



<https://raymarshallcenter.org/central-texas-student-futures-project/>

Funded by the Austin Chamber
of Commerce and The
University of Texas at Austin

Project Overview:

The Central Texas Student Futures Project is a research project being conducted by the Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources at the University of Texas at Austin.

It is designed to track the progress of Central Texas high school graduates as they move on to colleges and careers. The project's purposes are:

1. To provide regional community and business leaders, independent school districts, colleges, universities, state agencies, and employers with a comprehensive, longitudinal view of what high school graduates are doing after they leave high school and -- most importantly -- *why*.
2. To offer workshops and seminars on results from this research to assist local school districts in better preparing students for the demands of adulthood and for success in college and the workplace.

Your Role in This Project:

As a future high school graduate, you can help us with this study by completing a survey that asks about your preparation and plans for future schooling and employment, as well as family background information and demographic information. Your participation in the survey is voluntary.

Your information and survey responses will be provided to your school district for the purposes of improving college transition services. As part of these transition services, your school district may use text messages based on survey responses to provide help to you in navigating the transition to

college. Except for this, your name will never be reported in any fashion, nor will any information be released that would allow someone else to determine that you participated in the project. Your survey responses and other information will be kept in the strictest confidence.

Why your participation is important:

This research project is intended to help your school district to design better programs to prepare future students for life beyond high school.

Your survey responses will be linked to other information, particularly your high school records and up to four years of postsecondary education and employment records being collected for this study. These data will be analyzed to determine activities and programs associated with successful transitions to postsecondary education and employment.

Additional information on this study is provided on the back of this page. If you have any specific questions, please call the Ray Marshall Center at (512) 471-7891.

**Please keep this page
for your information**

Frequently Asked Questions **(FAQs)**

1. **Who is conducting this study?** The Ray Marshall Center (RMC) for the Study of Human Resources, a research component of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, is conducting a multi-year research study known as the Central Texas Student Futures Project. The project is currently funded by the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, TG, and The University of Texas at Austin. The Principal Investigator is: Greg Cumpton, Ph. D., Associate Director, Ray Marshall Center (512) 471-7891.
2. **What information is being collected?** In addition to the voluntary survey, information is collected on all students from their school district and other sources. This information includes: school records reported to the Texas Education Agency, high school transcript information, STAAR records, and other program participation records maintained by the school and/or school district. In addition, postsecondary education records and Texas employment data are collected from public and private agencies, such as the National Student Clearinghouse and the Texas Workforce Commission. Military and other training records may be added in the future.
3. **How will your privacy and the confidentiality of your survey and other records be protected?** The Ray Marshall Center has adopted elaborate safeguards to assure that inadvertent disclosure of your confidential information does not occur. A copy of RMC's *Procedures for Handling Confidential Data* has been approved by U.T. privacy attorneys and is available upon request. Your survey and

other study data will not be released to non-research partners without your consent unless required by law or a court order. The data resulting from your participation may be made available to other researchers in the future for research purposes not detailed within this consent form. In these cases, the data will contain no identifying information that could associate you with it, or with your participation in any study. The funders of this research may also have the legal right to review the research records. If the results of this research are published or presented at meetings, your identity will not be disclosed.

4. **If you choose to participate in this study, will it cost you anything?** No.
5. **Will you receive compensation for your participation in this study?** No.
6. **What are the possible benefits to you or to others?** The survey gives you the opportunity to provide feedback to your school's administrators about your high school experiences. Ultimately, you are contributing to research that seeks to improve the school district's preparation of future generations of students for life beyond high school.
7. **What are the possible discomforts and risks of participation in the study?** The major potential risk from this work would be the inadvertent release of confidential information (e.g., Social Security number, school records) for particular individuals. For over 30 years, the Ray Marshall Center has conducted research using confidential records and no records have ever been inadvertently released.
8. **If you do not want to take part in this study, what other options are available**

to you? Your participation in the survey is completely voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate in the survey will not prejudice present or future relations with the University of Texas at Austin, the Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources or your school district. Your school district has granted the Center a "study exception" that allows your non-survey data to be collected and analyzed with or without your participation in the survey.

9. **How can you withdraw from this study and who should you call if you have questions?** If you wish to stop your participation in the survey for any reason, you should contact: Greg Cumpton, Ph.D. at (512) 471-7891. You are free to withdraw your consent and stop participation in the survey at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you may be entitled. Throughout the study, the researchers will notify you of new information that may become available and that might affect your decision to remain in the study. In addition, if you have any questions about your rights as a survey participant, or if you have complaints, concerns, or questions about the research, please The University of Texas at Austin Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects at the Institutional Review Board by phone at (512) 471-8871 or email at orsc@uts.cc.utexas.edu.