



Evaluation Matters

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Results of the Senior Exit Survey, 2013-14

1. What is the purpose of this report?

This report examines the results of the Senior Exit Survey, which is administered annually to all graduating high school students, pursuant to state requirements. The Senior Exit Survey in its fourth administration replaces the Graduate Exit Interview. The purpose of this study is fourfold (a) to examine students' attitudes toward high school, (b) to explore students' postsecondary plans, (c) to investigate students' career/vocational choices, and (d) to understand their immediate wage earning aspirations.

2. Which populations were targeted for this report?

The sample for state-mandated postsecondary-plans included all twelfth grade students enrolled in traditional and charter high schools within the District. The sample for all other items included only those students who indicated they were graduating and were also eligible to receive a diploma or certificate of completion. Students enrolled in special education centers, the educational alternative outreach program, the juvenile justice center, and centers for special instruction were excluded from both samples.

3. How were the data for this report collected and analyzed?

Data to conduct this analysis were obtained from responses to the Senior Exit Survey, an online survey administered through Survey Gold 8.0. The survey was accessed through links provided on the Districts' main page and on the Student Portal and administered between March 31 and June 5, 2014. Q-Sort techniques were used to assign selected open-ended "other" responses into categories. The analysis of the survey data was otherwise limited to descriptive statistics.

4. To what extent did students respond to the survey?

Overall, 83.2 percent of targeted seniors (n=20,467) responded to the survey, representing 100% of the traditional schools (n=57) and 83.3% (n=20) of the charter schools. This high rate of return indicates that the results obtained may be generalized to the general population.

- Traditional-school response rates ranged from a low of 18.7% to a high of 100% and averaged 87.1%.
- Charter-school response rates ranged from a low of 0.4% to a high of 100.0% and averaged 50.6%.

5. What were seniors' perceptions of high school?

Seniors were asked to provide an overall rating of their high school and select from a list, the most and least helpful aspects of their high-school education. Students' overall ratings of high school and their impressions of how well their school prepared them for life after high school are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. Ratings of High School

Rating	n	%
Excellent	5,103	25.6
Good	8,133	40.8
Neutral	3,959	19.9
Fair	1,639	8.2
Poor	1,093	5.5
Total	19,927	100.0

Note. Students who indicated they were unable to rate their school (n=391) were excluded

- Over 65% of seniors gave their high school an overall rating of good or excellent.
- Only 13.7% of seniors gave their high school an overall rating of poor or fair.

Table 2. Perceptions of How Well Selected Aspects of High School Prepared Seniors for Life Afterward

Most Helpful			Most Lacking		
Aspect	n	%	Aspect	n	%
College information	7,994	49.0	Life skills training	6,848	60.6
Personal Growth	6,398	39.3	Financial literacy training	5,472	48.4
Advanced coursework	5,054	31.0	Support services	2,196	19.4
Counseling	4,925	30.2	Elective coursework	1,747	15.5
Academic assistance/tutoring	4,765	29.2	Effective instruction	2,536	22.4
After school activities	4,292	26.3	Communication	3,820	33.8
Sports/Recreation	3,747	23.0	Academic rigor	2,026	17.9
Advisement	3,064	18.8	Other	168	1.5
Variety of coursework	2,955	18.1	Total ^b	11,298	100.0
Other	202	1.2			
Total ^a	16,298	100.0			

Note. Percentages are based on multiple responses and may total to greater than 100.

^aExcludes responses of "Non opinion" (n=4,020). ^bExcludes responses of "No opinion" (n=5,237) and "None needed" (n=3,271).

- Aspects of high school most often cited as the most helpful, were college information, 49.0%, and personal growth, 39.3%. Also cited as most helpful by around three-tenths of respondents, were advanced coursework, counseling, and academic assistance.
- Aspects of high school most often cited as most lacking, were life-skills training, 60.6%, and financial literacy training, 48.4%.

6. What type of career information/assistance did seniors request?

The type of assistance and guidance students requested is presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Career information/assistance requested

Career Information	n	%
Financial Aid	10,461	68.5
College admissions	5,778	37.8
College programs/majors	5,745	37.6
Career track/industry certificate programs and/or majors	3,252	21.3
Job placement (s)/referral (s)	2,846	18.6
Resume assistance	1,921	12.6
Entrepreneurship	1,408	9.2
Interest/aptitude/abilities test	1,223	8.0
Military service	974	6.4
Vocational/technical/adult education programs	798	5.2
Computer assisted career guidance	691	4.5
Other	122	0.8
Total	15,277	100.0

Note. Excludes respondents who selected "none" (n=5,041).

- Financial aid, college admissions, and college program/majors information were reported by 68.5%, 37.8% , and 37.6% of seniors, respectively.
- Career track and job placement assistance each were requested by around one-fifth of seniors.

7. What were seniors' postsecondary plans?

Table 4 lists seniors' postsecondary plans as reported to the state in a predefined reporting format.

Table 4. Institution Seniors Report Planning to Enter Upon Finishing High School

Institution	n	%
Florida private junior college	169	0.8
Florida private senior college/university	871	4.3
Florida public junior college	10,496	51.6
Florida public senior college/university	5,254	25.8
Florida vocational, technical, trade, or other institution	406	2.0
Out of state public/private junior college	205	1.0
Out of state public/private senior college/university	1,401	6.9
Out of state vocational, technical, trade, or other institution	102	0.5
U.S. Armed Forces/Enlist in the military	652	3.2
None of the above ^a	762	3.7
Not applicable ^b	17	0.1
Total	20,335	100.0

^aEligible to receive a Standard Diploma, Special Diploma, Certificate of Completion, or Special Certificate of Completion, but did not select any of the above choices. ^bNot eligible to receive a Standard Diploma, Special Diploma, Certificate of Completion, or Special Certificate of Completion

- Over 85% of seniors reported planning to attend college, with 75% planning to attend in-state.
 - 51.6% of seniors reporting planning to attend a public junior college in Florida.
 - 25.8% of seniors reported planning to attend a public senior college/university in Florida.

- Similar percentages of non-college bound students reported planning to either attend vocation school or enlist in the military.

8. How do seniors bound for college plan to pursue their postsecondary plans?

College bound seniors were queried about which colleges they would be attending, the fields in which they would major, and how they would pay for their coursework.

College of Attendance/Status:

Table 5. College of Attendance/Status

College/University	n	%
Miami Dade College	8,986	51.5
Florida International University (Miami)	2,914	16.7
University of Florida (Gainesville)	574	3.3
Florida State University (Tallahassee)	436	2.5
University of Central Florida (Orlando)	368	2.1
Broward College	319	1.8
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, FAMU (Tallahassee)	258	1.5
University of Miami (Coral Gables)	255	1.5
Bethune-Cookman University (Daytona Beach)	164	0.9
University of South Florida (Tampa)	152	0.9
Florida Gulf Coast University (Ft. Meyers)	149	0.9
Florida Memorial University (Miami)	147	0.8
Florida Atlantic University (Boca Raton)	145	0.8
Santa Fe College	136	0.8
Valencia Community College	105	0.6
Barry University (Miami Shores)	101	0.6
Tallahassee Community College	90	0.5
Nova Southeastern University (Ft. Lauderdale)	77	0.4
Johnson & Wales University	71	0.4
New York University	56	0.3
Saint Thomas University (Miami)	50	0.3
University of West Florida (Pensacola)	32	0.2
Full Sail University	28	0.2
College of Central Florida	25	0.1
Duke University	24	0.1
Miami International University of Art and Design	23	0.1
Harvard University	20	0.1
University of California	20	0.1
Other	1,750	10.0
Full Time	12,474	71.5
Part Time	2,911	16.7
Unsure	2,070	11.9
Total	17,455	100.0

Note. Listed colleges may not align with state reporting categories. Cells with fewer than 20 students are combined.

- Over 50% of college-bound seniors reported planning to attend Miami-Dade College, while around 17% of college-bound seniors reported planning to attend Florida International University.
- Over 70% percent of college-bound seniors reported planning to attend college full-time, while nearly 17% reported planning to attend part-time; around 12% reported being unsure how they would be attending .

Majors:

Table 6. Seniors' Planned Majors

Majors	n	%
Health Professions	5,068	29.0
Law and Criminal Justice	2,206	12.6
Sciences	2,085	11.9
Arts, Visual, and Performing	2,012	11.5
Social Sciences	1,944	11.1
Engineering	1,873	10.7
Computer and Information Sciences	1,353	7.8
Communication and Journalism	893	5.1
Education	891	5.1
Hospitality/Tourism	683	3.9
English and Literature	512	2.9
Architecture	494	2.8
Mathematics	477	2.7
Agriculture, Animal, and Veterinary Sciences	461	2.6
Languages	350	2.0
Business, Finance, and Management	338	1.9
Other	11	0.1
Total	17,455	100.0

Note. Percentages may total to more than 100 as counts are based on multiple responses.

- Almost 30% of college-bound seniors reported planning to pursue Health Related Professions.
- Nearly 13% of college-bound seniors reported planning to study Law and Criminal Justice, while around 11% of college-bound seniors reported planning to study either Sciences or Engineering.
- Nearly 8% of college-bound seniors reported planning to study Computer and Information Sciences.

Financial Aid: Survey items were provided to determine the extent to which college bound seniors applied for and were awarded financial aid and when they learned about avenues for obtaining that assistance. See Tables 7 and 8 below.

Table 7. Financial Aid Applications and Awards

	Applied ^a		Awarded			
			Yes		No	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Yes	12,282	70.4	7,523	61.3	4,759	38.7
No	5,173	29.6	338	6.5	4,835	93.5
Total	17,455	100.0	7,861	45.0	9,594	55.0

^a Submitted Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- Of the 70.4% of college bound seniors who reported completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), 61.3% reported being awarded financial aid.
- Of the 30.0% of college bound seniors who reported not completing the FAFSA, only 6.5% reported being awarded financial aid.

Table 8. Where College Bound Seniors Learned about Financial Aid

Source of Information	n	%
College Assistance Program (CAP) advisor	5,520	32.7
School Counselor, Advisors	3,315	19.6
Classroom, School Presentation	2,909	17.2
Parent(s) or Guardian(s), Friend(s), Relative(s), Self	2,340	13.9
Teacher(s)	2,228	13.2
Media center	338	2.0
Trust specialist	86	0.5
College Summit, USPIRE, Upward Bound	67	0.4
Other	90	0.5
Total	16,893	100.0

Note. Students who reported not learning about financial aid (n=562) were excluded

- Nearly 33% of college-bound seniors reported learning about financial aid from the College Assistance Program (CAP) advisor at their school
- School Counselors and Classroom/Schools presentations each furnished this information to around 20% of college-bound seniors; while others (parents, guardians, friends, relatives, self, and teachers) informed nearly 14%.

Scholarships:

Table 9. Scholarship Applications and Awards

	Applied		Awarded			
			Yes		No	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Yes	6,476	41.1	2,596	40.1	3,880	59.9
No	9,283	58.9	654	7.0	8,629	93.0
Total	15,759	100.0	3,250	20.6	12,509	79.4

Note. A total of n=1,696 students forced to select a single response to the award question were excluded.

- Of the 41.1% of college bound seniors who reported applying for a scholarship, 40.1% reported being awarded a scholarship
- Of the 58.9% of college bound seniors who reported not applying for a scholarship, only 7.0% reported being awarded a scholarship

9. How do seniors bound for career, certificate, or vocational schools plan to pursue their postsecondary plans?

Seniors bound for career, certificate, or vocational schools were queried about the institutions they would be attending and the fields of study in which they would concentrate

Institution of Attendance:

Table 10. Institution of Attendance

Institution	n	%
Miami-Dade College	417	36.3
Robert Morgan Educational Center	76	6.6
Miami Lakes Educational Center	61	5.3
Florida International University (Miami)	50	4.3
Miami-Dade County Public Schools – The English Center	46	4.0
George T. Baker Aviation School	42	3.7
ITT Technical Institute	41	3.6
Johnson & Wales University	34	3.0
Lindsey Hopkins Technical Education Center	32	2.8
Art Institutes, various locations	31	2.7
Beauty Schools of America	30	2.6
Dade Medical College	22	1.9
Miami International University of Art and Design	20	1.7
Broward College	18	1.6
ATI Career Training Centers	16	1.4
Keiser University	15	1.3
Florida State University (Tallahassee)	13	1.1
Florida Technical College	13	1.1
University of Central Florida (Orlando)	12	1.0
Florida National College	10	0.9
Full Sail University	10	0.9
Universal Technical Institute	10	0.9
Bethune-Cookman University (Daytona Beach)	9	0.8
Florida Career College	9	0.8
Other	113	9.8
Total	1,150	100.0

Note. Includes all students who affirmed that they would be attending vocational school (n=574) and college bound students who selected "other" majors that were categorized as vocational, career, or trade (n=576). Students erroneously redirected by branching were excluded (n=480). Cells with fewer than 9 students are combined

- Over 35% of vocational/career track students reported planning to attend Miami-Dade College

- Nearly one fifth of vocational/career track students reported planning to attend one of several Miami-Dade County Public Schools vocational/technical centers

Field of Study:

Table 11. Fields of Study

Field of Study	n	%
Visual and Performing Arts, Audio-Visual Technology and Communication	409	35.6
Health and Related Sciences	256	22.3
Law, Public Service, and Criminal Justice	210	18.3
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics	194	16.9
Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics	193	16.8
Business, Management & Administration	186	16.2
Hospitality, Tourism, and Culinary Arts	168	14.6
Computer and Information Sciences	97	8.4
Human Services	81	7.0
Marketing, Sales, and Service	75	6.5
Humanities, Languages, and Social Sciences	55	4.8
Education and Training	50	4.3
Plumbing, Electronics, and Mechanical Repair	46	4.0
Agriculture, Agriscience, and Veterinary Science	41	3.6
Other	55	4.8
Total	1,150	100.0

Note. Includes all students who affirmed that they would be attending vocational school (n=574) and college bound students who selected "other" majors that were categorized as vocational, career, or trade according to the scheme delineated in the appendix (n=576). Students erroneously redirected by branching were excluded (n=480). Percentages may total to more than 100, as counts are based on multiple responses.

- The fields of study vocational/career track seniors planned to pursue most often were Visual/Performing Arts, Audio-Visual Technology, and Communication, 35.6%, followed by Health Related Professions, 22.3%, followed by Law, Public Service, and Security, 18.3%
- Over 16% of vocational/career track seniors planned to study either Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics; Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics; Business, Management, and Administration

10. Which branch of the armed services did military-bound seniors plan to join?

The branch of the armed services that military-bound seniors indicated that they would be joining upon completing high school are listed in Table 12 on the following page.

- Over 30% of military-bound seniors reported planning to join the Army, while nearly 25% reported planning to join the Marines.
- Around 20% of military-bound seniors reported planning to join the Air Force, while around nearly 17% reported planning to join the Navy.

Table 12. Branches of the Military

Armed Forces Branch	n	%
Army	139	30.8
Marines	112	24.8
Air Force	93	20.6
Navy	75	16.6
Coast Guard	23	5.1
National Guard	6	1.3
Merchant Marines	3	0.7
Total	451	100.0

Note. A total of (n=201) seniors who initially indicated that they would be joining the military but who later failed to affirm that choice were excluded.

11. What were the principal reasons seniors gave for not attending college?

Seniors planning to attend career, certificate, or vocational schools or to directly enter the workforce were queried about the main reason they would not be attending college.

Table 13. Reasons Seniors Gave for not Attending College

Reason	n	%
Too expensive	741	25.7
Prefer military training	549	19.1
Don't need it for what I want to do	305	10.6
Prefer to work only	267	9.3
Don't feel academically ready	257	8.9
Not interested	243	8.4
Prefer vocational school	231	8.0
Family obligations	142	4.9
Applied but was not accepted	103	3.6
Other	25	1.5
Total	2,863	100.0

- Over 25% of responding seniors cited expense as the primary reason they would not be attending college.
- Nearly 20% reported preferring military training.
- Around 10% reported feeling that college was not needed, preferring to work, or not being academically ready.

12. To what extent did seniors plan to work after completing high school?

Seniors were queried about the extent they planned to work upon completing high school and whether or not they knew where they would be working. Table 14 compares the responses of students who were identified as college-bound; vocational, certificate, career -bound; and students who planned to immediately enter the workforce.

Table 14. Seniors' Plans for Work after High School by Group

Category	College		Vocational/Career		Other ^a	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
0	5,092	29.2	313	19.2	222	29.1
1-4	191	1.1	25	1.5	18	2.4
5-19	3,523	20.2	279	17.1	85	11.2
20-39	6,823	39.1	684	42.0	244	32.0
40 or more	1,826	10.5	329	20.2	193	25.3
Know where	4,607	26.4	575	35.3	248	32.5
Don't know where	7,756	44.4	742	45.5	292	38.3
Not Working	5,092	29.2	313	19.2	222	29.1
Total	17,455	100.0	1,630	100.0	762	100.0

^aExcludes senior who are planning to join the military (n=451)

- Nearly 40% of seniors who reported planning to further their education also reported planning to work 20-39 hours per week, somewhat more than seniors who reported other plans.
- The percentage of seniors who reported planning to work part-time was greater than the percentage of seniors reported planning to work full-time, regardless of whether or not seniors were identified as planning to further their education.
- The percentage of seniors who reported not knowing where they would be working was greater than the percentage of seniors reported knowing where they would be working.

13. What are the principal conclusions of this report?

This report examined the results of the fourth annual administration of the Senior Exit Survey, which examined seniors' attitudes toward high school, postsecondary plans, career/vocational choices, and immediate wage-earning aspirations. Over 80% of graduating seniors completed the survey, of which more than 85% reported planning to attend college. While most students gave their high schools high marks and rated college information/advanced course offerings as helpful in preparing them for life after graduation, many students also found their high school experience to lack training in life skills and financial literacy. The vast majority of seniors reported planning to attend a college in Florida. Health related professions were the most popular major of college-bound seniors. Most students reported planning on working after high school whether or not they also planned to continue their education. Despite intending to be employed, less than half of seniors who reported planning to work knew where they would do so.