

Student Financial Wellness Survey Fall 2023 Semester Report

Texas Community Colleges

By Carla Fletcher and Allyson Cornett

March 2024





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Trellis Strategies is a leading strategic research and consulting firm focused on advancing postsecondary education and strengthening the workforce. Our commitment is to provide unparalleled insights into the modern learner experience, spanning from application through graduation. Leveraging over four decades of experience in serving higher education institutions and assisting students in navigating intricate processes, Trellis Strategies' dedicated team possesses the knowledge, insight, and expertise to empower organizations to turn data into impactful action and tangible results.

As experts in gathering and analyzing both local and national data, we identify opportunities and provide scalable, tailored solutions for our partners. Our approach involves the transformation of institutions through the enhancement of the learner experience leading to higher enrollment yields, retention rates, and improved student post-graduation outcomes.

Guided by our mission, we navigate the non-linear landscape of postsecondary education, assisting institutions in adapting policies and programs to accommodate diverse learner journeys. By dismantling barriers in policy and processes, we aim to enhance learner outcomes and rebuilding trust in the credentialing process. We are dedicated to the belief that education serves as the cornerstone for unlocking new opportunities, fostering individual economic mobility, and growing community prosperity. For more information, visit our website: www.trellisstrategies.org/about-us/

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at institutions. Our studies have included:**

495

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since 2018

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Three decades of
organizational research
experience

About the Student Financial Wellness Survey

The Student Financial Wellness Survey (SFWS) is a self-reported, online survey that documents the financial wellbeing and success indicators of postsecondary students across the nation. The SFWS was designed and implemented by Trellis Strategies, starting in 2018. Since then, 3.1 million students have been surveyed at 263 institutions in 34 states.

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Want to participate in the Fall 2024 implementation of SFWS? Contact us at research@trellisstrategies.org.

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Acknowledgements

On behalf of the entire Trellis team, thank you, for your commitment to understanding the learner experience on your campus. Our team at Trellis Strategies is focused on helping institutions evolve to better support the modern learner and we hope that the findings contained within will serve as a catalyst for robust conversation on your campus.

The Student Financial Wellness Survey is a national instrument that is only successful because of participating institutions like yours. By participating you have joined an incredible cohort of institutions that have shown a strong commitment to addressing the underlying financial barriers that students experience. We are very appreciative of your work supporting students in their educational pursuits.

The instrument, and this reporting, would not be possible without a great team at Trellis Strategies and our external partners who take the time to review the instrument, questions, and provide feedback on emerging topics. We are grateful for the collaborative nature of this field and the opportunity to learn and grow together as this work continues to evolve.

Finally, to the students who took the time to participate in the survey—thank you so much. Our team does not take for granted the trust that you've placed in us by telling us your story through your responses. It is our hope that the information learned from your participation will be used to support students for many years to come as they work towards achieving their goals.

Comments and requests for additional information regarding this report or any of Trellis' other publications are welcome. Please direct questions to:

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Executive Summary

The SFWS provides a snapshot of student wellbeing during the fall of 2023. This section highlights key metrics and select survey findings to help Texas Community Colleges better understand students' experiences and provide them the support needed to reach their academic potential. Comments and requests for additional information regarding this report are welcome.

Table 1. Survey Metrics for Texas Community Colleges

Survey Population	191,389 students
Responses	11,903 students
Response Rate	6.2%
Completion Rate	80%
Median Time Spent	15 minutes

Key Findings: Financial Security

Many students—64 percent—reported they would have difficulty finding \$500 in cash or credit in case of an emergency. While some of these respondents would turn to their savings or to family members for support, others would have to use their credit cards, reduce their spending, or delay paying a bill. Q38-Q39

- Concerningly, 26 percent of respondents reported they would be unable to find \$500 if faced with an emergency. Q39

64%



of students reported they would have difficulty finding \$500 in cash or credit in case of an emergency.

A majority of respondents reported running out of money at least once since the beginning of the year. Q40

- Some reported running out of money more frequently than others, with 27 percent running out of money at least eight times during the year. Q40

Affording monthly expenses is a concern for many college students, especially with the increases in inflation rates the country has experienced in the past year.

- At Texas Community Colleges, 57 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed they worry about being able to pay their current monthly expenses. Q45

Since January 1, 2023, 87 percent of respondents who had used a credit card in that time frame said they had used it to purchase something they did not have the money for at least once. Many students who use credit cards did not pay off their balance each month. Q60

- While 71 percent of respondents who had used a credit card in the past year reported paying their bill on time, only 30 percent agreed or strongly agreed they fully pay off their balance each month, with the rest accruing interest at potentially high rates. Q60-Q62

Key Findings: Paying for College

While many students use savings or income to pay for college, it rarely is enough; few students are able to “pay their way through college.”

- Forty-eight percent of respondents used their personal savings to pay for college, and 57 percent reported using current employment as a resource. However, only five percent paid for college solely with their savings and current employment. Q25-Q26

When self-help, family support, and grant aid is not enough, students turned to various forms of credit.

- Student loans helped support 26 percent of respondents and 29 percent reported using credit cards as a method to pay for school. Q20, Q27

Students can sometimes find themselves in a financial emergency that threatens their ability to remain enrolled and be successful in college. Institutions with emergency aid funding can provide timely awards that provide some financial relief and keep students on track.

- At Texas Community Colleges, nine percent of respondents said they had received emergency aid from their school during 2023. Q29

Eighty percent of respondents at Texas Community Colleges reported completing the FAFSA in the past 12 months. Among these students, 25 percent said they received assistance from parents and five percent had help from another family member. Q30-Q31

- Among those who did not complete the FAFSA, 52 percent said they did not think they would be eligible for financial aid, 19 percent believed they could afford to go to school without financial aid, and 19 percent did not want the possibility of taking on debt. Q32

Key Findings: Perceptions of Institutional Support

Most of the respondents at Texas Community Colleges (71 percent) said they had experienced financial difficulties or challenges while in college. Q1

- Thirty-one percent of those who had experienced financial challenges while enrolled disagreed or strongly disagreed that their school is aware of their financial situation. Q3

71%

of respondents said they had experienced financial difficulties or challenges while in college.



Students experiencing financial difficulties might seek help from a number of different staff and faculty across the institution.

- Thirty-three percent of students had not spoken with anyone at their institution about their financial struggles. When they did speak with someone, they were most likely to speak with financial aid advisors. However, many sought financial advice from officials who were not experts in financial aid. Q13-Q17

It is vitally important that institutions have student support resources available, and that students are aware of these resources. Students who know there is support available may feel more supported and more connected to their school.

- Sixty-three percent of students agreed or strongly agreed their school has the support services to help them address their financial situation. Q2

College is a large expense for most students, so the cost of attendance is often one of the top factors when deciding where to enroll.

- Cost was an important or very important factor for 82 percent of respondents when deciding to attend their current institution. Q7

The SFWS includes a customer satisfaction rating (Net Promoter Score or NPS) to allow the institution to better understand how current students perceive their school.

- NPS categorizes respondents into promoters (scoring 9-10), passives (scoring 7-8), and detractors (scoring 0-6), with the formula $\%Promoters - \%Detractors = NPS$. A positive NPS (>0) is typically indicative of positive feedback and sentiment. In this survey, Texas Community Colleges received a NPS of 39.62. Q18

Key Findings: Student Wellbeing

Forty-nine percent of surveyed students were food insecure, a condition which can negatively impact physical health, academic performance, and overall wellness. Q77-Q82

- Reports of food insufficiency—inadequacy in the amount of food intake due to a lack of money or resources—were common among respondents. Students often ate less than they felt they should (37 percent), cut the size of their meals (38 percent) and were hungry but did not eat (29 percent).

In the past year, 50 percent had faced challenges securing or maintaining affordable, safe, and quality housing. Although only five percent explicitly self-identified as homeless, 17 percent revealed they had been unhoused since starting college or within the previous 12 months. Q86-Q101

- The most common expressions of housing insecurity at Texas Community Colleges included troubles paying rent (29 percent), difficulty paying the full amount of a gas or electricity bill (34 percent) and moving in with others due to financial problems (19 percent). Q86-Q91

Students with unreliable transportation are at risk of experiencing academic setbacks, including stopping or dropping out of college.¹ In this survey, 21 percent indicated their car was only somewhat reliable (19 percent) or not at all reliable (2 percent). Q102-106

- It was much more common for students to have a car (75 percent) than report ever using public transportation to commute to school (17 percent). For those who commute by car, 11 percent shared that parking is only “sometimes” (9 percent) or “rarely” (2 percent) available on campus when needed. These students may struggle to access campus, leading to difficulties with punctuality, satisfaction, and their ability to attend classes, meetings, and events. Q102-105

In the 14 days leading up to the survey, 34 percent had experienced symptoms of depression, while 45 percent reported generalized anxiety disorder. These findings underscore the widespread prevalence of mental health challenges among college students. Q72-Q75

Key Findings: Special Populations at Texas Community Colleges

Understanding the distinctive challenges and opportunities encountered by diverse student groups, including first-generation students, parenting students, and former foster youth, is crucial for fostering student success and cultivating a supportive learning environment.

- **First-Generation Experiences:** Forty-three percent of respondents identified themselves as a first-generation college student, a group that can face unique challenges while navigating the higher education landscape. Q110
- **Balancing Parenting and Academics:** Student parents, constituting a mosaic of identities, experiences, and backgrounds, made up 31 percent of the surveyed population at Texas Community Colleges. Thirty-four percent of these students spent over 40 hours a week providing care for their dependents. Compared to their peers without dependents, these students may struggle to balance their balance caregiving responsibilities with their educational goals.² Q33, Q115
- **Juggling Multiple Personas:** Sixty-five percent of students reported working for pay at Texas Community Colleges. Almost half of these respondents were working more than 40 hours a week. Among employed students, 54 percent identified as a “student who works,” while the other 46 percent saw themselves as a “worker who goes to school.” As the student persona becomes lower in priority, it may become more difficult for that individual to persist to graduation. Q19, Q125-Q126
- **Former Foster Youth:** At Texas Community Colleges, two percent of surveyed students identified as a former foster youth. This population often lacks the financial means, stability, and support required to successfully complete postsecondary education, resulting in fewer than one in ten former foster youth holding a two- or four-year college degree.³ Q118-Q124
- **LGBTQIA+ Representation:** Sixteen percent of respondents at Texas Community Colleges belong to the LGBTQIA+ community. These students may encounter higher rates of discrimination, social stigma, and basic needs and mental health challenges compared to non-LGBTQIA+ peers. Q132



As the student persona becomes lower in priority, it may be more difficult for that individual to persist to graduation.

Survey Overview

Trellis Strategies' Student Financial Wellness Survey (SFWS) is a self-reported, web-based survey that seeks to document the financial well-being and student success indicators of postsecondary students at institutions across the nation. The survey opened on October 23, 2023 and closed on November 13, 2023. A total of 142 institutions participated in the survey—93 public two-year institutions, one private two-year institution, 36 public four-year institutions, and 12 private nonprofit four-year institutions.

Across all two-year students responding to the survey, 71 percent reported experiencing financial difficulties or challenges while in college. These struggles can take on any number of different forms. Among two-year students:

- Sixty-one percent of respondents had experienced at least one form of basic needs insecurity – food insecurity, housing insecurity, or homelessness. Eleven percent of respondents had experienced all three.
- More than one in five students who had a car reported it was only somewhat reliable or not at all reliable, and 11 percent of all two-year respondents said they sometimes, often, or always missed class due to lack of reliable transportation (including public transportation).
- Almost a quarter (24 percent) of parenting students reported missing at least one day of classes due to lack of childcare.
- Almost a quarter of respondents (23 percent) who worked while enrolled said they missed at least one day of classes due to conflicts with their job.
- Forty-one percent of respondents reported using at least one form of public assistance during 2023 (e.g., food, unemployment, housing, utility, medical, or childcare).
- Twelve percent had borrowed either a payday loan or an auto title loan during the year.
- Nearly a quarter of respondents (24 percent) would not be able to get \$500 in cash or credit from any resource in order to meet an unexpected need within the next month.
- Most respondents (73 percent) reported running out of money at least once during the year, and 26 percent ran out of money eight or more times.
- Twenty-one percent of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that they know how they will pay for college the next semester, which was less than three months away at the time of survey implementation.

Nearly half (48 percent) of respondents who reported experiencing financial challenges while in college said they had difficulty concentrating on schoolwork because of their financial situation. This underscores the importance of dedicating resources to building out and expanding student support services. Students' basic needs must be met in order for them to fully focus on their academics.

Students and their families are willing to make the investment in their future. Seventy-seven percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the cost of college was worth it, and 81 percent agreed or strongly agreed that their family believes a college degree is worth the investment.

Texas Community Colleges participated in the Fall 2023 implementation of the SFWS.

Table 2. Survey Characteristics		
Characteristic	Population (N=191,389)	Respondents (n=11,903)
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1%	1%
Asian, Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander	4%	4%
Black/African-American	13%	13%
Hispanic/Latino	47%	45%
International	1%	2%
White	27%	29%
Multiple	2%	2%
Other	0%	0%
Race/Ethnicity Not Reported	5%	4%
Gender		
Female	59%	76%
Male	41%	23%
Self-Identify/Not Reported	0%	0%
Enrollment Intensity		
Full-time	41%	48%
Part-time	59%	52%
Enrollment Intensity Not Reported	0%	0%
Class Year		
1st (<30 credits earned)	56%	54%
2nd (30-59 credits earned)	24%	24%
3rd (60-89 credits earned)	9%	10%
4th (90-120 credits earned)	2%	3%
5th (120+ credits earned)	1%	1%
Class Year Not Reported	7%	8%
Age		
Average Age (Years)	24.5	26.3
GPA		
Average GPA	2.8	3.0

Comparison groups are derived from aggregate data collected from all 142 schools participating in the survey and are presented by sector. Values presented in this report are rounded; therefore, the sum of response frequencies may not equal 100 percent. A description of the methodology, tests for representativeness, scales used in the survey, and a list of the institutions that participated in the 2023 SFWS can be found in the appendices to this report.

Survey Frequencies

Q1: While in college, have you experienced financial difficulties or challenges?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	71%	71%
No	25%	25%
I Don't Know	4%	4%

n=11899 n=33032

Q2: My school has the support services to help me address my financial situation.

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	21%	21%
Agree	42%	42%
Neutral	26%	26%
Disagree	7%	7%
Strongly Disagree	4%	4%

n=11437 n=31853

Q3: My school is aware of the financial challenges I face.*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	11%	11%
Agree	28%	28%
Neutral	30%	30%
Disagree	20%	20%
Strongly Disagree	11%	10%

n=11414 n=31810

Q4: I have difficulty concentrating on my schoolwork because of my financial situation.*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	15%	14%
Agree	35%	34%
Neutral	24%	25%
Disagree	20%	21%
Strongly Disagree	6%	6%

n=8127 n=22564

**Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q1*

Q5: The cost of college is a good investment for my financial future.

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	36%	35%
Agree	42%	42%
Neutral	15%	16%
Disagree	4%	4%
Strongly Disagree	3%	3%

n=11417 n=31823

Q6: My family believes a college degree is worth the investment.

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	46%	43%
Agree	36%	38%
Neutral	12%	13%
Disagree	3%	3%
Strongly Disagree	3%	3%

n=11412 n=31819

Q7:

How important was cost (tuition, room and board, textbooks and course supplies, equipment, transportation, etc.) as a factor when deciding to attend your institution?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Very Important	57%	57%
Important	26%	25%
Somewhat Important	12%	12%
Not Important	4%	4%
Not Applicable	2%	2%
<i>n=11352 n=31643</i>		

Q8:

Tuition - To what extent do you agree or disagree that your school makes the following items more affordable?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	28%	29%
Agree	47%	47%
Neutral	15%	15%
Disagree	6%	6%
Strongly Disagree	3%	3%
Not Applicable	2%	1%
<i>n=11153 n=31144</i>		

Q9:

Housing - To what extent do you agree or disagree that your school makes the following items more affordable?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	6%	5%
Agree	14%	12%
Neutral	36%	36%
Disagree	7%	7%
Strongly Disagree	4%	5%
Not Applicable	32%	34%
<i>n=11122 n=31051</i>		

Q10:

Food - To what extent do you agree or disagree that your school makes the following items more affordable?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	12%	10%
Agree	26%	24%
Neutral	29%	31%
Disagree	8%	8%
Strongly Disagree	4%	4%
Not Applicable	22%	23%
<i>n=11117 n=31052</i>		

Q11:

Transportation - To what extent do you agree or disagree that your school makes the following items more affordable?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	11%	10%
Agree	23%	21%
Neutral	32%	33%
Disagree	7%	7%
Strongly Disagree	4%	4%
Not Applicable	23%	25%
<i>n=11121 n=31053</i>		

Q12:

Textbooks - To what extent do you agree or disagree that your school makes the following items more affordable?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	22%	18%
Agree	35%	34%
Neutral	18%	19%
Disagree	16%	19%
Strongly Disagree	7%	8%
Not Applicable	2%	2%
<i>n=11145 n=31123</i>		

**Q13-
Q17:**

During my time at school, I have spoken with the following individuals about my financial struggles. (Check all that apply)*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Financial Aid Advisor	49%	48%
Academic Advisor	41%	42%
Faculty Member	22%	23%
Other Staff	17%	16%
I Have Not Spoken With Any of These Individuals	33%	33%

**Percentages indicate respondents who chose at least one of the above choices*

Q18:

How likely is it that you would recommend your school to a friend or family member?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
0 (Not at All Likely)	1%	1%
1	0%	0%
2	0%	1%
3	1%	1%
4	2%	1%
5	6%	6%
6	5%	6%
7	12%	13%
8	18%	19%
9	12%	12%
10 (Very Likely)	43%	40%
	<i>n=11000</i>	<i>n=30803</i>

Q18:

Net Promoter Score (NPS)* How likely is it that you would recommend your school to a friend or family member?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Promoters (Score 9-10)	54%	52%
Passives (Score 7-8)	31%	32%
Detractors (Score 0-6)	15%	16%
Net Promoter Score (NPS)*	39.62	36.12
	<i>n=11000</i>	<i>n=30803</i>

**A Net Promoter Score (NPS) is a research-based method to benchmark and compare customer satisfaction ratings across different services, businesses, and products. NPS uses a 0-10 scale. Those who score 9-10 are promoters, 7-8 are passives, and 0-6 are detractors. %Promoters - %Detractors = NPS. A positive NPS (>0) is generally considered good, with highest performers usually between 50 and 80.*

Q19:

Do you work for pay?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	65%	69%
No	31%	27%
I Don't Know	4%	4%
	<i>n=10982</i>	<i>n=30761</i>

Q20:

Student loan(s) I have taken out for myself - Do you use any of the following methods to pay for college?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	26%	32%
No	72%	66%
I Don't Know	2%	3%
	<i>n=10688</i>	<i>n=29844</i>

Q21:

Student loan(s) my parents took out -
Do you use any of the following
methods to pay for college?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	4%	4%
No	93%	93%
I Don't Know	3%	3%
<i>n=10570 n=29403</i>		

Q22:

Other support from my parents and/or
family - Do you use any of the
following methods to pay for college?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	36%	32%
No	62%	66%
I Don't Know	2%	2%
<i>n=10627 n=29567</i>		

Q23:

Pell grant and/or other grants - Do you
use any of the following methods to
pay for college?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	59%	61%
No	38%	35%
I Don't Know	4%	4%
<i>n=10741 n=30046</i>		

Q24:

Scholarships - Do you use any of the
following methods to pay for college?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	33%	39%
No	62%	56%
I Don't Know	4%	5%
<i>n=10624 n=29675</i>		

Q25:

Current income - Do you use any of
the following methods to pay for
college?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	57%	59%
No	39%	37%
I Don't Know	4%	4%
<i>n=10668 n=29803</i>		

Q26:

Personal savings - Do you use any of
the following methods to pay for
college?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	48%	48%
No	50%	49%
I Don't Know	2%	2%
<i>n=10612 n=29639</i>		

Q27:

Credit cards - Do you use any of the
following methods to pay for college?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	29%	30%
No	68%	68%
I Don't Know	2%	2%
<i>n=10572 n=29458</i>		

Q28:

Military or veteran benefits - Do you
use any of the following methods to
pay for college?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	7%	5%
No	92%	93%
I Don't Know	1%	2%
<i>n=10521 n=29239</i>		

Q29:

Since January 1, 2023, have you
received emergency aid from your
institution?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	9%	7%
No	77%	78%
I Don't Know	14%	15%
<i>n=10879 n=30466</i>		

Q30:

In the past 12 months, did you or
someone on your behalf complete the
FAFSA (Free Application for Federal
Student Aid)?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	80%	82%
No	18%	15%
I Don't Know	3%	3%
<i>n=10802 n=30270</i>		

Q31:

Did you receive any help in completing the FAFSA? Check all that apply.*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
I completed the FAFSA on my own	76%	75%
Parents	25%	26%
Another family member	5%	5%
University or college financial aid office	9%	8%
Another on-campus office or resource	5%	3%
Community organization or college access program (e.g., TRiO, College Forward, etc.)	3%	2%
Other	12%	11%
	<i>n=11466</i>	<i>n=32315</i>
<i>*Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q30</i>		

Q32:

Did any of the following contribute to your decision to not complete the FAFSA? Please check all that apply.*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
The application form(s) were too much work or too time-consuming	13%	14%
I did not want the possibility of taking on debt	19%	19%
I did not have enough information about how to apply for financial aid	16%	14%
I could afford to go to school without financial aid	19%	20%
I did not think I would be eligible for financial aid	52%	49%
I did not plan to continue my degree/program	2%	2%
Other reason(s)	35%	37%
	<i>n=2820</i>	<i>n=6673</i>
<i>*Of respondents who answered 'No' to Q30</i>		

Q33:

Are you a parent, primary caregiver, or legal guardian to any children?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	31%	33%
No	69%	67%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
	<i>n=10707</i>	<i>n=30021</i>

Q34:

Your spouse - Do you provide financial support for any of the following individuals?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	14%	16%
No	85%	83%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
<i>n=10484 n=29320</i>		

Q35:

A child or children - Do you provide financial support for any of the following individuals?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	29%	31%
No	70%	69%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
<i>n=10588 n=29614</i>		

Q36:

Your parent(s) or guardian(s) - Do you provide financial support for any of the following individuals?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	17%	15%
No	82%	83%
I Don't Know	2%	2%
<i>n=10418 n=29109</i>		

Q37:

Other family members - Do you provide financial support for any of the following individuals?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	13%	12%
No	86%	87%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
<i>n=10394 n=29070</i>		

Q38:

Would you have trouble getting \$500 in cash or credit in order to meet an unexpected need within the next month?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	64%	62%
No	23%	26%
I Don't Know	13%	12%
<i>n=10696 n=29989</i>		

Q39:

Imagine that you had to pay a \$500 cost unexpectedly in the next month. In this situation, which of the following resources would you turn to first?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
My savings	23%	26%
My parent(s) or other family member(s)	19%	17%
A credit card	11%	12%
Reducing my spending	7%	7%
Delaying paying a bill	12%	12%
Other	3%	3%
I would not be able to get \$500	26%	24%
<i>n=10661 n=29896</i>		

Q40:

Since January 1, 2023, approximately how many times did you run out of money?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Never	23%	27%
One time	7%	7%
Two Times	10%	9%
Three Times	11%	10%
Four Times	9%	8%
Five Times	8%	7%
Six Times	4%	4%
Seven Times	2%	2%
Eight or More Times	27%	26%
<i>n=10588 n=29718</i>		

Q41:

Since January 1, 2023, approximately how many times did you borrow money from your family and/or friends?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Never	32%	34%
One time	10%	10%
Two Times	13%	12%
Three Times	11%	11%
Four Times	7%	7%
Five Times	6%	6%
Six Times	3%	3%
Seven Times	1%	1%
Eight or More Times	17%	15%
	<i>n=10575</i>	<i>n=29680</i>

Q42:

I always pay my bills on time.

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	25%	27%
Agree	37%	38%
Neutral	20%	18%
Disagree	13%	12%
Strongly Disagree	4%	4%
	<i>n=10475</i>	<i>n=29407</i>

Q43:

I follow a weekly or monthly budget.

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	14%	13%
Agree	37%	36%
Neutral	26%	26%
Disagree	17%	19%
Strongly Disagree	6%	6%
	<i>n=10476</i>	<i>n=29383</i>

Q44:

I know how to manage my finances well.

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	13%	14%
Agree	42%	42%
Neutral	27%	27%
Disagree	13%	13%
Strongly Disagree	4%	4%
	<i>n=10473</i>	<i>n=29386</i>

Q45:

I worry about being able to pay my current monthly expenses.

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	21%	21%
Agree	36%	35%
Neutral	23%	22%
Disagree	14%	15%
Strongly Disagree	6%	6%
	<i>n=10470</i>	<i>n=29382</i>

Q46:

I worry about having enough money to pay for school.

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	27%	27%
Agree	34%	33%
Neutral	18%	18%
Disagree	14%	15%
Strongly Disagree	6%	7%
	<i>n=10481</i>	<i>n=29410</i>

Q47:

I know how I will pay for college next semester.

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	15%	15%
Agree	41%	41%
Neutral	24%	23%
Disagree	14%	14%
Strongly Disagree	7%	7%
	<i>n=10479</i>	<i>n=29398</i>

Q48: It is important that I support my family financially while in college.

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	27%	27%
Agree	29%	28%
Neutral	27%	27%
Disagree	12%	12%
Strongly Disagree	6%	7%
	<i>n=10468</i>	<i>n=29373</i>

Q49: I know how to keep myself from spending too much.

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	22%	21%
Agree	50%	50%
Neutral	17%	17%
Disagree	9%	9%
Strongly Disagree	3%	3%
	<i>n=10342</i>	<i>n=29044</i>

Q50: I know where to find the advice I need to make decisions involving money.

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	17%	17%
Agree	43%	44%
Neutral	20%	19%
Disagree	15%	15%
Strongly Disagree	6%	5%
	<i>n=10328</i>	<i>n=29007</i>

Q51: Food Assistance - Since January 1, 2023, have you used public assistance in the following areas?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	22%	24%
No	76%	74%
I Don't Know	3%	3%
	<i>n=10234</i>	<i>n=28732</i>

Q52: Unemployment Assistance - Since January 1, 2023, have you used public assistance in the following areas?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	3%	2%
No	95%	96%
I Don't Know	2%	2%
	<i>n=10219</i>	<i>n=28681</i>

Q53: Housing Assistance - Since January 1, 2023, have you used public assistance in the following areas?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	4%	4%
No	94%	94%
I Don't Know	2%	2%
	<i>n=10221</i>	<i>n=28684</i>

Q54: Utility Assistance - Since January 1, 2023, have you used public assistance in the following areas?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	6%	7%
No	91%	90%
I Don't Know	3%	3%
	<i>n=10213</i>	<i>n=28675</i>

Q55: Medical Assistance - Since January 1, 2023, have you used public assistance in the following areas?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	25%	32%
No	71%	64%
I Don't Know	4%	4%
	<i>n=10215</i>	<i>n=28684</i>

Q56: Child Care Assistance - Since January 1, 2023, have you used public assistance in the following areas?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	4%	5%
No	94%	94%
I Don't Know	2%	2%
	<i>n=10211</i>	<i>n=28654</i>

Q57:

Credit Card - Since January 1, 2023, have you used the following borrowing sources?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	51%	54%
No	47%	44%
I Don't Know	2%	2%

n=10147 n=28519

Q58:

Pay Day Loan - Since January 1, 2023, have you used the following borrowing sources?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	8%	7%
No	89%	90%
I Don't Know	3%	3%

n=10075 n=28225

Q59:

Auto Title Loan - Since January 1, 2023, have you used the following borrowing sources?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	5%	6%
No	92%	91%
I Don't Know	3%	3%

n=10059 n=28196

Q60:

Since January 1, 2023, approximately how many times did you use a credit card for something you didn't have money for?*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Never	13%	15%
One Time	6%	6%
Two Times	9%	9%
Three Times	10%	10%
Four Times	10%	9%
Five Times	8%	8%
Six Times	5%	4%
Seven Times	2%	2%
Eight or More Times	37%	37%

n=5165 n=15324

**Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q57*

Q61:

I always pay my credit card bill on time.*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	33%	35%
Agree	38%	38%
Neutral	13%	11%
Disagree	12%	12%
Strongly Disagree	4%	4%

n=5139 n=15260

**Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q57*

Q62:

I fully pay off my credit card balance each month.*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	14%	16%
Agree	16%	15%
Neutral	15%	13%
Disagree	28%	29%
Strongly Disagree	27%	26%

n=5133 n=15224

**Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q57*

Q63:

Since January 1, 2023, approximately how many times did you borrow a pay day loan?*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
One time	32%	28%
Two Times	21%	20%
Three Times	15%	15%
Four Times	11%	9%
Five Times	8%	7%
Six Times	3%	3%
Seven Times	1%	2%
Eight or More Times	9%	14%

n=796 n=1982

**Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q58*

Q64:

Since January 1, 2023, approximately how many times did you borrow an auto title loan?*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
One time	79%	84%
Two Times	12%	8%
Three Times	4%	3%
Four Times	1%	1%
Five Times	1%	1%
Six Times	0%	0%
Seven Times	1%	0%
Eight or More Times	2%	2%
	<i>n=522</i>	<i>n=1682</i>

*Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q59

Q65:

Since January 1, 2023, approximately how many times did you sell your belongings to make ends meet (like at a pawn shop, online marketplace, over social media, etc.)?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Never	57%	60%
One time	9%	8%
Two Times	10%	10%
Three Times	8%	7%
Four Times	5%	5%
Five Times	4%	3%
Six Times	1%	1%
Seven Times	1%	1%
Eight or More Times	6%	5%
	<i>n=10108</i>	<i>n=28419</i>

Q67:

I have more student loan debt than I expected to have at this point.*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	28%	28%
Agree	29%	28%
Neutral	21%	22%
Disagree	16%	16%
Strongly Disagree	7%	7%
	<i>n=2570</i>	<i>n=8813</i>

*Of respondents who indicated having a student loan they took out for themselves ('yes' to Q20)

Q68:

How confident are you that you will be able to pay off the debt acquired while you were a student?*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Not At All Confident	32%	30%
Somewhat Confident	40%	41%
Confident	20%	20%
Very Confident	9%	9%
	<i>n=2561</i>	<i>n=8787</i>

*Of respondents who indicated having a student loan they took out for themselves ('yes' to Q20)

Q69:

When you first received your student loan, did you receive any in-person or online counseling that informed you about your student loans?*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes, online	51%	49%
Yes, in-person	9%	7%
I did not receive counseling	32%	34%
I don't know	8%	10%
	<i>n=2561</i>	<i>n=8798</i>

*Of respondents who indicated having a student loan they took out for themselves ('yes' to Q20)

Q70:

The amount of total debt (e.g. credit card debt, car loan debt, or money owed to family or friends) I have right now is manageable.

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Strongly Agree	7%	7%
Agree	27%	27%
Neutral	22%	21%
Disagree	16%	16%
Strongly Disagree	10%	10%
I Do Not Have Other Debt	19%	18%
	<i>n=9927</i>	<i>n=27992</i>

Q71:

How confident are you that some or all of your student loans will be forgiven?*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Not At All Confident	66%	66%
Somewhat Confident	25%	25%
Confident	7%	6%
Very Confident	3%	3%
	<i>n=2551</i>	<i>n=8772</i>

*Of respondents who indicated having a student loan they took out for themselves ('yes' to Q20)

**Q72-
Q73:**

Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2)*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Major Depressive Disorder - Likely	34%	34%
Major Depressive Disorder - Negative	66%	66%
	<i>n=9850</i>	<i>n=27766</i>

*A full description of scales used and how they are calculated can be found in the methodology section

**Q74-
Q75:**

Generalized Anxiety Disorder 2-item Scale (GAD-2)*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Generalized Anxiety Disorder - Likely	45%	45%
Generalized Anxiety Disorder - Negative	55%	55%
	<i>n=9843</i>	<i>n=27730</i>

*A full description of scales used and how they are calculated can be found in the methodology section

Q72:

Having little interest or pleasure in doing things - Over the last 7 days, how often have you been bothered by?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Not at all	32%	34%
Several days	37%	37%
More than half the days	16%	17%
Nearly every day	14%	13%
	<i>n=9844</i>	<i>n=27748</i>

Q73:

Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless - Over the last 7 days, how often have you been bothered by?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Not at all	36%	37%
Several days	37%	36%
More than half the days	15%	15%
Nearly every day	12%	12%
	<i>n=9826</i>	<i>n=27700</i>

Q74:

Feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge - Over the last 7 days, how often have you been bothered by?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Not at all	21%	21%
Several days	38%	37%
More than half the days	19%	20%
Nearly every day	22%	23%

n=9821 n=27686

Q75:

Not being able to stop or control worrying - Over the last 7 days, how often have you been bothered by?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Not at all	28%	29%
Several days	34%	33%
More than half the days	16%	17%
Nearly every day	21%	21%

n=9809 n=27651

Q76:

Does your school have mental health or counseling services available for students?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	60%	58%
No	3%	2%
I don't know	37%	40%

n=9861 n=27803

**Q77-
Q82:**

Six-Question USDA Food Security Scale (30-Day)*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
High or Marginal Food Security	51%	54%
Low Food Security	23%	22%
Very Low Food Security	26%	24%

n=9608 n=27161

**A full description of scales used and how they are calculated can be found in the methodology section*

Q77:

The food that I bought just didn't last and I didn't have money to get more (in the last 30 days).

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Often	12%	12%
Sometimes	31%	30%
Never True	49%	52%
I Don't Know	8%	7%

n=9806 n=27671

Q78:

I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals (in the last 30 days).

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Often	18%	17%
Sometimes	30%	29%
Never True	45%	47%
I Don't Know	6%	6%

n=9789 n=27642

Q79:

In the last 30 days, did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	38%	36%
No	56%	58%
I don't know	5%	5%

n=9795 n=27644

Q80:

How many days did this happen? (Skipped or cut size of meals due to money)*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Fewer than 3 days	20%	20%
Three or more days	65%	64%
I Don't Know	15%	16%

n=3768 n=10032

**Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q79*

Q81:

In the last 30 days, did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	37%	35%
No	57%	60%
I don't know	6%	6%
	<i>n=9653</i>	<i>n=27292</i>

Q82:

In the last 30 days, were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough food?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	29%	27%
No	66%	67%
I don't know	5%	5%
	<i>n=9768</i>	<i>n=27587</i>

Q83:

Does your school have a food pantry or food closet on campus?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	47%	44%
No	3%	3%
I don't know	50%	53%
	<i>n=9506</i>	<i>n=26899</i>

Q84:

Have you visited a food pantry, on or off campus, since January 1, 2023?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	20%	18%
No	77%	80%
I don't know	3%	3%
	<i>n=9760</i>	<i>n=27570</i>

Q85:

Please select the type(s) of food pantries you have visited since January 1, 2023:

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
On-campus food pantry or food closet at my school	64%	59%
Off-campus food pantry or food bank (e.g., at a church, non-profit organization, regional food bank, etc.)	49%	54%
Other	4%	4%
	<i>n=2254</i>	<i>n=5634</i>

**Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q84*

Q86-

Q91:

Housing Security Scale (Prior 12 Months)*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Housing Secure	50%	52%
Housing Insecure	50%	48%
	<i>n=9705</i>	<i>n=27442</i>

**A full description of scales used and how they are calculated can be found in the methodology section*

Q86:

I had difficulty paying for my rent (past 12 months).

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
True	29%	28%
False	64%	65%
I Don't Know	7%	6%
	<i>n=9692</i>	<i>n=27412</i>

Q87: I didn't pay the full amount of my rent (past 12 months).

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
True	15%	14%
False	79%	80%
I Don't Know	6%	6%
	<i>n=9680</i>	<i>n=27351</i>

Q88: I had difficulty paying the full amount of a gas, oil, or electricity bill (past 12 months).

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
True	34%	33%
False	60%	61%
I Don't Know	6%	5%
	<i>n=9687</i>	<i>n=27380</i>

Q89: I moved 3 or more times (past 12 months).

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
True	6%	5%
False	91%	92%
I Don't Know	3%	2%
	<i>n=9688</i>	<i>n=27388</i>

Q90: I lived with others beyond the expected capacity of my house or apartment (past 12 months).

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
True	12%	10%
False	84%	86%
I Don't Know	4%	4%
	<i>n=9682</i>	<i>n=27382</i>

Q91: I moved in with other people due to financial problems (past 12 months).

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
True	19%	16%
False	78%	81%
I Don't Know	3%	3%
	<i>n=9678</i>	<i>n=27373</i>

Q92-Q101: Homelessness Scale*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
No Indication of Homelessness	83%	85%
Homeless	17%	15%
	<i>n=9713</i>	<i>n=27469</i>

**A full description of scales used and how they are calculated can be found in the methodology section*

Q92: Since starting college, have you ever been homeless?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	5%	5%
No	94%	94%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
	<i>n=9705</i>	<i>n=27451</i>

Q93: I was thrown out or forced out of my home (in past 12 months).

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
True	5%	5%
False	93%	94%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
	<i>n=9654</i>	<i>n=27344</i>

Q94: I was evicted from my home (in past 12 months).

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
True	3%	3%
False	96%	96%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
	<i>n=9643</i>	<i>n=27314</i>

Q95: I stayed in a shelter, transitional housing, or independent living program (in past 12 months).

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
True	2%	2%
False	97%	97%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
	<i>n=9648</i>	<i>n=27320</i>

Q96:

I stayed in an abandoned building (in past 12 months).

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
True	1%	1%
False	98%	99%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
<i>n=9645 n=27311</i>		

Q97:

I didn't know where I would sleep at night (in past 12 months).

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
True	4%	3%
False	95%	96%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
<i>n=9635 n=27286</i>		

Q98:

I didn't have a home (in past 12 months).

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
True	5%	5%
False	93%	94%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
<i>n=9640 n=27303</i>		

Q99:

I temporarily stayed with a relative, friend, or couch surfed while I looked for housing (in past 12 months).

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
True	13%	12%
False	86%	87%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
<i>n=9651 n=27310</i>		

Q100:

I slept in an outdoor location such as a street, sidewalk, or alley, bus or train stop (in past 12 months).

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
True	1%	1%
False	98%	98%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
<i>n=9644 n=27300</i>		

Q101:

I slept in a closed area/space not meant for human habitation such as a car or truck, van, RV, or camper, encampment or tent, or unconverted garage, attic, or basement (in past 12 months).

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
True	4%	3%
False	96%	96%
I Don't Know	1%	1%
<i>n=9644 n=27311</i>		

BNI_Any

Basic Needs Insecure - identified as either food insecure and/or housing insecure and/or homeless.

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	63%	61%
No	37%	39%
<i>n=9780 n=27614</i>		

BNI_FH

Basic Needs Insecure - identified as both food insecure and housing insecure

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	35%	33%
No	65%	67%
<i>n=9682 n=27352</i>		

BNI_All

Basic Needs Insecure - identified as food insecure, housing insecure, and homeless

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	12%	11%
No	88%	89%
<i>n=9734 n=27497</i>		

Q102:

Do you have a car?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	75%	79%
Sometimes	5%	5%
No	20%	17%
<i>n=9673 n=27376</i>		

Q103: How reliable would you say your car is?*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Very Reliable	44%	43%
Reliable	35%	36%
I Don't Know	0%	0%
Somewhat Reliable	19%	19%
Not At All Reliable	2%	2%
<i>n=7218 n=21538</i>		

**Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q102*

Q104: Parking is available on campus when I need it.

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Never	1%	1%
Rarely	2%	2%
Sometimes	9%	6%
Often	18%	15%
Always	60%	65%
Not applicable	11%	11%
<i>n=7218 n=21537</i>		

**Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q102*

Q105: Do you use public transportation to get to school?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Never	70%	73%
Rarely	6%	5%
Sometimes	5%	4%
Often	2%	2%
Always	4%	3%
Not applicable	13%	13%
<i>n=9659 n=27352</i>		

Q106: Have you ever missed class due to lack of reliable transportation?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Never	62%	63%
Rarely	14%	13%
Sometimes	10%	9%
Often	2%	2%
Always	1%	1%
Not applicable	12%	13%
<i>n=9659 n=27353</i>		

**Q107-
Q109:** Financial Knowledge Questions*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Zero Questions Correct	23%	22%
One Question Correct	24%	23%
Two Questions Correct	28%	29%
Three Questions Correct	25%	27%
<i>n=9526 n=26985</i>		

**A full description of scales used and how they are calculated can be found in the methodology section*

Q107: Imagine that the interest rate on your savings account is 1% per year and inflation is 2% per year. After 1 year, would you be able to buy more than today, exactly the same as today, or less than today with the money in this account?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
More Than Today	7%	7%
Exactly The Same As Today	11%	12%
Less Than Today (correct answer)	46%	46%
I Don't Know	36%	35%
<i>n=9553 n=27067</i>		

Q108: Suppose you have \$100 in a savings account and the interest rate was 2% per year. After 5 years, how much would you have in the account if you left the money to grow?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
More Than \$102 (correct answer)	54%	56%
Exactly \$102	7%	7%
Less Than \$102	7%	6%
I Don't Know	32%	30%
	<i>n=9542</i>	<i>n=27036</i>

Q109: Suppose you borrowed \$5,000 to help cover college expenses for the coming year. You can choose to repay this loan over 10 years, 20 years, or 30 years. Which of these repayment options will cost you the least amount of money over the length of the repayment period?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
10-Year (correct answer)	56%	58%
20-Year	5%	5%
30-Year	15%	14%
I Don't Know	25%	24%
	<i>n=9552</i>	<i>n=27073</i>

Q110: Are you the first person in your immediate family to attend college?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	43%	41%
No	55%	57%
I Don't Know	2%	2%
	<i>n=9567</i>	<i>n=27105</i>

Q111: Are you a current or former member of the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	4%	4%
No	96%	96%
	<i>n=9564</i>	<i>n=27104</i>

Q112: Did you transfer to your current institution from another institution?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	21%	21%
No	78%	78%
I don't know	1%	1%
	<i>n=9548</i>	<i>n=27076</i>

Q113: Do you plan on transferring from your school to another institution in the future?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	54%	49%
No	27%	31%
I don't know	18%	20%
	<i>n=9551</i>	<i>n=27082</i>

Q115: About how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week providing care for dependents (children, parents, etc.)?*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Less than 20 hours	49%	49%
20-39 hours	17%	16%
40 or more hours	34%	35%
	<i>n=4322</i>	<i>n=12360</i>

**Of respondents who indicated supporting family members financially ('Yes' to any of Q33-Q37)*

Q116:

Approximately how many days of classes did you miss last semester [Spring 2023] due to lack of child care?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
None	55%	55%
One to two days	15%	14%
Three to five days	6%	6%
More than five days	4%	4%
Not applicable - I was not enrolled in Spring 2023	20%	21%

n=3023 n=8990

**Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q33*

Q117:

If you were to lose access to your current child care arrangement(s), would you (check all that apply):

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Need to take fewer classes or drop classes	36%	34%
Be less likely to enroll in future semesters	30%	27%
Have less time to focus on studying and academics	42%	40%
Be likely to get worse grades	32%	31%
Consider bringing your child(ren) to classes	20%	19%
None of the above	36%	38%
Other	8%	9%

n=6117 n=17675

**Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q33*

Q118:

At any time since you turned 13, were you in foster care or were you a dependent of the court?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	2%	3%
No	96%	96%
I Don't Know	1%	2%

n=9517 n=26975

Q119:

Did you indicate on the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) that you were previously in foster care or a ward of the state?*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	68%	61%
No	20%	24%
I Don't Know	12%	15%

n=193 n=687

**Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q30 and 'Yes' to Q118*

Q120:

Did you receive increased funding/support as a result of identifying yourself as a former foster youth on the FAFSA?*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	33%	31%
No	29%	32%
I Don't Know	38%	37%

n=132 n=418

**Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q30 and 'Yes' to Q118 and Q119*

Q121:

Does your state have a state-level, foster youth-specific financial aid program or policy for college?*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	28%	23%
No	11%	10%
I Don't Know	62%	67%

n=229 n=769

**Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q118*

Q122:

Have you participated in the state-level, foster youth-specific financial aid program or policy for college?*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	51%	45%
No	35%	38%
I Don't Know	14%	17%
	<i>n=63</i>	<i>n=175</i>

**Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q118 and Q121*

Q123:

Does your institution have a foster youth-specific financial aid, scholarship, or outreach program?*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	19%	14%
No	12%	9%
I Don't Know	69%	76%
	<i>n=227</i>	<i>n=764</i>

**Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q118*

Q124:

Have you participated in your institution's foster youth-specific financial aid, scholarship, or outreach program?*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	63%	57%
No	33%	34%
I Don't Know	5%	9%
	<i>n=43</i>	<i>n=109</i>

**Of respondents who answered 'yes' to Q118 and Q123*

Q125:

Do you consider yourself a student who works or a worker that goes to school?*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Student	54%	53%
Worker	46%	47%
	<i>n=6120</i>	<i>n=18601</i>

**Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q19*

Q126:

During the school year, about how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week working for pay?*

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Less than 20 hours	14%	14%
20-39 hours	38%	39%
40 or more hours	49%	47%
	<i>n=5873</i>	<i>n=17982</i>

**Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q19*

Q127:

Approximately how many days of classes did you miss last semester [Spring 2023] due to conflicts with your job?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
None	53%	56%
One to two days	15%	13%
Three to five days	7%	6%
More than five days	4%	4%
Not applicable - I was not enrolled in Spring 2023 or did not have a job	21%	21%
	<i>n=6129</i>	<i>n=18631</i>

**Of respondents who answered 'Yes' to Q19*

Q128:

Are you a dependent or independent student?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Dependent	32%	28%
Independent	56%	58%
I Don't Know	13%	13%
	<i>n=9462</i>	<i>n=26862</i>

Q129: Where do you currently live?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
On-campus residence	4%	3%
Off-campus college/university-affiliated residence	4%	4%
Off-campus private (not college/university-affiliated) residence	78%	81%
No current residence or homeless	2%	1%
Other	12%	10%
	<i>n=9483</i>	<i>n=26895</i>

Q130: What format are your classes in this semester (Fall 2023)?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
In-person only	30%	27%
Online or remote only	32%	33%
Hybrid (a mix of online and in-person classes)	37%	40%
Other	1%	1%
	<i>n=9481</i>	<i>n=26890</i>

Q132: Do you identify as LGBTQIA+?

	Texas CCs	2-year Schools
Yes	16%	16%
No	78%	78%
Prefer not to answer	6%	6%
	<i>n=9466</i>	<i>n=26869</i>

Conclusion

Trellis Strategies administers the Student Financial Wellness Survey to provide institutions with insight into the wellness of their student body. With this information, colleges have evaluated current initiatives, developed new programs, assessed communication strategies, built financial education curriculum, made proposals for grant funding, and informed policymakers. This rich body of evidence can be used to improve student success and strengthen the infrastructure needed to support today's students.

Trellis provides this analysis to facilitate this understanding and welcomes feedback so that we can make iterative improvements to this annual resource.

Participation in the Fall 2024 Student Financial Wellness Survey

Trellis is currently recruiting institutions to participate in the Fall 2024 SFWS! The survey is 100% free for institutions to participate in, and all participating institutions receive a school-level report of findings with comparison response groups from their sector. If you have colleagues at institutions that might benefit from participating in this survey, or would like more information on how to participate in upcoming implementations of the Student Financial Wellness Survey, please contact Trellis at research@trellisstrategies.org.

Appendix A: Methodology

The Student Financial Wellness Survey seeks to document the financial well-being and student success outcomes of post-secondary students across the nation. Trellis hosted and delivered the web-based survey in an attempt to understand more about the financial challenges/barriers facing students, how students view their institutions' awareness of those challenges/barriers, and how the challenges/barriers alter how students view/attend college. All participating institutions receive a school-level report of findings with comparison response groups from their sector.

In order to host and deliver the survey to students, participating institutions provide Trellis with the contact information and select demographics (to allow assessment of representativeness) of study participants. Participants in the SFWS are asked to consent to having additional select student-level records (e.g., number of credit hours, gender, age) released by their institution for matching with their survey responses. Participating institutions with enrollments above 10,000 students could choose to randomly sample 5,000 of their students or provide their entire population. Institutions with enrollments lower than 10,000 included all students in the survey population.

To maximize student responses, Trellis contributed fifty, \$50 Amazon gift cards which were randomly awarded to 50 study participants. Institutions were encouraged to supplement the survey-wide incentive offered by Trellis with their own incentives where possible. For survey-wide incentives provided by Trellis, Trellis randomly chose incentive winners, contacted the incentive winners, and disbursed the incentives. For institutional incentives, Trellis randomly chose incentive winners and provided institutions with contact information to disburse the incentives. If a participant withdrew from the survey before completion, they were still eligible for the incentive drawing.

Data were de-identified in order to create a dataset for analysis. In most instances, reports primarily consist of descriptive statistics; however, additional exploratory data analysis was conducted in order to identify trends among groups of respondents and answer the research questions. Analyses conducted include chi-square tests and reliability tests to construct and validate indexes contained within the survey instrument. All data are reported in aggregate form only and reported data do not identify individual institutions outside of confidential institution-level reports.

Appendix B: Tests for Representativeness

Voluntary surveys tend to achieve modest response rates and there is always some amount of response bias with any survey. Trellis obtains data on both the total population and responders from institutions, which allows for comparison to determine if, based on these characteristics, responders mirror the total population. Response bias in the sample may marginally affect the magnitude of the response frequencies presented for questions in the survey but are unlikely to affect the overall findings and themes found from the study.

The Fall 2023 sample of responders at Texas Community Colleges had some characteristics different from the population. Tests for representation indicated statistically significant difference between the sample and the population for:

- Race/Ethnicity – White students were overrepresented in the sample
- Gender – Female respondents were overrepresented in the sample
- Enrollment Intensity (full-time/part-time) – Respondents enrolled full-time were overrepresented in the sample
- Credit Hours Earned – Respondents with more than 30 credit hours earned were overrepresented in the sample
- Age – Respondents 25 years or older were overrepresented in the sample
- GPA – Respondents with a GPA of 3.0 or higher were overrepresented in the sample

Appendix C: Scales

Scales: Net Promoter Score (Q18)

- Trellis' Student Financial Wellness Survey includes a customer satisfaction rating for institutions to benchmark future work and to better understand how students perceive their institution. Trellis collected the information with a scale that allows a Net Promoter Score (NPS) to be calculated. NPS is a method, based in research, to benchmark customer satisfaction ratings across different services, businesses, and products. NPS uses a 0-10 scale. Those respondents who score 9-10 are promoters, 7-8 are passives, and 0-6 are detractors. $\%Promoters - \%Detractors = NPS$. A positive NPS (>0) is generally considered good, with highest performers usually between 50 and 80.

Scales: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) 30-Day Food Security (Q77-82)

Trellis' Student Financial Wellness Survey uses a six-question scale designed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that measures food security within the prior 30 days.⁴ Many researchers of food security amongst college students use a more robust twelve-question USDA scale. The six-question scale was chosen to reduce cognitive overload within a survey that seeks to measure many financial wellness topics in other ways.

- USDA methodology assigns levels of food security to individuals based on how many affirmative responses they give to certain questions. Under the short-form survey, individuals who give 2-4 affirmative responses have "low food security" and individuals who give 5-6 affirmative responses have "very low food security."⁴
- While categorical labels are helpful, food insecurity exists on a spectrum, and even the underlying responses to the survey questions cannot definitively locate individuals on that spectrum. Rather, more affirmative responses indicate higher odds that an individual is experiencing greater difficulty maintaining an adequate or desirable diet.

Scales: Housing Security (Q86-91) and Homelessness (Q92-101)

The Student Financial Wellness Survey incorporates standard housing security and homelessness measurements commonly used by other researchers studying basic needs security in order to ensure data validity and facilitate comparisons with findings in prior research.³

- Leading researchers in this field define a homeless person as "a person without a place to live, often residing in a shelter, an automobile, an abandoned building or outside," and housing insecurity as, "broader set[s] of challenges such as the inability to pay rent or utilities or the need to move frequently."⁵
- Respondents are categorized as 'Housing Insecure' if they answered "True" to any of the six housing insecurity questions (Q86-91).
- Respondents are categorized as 'Homeless' if they answered 'Yes' and/or 'True' to any of the ten homelessness questions (Q92-101).

Scales: Financial Knowledge (Q107-109)

The financial knowledge scale used in this survey is a version of the Lusardi three-question scale, augmented to be more relevant to students in higher education.⁶ Respondents who provided an answer for all items on the financial knowledge scale were included for analysis. Correct answers for each question are totaled for the scale value.

Scales: Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (Q72-73) and Generalized Anxiety Disorder-2 (Q74-75)

To assess potential mental health challenges among respondents, two validated scales were used—the Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2) and the Generalized Anxiety Disorder 2-item (GAD-2).

Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2) (Q72-73)

This survey used a modified, short-form scale first used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that measures the frequency of depressed mood and the inability to feel pleasure over the past seven days.⁷

- The purpose of the PHQ-2 is to act as a screener for depression in a “first-step” approach. Respondents are asked: Over the last 14 days, how often have you been bothered by...
 - Having little interest or pleasure in doing things?
 - Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless?
- The scale includes the following answer options: “Not at all” (score of 0); “Several days” (score of 1); “More than half the days” (score of 2); and “Nearly every day” (score of 3).
- A PHQ-2 score ranges from 0-6, with a score of 3 acting as the optimal cut point when screening for depression. If a respondent scores 3 or greater, a diagnosis of major depressive disorder is likely.⁷

Generalized Anxiety Disorder 2-item Scale (GAD-2) (Q74-75)

This survey also incorporates a modified, short-form instrument used to screen for generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) by the CDC.⁸

- Similar to the PHQ-2, respondents are asked: Over the last 14 days, how often have you been bothered by...
 - Feeling nervous, anxious or on edge?
 - Not being able to stop or control worrying?
- The scale includes the following options: “Not at all” (score of 0); “Several days” (score of 1); “More than half the days” (score of 2); and “Nearly every day” (score of 3).
- A GAD-2 score ranges from 0-6, with a score of 3 acting as the optimal cut point when screening for generalized anxiety disorder. If a respondent scores 3 or greater, a diagnosis of generalized anxiety disorder is likely. Using this cut-off of 3 points, the GAD-2 has a sensitivity of 86% and specificity of 83%.

Appendix D: Participating Institutions

Participating Institutions in the Fall 2023 SFWS

The Fall 2023 implementation of the Student Financial Wellness Survey captures the attitudes, perspectives, and self-reported financial behaviors of over 63,000 students from 142 colleges and universities in 25 states. Student respondents attended public universities, private colleges, and community colleges that range in size from over 64,000 students to fewer than 600. Student responses from all schools were aggregated to provide a comparison group for individual institutional findings by school sector.

Four-Year Public Institutions (35)

Alabama State University (AL)
 Alcorn State University (MS)
 Central Washington University (WA)
 Florida Atlantic University (FL)
 Florida International University (FL)
 Indiana University – Bloomington (IN)
 Indiana University – Columbus (IN)
 Indiana University – East (IN)
 Indiana University – Fort Wayne (IN)
 Indiana University – Indianapolis (IN)
 Indiana University – Kokomo (IN)
 Indiana University – Northwest (IN)
 Indiana University – South Bend (IN)
 Indiana University – Southeast (IN)
 Mississippi State University (MS)
 Mississippi University for Women (MS)
 Purdue University (IN)
 Sam Houston State University (TX)
 State University of New York Oneonta (NY)
 Sul Ross State University (TX)
 Tarleton State University (TX)
 Texas A&M University – College Station (TX)
 Texas A&M University – Commerce (TX)
 Texas A&M University – Kingsville (TX)
 Texas A&M University – San Antonio (TX)
 Texas Tech University (TX)
 Texas Woman’s University (TX)
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (NC)
 University of Oklahoma (OK)
 University of Science and Arts at Oklahoma (OK)
 University of Southern Mississippi (MS)
 University of Texas at Austin (TX)
 University of Texas at El Paso (TX)
 University of West Alabama (AL)
 University of Wyoming (WY)

Four-Year Private Institutions (12)

Concordia University Texas (TX)
 Herzing University (WI)
 Houston Christian University (TX)
 Lafayette College (PA)
 Lubbock Christian University (TX)
 Martin Luther College (MN)
 Midway University (KY)
 Our Lady of the Lake University (TX)
 Peirce College (PA)
 Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PA)
 South Texas College of Law Houston (TX)
 University of New Haven (CT)

Two-Year Institutions* (95)

Alvin Community College (TX)	McLennan Community College (TX)
Amarillo College (TX)	Mid Michigan College (MI)
Angelina College (TX)	Midland College (TX)
Ashland Community and Technical College (KY)	Monroe County Community College (MI)
Atlanta Technical College (GA)	Mott Community College (MI)
Austin Community College (TX)	Navarro College (TX)
Bay de Noc Community College (MI)	North Central State College (OH)
Belmont College (OH)	Northampton Community College (PA)
Big Sandy Community and Technical College (KY)	Northeast Iowa Community College (IA)
Bluegrass Community and Technical College (KY)	Northeast Lakeview College (TX)
Brazosport College (TX)	Northeast Texas Community College (TX)
Cape Fear Community College (NC)	Northwest State Community College (OH)
Carteret Community College (NC)	Northwest Vista College (TX)
Catawba Valley Community College (NC)	Northwestern Michigan College (MI)
Central Ohio Technical College (OH)	Odessa College (TX)
Central Texas College (TX)	Owens State Community College (OH)
Chattanooga State Community College (TN)	Owensboro Community and Technical College (KY)
Cincinnati State Technical and Community College (OH)	Palo Alto College (TX)
Clarendon College (TX)	Panola College (TX)
Clark State College (OH)	Paris Junior College (TX)
Coastal Bend College (TX)	Ranger College (TX)
College of the Mainland (TX)	Rhodes State College (OH)
Cuyahoga Community College (OH)	Roanoke-Chowan Community College (NC)
Dallas College (TX)	Rowan-Cabarrus Community College (NC)
Delgado Community College (LA)	Somerset Community College (KY)
Edison State Community College (OH)	Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College (KY)
El Paso Community College (TX)	Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College (KY)
Elizabethtown Community and Technical College (KY)	Southeastern Community College (NC)
Fayetteville Technical Community College (NC)	Southern Maine Community College (ME)
Galveston College (TX)	Southwest Texas Junior College (TX)
Gateway Community and Technical College (KY)	St. Philip's College (TX)
Glen Oaks Community College (MI)	Stanly Community College (NC)
Grayson College (TX)	Stark State College (OH)
Harcum College (PA)	Surry Community College (NC)
Harper College (IL)	Temple College (TX)
Hazard Community and Technical College (KY)	Texarkana College (TX)
Henderson Community College (KY)	Texas Southmost College (TX)
Henry Ford College (MI)	Trident Technical College (SC)
Hill College (TX)	Tyler Junior College (TX)
Hopkinsville Community College (KY)	Washington State Community College (OH)
Houston Community College (TX)	Waubonsee Community College (IL)
Jefferson Community and Technical College (KY)	West Kentucky Community and Technical College (KY)
John Wood Community College (IL)	West Texas A&M University (TX)
Kalamazoo Valley Community College (MI)	Western Texas College (TX)
Kilgore College (TX)	Wharton County Junior College (TX)
Madisonville Community College (KY)	Yakima Valley College (WA)
Marion Technical College (OH)	Zane State College (OH)
Maysville Community and Technical College (KY)	

*All colleges listed under “Two-Year Institutions” are public colleges with the exception of Harcum College, which is a private nonprofit two-year college.

Endnotes

¹ Schuette, A. (2024). More than miles: Bridging gaps in student transportation for academic success. Trellis Strategies. <https://www.trellisstrategies.org/student-transportation/>

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³ National Foster Youth Institute. (n.d.). *Higher education for foster youth*. <https://nfyi.org/issues/highereducation>.

⁴ United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). 2023. Definitions of food security. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/definitions-of-food-security/>

⁵ Baker-Smith, C., Coca, V., Goldrick-Rab, S., Looker, E., Richardson, B., & Williams, T. (2020). #RealCollege 2020: Five years of evidence on campus basic needs insecurity. https://tacc.org/sites/default/files/documents/2020-02/2019_realcollege_survey_report.pdf

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⁷ National HIV Curriculum. (2021). Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2). Retrieved from: <https://www.hiv.uw.edu/page/mental-health-screening/phq-2>

⁸ Centers for Disease Control. (2021). Anxiety and depression: Household Pulse Survey. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/covid19/pulse/mental-health.htm>

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