



# MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH SURVEY

**TOTAL RESPONDENTS 709**

# YOUTH SURVEY OVERVIEW

Throughout the administration of CFMC's countywide survey and outreach initiative, residents reported specific concerns and opportunities related to youth.

In response, a second survey was developed to collect input directly from Morgan County's young adults.

CFMC engaged students at six local high schools. A total of 709 students completed the survey over three weeks.

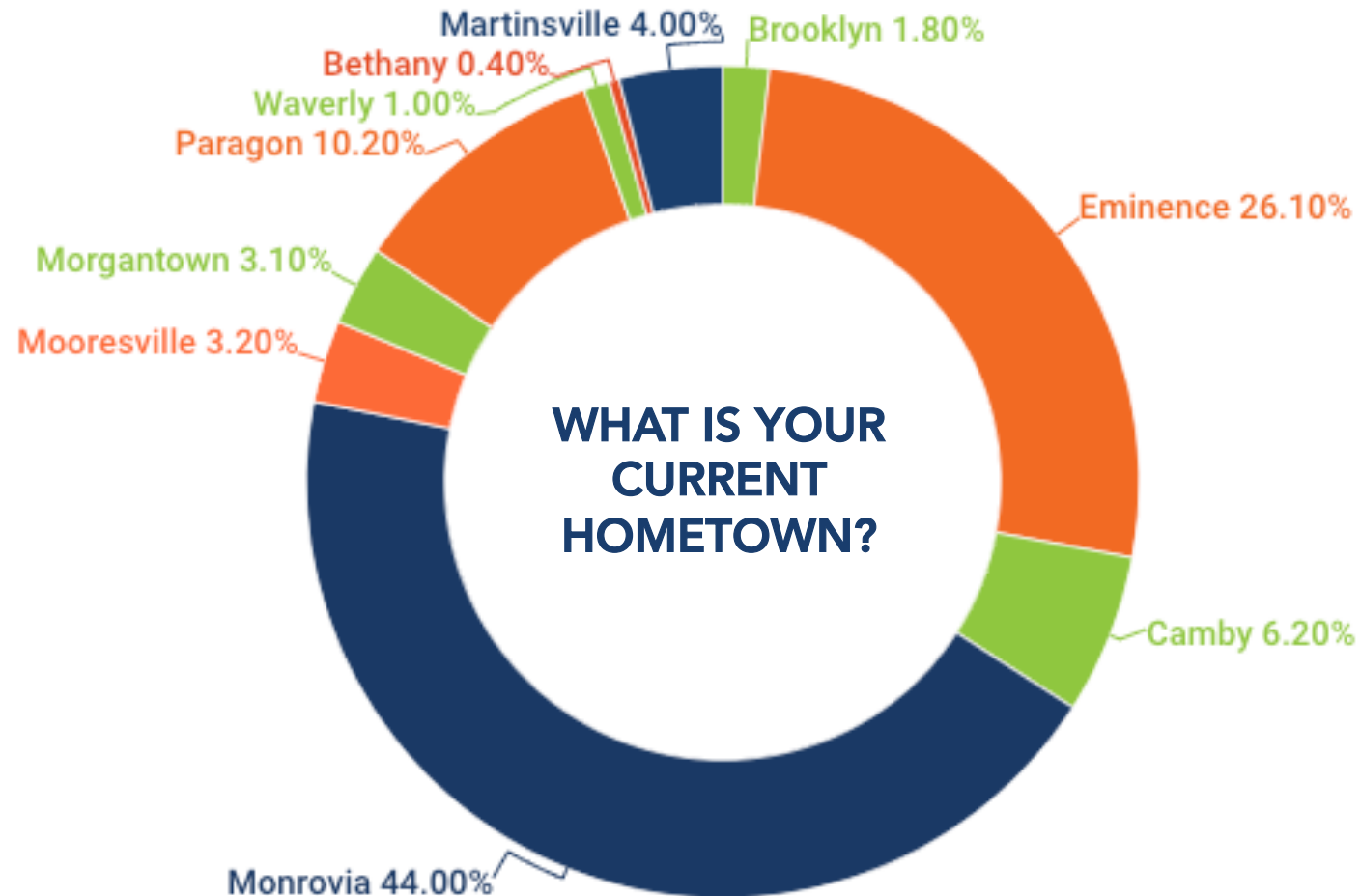
Survey findings will be invaluable in helping to shape CFMC's work with youth and education throughout the county.

## THE MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH SURVEY EXPLORED THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- College/Career Readiness
- Student Assistance
- Extracurricular Activities
- Sources of Inspiration
- Youth Development Ideas

# HOMETOWN

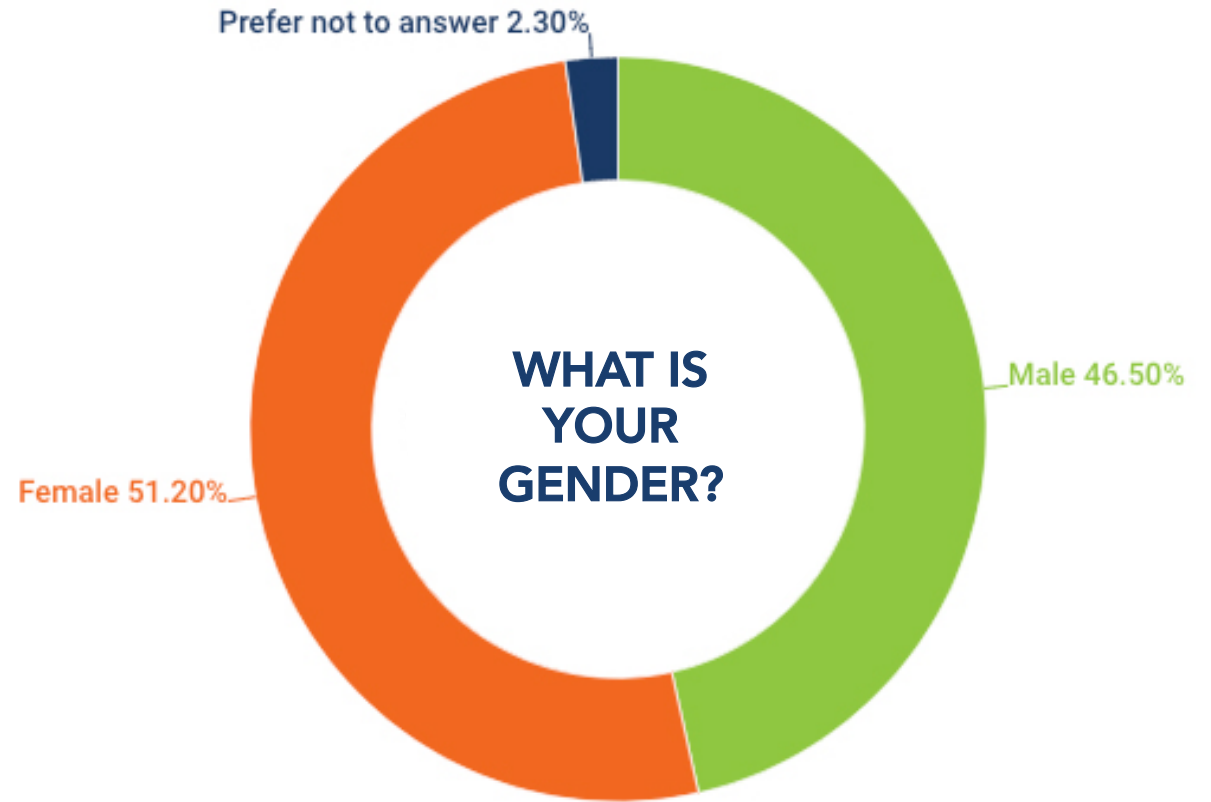
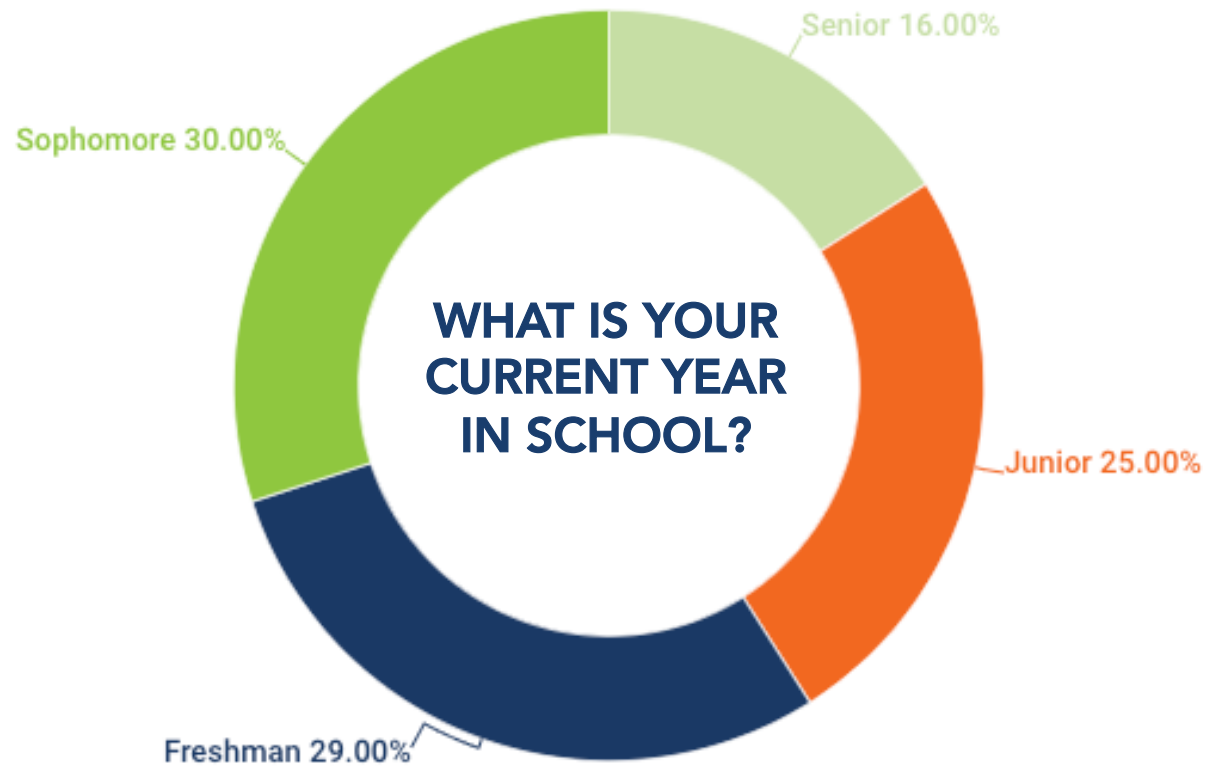
# DEMOGRAPHICS



# AGE

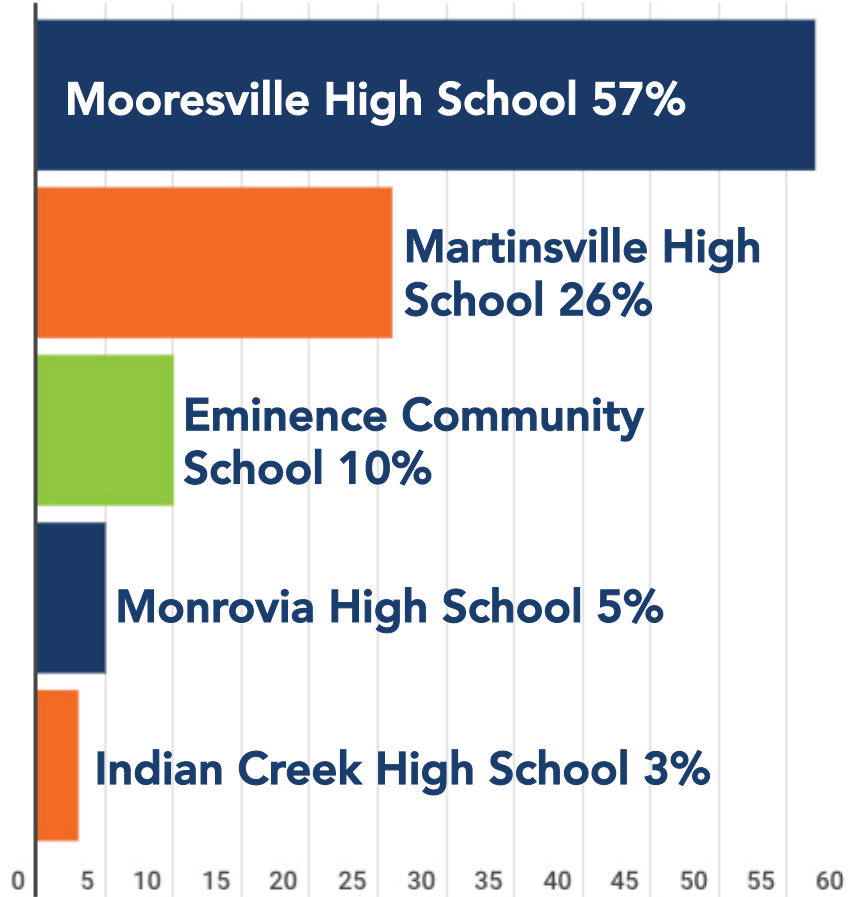
# GENDER

# DEMOGRAPHICS

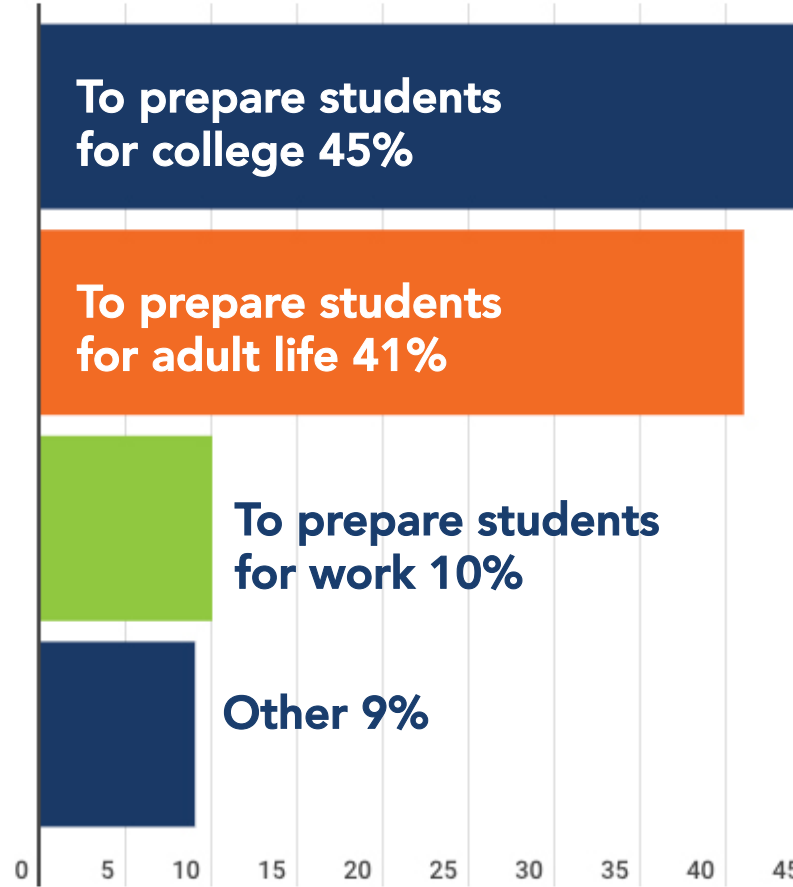


# MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH SURVEY

## WHAT SCHOOL DO YOU ATTEND?



## WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE IS THE PRIMARY GOAL OF HIGH SCHOOL?

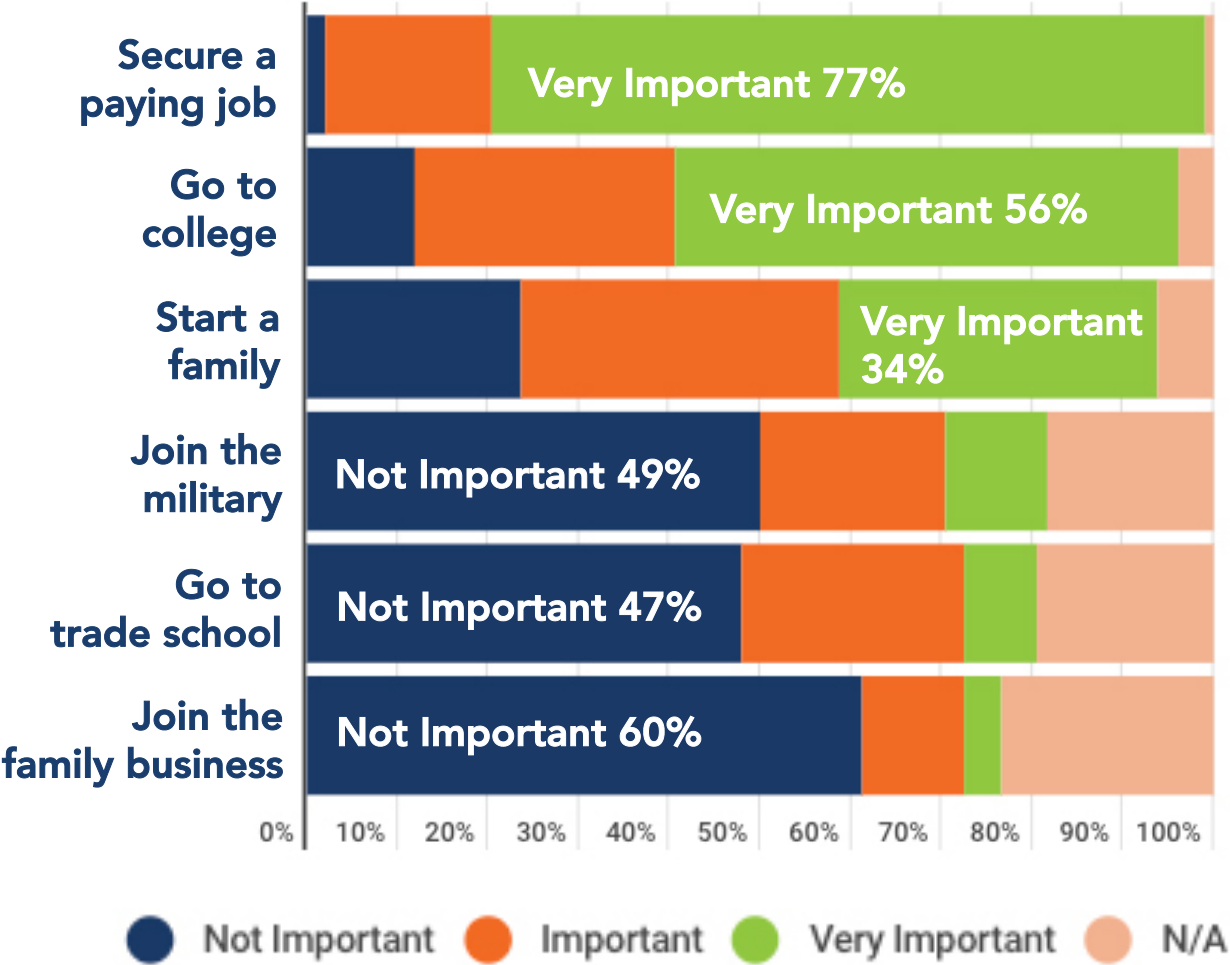


### Top "other" responses:

- To pass state tests
- Responsibility, confidence, social skills
- To graduate, earn a degree
- Fit societal standards
- Learn to follow instructions
- To keep kids busy
- To challenge kids
- Learn problem solving
- Military prep
- To inspire kids

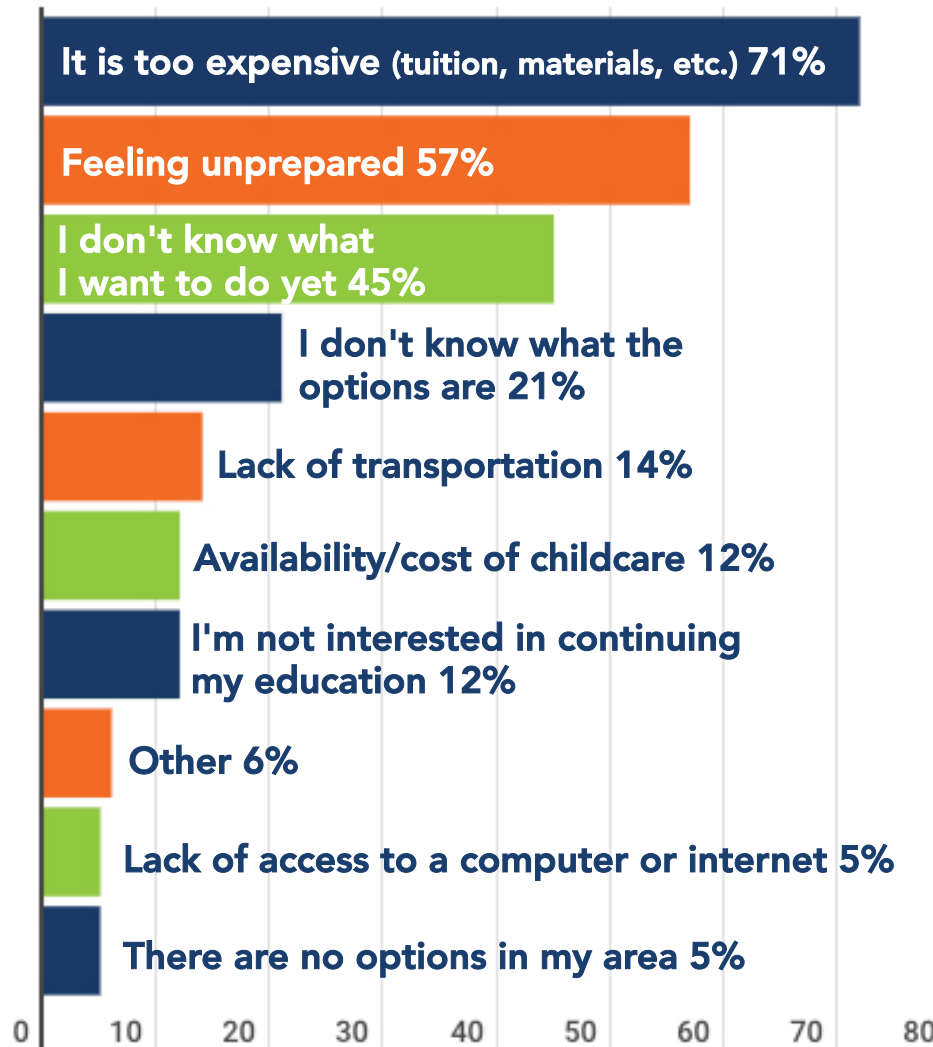
# MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH SURVEY

## WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO DO AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?



# MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH SURVEY

## WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES OF CONTINUING EDUCATION AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?

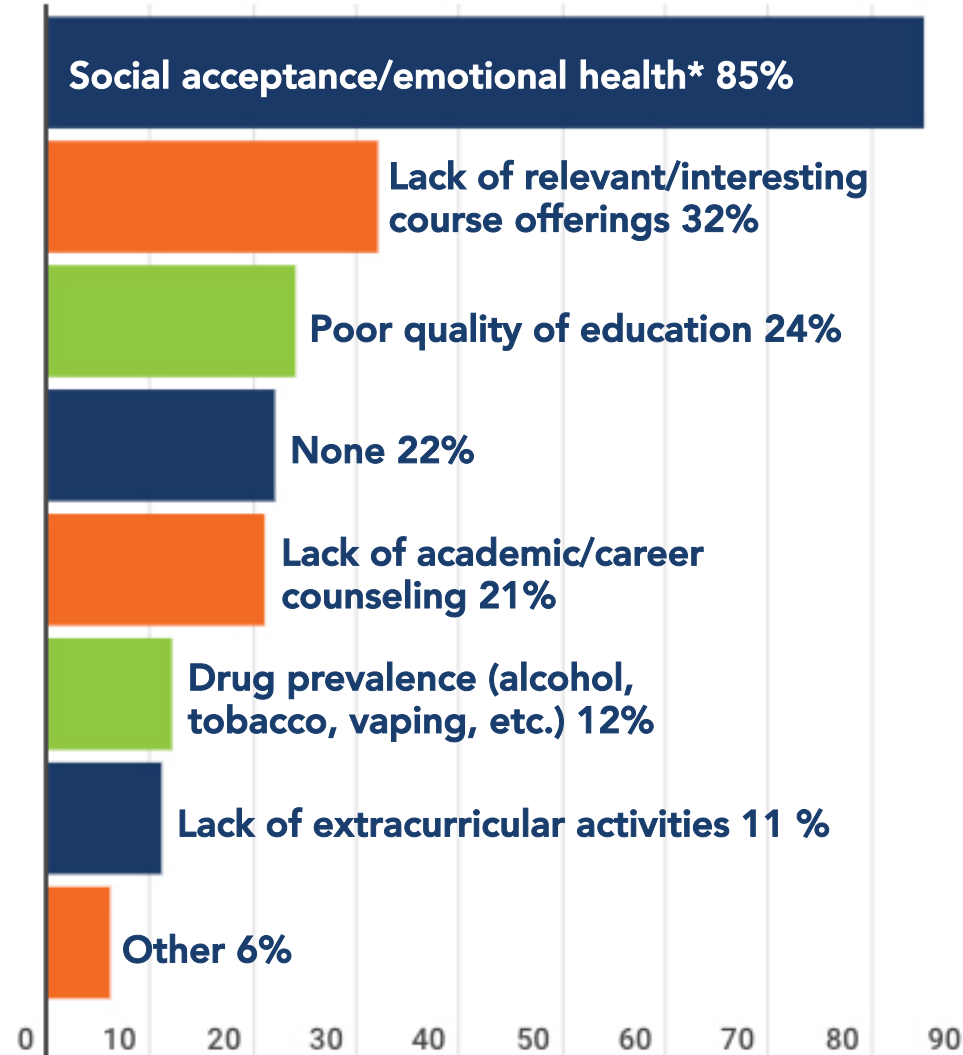


### Top "other" responses:

- Managing adult life/finances
- Anxiety/depression
- Leaving my home/family
- Getting into college of choice
- Personal motivation
- Housing/living expenses
- Finding the right school
- Going into debt
- Lack of post-grad opportunities
- Work obligations
- Lack of job security
- Worried re: changing my mind
- Time management

# MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH SURVEY

## WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU FACED AT SCHOOL?



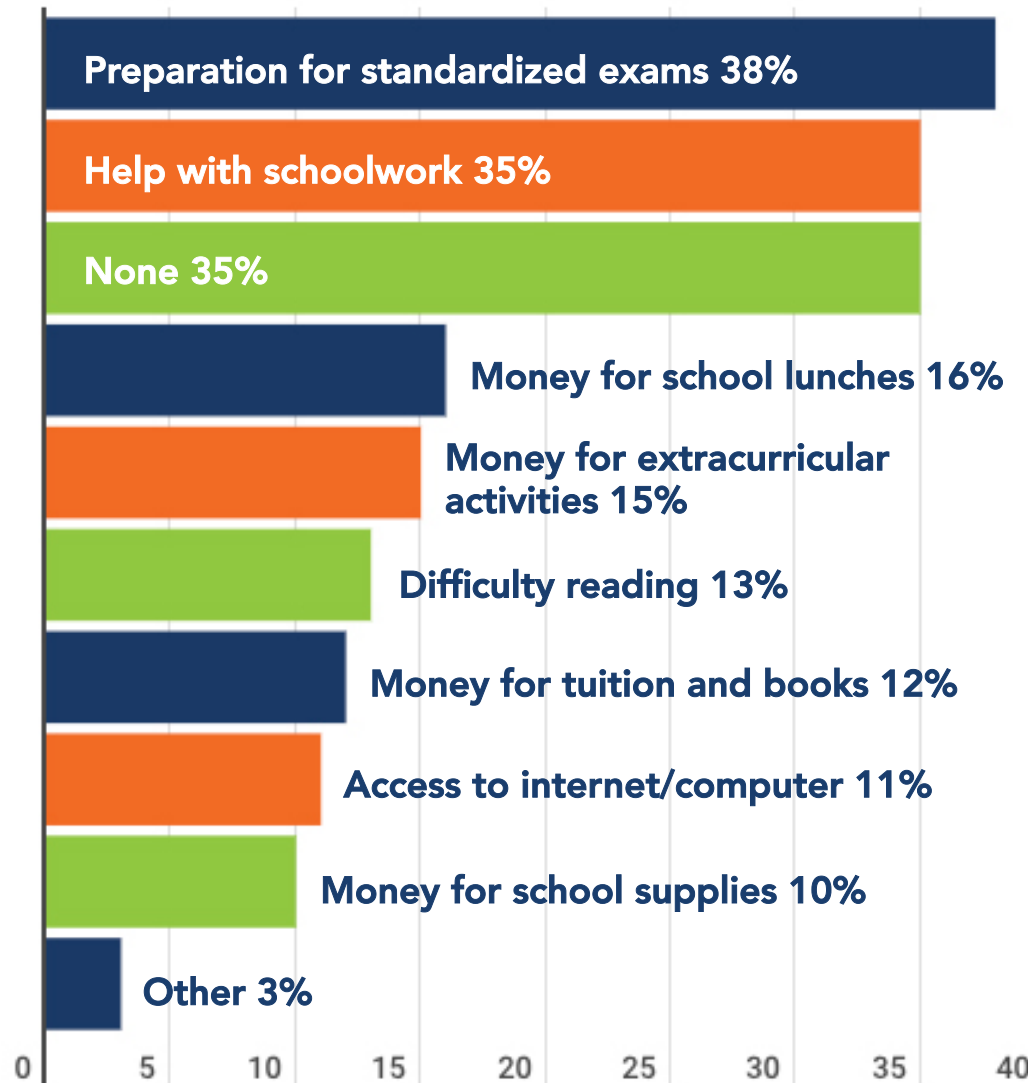
*\*Category includes three related responses.*

### Top "other" responses:

- No real-world coursework
- Uncaring teachers
- Too much homework
- Lack of sleep; starts too early
- No motivation
- Disruptive students
- Too much pressure
- I can't concentrate
- Standardized tests
- Family struggles

# MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH SURVEY

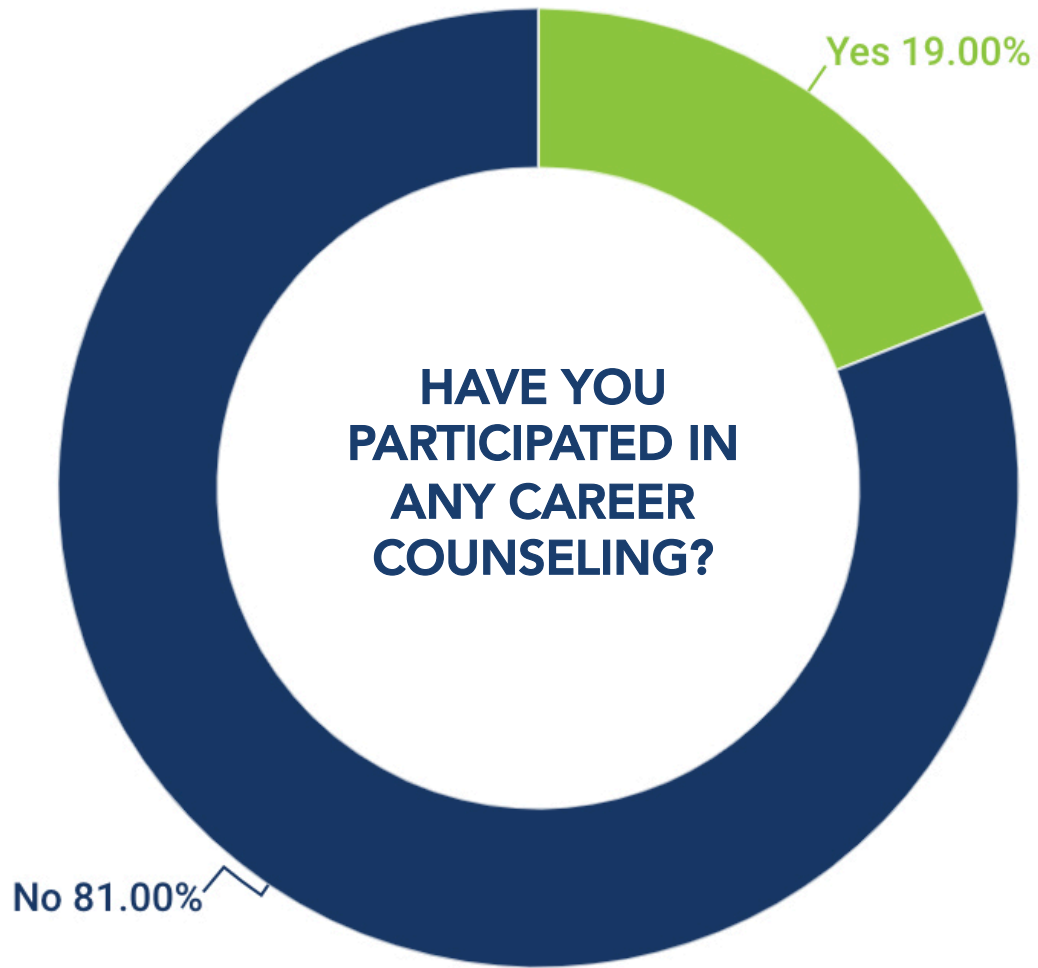
## HAVE YOU FACED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES?



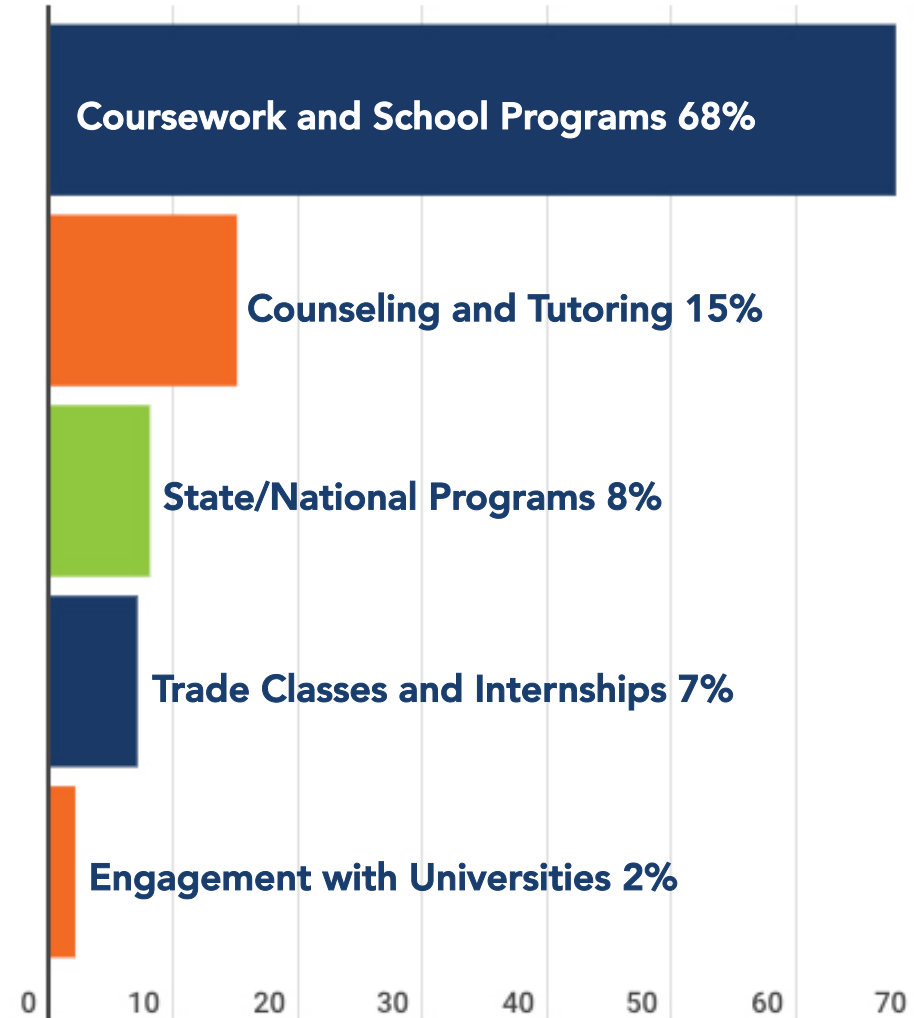
### Top "other" responses:

- Too much homework
- Poor class scheduling/choices
- Mental health challenges
- Lack of motivation
- Not enough time for assignments
- Standardized tests
- Not understanding material
- Not learning life skills
- Transportation to after-school activities

# MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH SURVEY

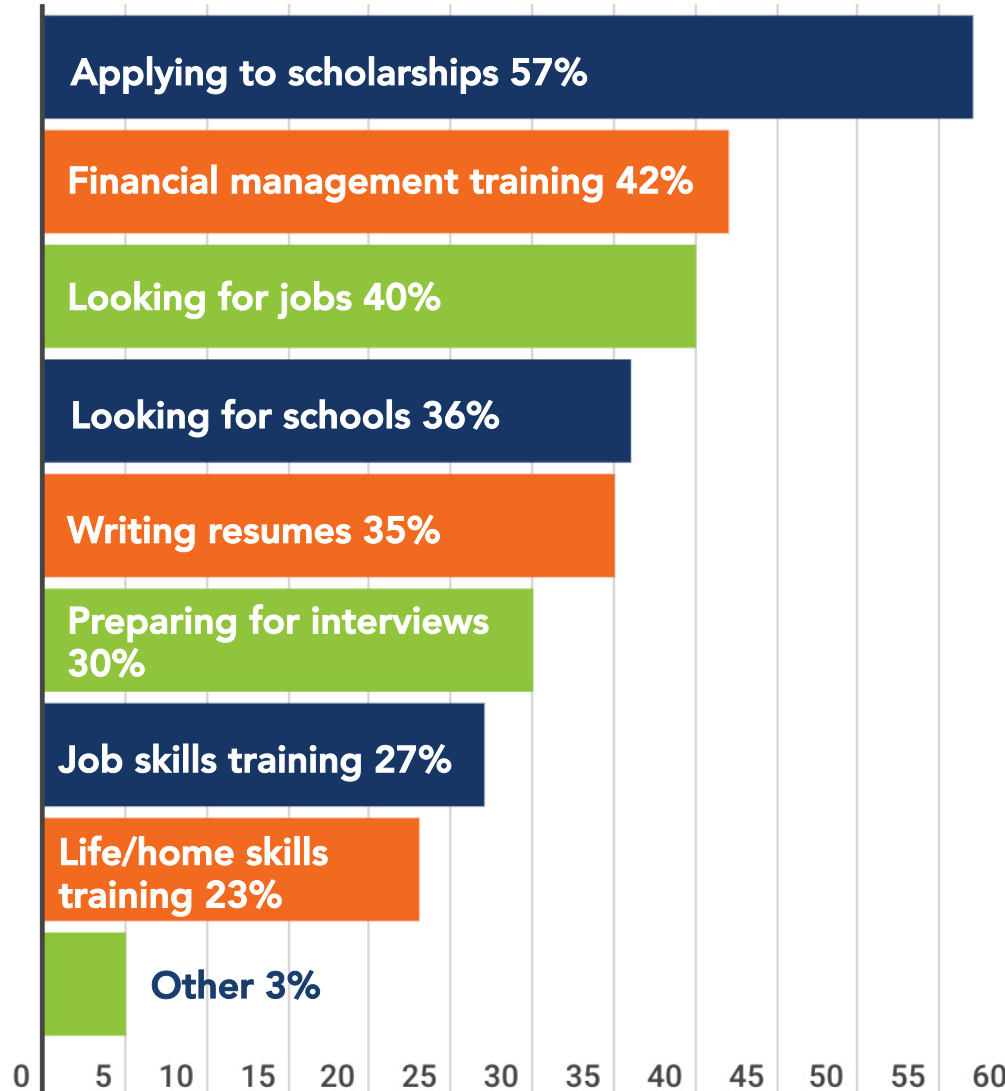


## PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR CAREER/COLLEGE PREP COURSES OR COUNSELING:



# MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH SURVEY

## WHAT TYPE OF POST-GRADUATION ASSISTANCE DO YOU NEED MOST?

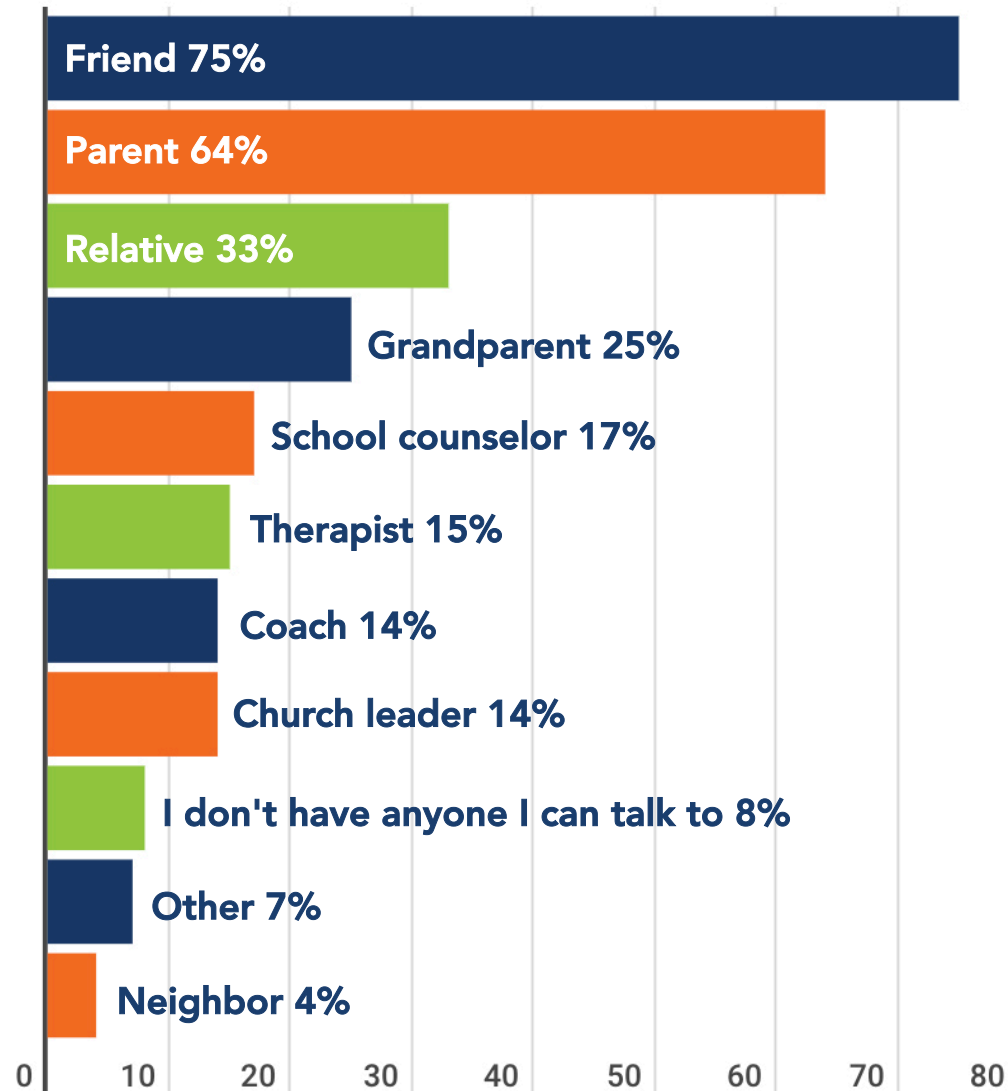


### Top "other" responses:

- Finding a college
- How to finance college
- How to live on my own
- Finding housing
- Applying to schools
- Life/money skills
- Deciding major

# MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH SURVEY

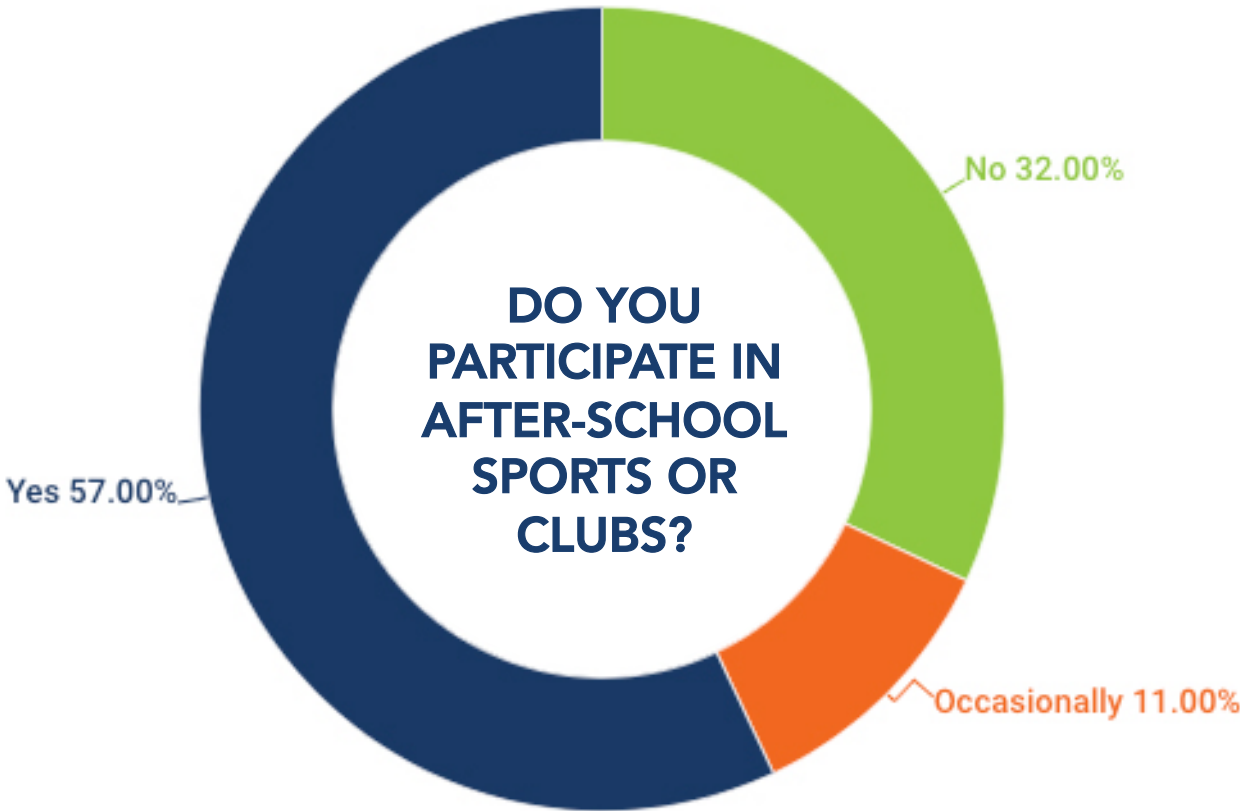
**IF YOU ARE FACING A PERSONAL CHALLENGE, WHO CAN YOU TALK TO ABOUT IT? CHOOSE UP TO THREE:**



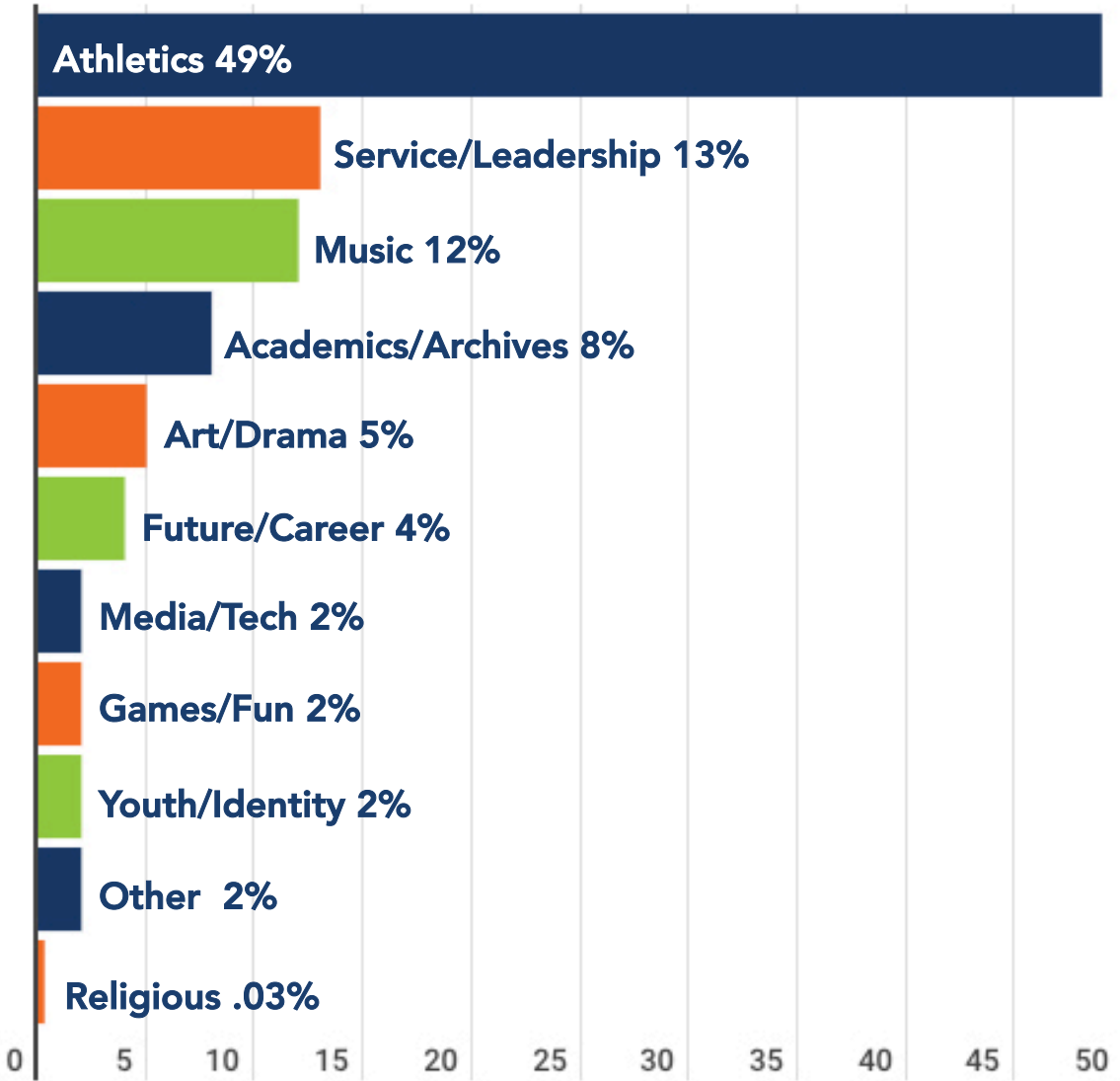
## **Top "other" responses:**

- Girl/boyfriend
- Teacher
- Don't want to talk
- Myself
- Depends on issue
- Resource teacher

# MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH SURVEY

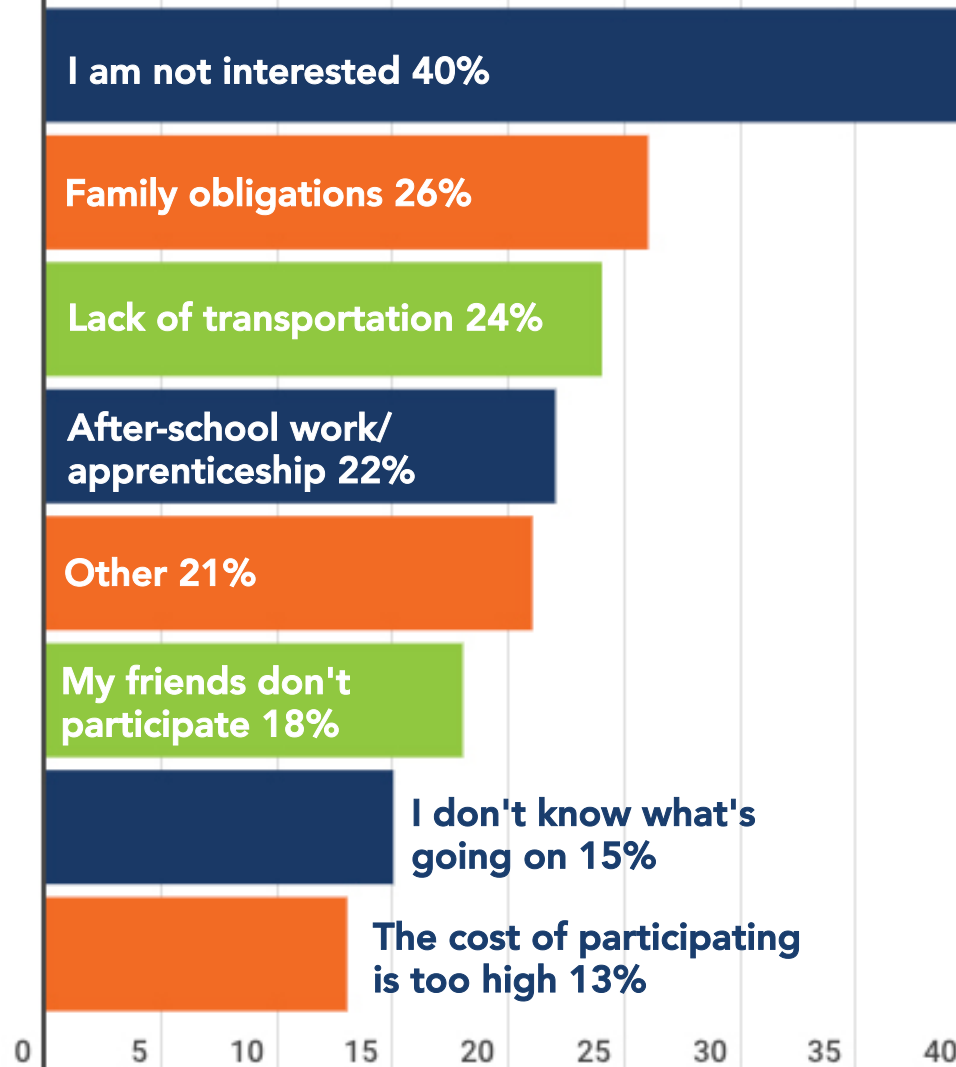


## EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION BY CATEGORY



# MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH SURVEY

**WHAT HAS PREVENTED YOU FROM PARTICIPATING IN AFTER-SCHOOL SPORTS AND/OR CLUBS? SELECT UP TO THREE:**

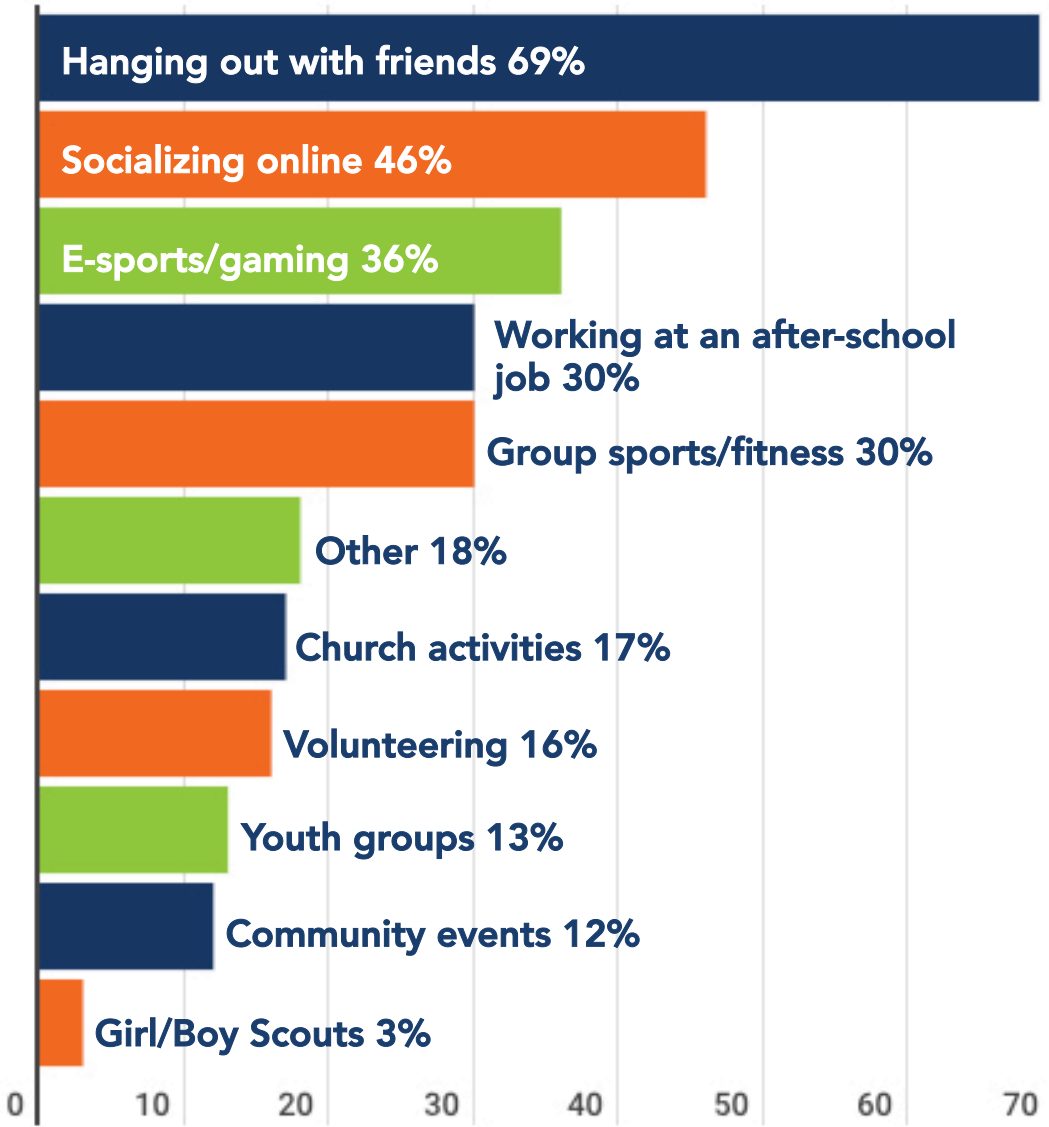


## Top "other" responses:

- Too much homework
- Depression/anxiety
- Scheduling conflicts
- Medical reasons
- Too lazy/tired
- I'm not athletic
- I don't have time
- Nepotism
- Missed deadlines
- I prefer video games

# MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH SURVEY

HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR TIME OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY:



Top “other” responses:

- Homework, study, tutoring
- Stay home, relax
- Spend time with family
- Play/listen to music
- Specialized sports (moto, horses, skating)
- Hunting, fishing
- Watch TV, social media
- Reading
- Explore outside, town
- Run, bike, go to gym
- Creative arts, writing
- Housework
- I am raising a child

# MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH SURVEY

## IF YOU HAD UNLIMITED MONEY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR THE YOUTH OF MORGAN COUNTY?

### Support Students from Low-Income Households

The majority of students prioritized financial assistance for students from low-income families, and would fund:

- Free school lunches and improved access to food for low-income households
- School books, materials, and extracurricular activities
- Transportation to and from school/activities/work, especially during the winter
- Basic needs such as shoes, clothes, haircuts
- Scholarship programs to make continuing education a realistic goal, and driver's education possible
- Mobile hotspots to check out so all students can access internet at home

*"I would work towards making sure financial problems would never distract from a student's education."*

### Develop Recreational and Safe Spaces for Youth

While hometowns vary in regards to recreational facilities, there is countywide consensus that there aren't enough locations for safe, healthy, and inexpensive recreation. Suggested upgrades include:

- Build youth centers / clubhouses where kids can gather and just hang out, work on homework
- Improve recreation centers to make them more teen-friendly, not just for little kids
- Build/revitalize basketball courts, skate parks, pool, YMCA-type gym
- Mall, movie theater, bowling, roller rink, arcade

#### Student Insight

Students would like to be involved in the design and management of youth centers, and suggest that they are located near school to avoid transportation issues.

# MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH SURVEY

## IF YOU HAD UNLIMITED MONEY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR THE YOUTH OF MORGAN COUNTY?

### Offer Innovative/Alternative Courses and Schedules

In addition to highlighting a countywide demand for more coursework related to trades and life skills, students would like to see courses offering:

Life Skills	Finances, professional development, leadership, household management
Business Skills	Opportunities to develop/practice innovative, entrepreneurial thinking
Foreign Languages	Via online learning if no teachers are available
Alternative Academics	Options for students who struggle in the current system
Non-College Readiness	To prepare students for trades, business, etc. and validate their career goals
Arts	Fine arts, performing arts, careers in the arts

### Upgrade School Facilities/Amenities

Students shared some frustrations about their school facilities, and would like to spend money on:

- Bathrooms - fixing sinks, toilets, doors, tiles
- More drinking fountains
- Better health clinics
- Upgraded sports equipment and facilities
- More windows in classrooms
- iPads and better computers
- Healthier lunches - fresh produce, plant-based options

### Teen-Run Safe Space

A few students suggested the creation of a teen-run safe space, offering peer counseling and a place for students to share their approaches to dealing with trouble at home, anxiety about the future, addiction, and peer pressure, etc.

# MORGAN COUNTY YOUTH SURVEY

## WHO OR WHAT INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?

### Response Trends and Themes

While responses were mostly specific to individuals, Morgan County youth report being inspired by people who:

Work Hard	Especially those working for low wages and juggling many responsibilities
Show Resilience	People who have overcome hardships; beat the odds
Achieve Success	Parents supporting their families, underdogs
Are Individuals	Inventors, norms-breaking celebrities, artists
Take Time to Listen	Youth pastors, grandparents, friends, teachers, coaches

I started Key Club this year and it's inspired me to volunteer and make a difference more.

My grandmother. She inspires me to look for the best in every situation.

The police risking their lives everyday to help the community, because I want to make an impact in my community.

Family and friends that work blue collar jobs.

