

# Student Data

Students in Austin participated in focus groups to discuss the following question.

*“What do students in Austin need to achieve educational excellence?”*

The data on the following pages represents the most frequent responses from these conversations.

## Student Focus Group Participants

### **Ellis Middle School** ≈ 70 students

- Ellis Culture Club
- Ellis Student Council
- Ellis CAKE
- Ellis National Junior Honor Society

### **Pacelli Catholic Schools** ≈ 60 students

- Pacelli Student Body (grades 6-12)

### **Austin High School** ≈ 110 students

- AHS Student Council/National Honor Society
- REACH Students
- AVID Students (grades 9 and 10)

### **Riverland Community College** ≈ 40 students

- Riverland Parents
- Riverland Ambassadors
- Riverland Student Senate
- Riverland Multicultural Club

### **Austin High School Alumni\*** ≈ 50 students

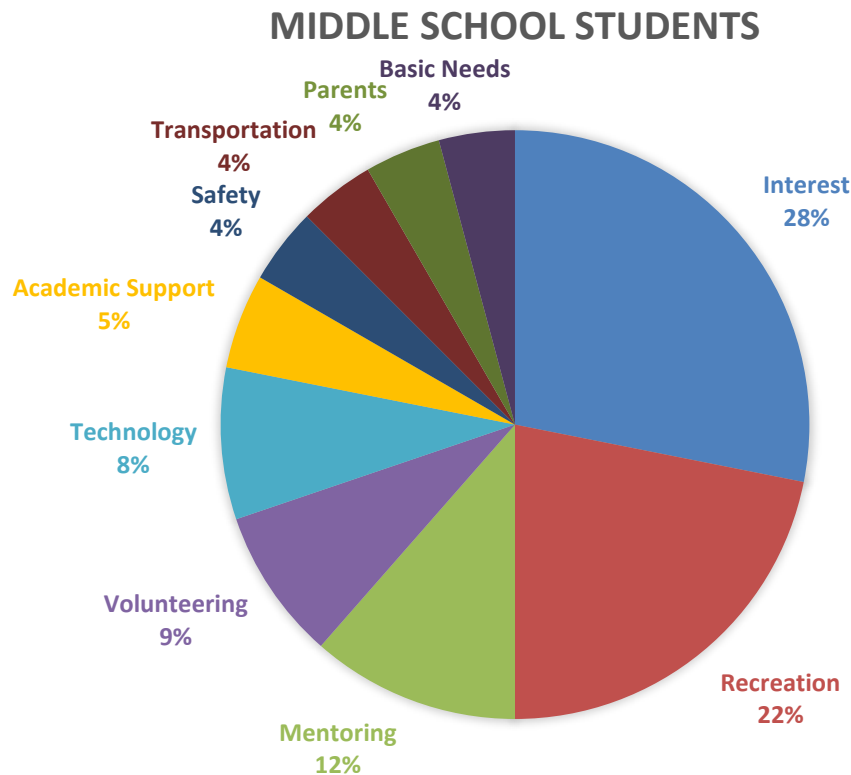
- AHS Alumni (2010 – 2014)

\*Information gathered by digital survey

## Ellis Middle School Student Focus Groups ≈ 70 students

*Responses collected during an unstructured conversation about what students need in order to achieve educational excellence.*

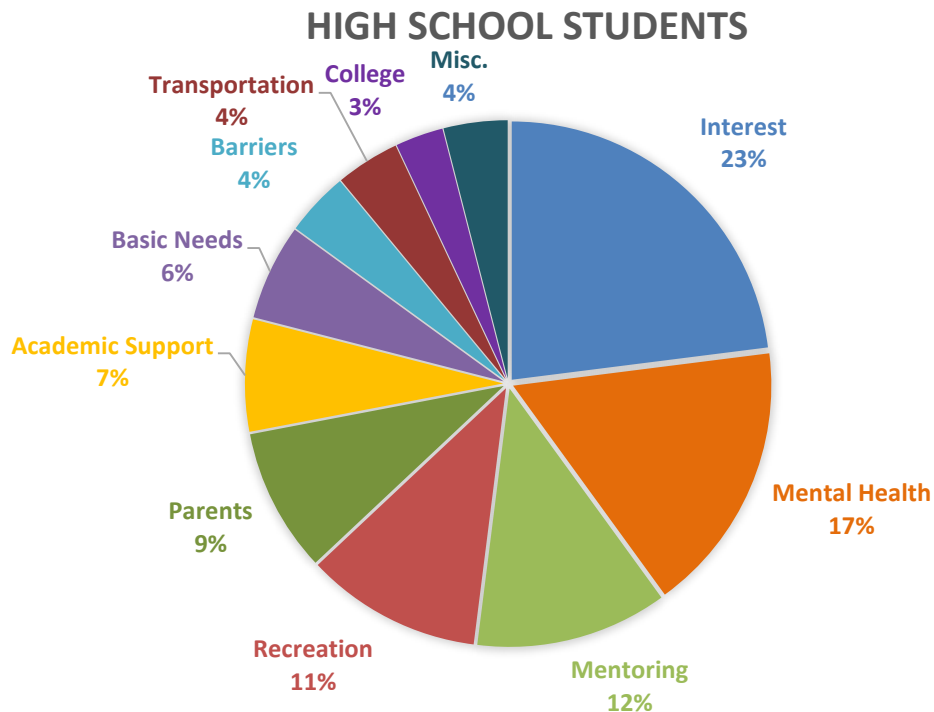
1. Opportunities to explore **interest** areas that are hands-on and challenging
2. Places to go and **recreation** in the community that don't cost money
3. Opportunities for on the job training/**mentoring** and positive relationships with adults in the community
4. Meaningful opportunities for **volunteering** in Austin
5. Access to **technology** (hardware and internet)
6. **Academic support** outside of school time
7. A **safe** community free of drug use and crime
8. Access to **transportation**
9. Healthy relationships with **parents**, family and friends
10. Community support for meeting **basic needs**



## Austin High School and Pacelli Middle and High School Student Focus Groups ≈ 170 students

*Responses collected during an unstructured conversation about what students need in order to achieve educational excellence.*

1. Opportunities to explore areas of personal **interest** in school and in the community
2. Access to **mental health** care
3. Job shadowing/**mentoring** /volunteering opportunities with positive adult role models in the community
4. Affordable **recreation** activities
5. Supportive **parents** and positive school/family relationships
6. **Academic support** for struggling students starting in elementary school
7. Programs to support **basic needs** of low income students
8. Removal of language **barriers** and cliques by ethnic groups
9. **Transportation** to engage in the community
10. **College** credit in HS and college scholarships

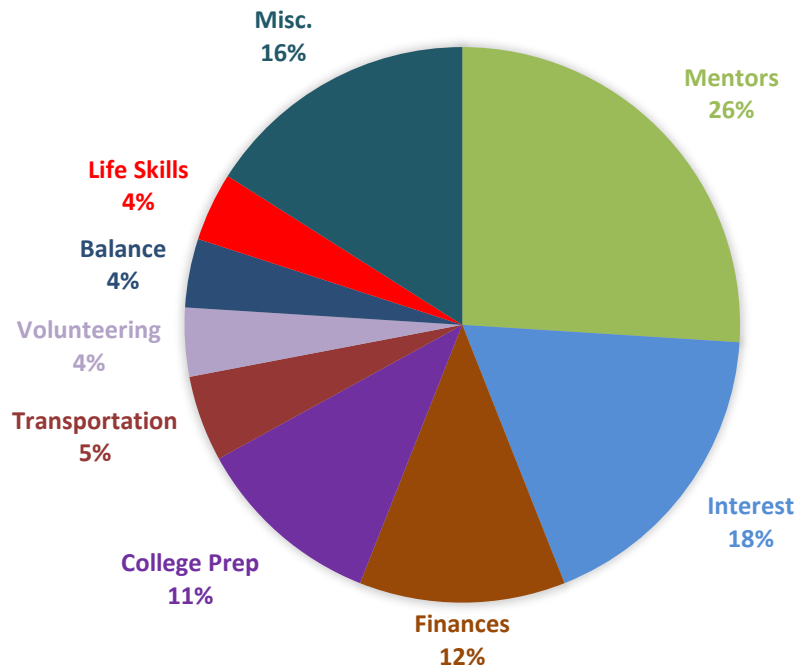


## Riverland Community College Student Focus Groups ≈ 40 students

*Responses collected during an unstructured conversation about what students need in order to achieve educational excellence.*

1. Supportive adults and **mentors** to navigate the world of post-secondary education
2. To discover our areas of **interest** and have opportunities to explore these interests
3. **Financial** support for post-secondary education
4. **College prep** classes, job shadowing and real life experiences while in high school
5. **Transportation** to and from Riverland
6. Opportunities to **volunteer** in the community
7. Support in **balancing** attending school and raising a family
8. To develop independence and **life skills** before heading to college

### COLLEGE STUDENTS



## AHS Graduate Survey\* Responses ≈ 50 students

*\*Responses gathered by digital survey answering the question  
what do students need in order to achieve educational excellence?*

1. PSEO, Honors, and AP classes were best **preparation** for post-secondary coursework
2. Coursework emphasizing **life skills** are needed while in high school
3. Opportunities to explore **interests** through coursework while in high school
4. Job shadowing and/or **mentorship** opportunities are beneficial before graduation

