

Senior FAFSA and TASFA Submission

Summary of District and Campus Results

What are the FAFSA and TASFA? The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is an application that can be completed annually by current and anticipating college students and their parents to determine their eligibility for federal student financial aid and to defray the personal costs of enrolling in postsecondary education. The state of Texas permits immigrant students to qualify as state of Texas residents. As a Texas resident, a student may complete the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) and qualify for state financial aid while in college.

What percentage of AISD's seniors completed the FAFSA in 2015?

Sixty percent of seniors submitted a FAFSA (Figure 1), and 56% completed the application process in 2015 (Table 1). Considering additional TASFA submissions, 62% of seniors submitted an application for financial aid (Table 1). The FAFSA submission rate of AISD seniors exceeded that of seniors in Central Texas: the Austin Chamber of Commerce estimated 56% of seniors area wide submitted the FAFSA in 2015.

Figure 1.

The AISD senior FAFSA submission rate declined slightly in 2015 compared with 2014 submissions.

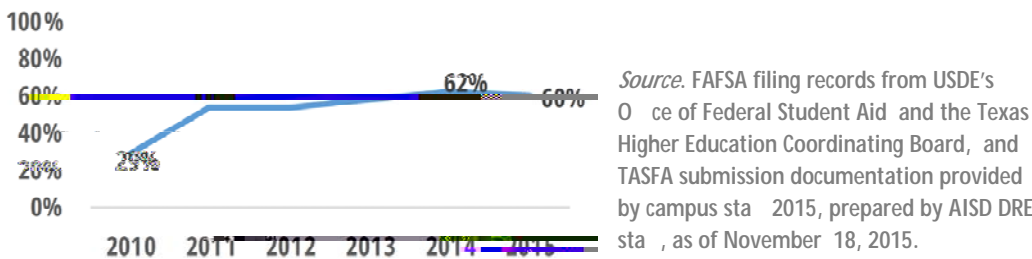


Table 1.

Most AISD high schools had more than 50% of seniors submit a financial aid application in 2015.

School	Seniors	Submitted FAFSA	Submitted TASFA	Submitted FAFSA or TASFA
LASA HS	231	79.2%	74.9%	80.0%

Source: FAFSA filing records from USDE's Office of FSA and the THECB, and TASFA submission documentation provided by campus staff 2015, prepared by AISD DRE staff, as of November 18, 2015.

Student Financial Aid Data

In 2015, Austin Independent School District (AISD) accessed students' FAFSA submission data through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the U.S. Department of Education's (USDE) Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA). The FSA provided web-based reports with aggregated counts of students submitting and completing the FAFSA. Following a strict security protocol, the THECB provided student-level FAFSA completion data back to the district via the Apply Texas Counselors' Suite, based on the high school of enrollment confirmed by the student. The Austin Chamber of Commerce provided a regional summary of FAFSA submissions originally provided by USDE's FSA. Some school staff also assisted students in completing the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) and provided related documentation.

Discrepancies existed between sources. Counts provided by FSA included all students who indicated they were enrolled in an AISD high school. Counts provided through THECB were further filtered, because the THECB only shared FAFSA submission data if students "confirmed" their high school of enrollment in their online application. Because of differences in reporting, the overall FAFSA results in this report were based on the source that produced the greatest count.