



Historical School Records

- Student demographics
- Courses taken
- Course grades

Senior Surveys

- Family background/ influences
- High school experiences
- Preparation for life after high school

Postsecondary Education Records

- National Student Clearinghouse
- Texas Education Research Center records (2010-11 pilot)

Employment Records

- Texas Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage records



Postsecondary Enrollment of Central Texas HS Graduates, Fall Following Graduation, by College Type, Ethnicity and Income Status (2007 SFP Districts)



	2007		2008		2009*	
	2-Year	4-Year	2-Year	4-Year	2-Year	4-Year
Enrolled Graduates (%)	22%	40%	22%	40%	23%	39%
Ethnicity						
Asian	21%	57%	20%	63%	17%	65%
Black	23%	35%	22%	33%	25%	36%
Hispanic	22%	22%	23%	22%	25%	23%
White	23%	49%	22%	50%	23%	48%
Income Status						
Low-income	21%	19%	20%	20%	24%	22%
Not low-income	23%	47%	23%	48%	23%	48%
Unknown	21%	12%	22%	11%	20%	6%



* Overall denominator includes 100 students who lacked enough information to link to NSC records; 62% reflects the best possible rate using NSC and THECB data.



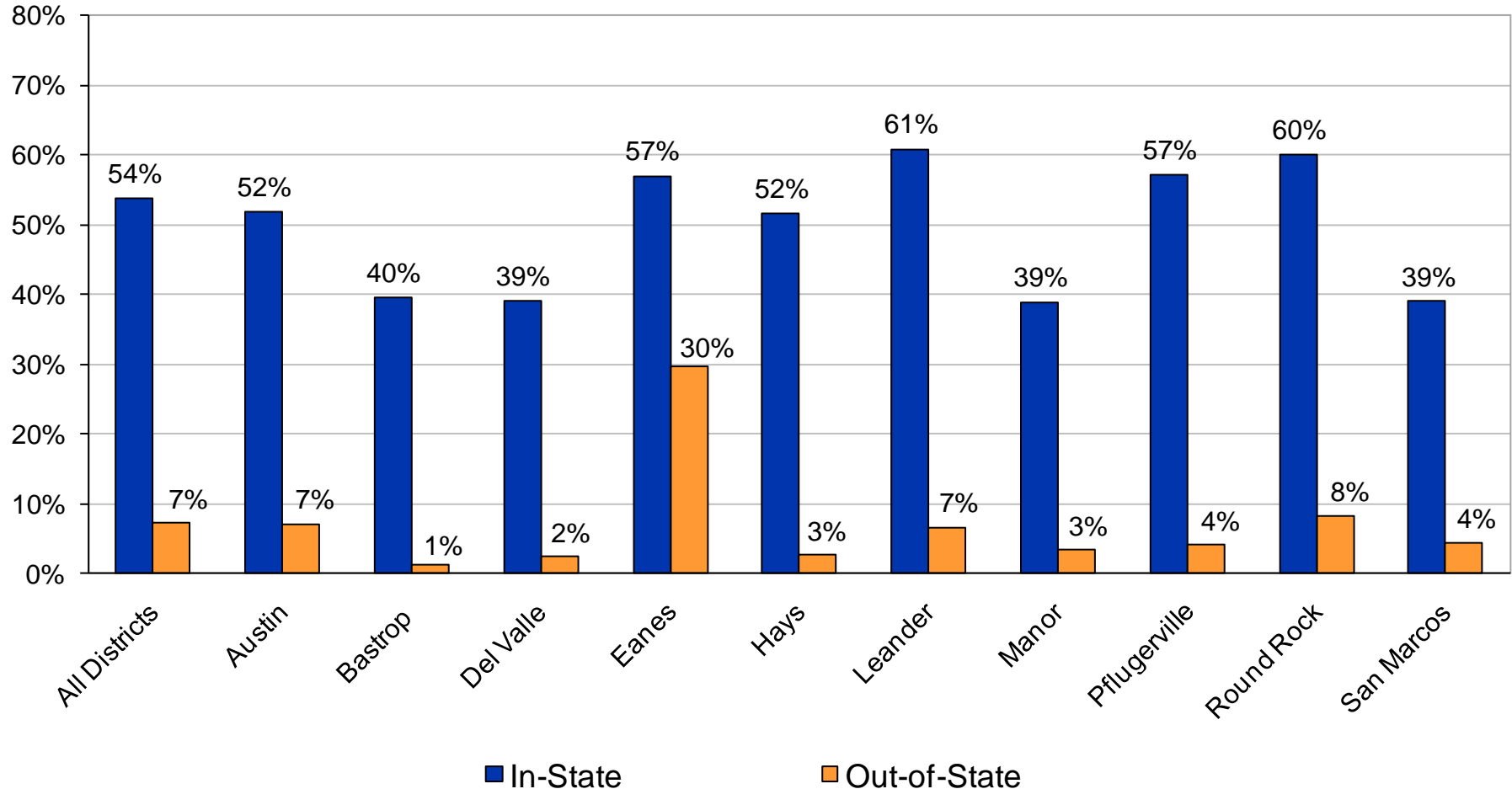
Top 10 Colleges Attended by Central Texas Graduates



	2008	2009	2010
N	11,586	11,993	13,041
Overall %	61%	61%	61%
College Name			
Austin Community College	18%	20%	19%
University of Texas at Austin	6%	5%	4%
Texas State University - San Marcos	5%	5%	5%
University of Texas - San Antonio	5%	5%	4%
Texas A&M University	3%	3%	3%
Texas Tech University, Lubbock	2%	2%	<1%
Blinn College	2%	1%	1%
University of North Texas	1%	1%	1%
Baylor University	1%	1%	1%
St Edward's University	1%	1%	1%
All other colleges	18%	17%	22%

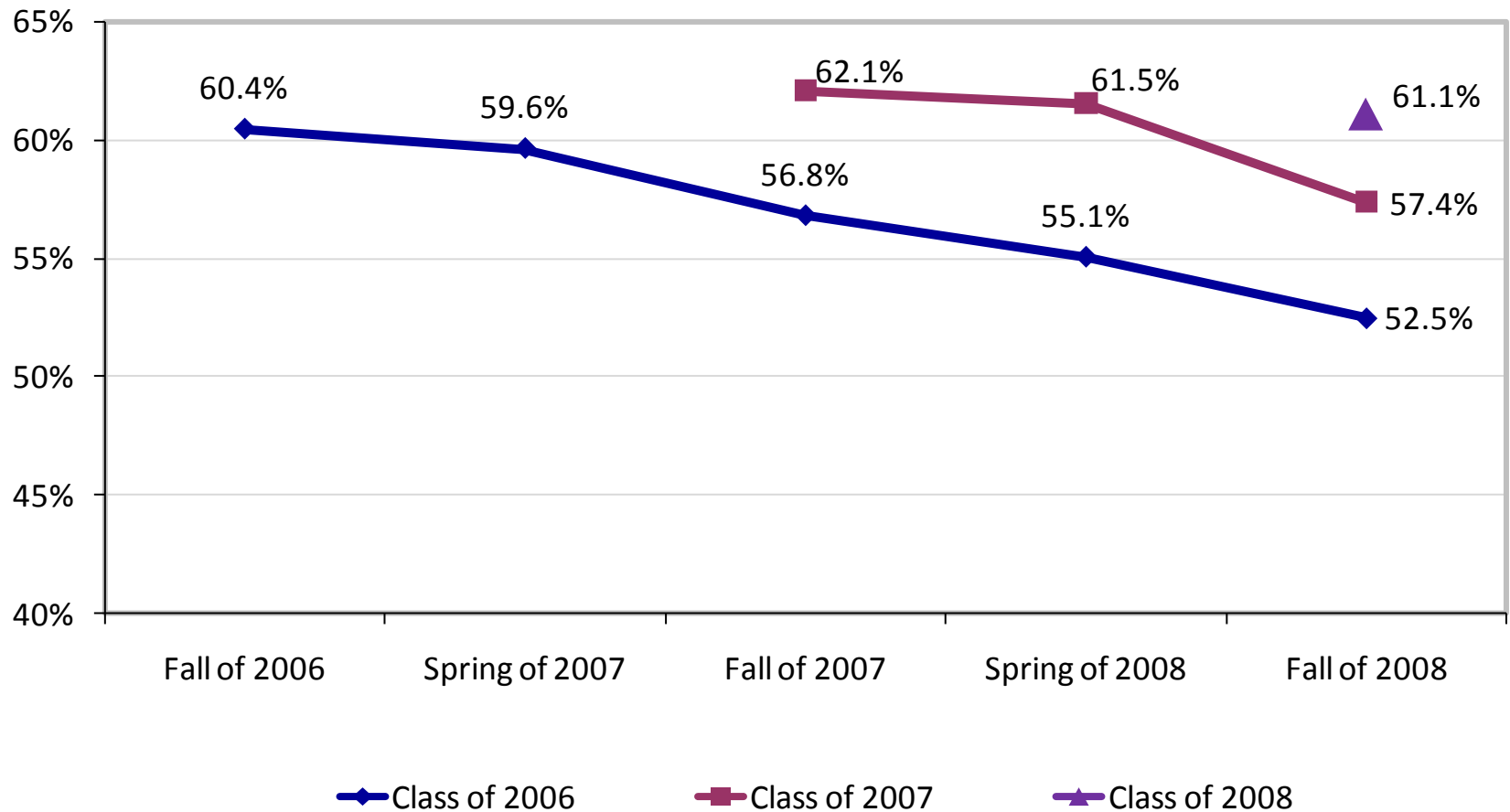


Percent of 2009 Graduates Enrolled in Fall 2009, by Location and District (N=11,993)





Postsecondary Enrollment Over Time, by Graduating Class





Persistence One Year Out, Class of 2007

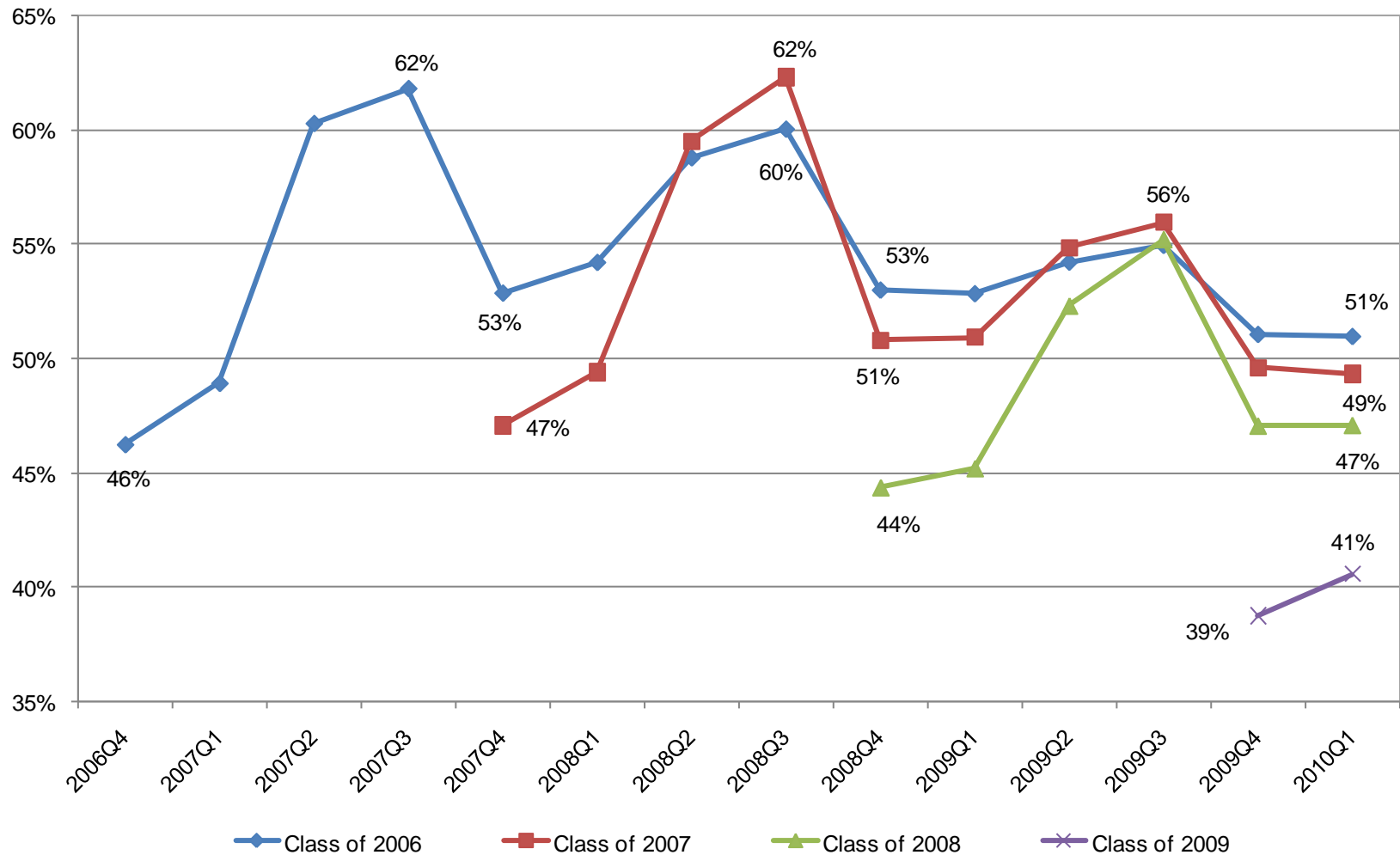


	Enrolled Within a Year of Graduating		Persisted to Fall of 2008	
	Number	Percent of Graduates	Number	Percent of Enrolled
Overall	6,313	67%	5,117	81%
Ethnicity				
Asian	456	84%	421	92%
Black	674	65%	458	68%
Hispanic	1,360	50%	1,004	74%
White	3,739	76%	3,173	85%
Gender				
Female	3,212	71%	2,656	83%
Male	3,043	65%	2,418	79%
Family Income Status				
Low-income	915	46%	624	68%
Not Low-income	5,205	76%	4,363	84%
Initial Enrollment Status				
2-Year Institution	2,706		1,828	68%
4-Year Institution	3,607		3,289	91%
Initial Enrollment Location				
In State	5,539		4,428	80%
Out of State	774		689	89%





Overall Post-Grad Employment Status, by Graduating Class



Major Factors Linked to Increased 4-Year Enrollments Class of 2007



*Major factors increased enrollment odds by 50% or more.
No factors reduced enrollment odds by more than 50%.*

All Surveyed Graduates

- Completion of Distinguished Achievement Program or Recommended High School Plan was strongest (+345%)
- College placement exams, Top 10% and FAFSA completion (all +100%)
- HS math in 8th grade, G/T, visiting college campus, high school sports (all +50%)

All Groups

- College entrance exams, Top 10%, HS math in 8th grade (+50% for all groups)

Major Factors Linked to Increased 4-year Enrollments for Selected Populations Class of 2007



- ***Hispanic graduates:*** many key factors the same but strength varied; strong curriculum and FAFSA very important; males more likely to enroll; parental education and visiting campuses not significant
- ***Low-income graduates:*** far fewer significant variables; curriculum and top 10% most important
- ***First generation graduates:*** Top 10% increased enrollment odds by 400%; college entrance exams, 8th grade high school math credit also important; curriculum not significant for this group

*****For all graduates, uncertainty about borrowing for college reduced enrollment odds***

2-Year College Enrollment



- Most Central Texas college-goers enroll in 4-year colleges. Those enrolling in 2-year colleges may do so for a wide variety of reasons. They may:
 - ✓ Be choosing a less expensive 2-year school before transferring to a 4-year college
 - ✓ Be/feel academically unprepared for 4-year college work
 - ✓ Have a career/life plan that doesn't require a 4-year degree
- Factors most associated with higher 2-year enrollment are often the result of NOT taking specific actions related to academic preparation and/or NOT completing tasks that lead to increased 4-year enrollment.

Major Factors Linked to 2-year Enrollments (Class of 2007)



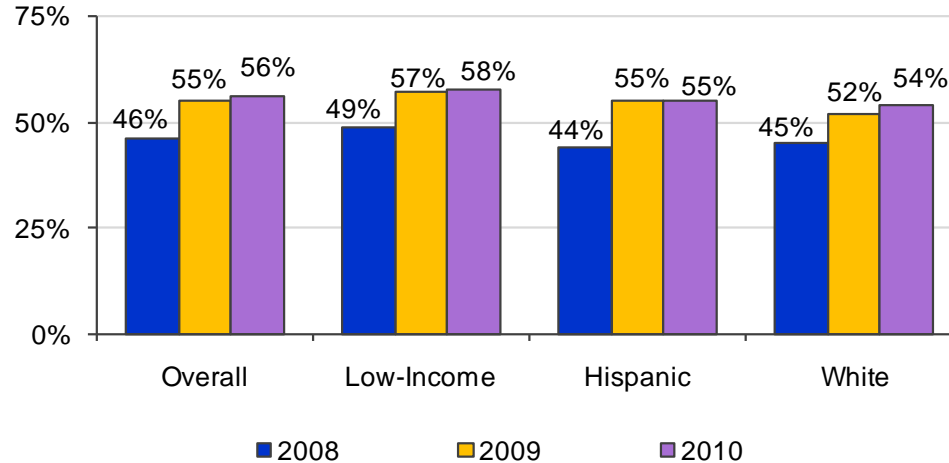
Fewer factors statistically associated with odds of 2-year college enrollment.

- None **increased** the odds of 2-year college enrollments by more than 50%.
- Graduating in the Top 10% of the senior class **reduced** 2-year enrollment odds by more than 50% for all groups.
- Never thinking about college as an option **reduced** 2-year enrollment odds by more than 50% for surveyed graduates overall, but not for the various groups.

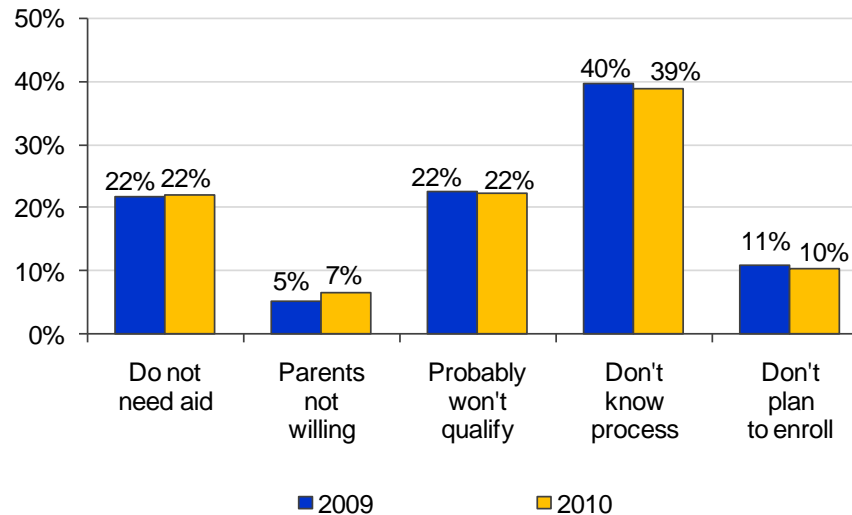
Senior Survey Recent Trends



More Students Reported FAFSA Submission



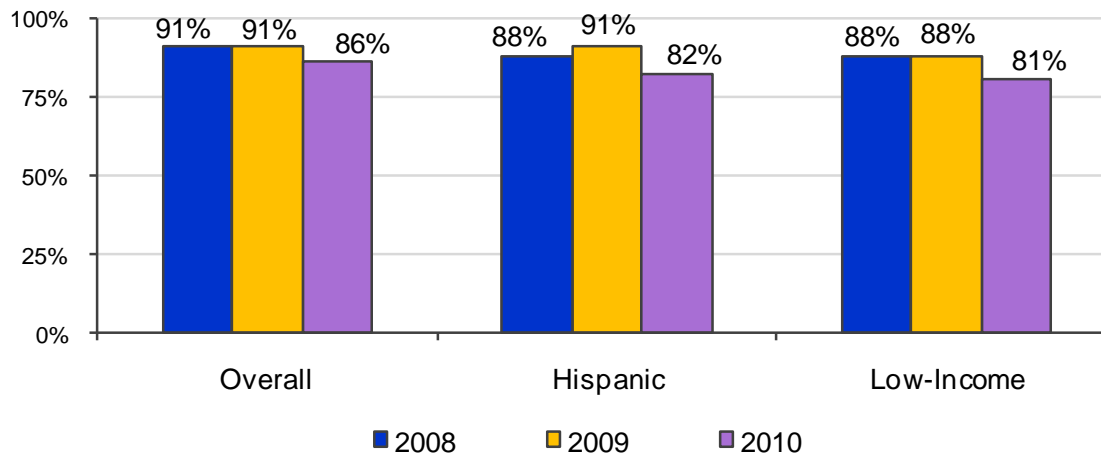
Primary Reason for Not Submitting FAFSA



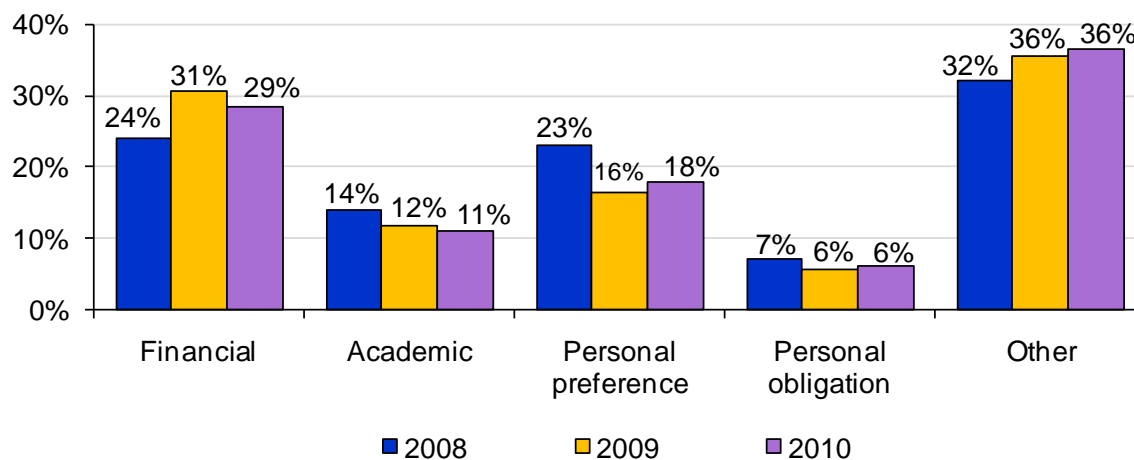
Senior Survey Recent Trends



Plans for Postsecondary Enrollment



Primary Reason for Not Choosing Postsecondary Enrollment



Implications



- Recent economic difficulties suggest that other strategies may be needed to continue improving college enrollment rates for groups that traditionally have not attended college
- Most graduates attend in-state colleges, so the affordability of Texas schools is key
- More work is needed to:
 - Explore promising interventions for low-income Hispanics and African-Americans
 - Estimate the effects of various college enrollment and persistence strategies for key groups
 - Better understand the relationship between education-work pathways and career success

Ongoing Research



- Working with TWC, add new data sources (e.g., dev ed, FAFSA, state corrections, E&T) for more comprehensive analysis
- Fully document students' postsecondary “pathways” over time and the factors shaping them—which factors lead to successful pathways?
- Identify the most effective actions school counselors can take to foster postsecondary success
- Create user-friendly reports for educators, business and civic leaders
- Use our data to evaluate and improve college-preparation efforts

For More Information



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