

# Education in Texas Snapshot

September 2011

With college and career readiness as goals for all of our children, what is the status of education in our state?

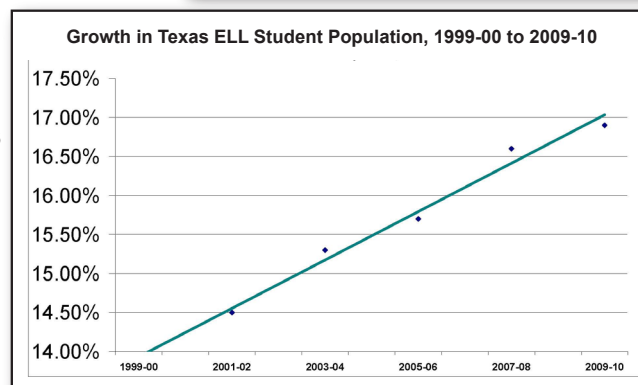
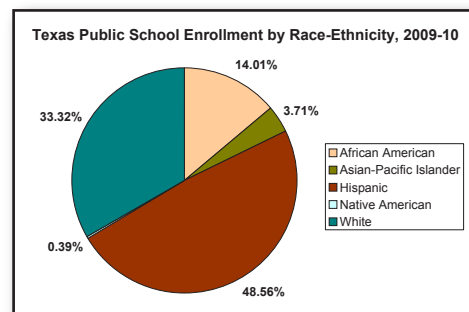
## Demographics

The Texas public school system serves more than 4.8 million children. In just a decade, enrollment has increased by more than 20 percent.

Almost of half (48.56 percent) of students enrolled in Texas public schools are Hispanic, and 14 percent are African American.

Almost three in every five students (58.85 percent) in Texas public schools are economically disadvantaged (TEA, 2010).

Over 800,000 students in Texas public schools are English language learners (defined as LEP). In the last decade, ELL enrollment has increased from 14 percent of enrollment in 1999-90 to 16.85 percent in 2009-10.



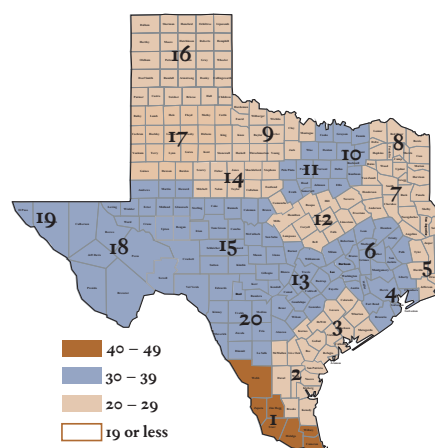
## Outcomes: Graduation and College Readiness

### Dropout and Graduation

In Texas, 29 percent of the freshman class of 2006-07 left school prior to graduating in the 2009-10 school year. Attrition rates in the state are higher in some regions (see graphic) and vary by student group.

For the class of 2009-10, Black students and Hispanic students are about two times more likely to leave school without graduating with a diploma than White students. (Johnson, 2011)

### Attrition Rate Ranges by Education Service Center Region, 2009-10



\* The 20 Texas regional education service centers were set up to help school districts improve student performance in their region, to enable school districts to operate more efficiently and economically, and to implement initiatives assigned by the legislature or the commissioner.



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Texas schools are losing a student every four minutes.

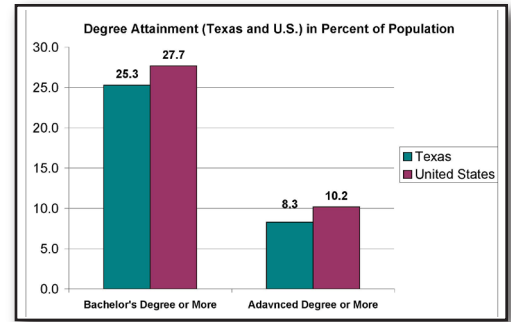
Based on one statistical scenario of Texas attrition rate history, the state will not reach an attrition rate of zero until 2040.

At this pace, the state will lose an additional 1.9 million to 3.5 million students.

## Higher Education Degree Attainment

Texas trails the nation in the attainment of bachelor's degrees and advanced degrees (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010; American FactFinder; 2008 American Community Survey).

Texas ranks 40<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the percentage of 25- to 34-year-olds with an associate degree or higher (College Board, 2010 based on U.S. Census Bureau ACS and CPS, 2010).



## College Access and Participation

Though Hispanic college enrollment in Texas increased by 175,248 between 2000 and 2009, the state fell short of meeting its 2010 Closing the Gaps target for Hispanic student enrollment by 16.5 percent (THECB, 2010).

In Texas, there is a 20 percent gap in college enrollment between economically disadvantaged college-prepared students and their equally qualified but more financially secure peers (TG, 2006).

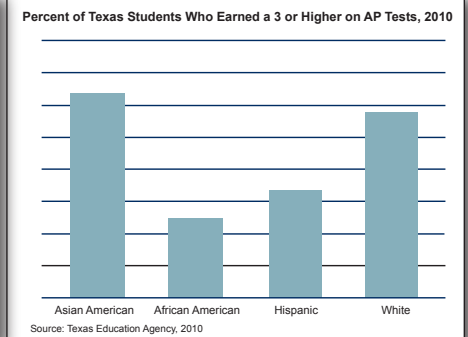
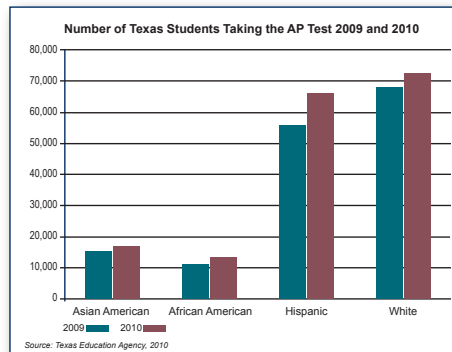
Although, the total cost to attend public four-year university is slightly less in Texas than the national average, Texas median family income is 10 percent lower (TG, 2006).

If the state were to reach its 2015 Closing the Gaps goals, it could expect to see an increase in annual output (in constant 2006 dollars compared to baseline) of \$194.5 billion (The Perryman Group, 2007).

## Curriculum Quality

### ACT/SAT and AP

An increasing number of Texas students are taking ACT, SAT and AP tests than in the past (Cortez, 2011; TEA, 2010), but considerable gaps remain in outcomes by subgroup and college credit accrual.

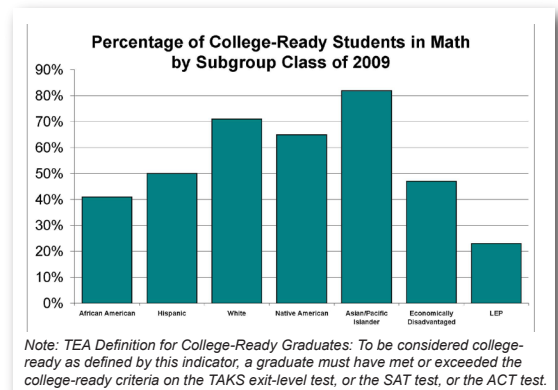


### College Readiness

Considering the college readiness standard on the TAKS for the class of 2009, 71 percent of White students in Texas were considered college-ready in mathematics, compared to 50 percent of Hispanic students, 41 percent of African American students and 23 percent of LEP students (TEA, 2010, AEIS report).

### AYP

Half of all Texas districts made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) federal accountability targets, down from 78 percent last year. Fewer than 5,600 Texas schools met the AYP; this represents 66 percent of all Texas schools.



For every dollar invested in education, nine dollars is returned.

## Teaching Quality

High poverty and high minority schools in Texas are more likely to have inexperienced teachers. Forty-three of the 50 largest school districts in Texas have the highest concentration of new teachers in the poorest schools (Education Trust, 2008, 2011).

In 2010, 13.1 percent of all teachers were assigned out of field. Middle schools had more out-of-field teachers than did the other grade levels at 22.1 percent. Secondary bilingual/ESL classes had the most out-of-field teachers of all at 85.0 percent.

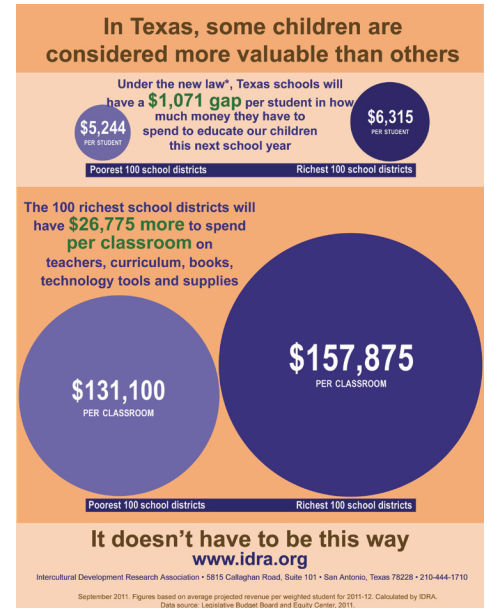
## Funding

There is a \$1,450 gap in per student spending between poorest and wealthiest 100 districts (IDRA Infographic, 2011).

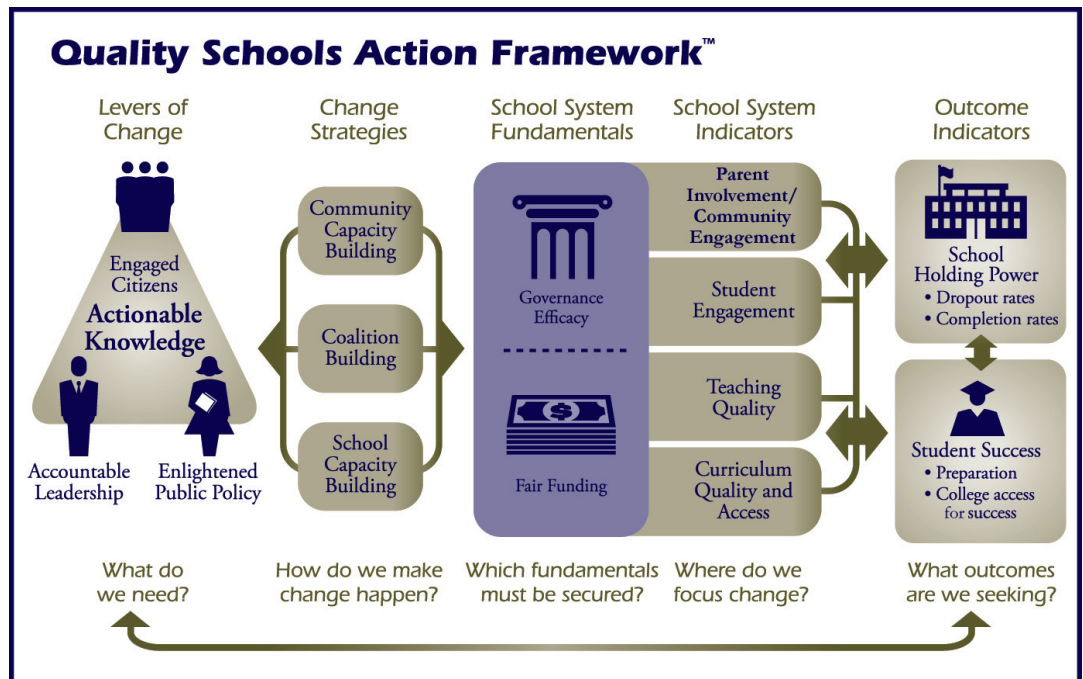
**\$8,540** = Average per pupil expenditures (2008-09) in Texas. The national average is \$10,499 (FEBP, 2010).

Texas ranks **42<sup>nd</sup>** among the states in per-pupil expenditures for K-12 education (FEBP, 2010).

(This calculation includes funds from federal, state, and local sources spent on day to day operating expenses, such as teacher salaries. It does not include capital expenses, such as school construction. From the Common Core of Data, NCES.)



IDRA's **Quality Schools Action Framework™** provides a lens for examining the status of our public schools around key foundations and indicators and an action model for achieving equal educational opportunity for all students.





Sign up to get IDRA's free monthly Graduation for All e-Letter! [www.idra.org](http://www.idra.org)

## Additional Research and Data for Planning and Action

### The Status of School Finance Equity in Texas – A 2009 Update

[http://www.idra.org/images/stories/IDRA\\_Fair\\_Funding\\_Update\\_2009.pdf](http://www.idra.org/images/stories/IDRA_Fair_Funding_Update_2009.pdf)

### The Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2010 Kids Count Data Book

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/>

### The State of Texas Children 2011: Texas KIDS COUNT Annual Data Book

Center for Public Policy Priorities <http://www.cppp.org/research.php?aid=1040&cid=10>

### Courage to Connect: A Quality Schools Action Framework™

<http://www.idra.org/couragetconnect/>

### IDRA Graduation for All e-letter

[http://www.idra.org/School\\_Holding\\_Power/Graduation\\_for\\_All\\_e-Letter/](http://www.idra.org/School_Holding_Power/Graduation_for_All_e-Letter/)

### IDRA's OurSchool data portal (see box below)

English: <http://www.idra.org/OurSchool>

Spanish: <http://www.idra.org/OurSchoolsp/>

### IDRA Texas Annual Attrition Study and Resources for Raising Graduation Rates

<http://www.idra.org/Research/Attrition/>

### Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/>

### InterAction: Higher Education and Latinos in the New Millennium

[http://www.idra.org/Equitable\\_Resources/Initiatives/InterAction/](http://www.idra.org/Equitable_Resources/Initiatives/InterAction/)

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U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census of Population, CPH-L-96; 2000 Census of Population, P37. 2008 American Community Survey, R1501, "Percent of Persons 25 Years and Over Who Have Completed High School," R1502, "Percent of Persons 25 Years and Over Who Have Completed a Bachelor's Degree," and R1503, "Percent of Persons 25 Years and Over Who Have Completed an Advanced Degree. Accessed 17 February 2010.

## Visit IDRA's OurSchool Data Portal

Designed to help educators and community members find out how well their high school campus is preparing and graduating students, what factors may be weakening school holding power, and what they can do together to address them.

### What's Included...

- Key data to help you determine whether high dropout rates and weak school holding power are a problem for your school.
- Actionable knowledge and key questions to spark conversations and action planning around: teaching quality, curriculum quality, attrition, college readiness, college access and college sending.
- Real-time data collection features via surveys (e.g., to measure parent engagement).
- Social networking features you can use to share data with others and attach charts or graphs, keep track of your own notes, or call a community-school meeting to work on a specific issue.
- Bilingual (Spanish/English) content.

