

SENIOR SURVEY AND ALUMNI SURVEY ANALYSIS

Prepared for Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

October 2017



In the following report, Hanover Research presents the results of surveys administered to seniors and alumni of Kenai Peninsula Borough Public School District.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND KEY FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) partnered with Hanover Research (Hanover) to design and analyze a set of surveys administered to KPBSD alumni and seniors. The purpose of the surveys is to gain an understanding about how well the District prepared students for both college and career. Surveys were administered separately to the graduating senior class at KPBSD high schools and to previously graduated alumni.

This report consists of two sections and a data supplement (Excel file):

- **Section I: Senior Survey** provides results to survey questions answered by seniors related to responded information, activities while at KPBSD, post-graduation plans, high school preparation, and demographics.
- **Section II: Alumni Survey** presents alumni respondent information, high school activities, post-graduation activities, high school preparation, preferred communication, and demographics.
- The **Data Supplement** contains the full responses for senior and alumni survey results, responses for seniors segmented by school, and responses for alumni segmented by graduation year.

METHODOLOGY NOTES

Hanover surveyed KPBSD senior respondents between May 2017 and late September 2017 and KPBSD alumni respondents between August 2017 and late September 2017. When analyzing results, note the following:

- Hanover removes “Don’t know” and “N/A” responses when they do not add value to the analysis.
- Additionally, when reporting results, Hanover uses the top two results as a combined percentage. For instance, “satisfied” refers to the percentage of respondents who selected both “satisfied” and “very satisfied.”

SAMPLE SIZE

Hanover performed initial data quality checks before analysis. A total of 411 senior respondents entered the survey and **342 seniors** remain in the analysis after data quality checks. A total of 239 alumni entered the survey and **194 alumni** remain after data quality checks.¹ Sample sizes vary throughout the report because not all respondents saw each question and some respondents did not complete the entire survey.

¹ Hanover monitored response quality and completion rates.

KEY FINDINGS

EMERGING THEMES

Overall, both seniors and alumni report **satisfaction with core academic preparation** from KPBSD. Most seniors and alumni indicate they are satisfied with the English/writing, science, social studies, and mathematics preparation they received from KPBSD. Across both groups, most KPBSD **students pursued or plan to pursue postsecondary education**. However, seniors and alumni indicate less satisfaction with the career preparation provided by KPBSD. Alumni note that career assessment and career and technical education are among the top areas KPBSD should focus on.

SENIOR SURVEY

- **Overall, most seniors believe that their high school experience prepared them for their post-graduation plans.** Most respondents are satisfied with their high school preparation in English/writing (75%), science (75%), social studies (73%), and mathematics (72%). Additionally, two-thirds or more of respondents are satisfied with their preparation in problem solving (68%), research skills (66%), and critical thinking (66%). Furthermore, over two-thirds of respondents agree that KPBSD provides students with the academic support they need to succeed (68%) (Figure 1.8, Figure 1.10, Figure 1.11).
- **KPBSD may increase its focus on career preparation.** Less than half of student respondents are satisfied with the career and technical education provided by KPBSD (45% satisfied; 34% neither satisfied nor dissatisfied) and only slightly more than half agree that KPBSD offers an appropriate number and variety of vocational/CTE opportunities (52% agree; 31% neither agree nor disagree). Furthermore, one-third of respondents indicate that KPBSD should place more emphasis on Career and Technical Education (33%) (Figure 1.8, Figure 1.9, Figure 1.10).
- **Students may benefit from a stronger focus on personal finance and postsecondary financial options.** Less than half of student respondents are satisfied with the personal finance preparation at KPBSD (42% satisfied; 26% neither satisfied nor dissatisfied) or with the financial aid/scholarship process support provided by KPBSD (45% satisfied; 27% neither satisfied nor dissatisfied). Moreover, around one-third of respondents who are not planning on entering postsecondary education report they cannot afford school (30%) and/or that they need to work to support themselves (32%), further suggesting that financial options should be presented (Figure 1.4, Figure 1.11, Figure 1.13).
- **Nearly half of seniors plan on leaving the state after graduation (44%) and over half plan on continuing their education (61%).** More than one-third of respondents (34%) plan on staying in the Kenai Peninsula. Additionally, nearly one-quarter of respondents plan on finding a part-time or full-time job (23%) instead of continuing their education (Figure 1.3, Figure 1.5).

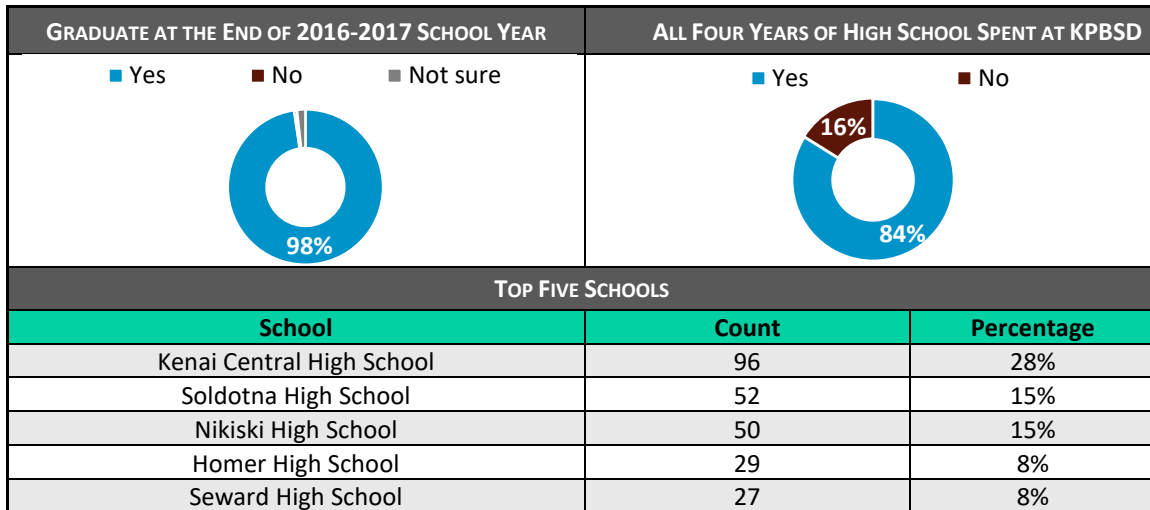
ALUMNI SURVEY

- **Two-thirds of alumni respondents enrolled in postsecondary education after graduation (66%), most of whom completed their degree in four years or less (67%).** Most alumni who attended a postsecondary institution studied or are studying medicine/health services (16%), sciences (15%), business (13%), or education (12%). Similar to current seniors, nearly half left Alaska for their post-graduation plans (47%) (Figure 2.5, Figure 2.6, Figure 2.8).
- **Alumni, overall, are generally satisfied with preparation from KPBSD in core academic subjects.** In particular, respondents are satisfied with preparation in English/writing (72%), science (67%), and mathematics (64%). Additionally, most respondents are satisfied with the preparation KPBSD provided for developing teamwork (64%), problem solving (60%), and work ethic (60%) skills (Figure 2.16, Figure 2.18).
- **However, respondents indicate a need for better college preparation, both in academic rigor and in skills such as test-taking and time management.** Less than half of alumni indicate they were well-prepared for college-level work (49%) compared to their peers and even fewer found the transition from high school to college to be easy (40%). Additionally, less than half of respondents are satisfied with the preparation they received from KPBSD in terms of test-taking skills (48%), time management (48%), study skills (48%), and personal finance (28%) (Figure 2.12, Figure 2.13, Figure 2.17).
- **Additionally, alumni indicate KPBSD should focus more on career preparation.** Only 27 percent of alumni are satisfied with the career and technical education preparation at KPBSD (35% neither satisfied nor dissatisfied). Moreover, career and technical education (49%) and career assessments (45%) are among the top three areas alumni indicate KPBSD should emphasize more (Figure 2.14, Figure 2.15)

SECTION I: SENIOR SURVEY

RESPONDENT INFORMATION

Figure 1.1: Graduation Status, Attendance Years, and School

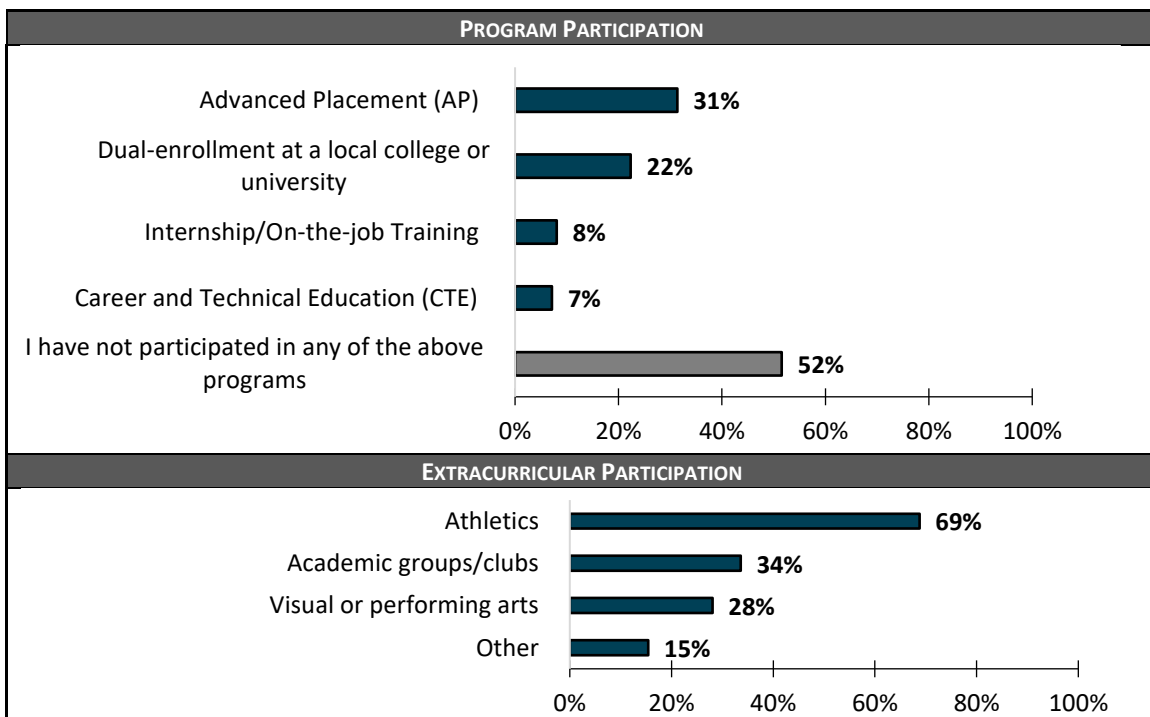


Top left figure n=342; Top right figure n=285; Bottom figure n=342

Note: Only the top five schools are presented above. Please see the data supplement for full responses.

RESPONDENT ACTIVITIES AT KPBSD

Figure 1.2: Participation in Activities and Programs

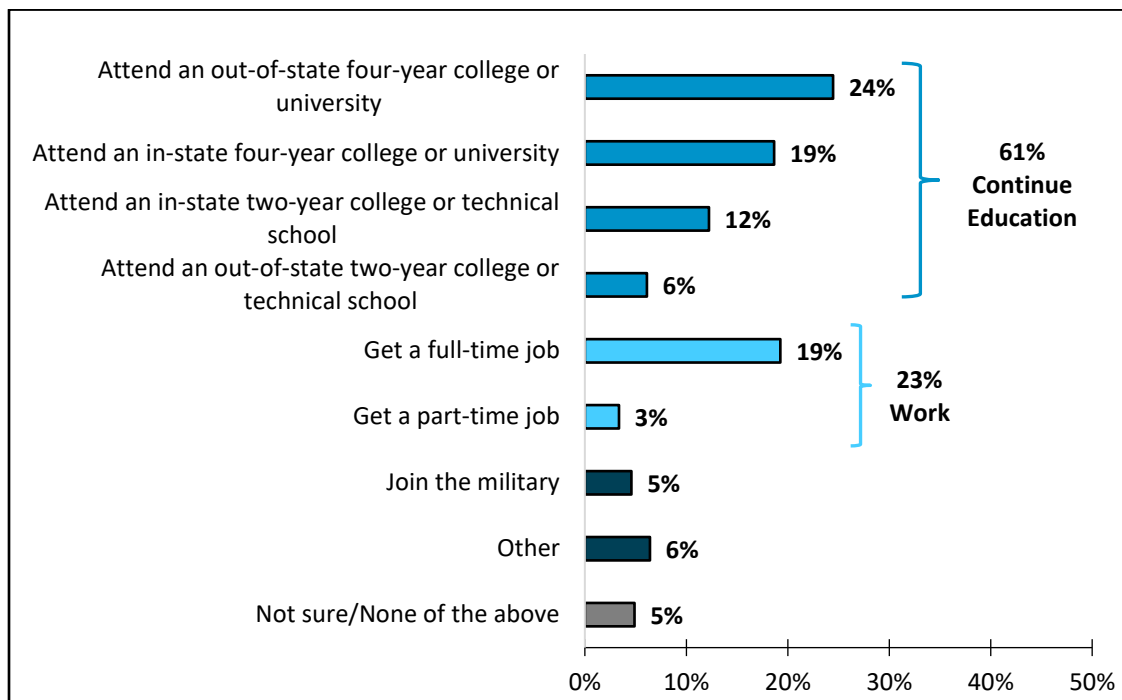


Top figure n=322; Bottom figure n=253

Note: Responses sum to over 100% because respondents could select multiple options.

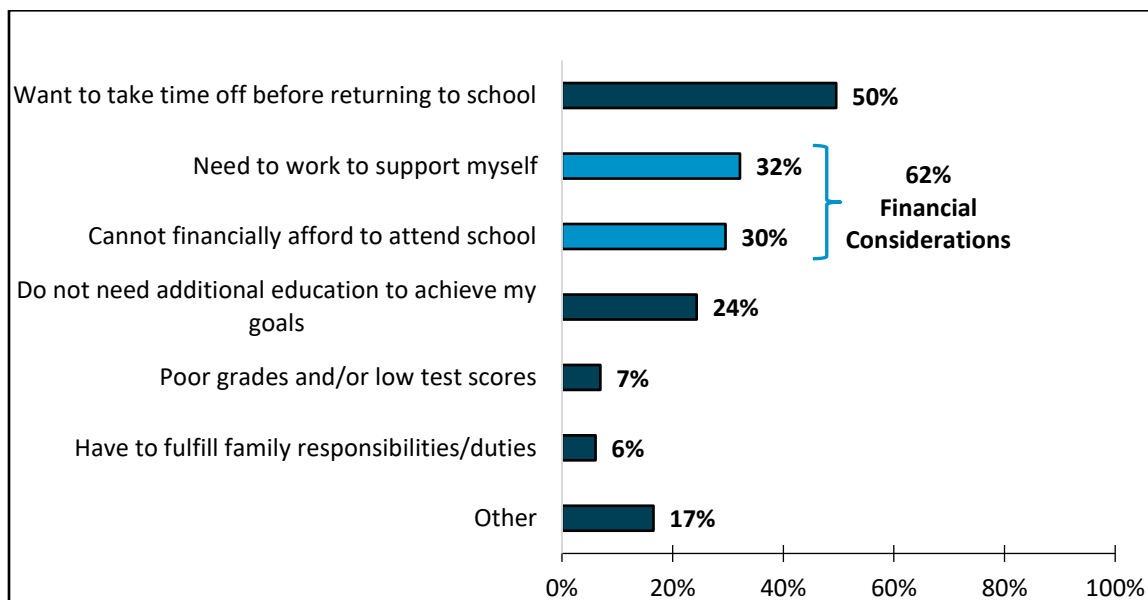
POST-GRADUATION PLANS

Figure 1.3: Post-Graduation Plans



n=327

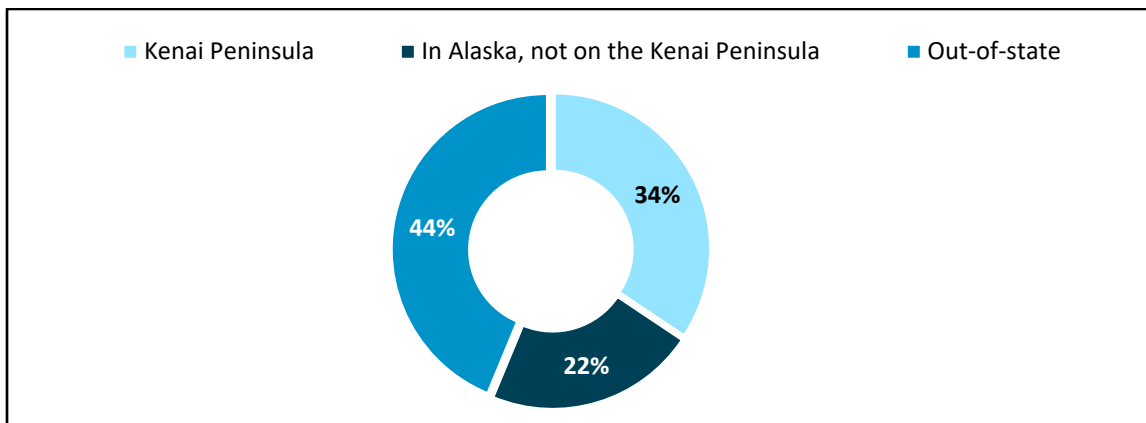
Figure 1.4: Reason for Not Continuing Education



n=115

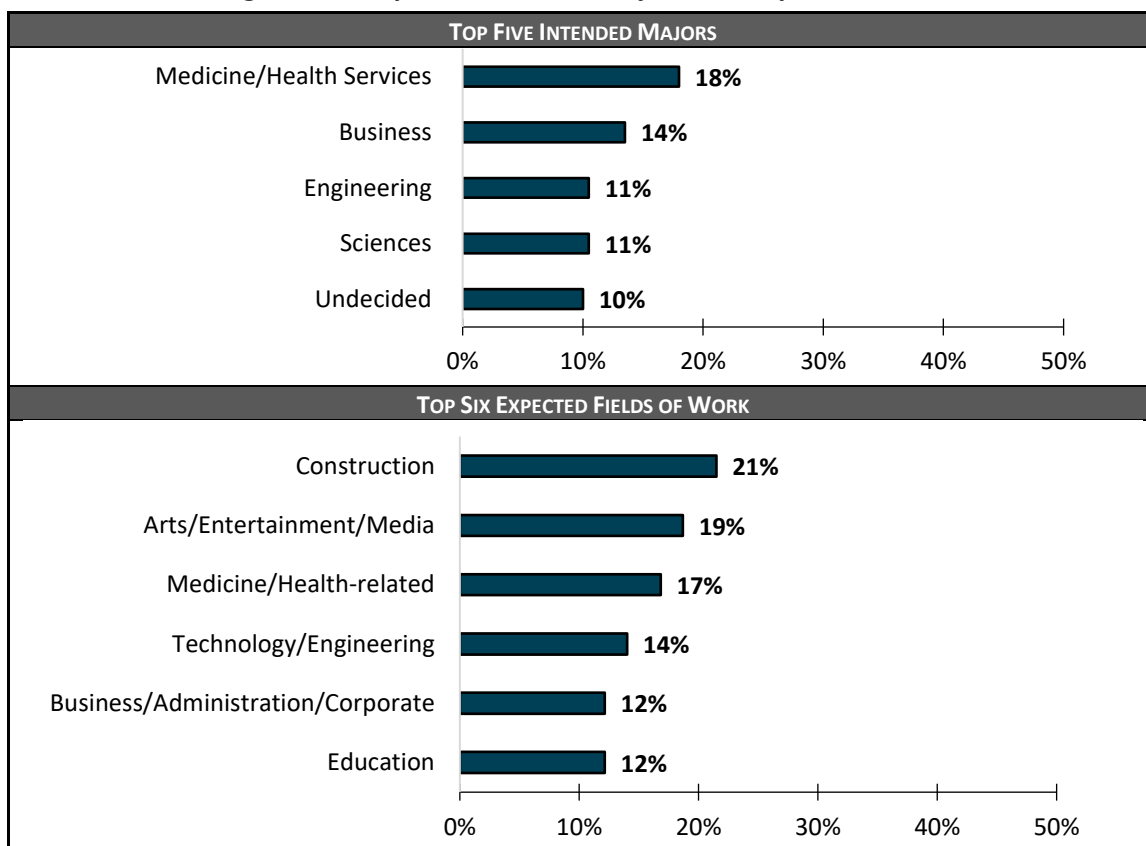
Note: The item was shown only to respondents who do not plan on continuing their education. Responses sum to over 100% because respondents could select multiple options.

Figure 1.5: Location of Post-Graduation Plans



n=320

Figure 1.6: Top Five Intended Majors and Expected Fields

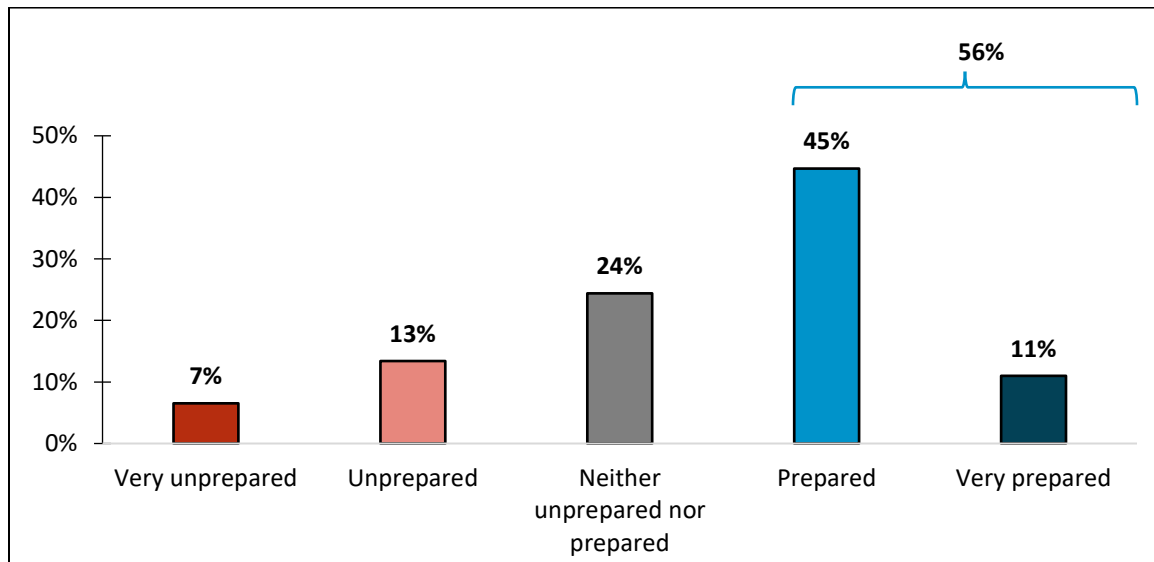


Top figure n=200; Bottom figure n=107

Note: More than any major presented, most respondents selected "Other" (24%) in the top figure. Additionally, 18 percent of respondents selected "Other" in the bottom figure. Hanover excludes this option from the above figures because they do not provide insight. In the bottom figures, the top six options are shown because an equal number of respondents selected "Business/Administration/Corporate" and "Education." In both figures, responses sum to over 100% because respondents could select multiple options.

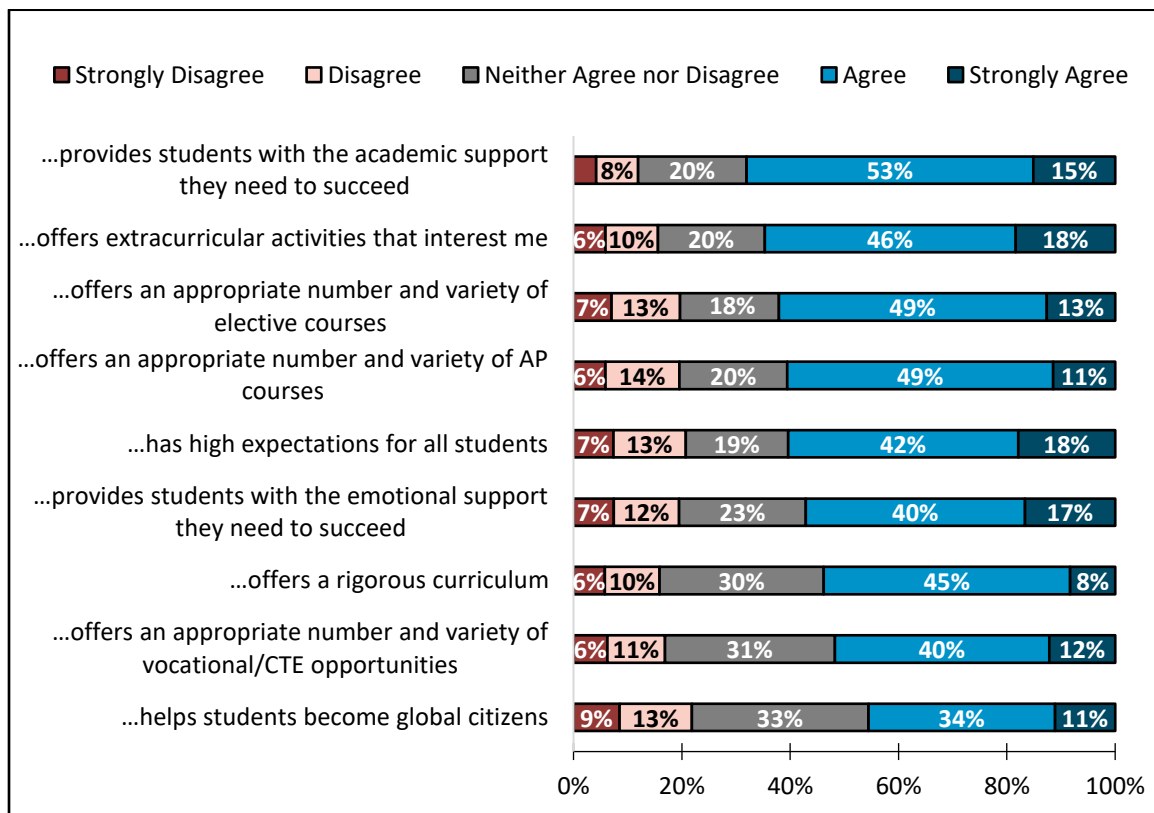
HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

Figure 1.7: Overall High School Preparation for College and Career



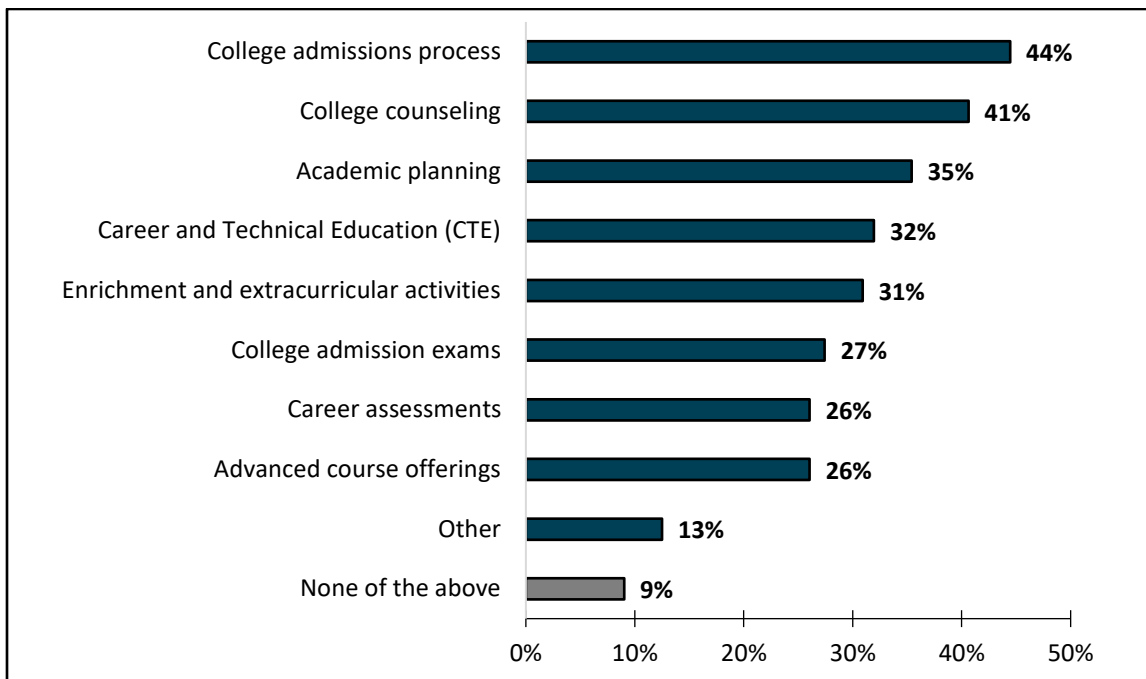
n=291

Figure 1.8: Overall High School Experience: “My high school...”



n=255-289

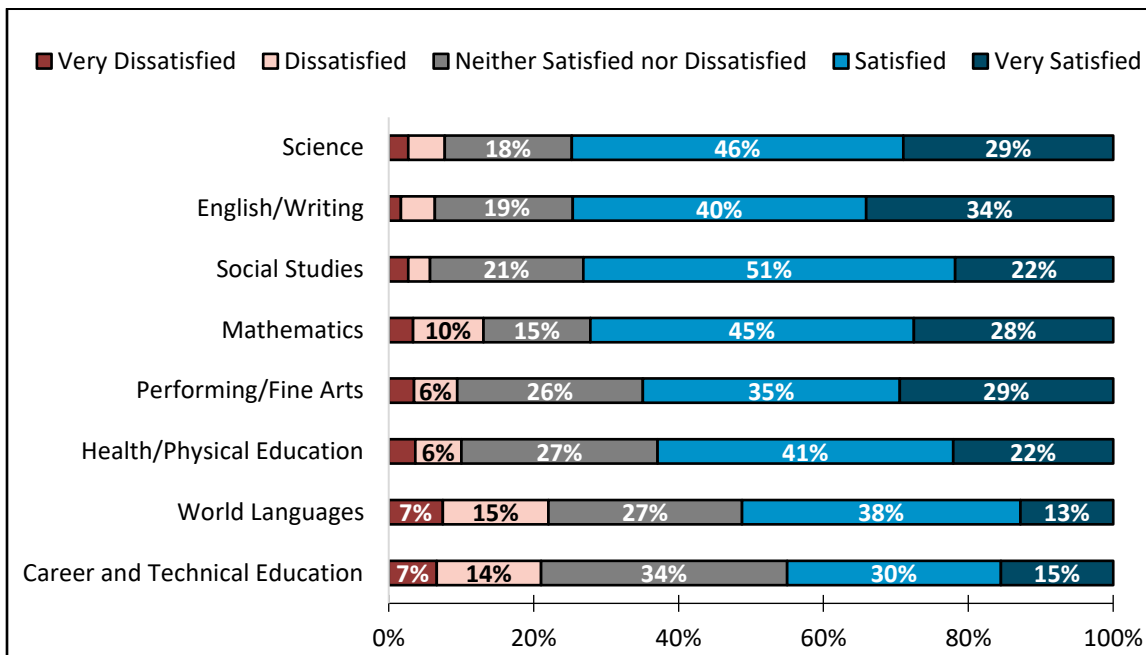
Figure 1.9: Areas KPBSD Should Emphasize More



n=288

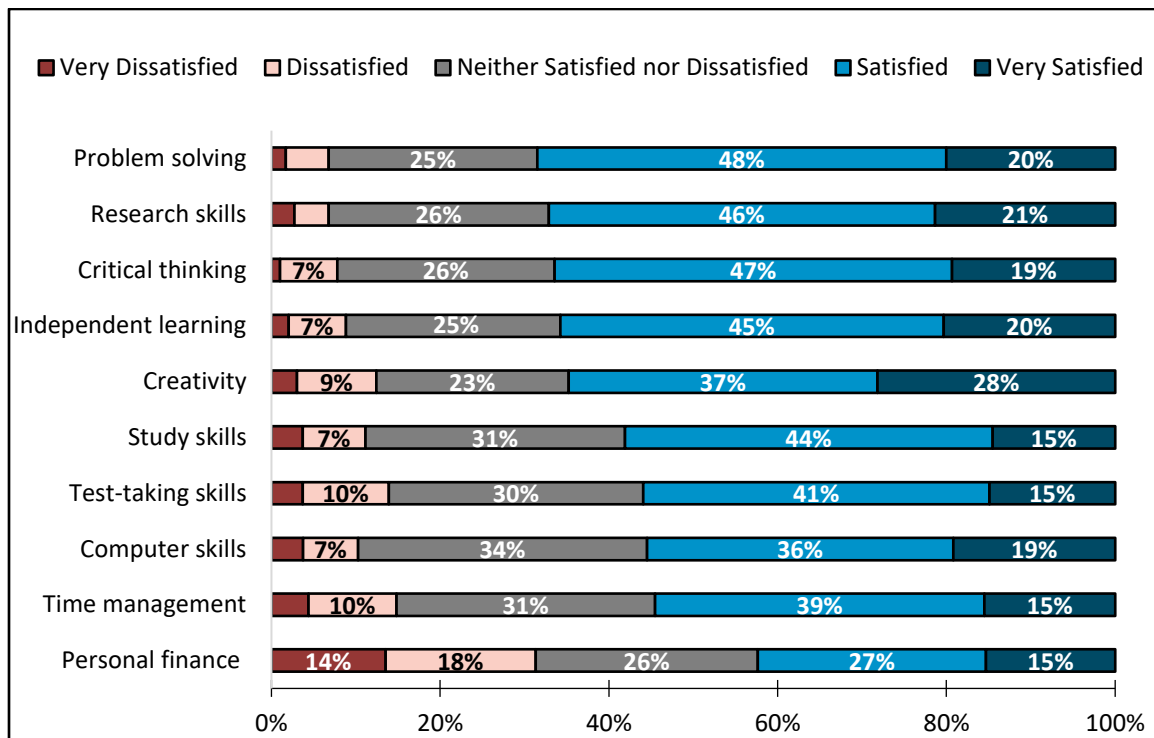
Note: Responses sum to over 100% because respondents could select multiple options.

Figure 1.10: Satisfaction with High School Preparation: Academic Skills Part 1



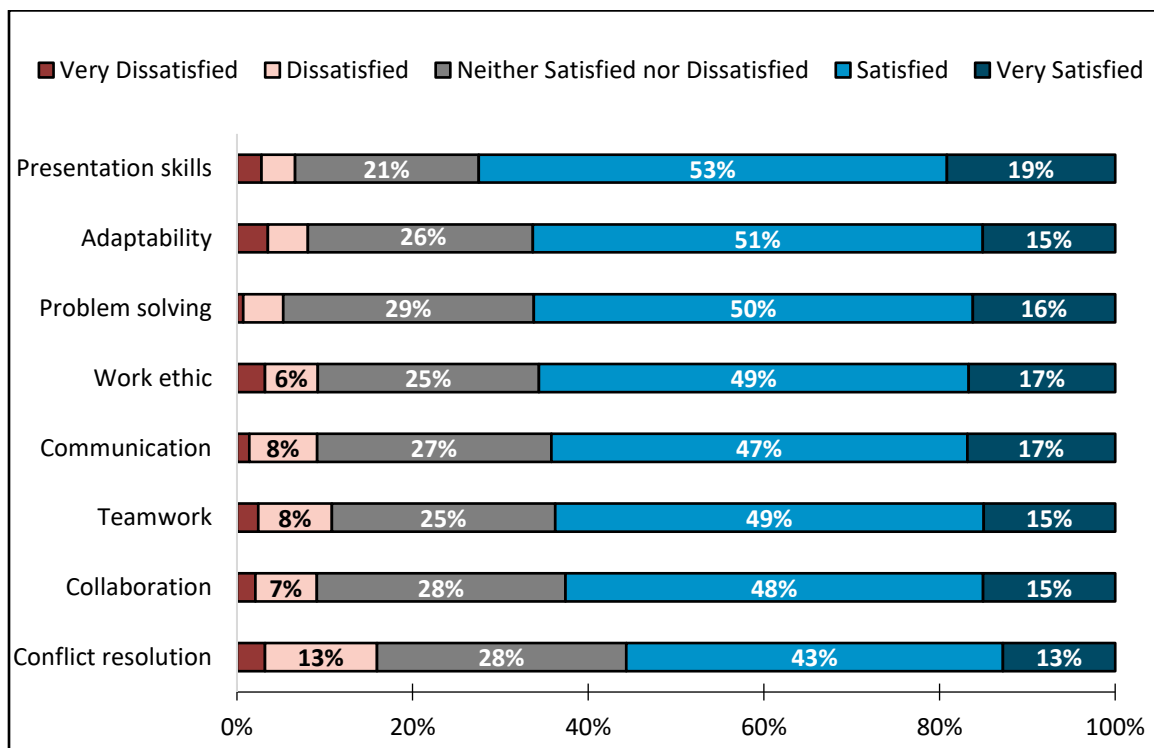
n=271-299

Figure 1.11: Satisfaction with High School Preparation: Academic Skills Part 2



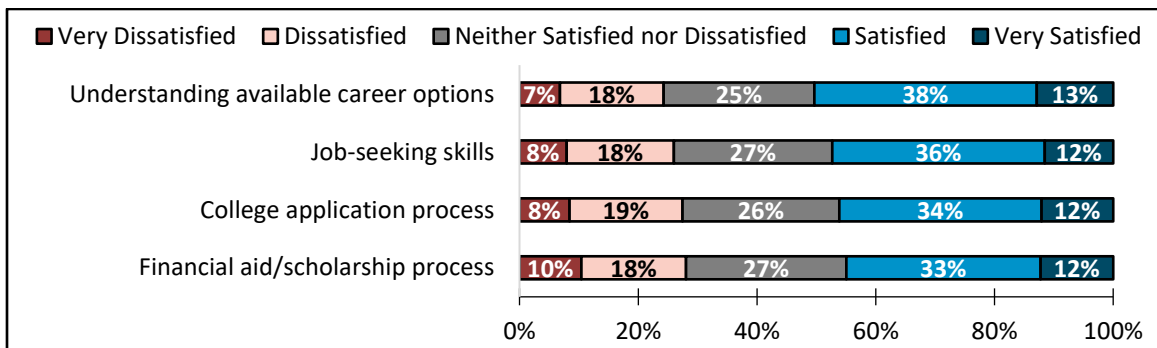
n=281-298

Figure 1.12: Satisfaction with High School Preparation: Non-Academic Skills



n=282-287

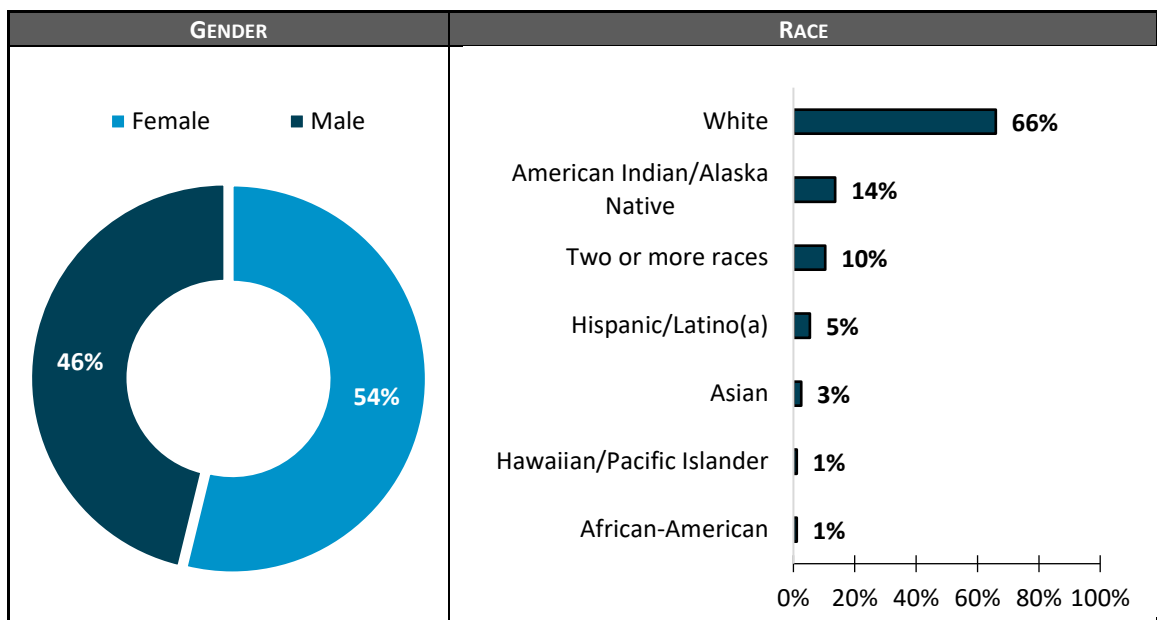
Figure 1.13: Satisfaction with High School Preparation for Post-Graduation Plans



n=273-280

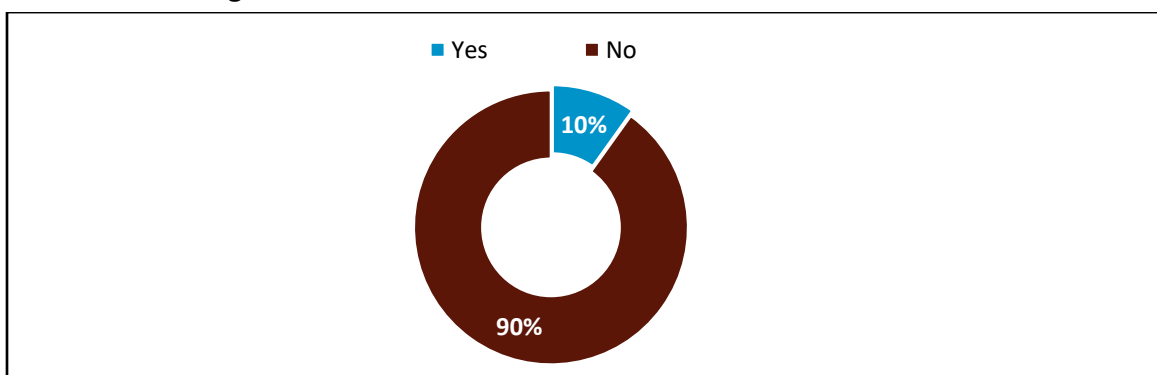
COMMUNICATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Figure 1.14: Gender and Race



Left figure n=275; Right figure n=279

Figure 1.15: Interest in Further Communication with KPBSD

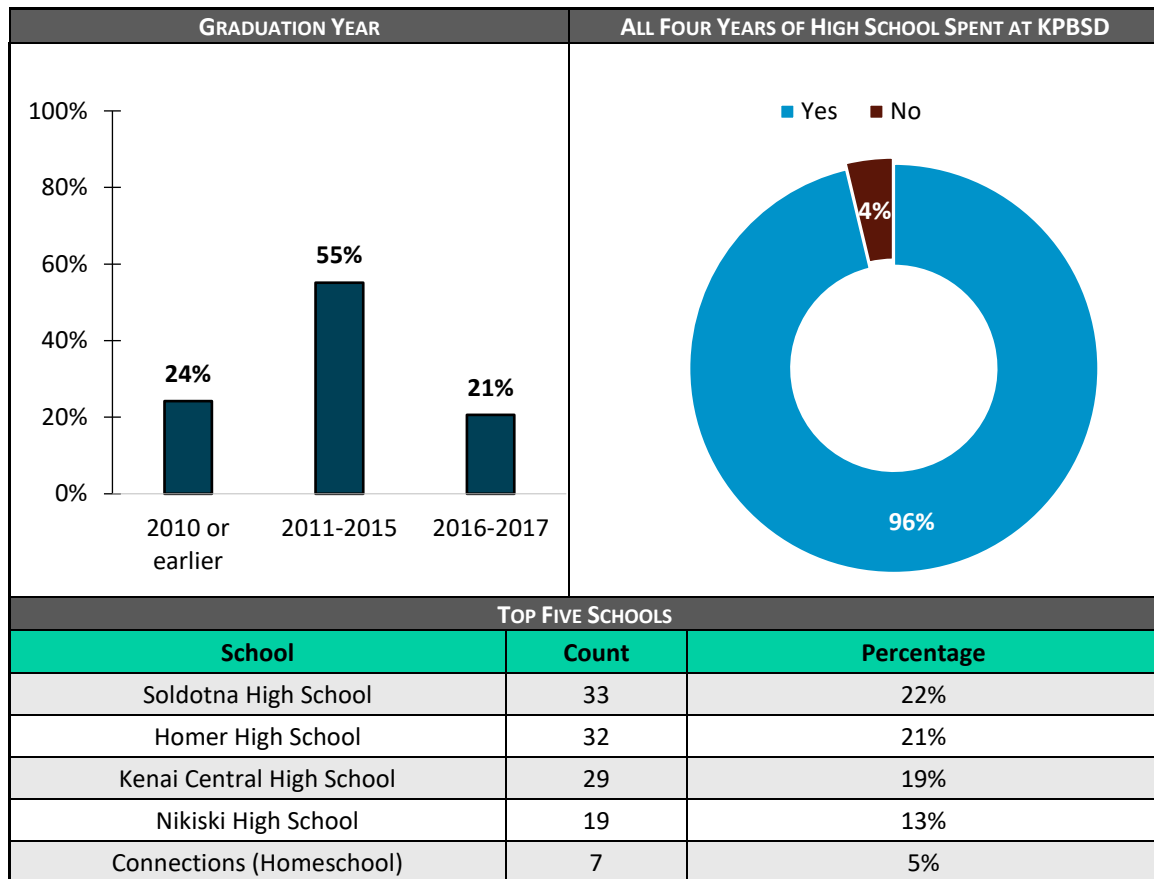


n=273

SECTION II: ALUMNI SURVEY

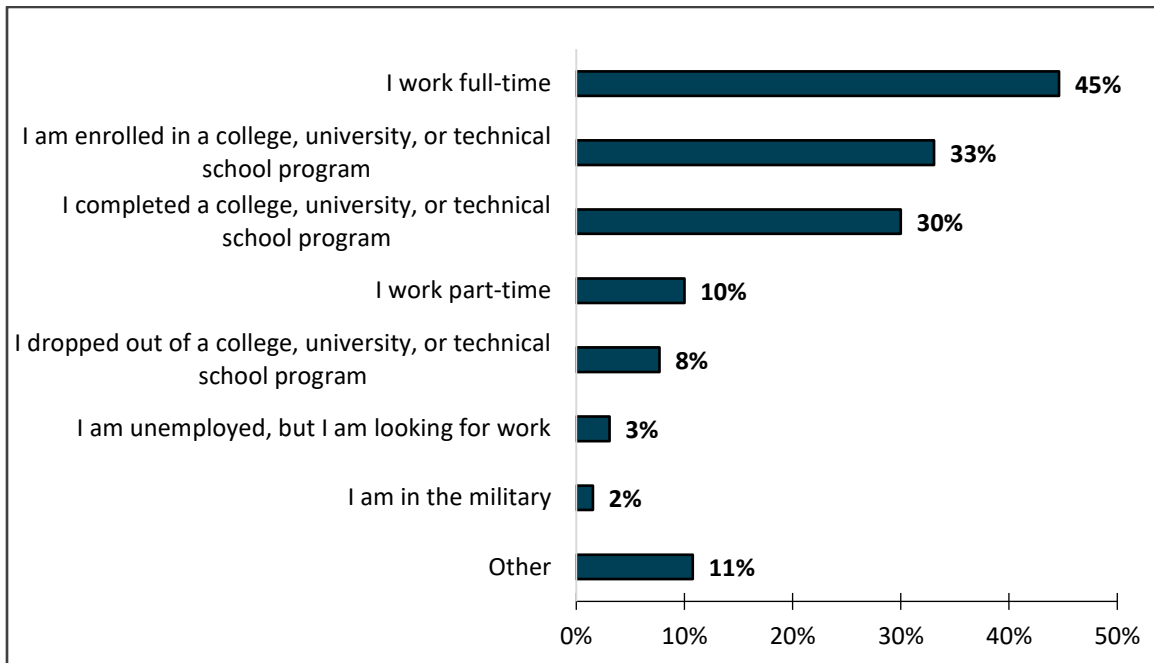
RESPONDENT INFORMATION

Figure 2.1: Graduation Year, Attendance Years, and School



Top left figure n=194; Top right figure n=107; Bottom figure n=151

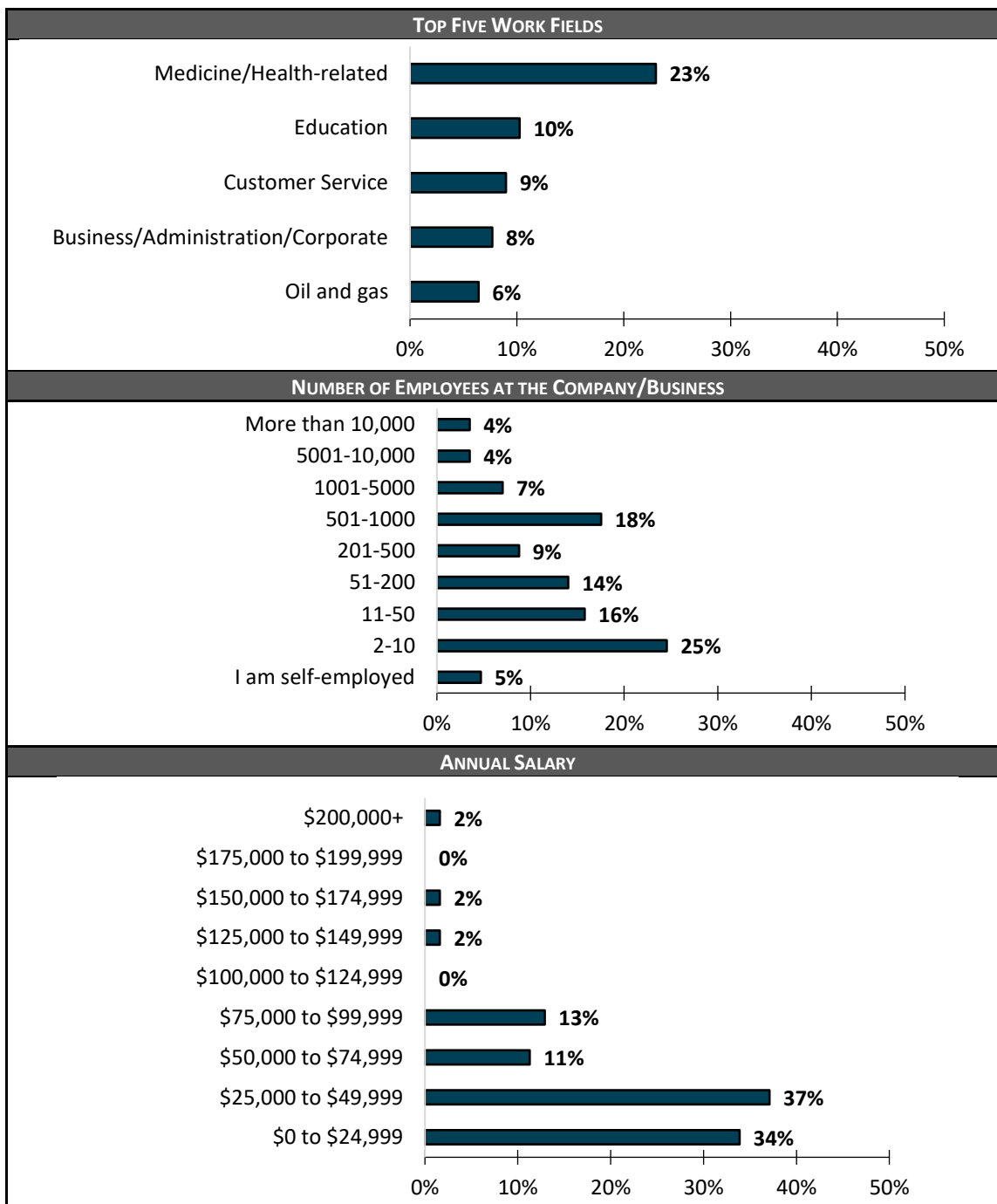
Figure 2.2: Current Employment, Student, and Military Status



n=130

Note: Responses sum to over 100% because respondents could select multiple options.

Figure 2.3: Employment Field, Company Size, and Salary

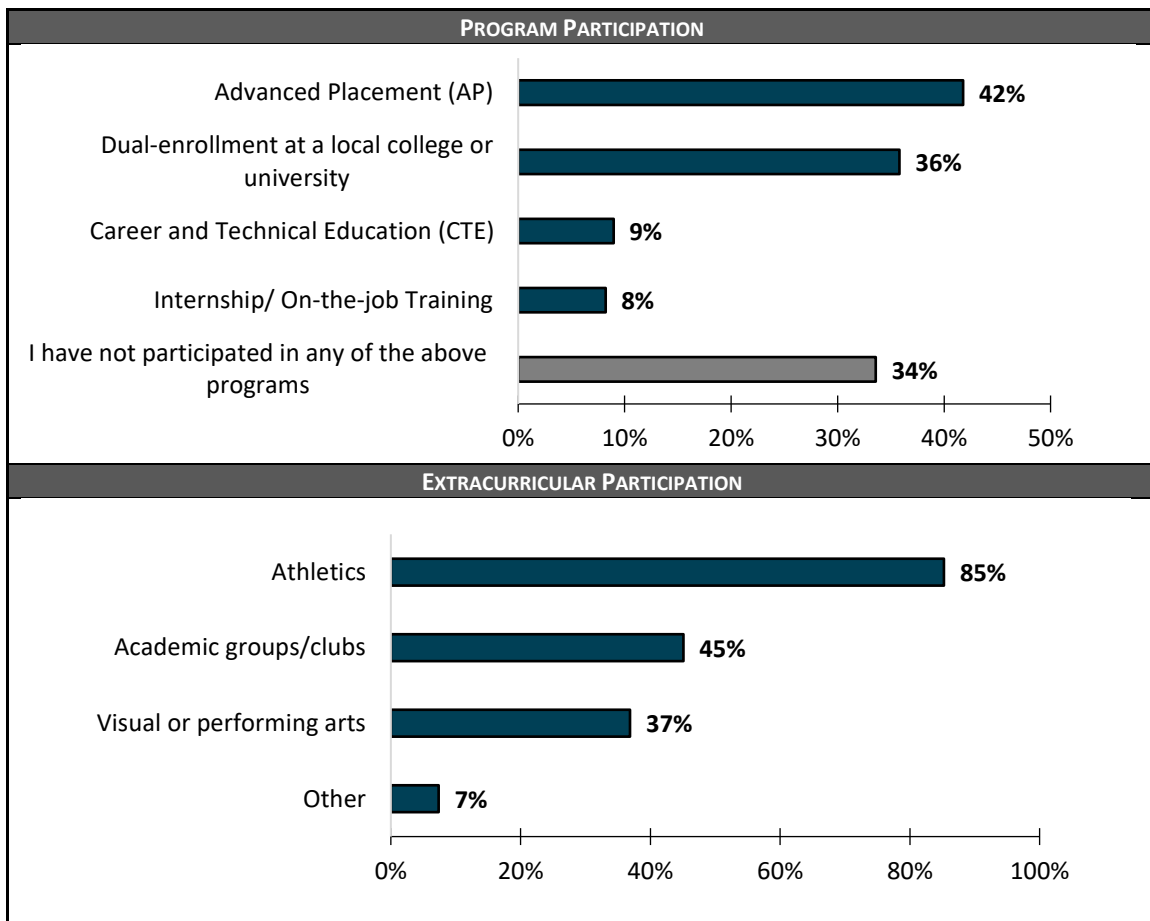


Top figure n=78; Middle figure n=57; Bottom figure n=62

Note: Thirteen percent of respondents selected "Other" for their field of work.

RESPONDENT ACTIVITIES AT KPBSD

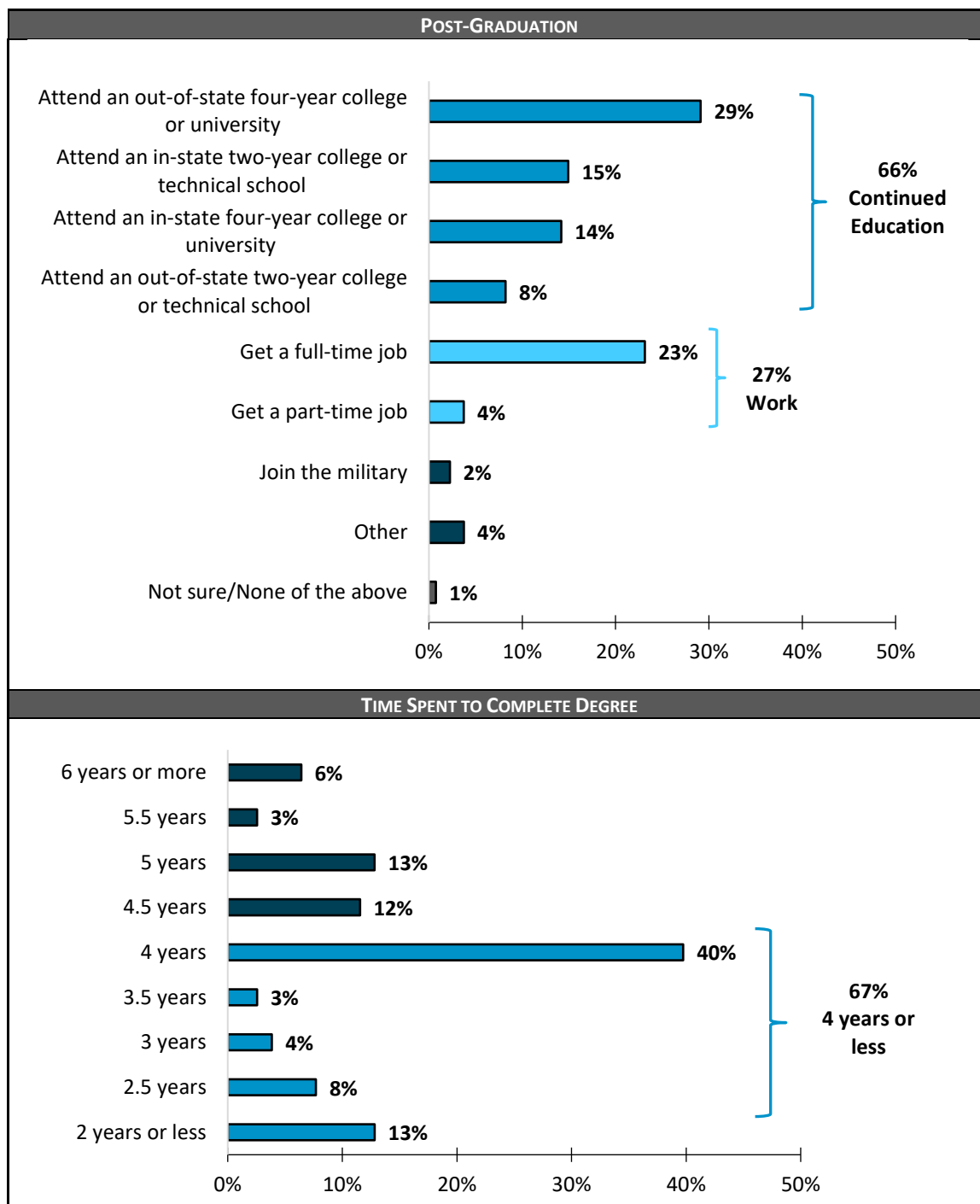
Figure 2.4: Participation in Programs and Activities



Top figure n=134; Bottom figure n=122

POST-GRADUATION ACTIVITIES

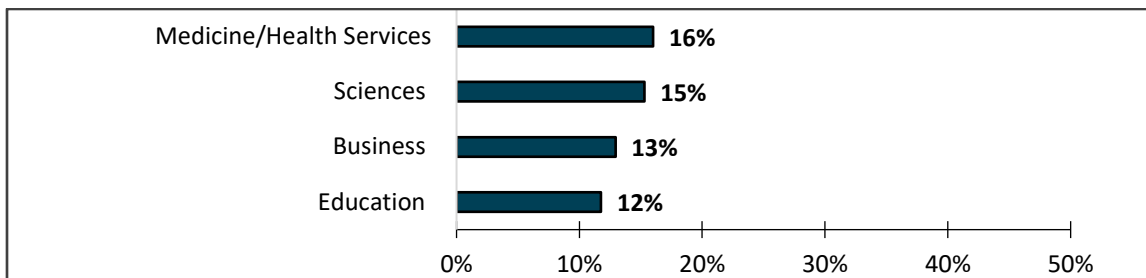
Figure 2.5: Immediate Activities After Graduation and Postsecondary Degree Completion Period



Top figure n=134; Bottom figure n=78

Note: The bottom figure was shown only to respondents who continued their education.

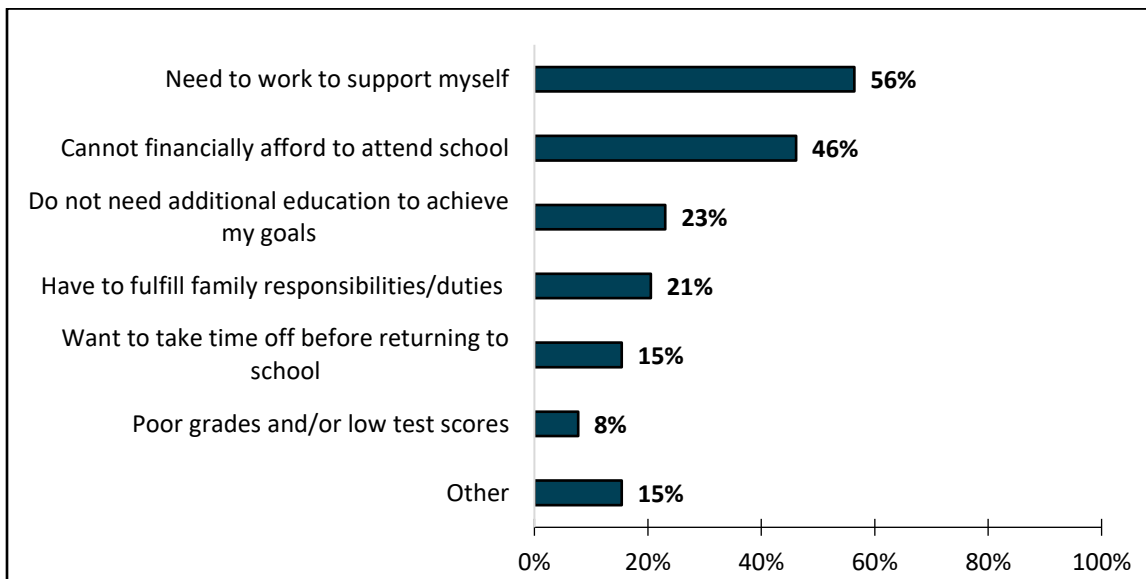
Figure 2.6: Top Five Majors



n=85

Note: Only the top five majors are presented. Please see the data supplement for a full list. More than any one major presented, respondents selected “Other” (21%) when asked about their major. Hanover excludes this option from the above figure because it provides little insight.

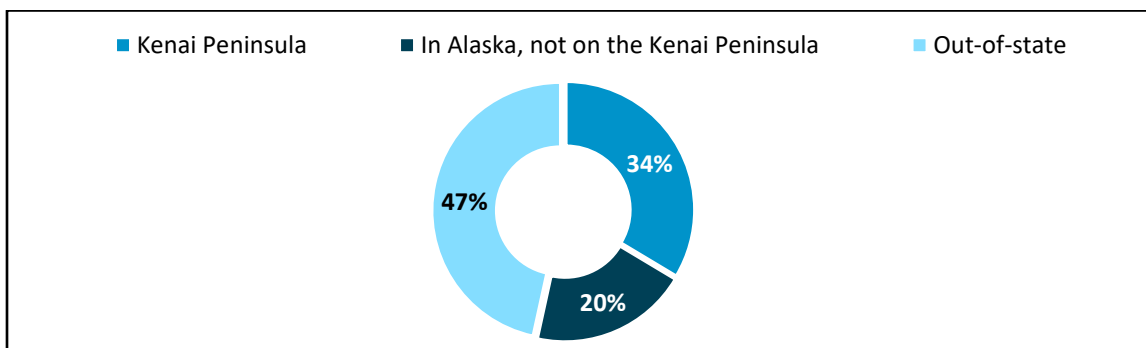
Figure 2.7: Reason for Not Pursuing Postsecondary Education



n=39

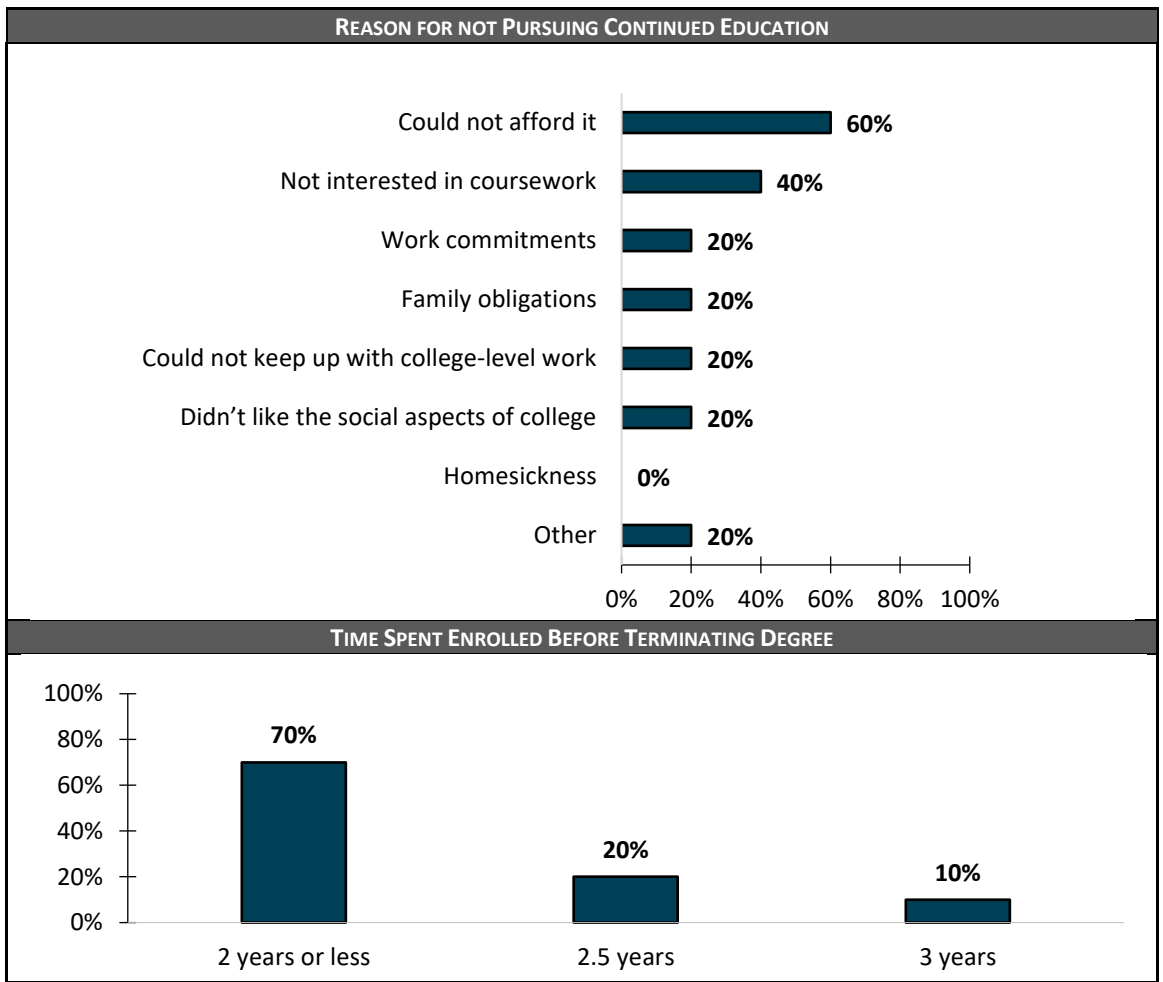
Note: This item was shown only to respondents who did not pursue postsecondary education.

Figure 2.8: Location of Immediate Post-Graduation Plans



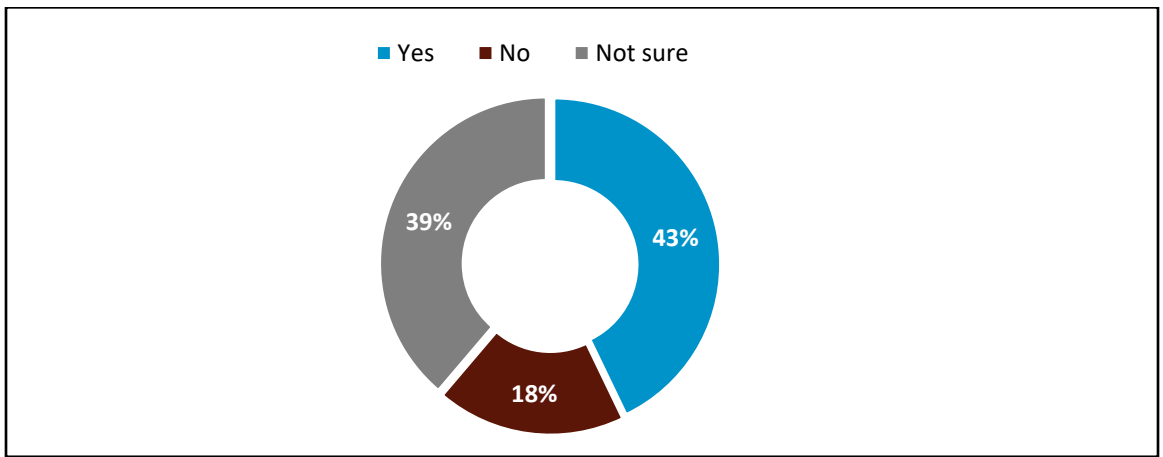
n=131

Figure 2.9: Reasons for Dropping Out and Time Spent in Degree Program Before Drop Out



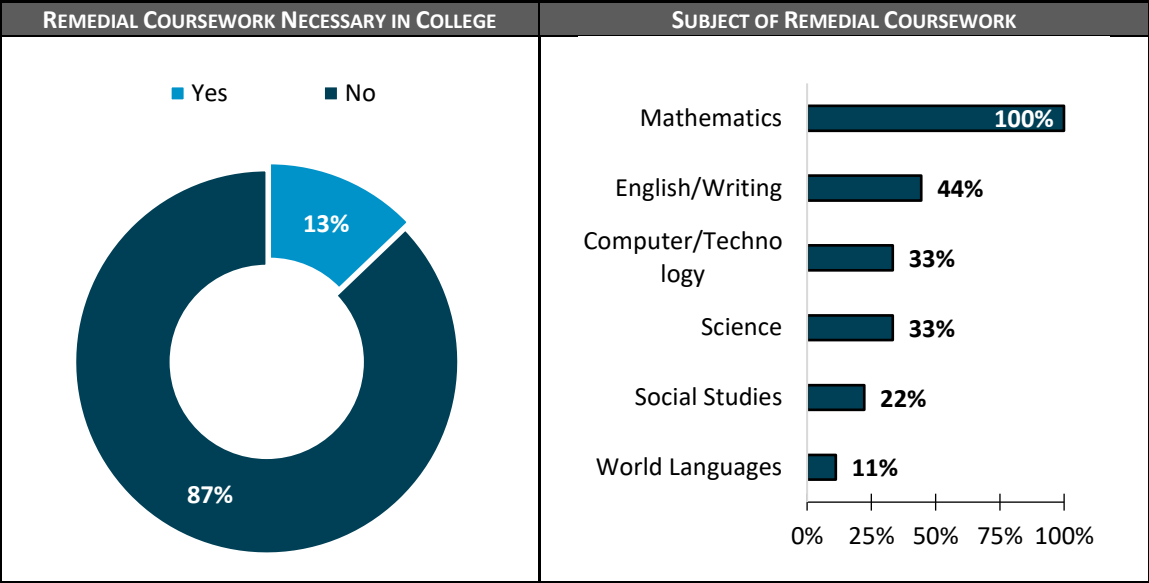
Top figure n=10; Bottom figure n=10
 Note: These items were shown only to alumni respondents who did not complete postsecondary education.

Figure 2.10: Plan to Return to Postsecondary Education in the Future



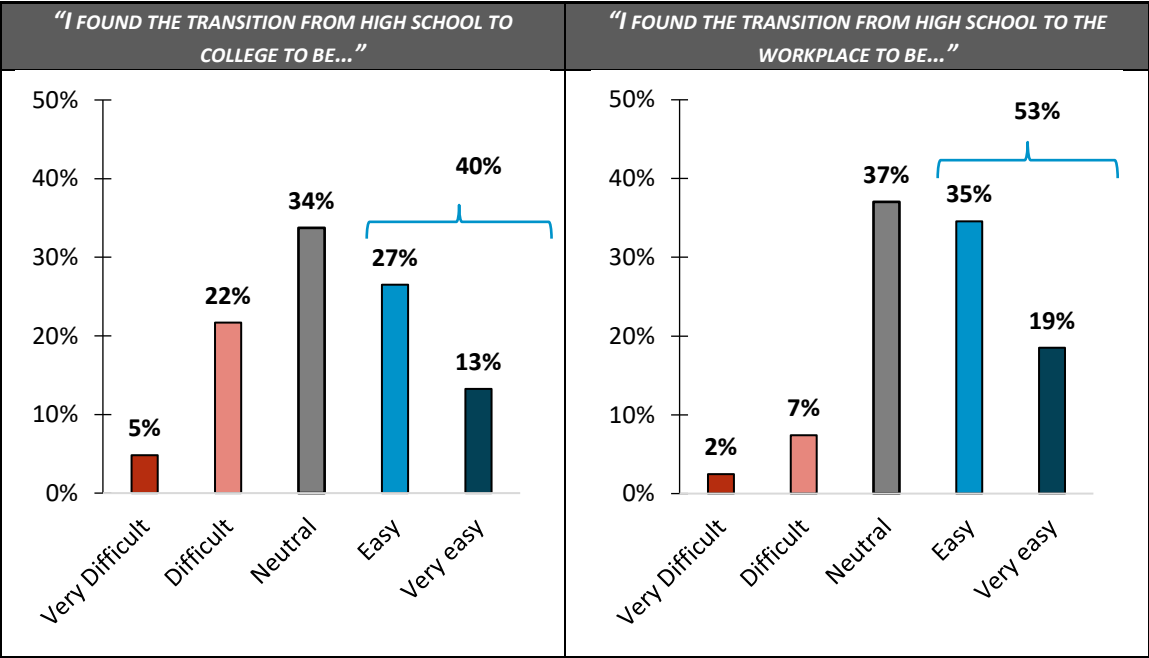
n=49
 Note: This item was shown only to alumni respondents who did not complete postsecondary education.

Figure 2.11: Remedial Coursework in College



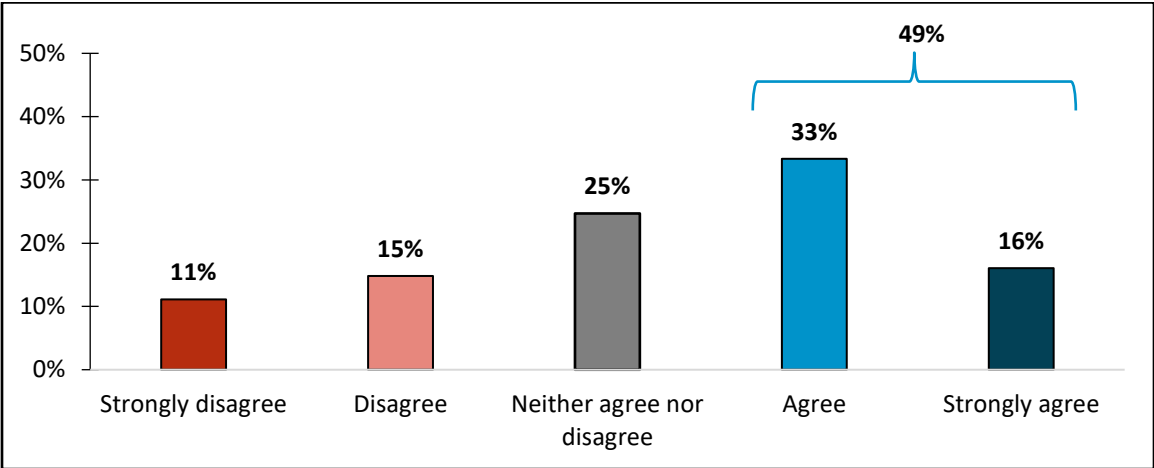
Left figure n=70; Right figure n=9
 Note: Both items were shown only to respondents who pursued postsecondary education. The right figure was shown only to respondents who were required to take remedial coursework in college.

Figure 2.12: Ease of College and Workplace Transitions from High School



Left figure n=83 Right figure n=81
 Note: The left figure was shown only to respondents who continued education immediately after high school and the right figure was shown only to respondents who are currently working or in the military.

Figure 2.13: Level of College Preparation: “Compared to my college peers, I was well prepared for college-level work.”

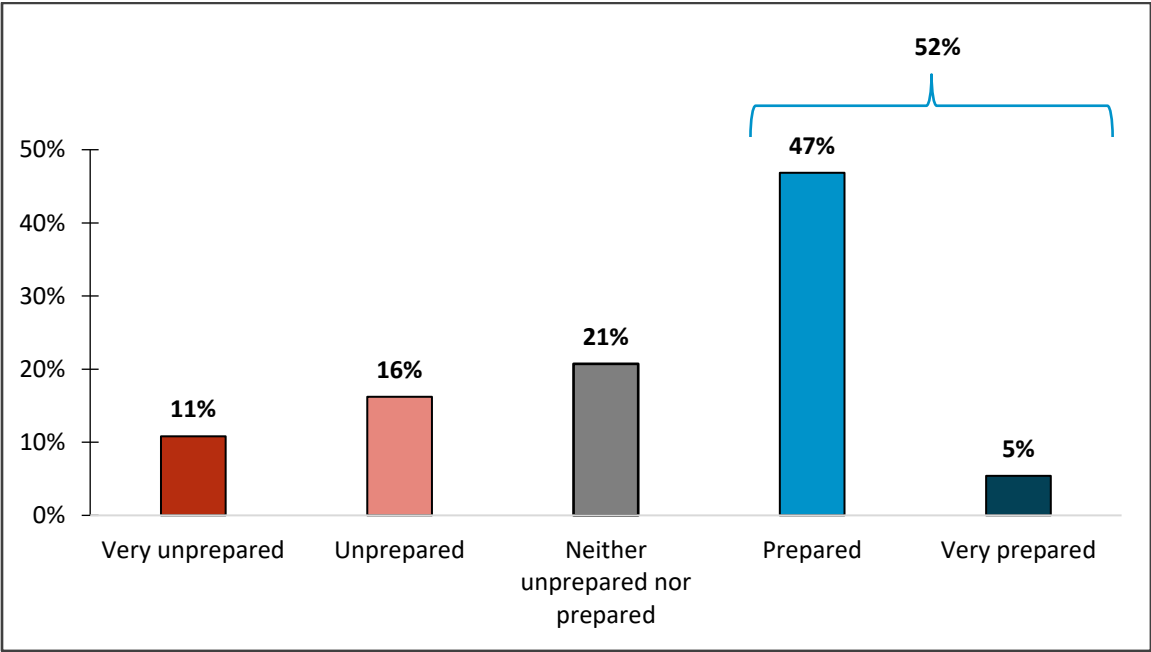


n=81

Note: The item shown only to respondents who continued education after high school.

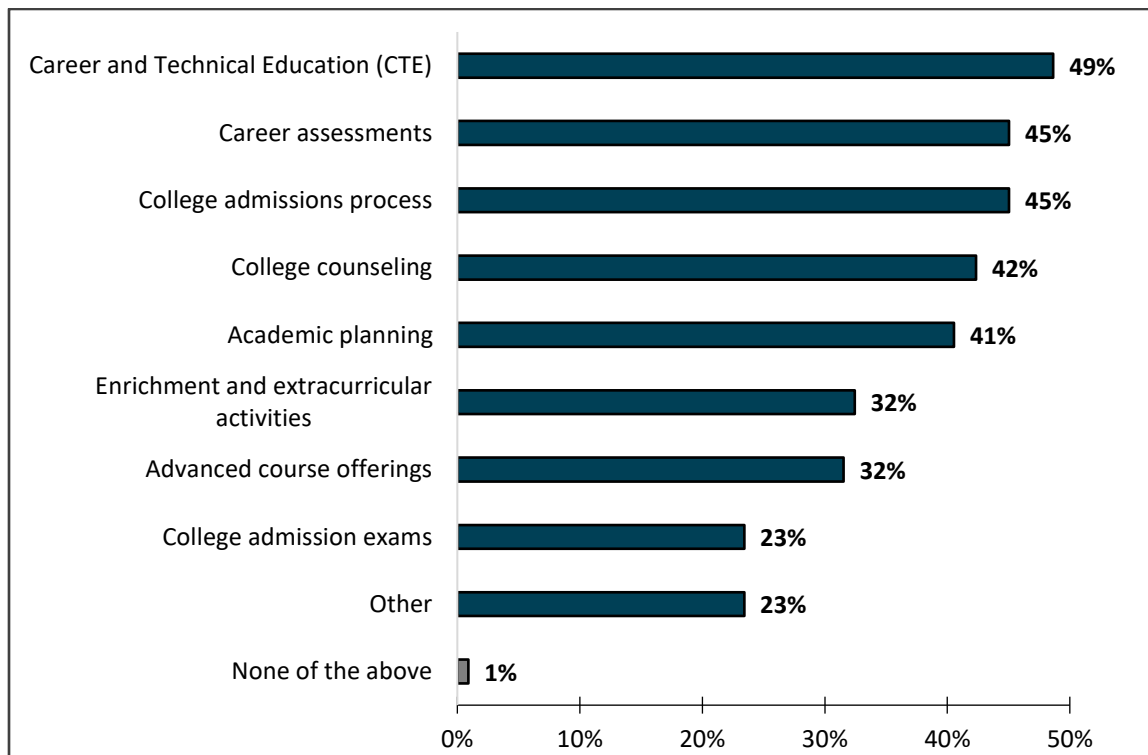
HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

Figure 2.14: Overall High School Preparation for College and Career



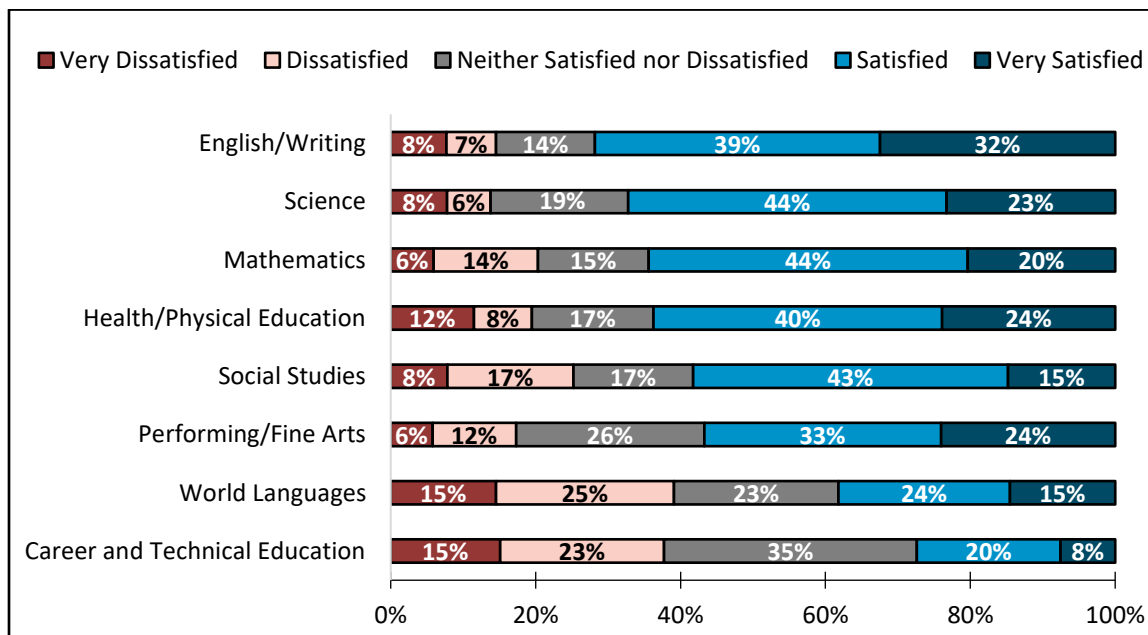
n=111

Figure 2.15: Areas KPBSD Should Emphasize More



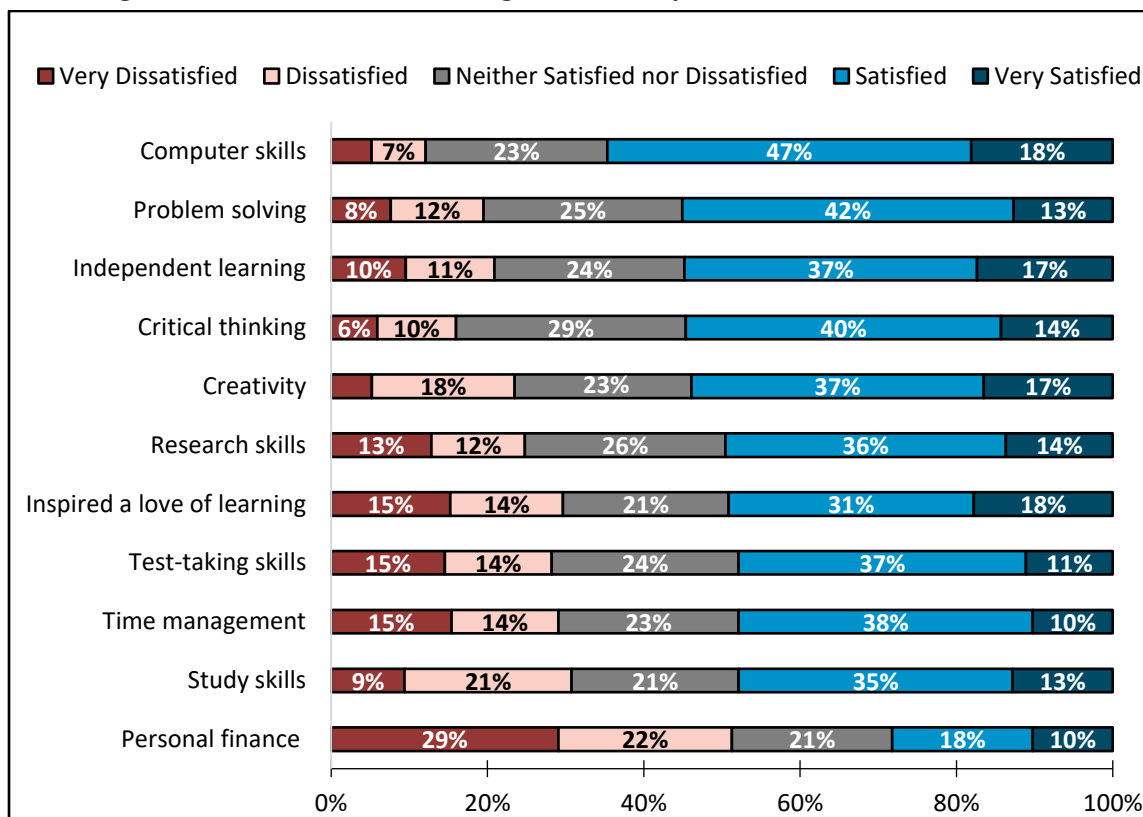
n=111

Figure 2.16: Satisfaction with High School Preparation: Academic Skills Part 1



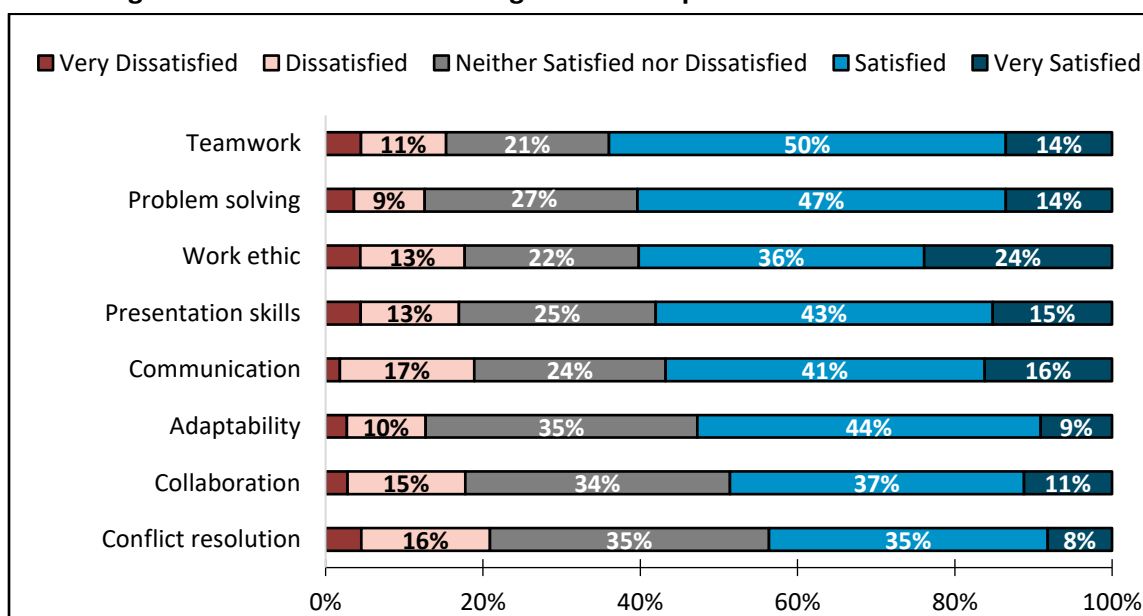
n=104-118

Figure 2.17: Satisfaction with High School Preparation: Academic Skills Part 2



n=115-119

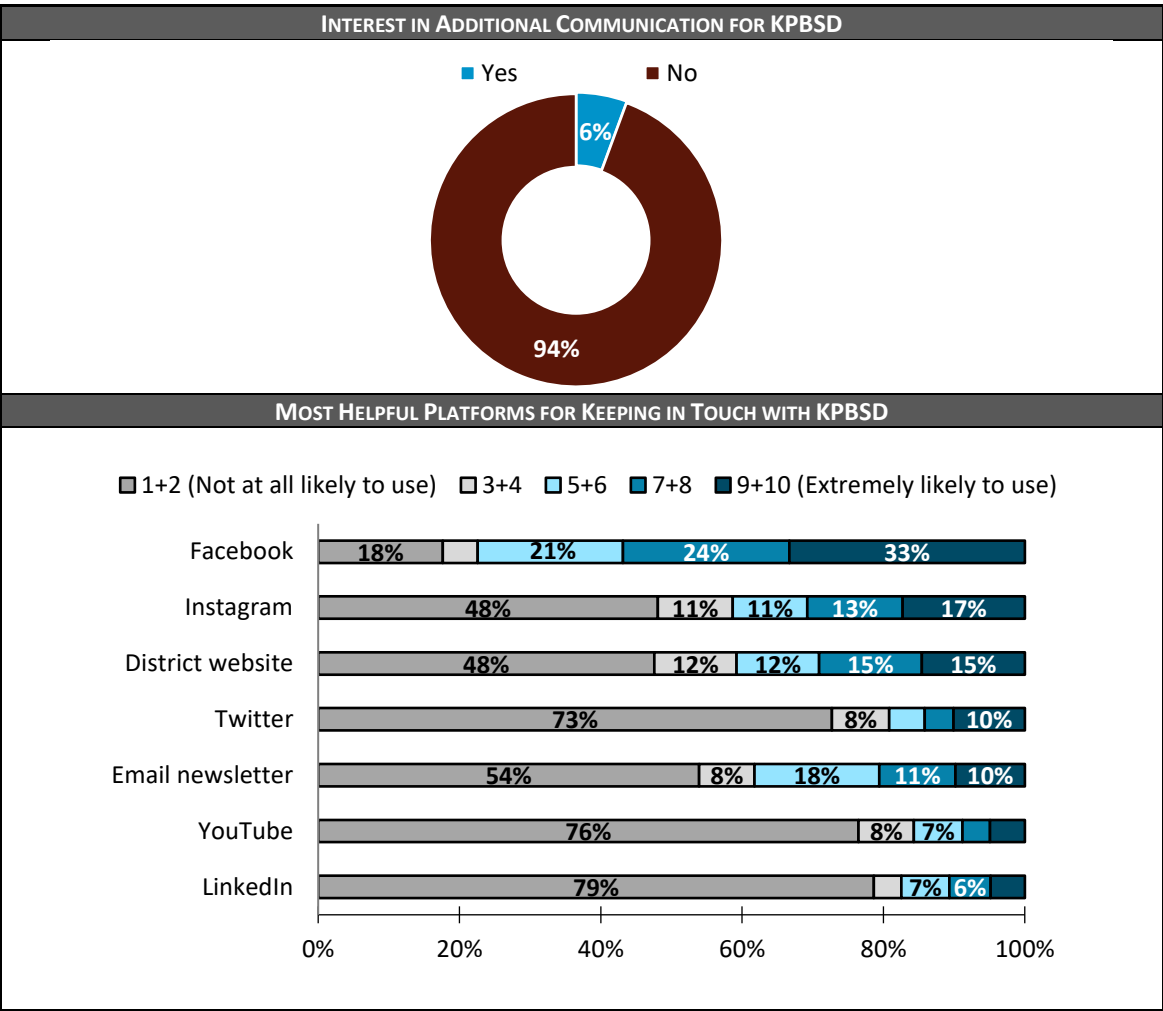
Figure 2.18: Satisfaction with High School Preparation: Non-Academic Skills



n=107-113

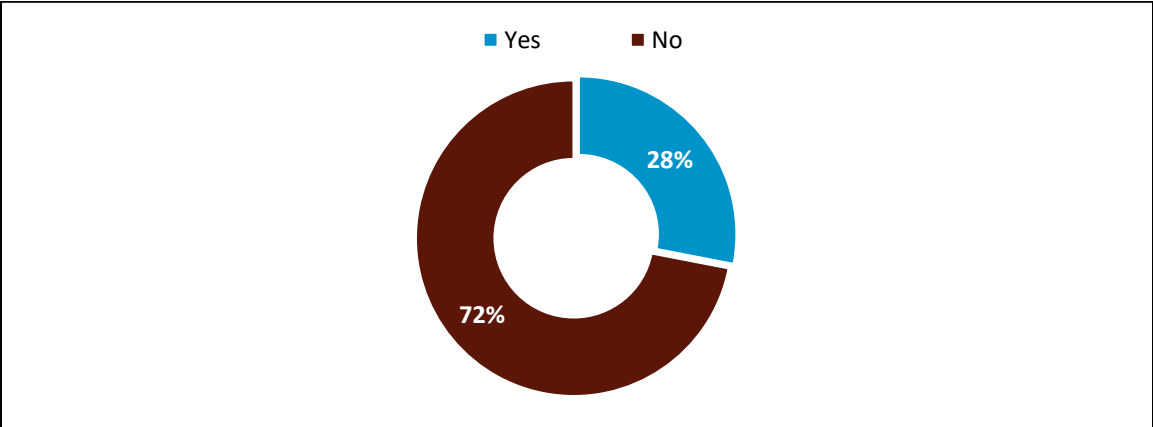
COMMUNICATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Figure 2.19: Preferred Communication from KPBSD



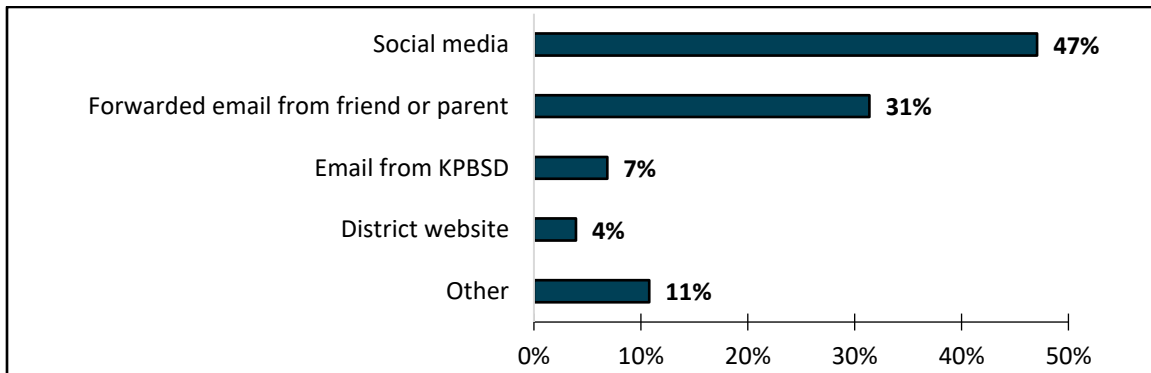
Top figure n=107; Bottom figure n=99-104

Figure 2.20: Interest in Being Profiled by KPBSD



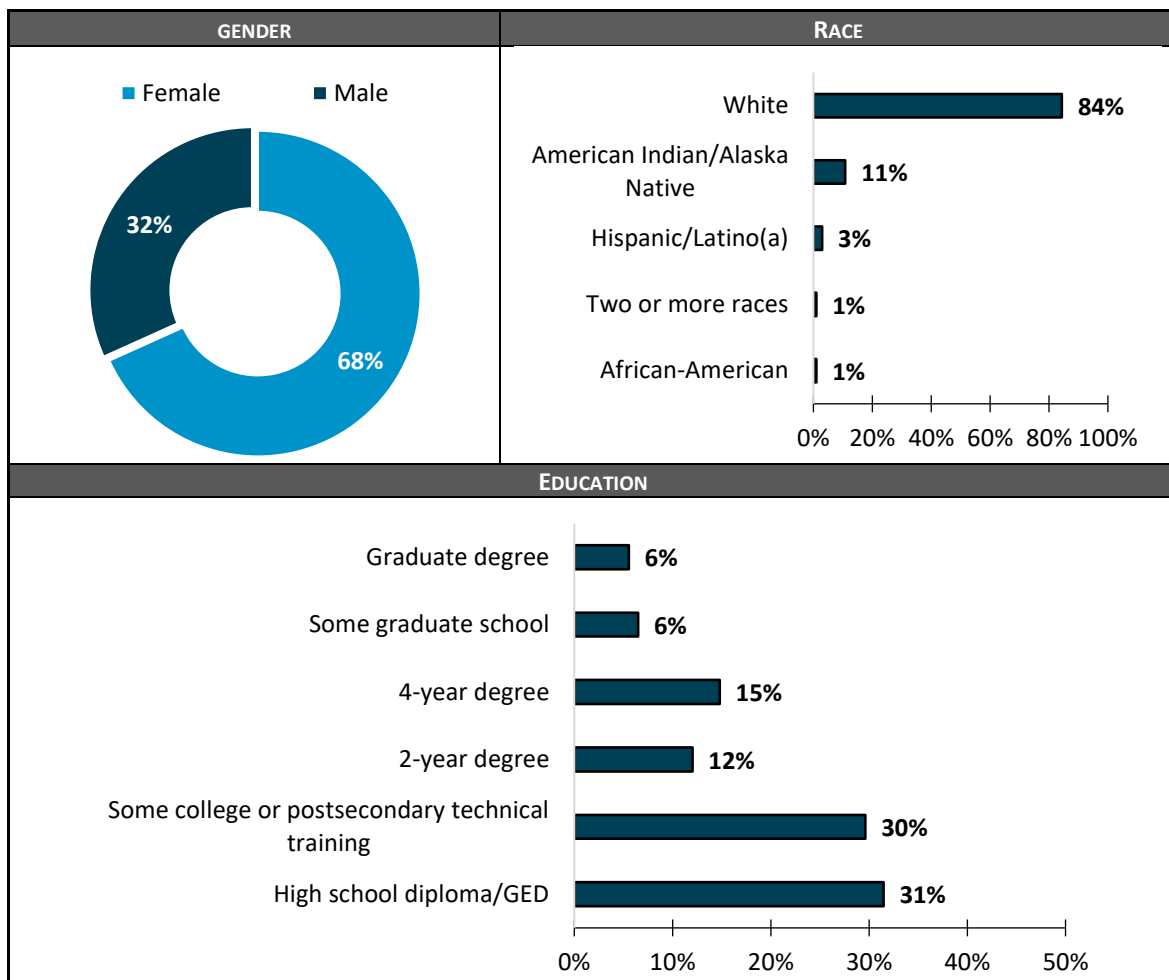
n=107

Figure 2.21: How Respondents Heard about the Survey



n=102

Figure 2.22: Gender, Race, and Education



Top left figure n=104; Top right figure n=102; Bottom figure n=108

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