

2012-13 Texas Education Agency Texas School Completion and Dropout Report

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The Texas Education Agency released its latest dropout and school completion report in August 2014. This report entitled, *Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools 2012-13*, presented information on the number and percent of seventh through 12th grade students who left school prior to

graduation with a high school diploma. The report also presented information on high school graduation and completion. For the eighth year, TEA used the dropout definition and calculation methods mandated by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

This latest report shows a 1.6 percent annual dropout rate for grades 7-12, and a 2.2 percent annual dropout rate for grades 9-12. In the previous year (2011-12), TEA reported a 1.7 percent annual dropout rate for grades 7-12, and a 2.4 percent annual dropout rate for grades 9-12. TEA reports that the number of

Texas Annual Dropout Rates – High School, Reported by the Texas Education Agency, 1994-95 to 2012-13

School Year	Dropouts	Students	Annual Dropout Rate (%) By Group, Grades 9-12				
			African American	Hispanic	White	Other	Total
1994-95	26,499	1,058,191	3.3	3.6	1.6	1.5	2.5
1995-96	24,574	1,085,859	2.8	3.2	1.4	1.2	2.2
1996-97	24,414	1,124,991	2.9	3.1	1.3	1.4	2.2
1997-98	24,886	1,145,910	3.3	3.1	1.2	1.2	2.2
1998-99	27,592	1,773,117	2.3	2.3	0.8	0.9	1.6
1999-00	21,439	1,163,883	2.6	2.7	1.0	1.0	1.8
2000-01	16,003	1,180,252	1.8	2.0	0.8	0.7	1.4
2001-02	15,117	1,202,108	1.8	1.9	0.6	0.7	1.3
2002-03	15,665	1,230,483	1.7	1.9	0.6	0.6	1.3
2003-04	15,160	1,252,016	1.4	1.9	0.6	0.6	1.2
2004-05	17,056	1,273,950	1.7	2.0	0.7	0.6	1.3
2005-06*	48,803	1,317,993	5.4	5.2	1.8	1.5	3.7
2006-07*	52,418	1,333,837	5.8	5.4	1.9	1.5	3.9
2007-08*	43,808	1,350,921	5.0	4.4	1.5	1.2	3.2
2008-09*	38,720	1,356,249	4.4	3.8	1.3	1.1	2.9
2009-10*	33,235	1,377,330	3.9	3.1	1.1	1.2	2.4
2010-11*	32,833	1,394,523	3.6	3.0	1.1	1.1	2.4
2011-12*	34,285	1,407,697	3.8	3.1	1.2	2.5	2.4
2012-13*	31,509	1,428,819	3.3	2.8	1.1	3.1	2.2

*The 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13 dropout rate was calculated using the National Center for Education Statistics dropout definition. Using the NCES definition, a dropout is defined as "a student who is enrolled in public school in grades 7-12, does not return to public school the following fall, is not expelled, and does not graduate, receive a General Education Development (GED) certificate, continue school outside the public school system, begin college, or die." In order to implement the legislative requirements for the computation of dropout rates, TEA had to make changes in some dates affecting dropout status and some changes in groups of students who had not been considered dropouts previously.

Source: Texas Education Agency, Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools 2012-13, August 2014.

school dropouts for grades seven through 12 decreased from 36,276 in 2011-12 to 34,696 in 2012-13, a decrease of 4.3 percent (see table on Page 27). The annual dropout rate for grades 7-12 increased from 1.7 percent in 2011-12 to 1.6 in 2012-13, a decrease of 5.9 percent or 0.1 percentage points.

Of the 34,696 dropouts in the latest report, 3,187 were in grades 7-8, and 31,509 were in grades 9-12. The attrition rate for the class of 2013 (grades 9-12) was 22.1 percent – down from 23.1 percent for the class of 2012.

At the high school level (grades 9-12), TEA reported that the number of school dropouts decreased from 34,285 in 2011-12 to 31,509 in 2012-13, a decrease of 8.1 percent (see table on Page 25). The annual dropout rate for grades 9-12 decreased from 2.4 percent in 2011-12 to 2.2 percent in 2012-13, an 8.3 percent decrease. Across race-ethnicity groups, the annual dropout rate was 3.3 percent for African American students, 2.8 percent for Hispanic students and 1.1 percent for White students. Each group showed a decrease.

At the middle school level (grades 7-8), TEA reported that the number of school dropouts increased from 1,991 in 2011-12 to 3,187 in 2012-13, an increase of 60.1 percent. The annual dropout rate for grades 7-8 increased from 0.3 percent in 2011-12 to 0.4 percent in 2012-13. Across race-ethnicity groups, the annual dropout rate was 0.4 percent for African American students, 0.6 percent for Hispanic students and 0.2 percent for White students.

Since the use of the NCES dropout definition, the total number of dropouts reported by TEA at grades 7-12 increased from 18,290 in 2004-05 to 51,841 in 2005-06 and to 55,306 in 2006-07, but declined to 45,796 in 2007-08, to 40,923 in 2008-09, to 34,907 in 2009-10, and 34,363 in 2010-11, but increased to 36,276 in 2011-12, and declined to 34,696 in 2012-13. From 2004-05 to 2012-13, the number of dropouts increased by 16,406 students or by 89.7 percent. **The dropout count was 1.90 times higher in 2012-13 than in 2004-05.** It is apparent that the use of the NCES definition mandated by the 78th Texas Legislature's passage of Senate Bill 186 in 2003 has a dramatic impact on dropout counting and reporting in Texas.

TEA reported a Grade 9 longitudinal dropout

rate of 6.6 percent for the class of 2013 up from 6.3 percent for the class of 2012. The reported longitudinal dropout rate for African American students (9.9 percent) was nearly three times as high as the rate for White students (3.5 percent). Hispanic students had an 8.2 percent longitudinal dropout rate which was 2.34 times higher than the rate for White students.

The reported 7-8 grade dropout rate was 0.4 percent, while the 9-12 grade dropout rate was 2.2 percent. The annual dropout rates for African American and Hispanic students in grades 9-12 were much higher than the rates for White students. The rate for African American and Hispanic students was three times higher at grades 9-12. The reported 2010-11 dropout rate for African American students was 3.00 times higher than that of White students, and the rate for Hispanic students was 2.55 times higher than the rate for White students.

During the 2012-13 school year, TEA tracked school leaver reasons in 17 areas (see the table on Page 28). For each reported school leaver, school districts were allowed to report one of these reasons as to why the student is not counted as a dropout.

To conclude, the review of the latest dropout and school completion data from TEA shows a mixed picture. On one hand, the report shows a reduction in the dropout rate and number of dropouts at grades 9-12. On the other hand, the report shows an increase in the dropout rate and number of dropouts at the middle school level. Little improvement is shown in the reduction of the disparity gap in the dropout rate between African American students and White students, and between Hispanic students and White students. It is also apparent that the use of the national dropout definition exposes the fallacies of dropout counting and reporting in Texas, and the need to expand efforts to increase school holding power in Texas' public schools.

Resources

Texas Education Agency. *Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools 2012-13* (Austin, Texas: Texas Education Agency, August 2014).

Texas Education Agency. *Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13* (Austin, Texas: Texas Education Agency).

Texas Annual Dropout Rates – Middle and High School, Reported by the Texas Education Agency, 1987-88 to 2012-13

School Year	Dropouts	Students	Annual Dropout Rate (%) By Group, Grades 7-12				
			African American	Hispanic	White	Other	Total
1987-88	91,307	1,363,198	8.4	8.8	5.1	6.1	6.7
1988-89	82,325	1,360,115	7.5	8.1	4.5	4.9	6.1
1989-90	70,040	1,361,494	6.7	7.2	3.5	4.3	5.1
1990-91	53,965	1,372,738	4.8	5.6	2.7	3.1	3.9
1991-92	53,420	1,406,838	4.8	5.5	2.5	2.9	3.8
1992-93	43,402	1,533,197	3.6	4.2	1.7	2.0	2.8
1993-94	40,211	1,576,015	3.2	3.9	1.5	1.7	2.6
1994-95	29,918	1,617,522	2.3	2.7	1.2	1.1	1.8
1995-96	29,207	1,662,578	2.3	2.5	1.1	1.1	1.8
1996-97	26,901	1,705,972	2.0	2.3	1.0	0.9	1.6
1997-98	27,550	1,743,139	2.1	2.3	0.9	1.1	1.6
1998-99	27,592	1,773,117	2.3	2.3	0.8	0.9	1.6
1999-00	23,457	1,794,521	1.8	1.9	0.7	0.7	1.3
2000-01	17,563	1,818,940	1.3	1.4	0.5	0.5	1.0
2001-02	16,622	1,849,680	1.3	1.3	0.4	0.5	0.9
2002-03	17,151	1,891,361	1.2	1.4	0.4	0.4	0.9
2003-04	16,434	1,924,717	1.0	1.3	0.4	0.4	0.9
2004-05	18,290	1,954,752	1.2	1.4	0.5	0.4	0.9
2005-06*	51,841	2,016,470	3.8	3.5	1.3	1.1	2.6
2006-07*	55,306	2,023,570	4.1	3.7	1.3	1.1	2.7
2007-08*	45,796	2,042,203	3.5	3.0	1.1	0.9	2.2
2008-09*	40,923	2,060,701	3.1	2.6	0.9	0.8	2.0
2009-10*	34,907	2,091,390	2.7	2.1	0.8	0.8	1.7
2010-11*	34,363	2,122,414	2.5	2.1	0.8	0.8	1.6
2011-12*	36,276	2,150,364	2.6	2.1	0.8	1.7	1.7
2012-13*	34,696	2,189,442	2.3	2.0	0.8	2.2	1.6

*The 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13 dropout rate was calculated using the National Center for Education Statistics dropout definition. Using the NCES definition, a dropout is defined as "a student who is enrolled in public school in grades 7-12, does not return to public school the following fall, is not expelled, and does not graduate, received a General Education Development (GED) certificate, continue school outside the public school system, begin college, or die." In order to implement the legislative requirements for the computation of dropout rates, TEA had to make changes in some dates affecting dropout status and some changes in groups of students who had not been considered dropouts previously.

Source: Texas Education Agency, Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools 2012-13, August 2014.

Exit Reasons for School Leavers, Grades 7-12, 2005-06 to 2012-13 Reported by the Texas Education Agency

Leaver Reasons (Code)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Graduated or received an out-of-state GED								
Graduated from a campus in this district or charter (01)	240,485	241,193	252,121	264,275	280,520	290,581	292,636	301,418
Graduated outside Texas before entering Texas public school, entered a Texas public school, and left again (85)	318	160	85	42	76	--	46	97
Completed GED outside Texas (86)	139	136	147	104	107	61	61	98
Graduated from another state under provisions of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Minority Children (90)							18	22
Moved to other educational setting								
Withdrew from/left school to enter college and is working toward an Associate's or Bachelor's degree (24)	439	712	748	763	651	673	399	380
Withdrew from/left school for home schooling (60)	16,811	20,716	22,622	20,948	20,214	20,876	20,629	21,375
Removed by CPS and the district has not been informed of the student's current status or enrollment (66)	282	287	294	194	232	702	232	239
Withdrew from/left school to enroll in a private school in Texas (81)	8,429	10,722	12,086	12,516	12,307	12,079	11,553	10,767
Withdrew from/left school to enroll in a public or private school outside Texas (82)	55,266	43,145	38,937	37,718	37,642	36,356	37,323	34,857
Withdrew from/left school to enroll in the Texas Tech University ISD High School Diploma Program or the University of Texas at Austin High School Diploma Program (87)	NA	94	272	214	252	262	269	273
Withdrawn by district								
Expelled under the provisions of the Texas Education Code §37.007 and cannot return to school (78)	591	585	481	526	637	253	242	153
Withdrawn by district when the district discovered that the student was not a resident at the time of enrollment, had falsified enrollment information, or had not provided proof of identification of immunization records (83)	2,724	2,536	1,379	1,161	719	505	408	355
Other reasons								
Died while enrolled in school or during the summer break after completing the prior school year (03)	719	733	601	611	603	546	579	565
Withdrew from/left school to return to family's home country (16)	14,932	15,985	16,601	15,319	14,446	13,816	13,089	12,059
Student was ordered by a court to attend a GED program and has not earned a GED certificate (88)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,506	2,063	1,857
Student was incarcerated in a state jail or federal penitentiary as an adult or as a person certified to stand trial as an adult (89)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	516	533	380
Other (reason unknown or not listed above) (98)	52,595	55,485	45,888	40,972	34,949	31,367	33,721	32,499
All leaver reasons	393,730	392,489	392,262	395,363	403,355	411,140	413,801	417,394

Source: Texas Education Agency, Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools, 2005-06 to 2012-13.