



High School Attrition Rates Across Texas Education Service Center Regions: 2009-10

by Roy L. Johnson, M.S.

This study examines regional trends in Texas for the number and percent of students lost from public high school enrollment prior to graduation. A comparative analysis of 1985-86, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 attrition rates in Texas' 20 education service center (ESC) regions shows that five regions have persistently higher rates of losing students from public school enrollment and that racial-ethnic gaps have increased in all regions.

In general, the *rate* of students lost has improved, while the *number* of students lost has increased.

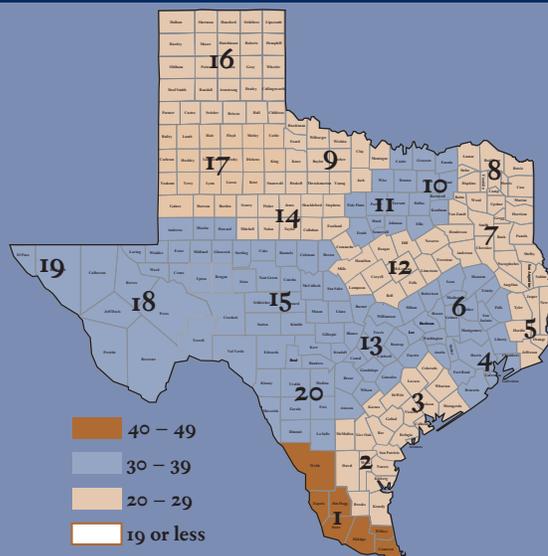
In 1965, Texas created a system of 20 regions with service centers to better target the provision of training and resources to school districts. The examination of historical trend data is becoming increasingly important since distinct trends are emerging on a regional basis.

ESC regions with traditionally high attrition rates are: Region 1 (Edinburg), Region 4 (Houston), Region 10 (Richardson), Region 19 (El Paso) and Region 20 (San Antonio).

“Since 1984, when Texas began counting dropouts, we have lost more than 3 million students. The cumulative cost is \$927 billion in forgone income, lost tax revenues and increased job training, welfare, unemployment and criminal justice costs.”

– Dr. María “Cuca” Robledo Montecel, IDRA President and CEO

Exhibit 1: 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.

For the most part, the highest attrition rates are concentrated in regions with the largest student enrollment counts, particularly those in urban areas and those with the largest low-income and minority populations.

The state education agency, schools and communities must work collaboratively to strengthen public schools' capacities to improve school holding power. Considering the persistently high attrition rates in some regions, targeted resources and support services to schools and communities will be needed in these regions.

Additional information about attrition in Texas is available in IDRA's statewide study released in October of 2010. The study and related material are online at www.idra.org/Research/Attrition. You can also see **trend graphs** of attrition data by county and by Texas ESC region online.

Exhibit 2: 2006-07 and 2009-10 Enrollment, 2009-10 Attrition in Texas Education Service Center Regions

ESC Region	2006-07 9th Grade Enrollment	2009-10 12th Grade Enrollment	2006-07 9-12th Grade Enrollment	2009-10 9-12th Grade Enrollment	Students Lost to Attrition	Attrition Rate (%)
Region 1 (Edinburg)	32,665	21,749	95,262	102,723	13,519	38
Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	9,164	6,418	29,965	28,603	2,342	27
Region 3 (Victoria)	4,655	3,279	15,612	14,840	1,184	26
Region 4 (Houston)	85,409	62,687	272,097	286,313	27,953	30
Region 5 (Beaumont)	6,920	5,094	23,164	22,682	1,708	25
Region 6 (Huntsville)	13,495	10,347	44,724	46,629	3,812	26
Region 7 (Kilgore)	13,487	10,009	46,363	44,888	3,131	23
Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	4,655	3,621	16,443	16,027	933	20
Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	3,193	2,596	11,375	10,702	422	14
Region 10 (Richardson)	57,049	41,658	183,219	191,994	18,697	30
Region 11 (Fort Worth)	41,702	31,115	137,433	142,789	12,502	28
Region 12 (Waco)	11,959	8,777	39,627	39,959	3,333	27
Region 13 (Austin)	27,367	21,624	90,303	97,703	8,193	27
Region 14 (Abilene)	3,893	2,779	12,975	12,349	946	25
Region 15 (San Angelo)	4,080	3,271	14,443	13,345	513	13
Region 16 (Amarillo)	6,428	5,299	22,358	22,486	1,192	18
Region 17 (Lubbock)	6,038	4,777	21,477	20,763	1,076	18
Region 18 (Midland)	6,048	4,630	21,333	21,083	1,381	23
Region 19 (El Paso)	16,273	11,725	50,052	52,677	5,434	32
Region 20 (San Antonio)	32,709	22,650	98,875	104,255	11,968	34
State of Texas	387,189	284,105	1,247,100	1,292,810	119,836	29

Figures calculated by IDRA from the Texas Education Agency Fall Membership Survey data. IDRA's 2009-10 attrition study involved the analysis of enrollment figures for public high school students in the ninth grade during 2006-07 school year and enrollment figures for 12th grade students in 2009-10. This period represents the time span when ninth grade students would be enrolled in school prior to graduation. The enrollment data for special school districts (military schools, state schools, and charter schools) were excluded from the analyses since they are likely to have unstable enrollments and/or lack a tax base to support school programs. The aggregate sum of individual regions may not equal the statewide sum due to rounding.
Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2011

Key Findings for 2009-10

Data in this study help to answer questions about regional trends in attrition rates and provide geographical comparisons among ESC regions (see map on Page 1). Seventeen regions had lower attrition rates in 2009-10 than they did in 1985-86, and 12 had a higher number of students lost to attrition in 2009-10 than they did in 1985-86.

Attrition rates ranged from a low of 13 percent in Region 15 (San Angelo) to a high of 38 percent in Region 1 (Edinburg). (See Exhibit 2.) In 2009-10, the state's average attrition rate was 29 percent. Fifteen regions (75 percent) had rates lower than the state average: Regions 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18.

Five regions (25 percent) had attrition rates higher than the state average: Regions 1, 4, 10, 19 and 20. See Exhibit 3 for rank order listing.

In 2009-10, 85 percent of the regions had lower attrition rates than in the inaugural year of Texas attrition studies. Seventeen of the 20 regions (90 percent) had lower attrition rates in 2009-10 than in 1985-86. Three (10 percent) had higher rates (see Exhibit 4 on Page 4).

The numbers of students lost to attrition in 2009-10 ranged from a low of 422 students in Region 9 (Wichita Falls) to a high of 27,953 students in Region 4 (Houston). See Exhibit 5 on Page 5.

Eight regions (40 percent) had lower numbers of students lost to attrition in 2009-10 than in 1985-86. And 12 (60 percent) had higher numbers of students lost.

Exhibit 3: Rank Order by Rate for All Students

Rank	ESC Region	Attrition Rate
1	Region 15 (San Angelo)	13
2	Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	14
3	Region 17 (Lubbock)	18
4	Region 16 (Amarillo)	18
5	Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	20
6	Region 18 (Midland)	23
6	Region 7 (Kilgore)	23
8	Region 14 (Abilene)	25
8	Region 5 (Beaumont)	25
10	Region 3 (Victoria)	26
10	Region 6 (Huntsville)	26
12	Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	27
12	Region 12 (Waco)	27
12	Region 13 (Austin)	27
15	Region 11 (Fort Worth)	28
16	Region 10 (Richardson)	30
16	Region 4 (Houston)	30
18	Region 19 (El Paso)	32
19	Region 20 (San Antonio)	34
20	Region 1 (Edinburg)	38

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2011

Get District- and High School-Level Data Using IDRA's OurSchool 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.



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

Exhibit 4: Attrition Rates in Texas Public High Schools By Education Service Center Region: 1985-86, 2005-06 to 2009-10

ESC Region	Attrition Rate (%)						Point Change 85-86 to 09-10	Percent Change 85-86 to 09-10
	1985-86	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10		
Region 1 (Edinburg)	43	46	46	44	41	38	-5	-11.63
Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	29	31	30	30	27	27	-2	-6.90
Region 3 (Victoria)	23	31	25	27	26	26	3	13.04
Region 4 (Houston)	37	37	37	35	33	30	-7	-18.92
Region 5 (Beaumont)	21	28	28	29	27	25	4	19.05
Region 6 (Huntsville)	34	32	29	28	27	26	-8	-23.53
Region 7 (Kilgore)	27	29	28	27	24	23	-4	-14.81
Region 8 (Mount Pleasant)	24	25	24	23	20	20	-4	-16.67
Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	26	22	22	18	15	14	-12	-46.15
Region 10 (Richardson)	34	37	35	34	31	30	-4	-11.76
Region 11 (Fort Worth)	30	36	34	32	30	28	-2	-6.67
Region 12 (Waco)	26	31	31	30	28	27	1	3.85
Region 13 (Austin)	35	31	31	29	27	27	-8	-22.86
Region 14 (Abilene)	28	25	26	26	25	25	-3	-10.71
Region 15 (San Angelo)	32	25	23	21	18	13	-19	-59.38
Region 16 (Amarillo)	25	26	25	22	19	18	-7	-28.00
Region 17 (Lubbock)	27	18	20	19	19	18	-9	-33.33
Region 18 (Midland)	33	28	26	28	24	23	-10	-30.30
Region 19 (El Paso)	38	37	35	34	34	32	-6	-15.79
Region 20 (San Antonio)	36	34	36	38	37	34	-2	-5.56
State of Texas	33	35	34	33	31	29	-4	-12.12

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2011

Additional Resources Online



Texas Public School Attrition Study, 2009-10 – More than 3 Million Students Have Been Lost from Texas High Schools Since 1986

Supplemental Analysis
– “Sluggish Attrition Rate

Descent Means 1.9 Million to 3.5 Million More Texas Students May be Lost”



Look Up Your Region or County

– See attrition rates and numbers over the last 10 years

Ideas and Strategies for Action

Tool – Quality School Holding Power Checklist



OurSchool data portal – see district- and high school-level data, in English and Spanish

Overview of the **Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program**, which keeps 98 percent of students in school

Set of **principles for policymakers and school leaders**

Frequently Asked Questions

www.idra.org

Also see www.delicious.com/IDRA for related articles and studies (keyword: dropouts)

Exhibit 5: Attrition Counts in Texas Public High Schools By Education Service Center Region: 1985-86, 2005-06 to 2009-10

ESC Region	Attrition Rate (%)						Number Change 85-86 to 09-10	Percent Change 85-86 to 09-10
	1985-86	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10		
Region 1 (Edinburg)	7,571	14,634	15,098	14,957	14,469	13,519	5,948	78.60
Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	2,302	2,935	2,797	2,787	2,452	2,342	40	1.74
Region 3 (Victoria)	932	1,528	1,187	1,282	1,189	1,184	252	27.04
Region 4 (Houston)	20,577	32,903	33,034	31,851	30,252	27,953	7,376	35.85
Region 5 (Beaumont)	1,480	2,023	1,981	1,969	1,815	1,708	228	15.41
Region 6 (Huntsville)	2,881	4,532	3,939	3,830	3,781	3,812	931	32.32
Region 7 (Kilgore)	3,228	4,287	3,917	3,747	3,330	3,131	-97	-3.00
Region 8 (Mount Pleasant)	974	1,229	1,171	1,075	941	933	-41	-4.21
Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	806	740	730	576	459	422	-384	-47.64
Region 10 (Richardson)	12,333	22,695	20,696	20,574	18,765	18,697	6,364	51.60
Region 11 (Fort Worth)	6,598	16,015	15,305	14,474	13,553	12,502	5,904	89.48
Region 12 (Waco)	1,957	3,750	3,875	3,695	3,461	3,333	1,376	70.31
Region 13 (Austin)	5,084	8,515	8,529	8,426	8,146	8,193	3,109	61.15
Region 14 (Abilene)	1,051	958	1,006	997	908	946	-105	-9.99
Region 15 (San Angelo)	1,346	1,041	968	852	698	513	-833	-61.89
Region 16 (Amarillo)	1,431	1,727	1,712	1,429	1,282	1,192	-239	-16.70
Region 17 (Lubbock)	1,624	1,096	1,176	1,138	1,093	1,076	-548	-33.74
Region 18 (Midland)	1,981	1,791	1,697	1,768	1,500	1,381	-600	-30.29
Region 19 (El Paso)	4,284	5,703	5,549	5,554	5,719	5,434	1,150	26.84
Region 20 (San Antonio)	8,208	10,210	11,065	12,380	12,532	11,968	3,760	45.81
State of Texas	86,276	137,162	134,676	132,815	125,508	119,836	33,560	38.90

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2011

Stay Up to Date with IDRA's Graduation for All e-Letter

Get up-to-date information to make a difference in your school and community with IDRA's free monthly e-letter (bilingual: Spanish/English).



Sign up online at: <http://www.idra.org>

Findings by Race and Ethnicity

The attrition rates for **Black students** across the ESC regions ranged from a low of less than 1 percent in Region 15 (San Angelo) to a high of 41 percent in Region 20 (San Antonio). The numbers of Black students lost to attrition ranged from zero in Region 15 (San Angelo) to a high of 7,327 in Region 4 (Houston). See Exhibits 6 and 9.

Attrition rates for **White students** across regions ranged from a low of 6 percent in Region 15 (San Angelo) to a high of 20 percent in Region 5 (Beaumont), Region 6 (Huntsville), and Region 20 (San Antonio). The numbers of White students lost to attrition ranged from a low of 91 in Region 15 (San Angelo) to a high of 3,999 in Region 11 (Fort Worth). See Exhibits 7 and 9.

For **Hispanic students**, attrition rates across regions ranged from a low of 21 percent in Region 15 (San Angelo) to a high of 45 percent in Region 10 (Richardson). The numbers of Hispanic students lost to attrition ranged from a low of 176 in Region 9 (Wichita Falls) to a high of 16,842 in Region 4 (Houston). See Exhibits 8 and 9.

Graphs of attrition by race and ethnicity for each ESC region are available online at: www.idra.org.

Exhibit 6: Rank Order and Rates for Black Students

Rank	ESC Region	Attrition Rate
1	Region 15 (San Angelo)	**
2	Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	19
3	Region 17 (Lubbock)	20
4	Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	24
4	Region 7 (Kilgore)	24
6	Region 1 (Edinburg)	25
7	Region 3 (Victoria)	27
8	Region 18 (Midland)	28
8	Region 16 (Amarillo)	28
10	Region 5 (Beaumont)	29
11	Region 6 (Huntsville)	30
11	Region 19 (El Paso)	30
11	Region 13 (Austin)	30
14	Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	31
15	Region 10 (Richardson)	34
16	Region 12 (Waco)	35
16	Region 11 (Fort Worth)	35
16	Region 4 (Houston)	35
19	Region 14 (Abilene)	39
20	Region 20 (San Antonio)	41

**Attrition rate less than 1 percent
Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2011

Exhibit 7: Rank Order and Rates for White Students

Rank	ESC Region	Attrition Rate
1	Region 15 (San Angelo)	6
2	Region 17 (Lubbock)	7
2	Region 18 (Midland)	7
4	Region 3 (Victoria)	9
4	Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	9
6	Region 16 (Amarillo)	10
7	Region 1 (Edinburg)	11
8	Region 4 (Houston)	13
9	Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	14
9	Region 13 (Austin)	14
9	Region 10 (Richardson)	14
12	Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	15
13	Region 14 (Abilene)	17
13	Region 7 (Kilgore)	17
15	Region 19 (El Paso)	18
16	Region 12 (Waco)	19
16	Region 11 (Fort Worth)	19
18	Region 5 (Beaumont)	20
18	Region 6 (Huntsville)	20
18	Region 20 (San Antonio)	20

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2011

Exhibit 8: Rank Order and Rates for Hispanic Students

Rank	ESC Region	Attrition Rate
1	Region 15 (San Angelo)	21
2	Region 16 (Amarillo)	25
3	Region 17 (Lubbock)	27
4	Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	28
5	Region 18 (Midland)	31
5	Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	31
7	Region 19 (El Paso)	33
8	Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	35
9	Region 12 (Waco)	37
9	Region 14 (Abilene)	37
11	Region 1 (Edinburg)	39
11	Region 5 (Beaumont)	39
11	Region 20 (San Antonio)	39
14	Region 3 (Victoria)	40
15	Region 6 (Huntsville)	41
15	Region 13 (Austin)	41
17	Region 4 (Houston)	42
17	Region 7 (Kilgore)	42
17	Region 11 (Fort Worth)	42
20	Region 10 (Richardson)	45

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2011

Exhibit 9: Attrition Rates in Texas Public Schools By Education Service Center Region and Race-Ethnicity, 2009-10

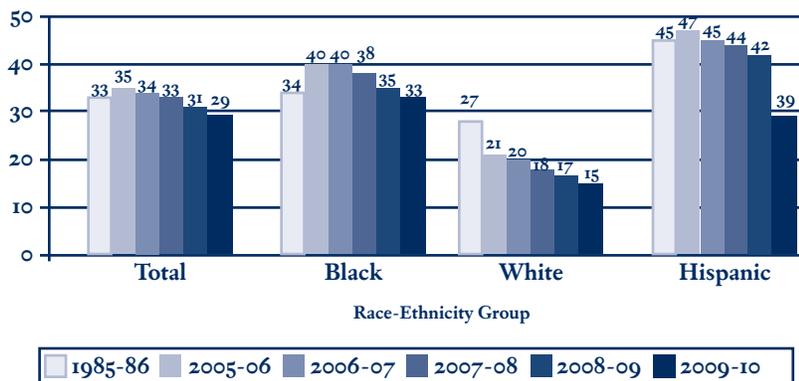
ESC Region	Attrition Rates ¹				Attrition Rates ²			
	Black	White	Hispanic	Total	Black	White	Hispanic	Total
Region 1 (Edinburg)	25	11	39	38	20	96	13,372	13,519
Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	31	14	31	27	99	327	1,895	2,342
Region 3 (Victoria)	27	9	40	26	128	150	889	1,184
Region 4 (Houston)	35	13	42	30	7,327	3,176	16,842	27,953
Region 5 (Beaumont)	29	20	39	25	607	744	328	1,708
Region 6 (Huntsville)	30	20	41	26	570	1,627	1,538	3,812
Region 7 (Kilgore)	24	17	42	23	663	1,232	1,184	3,131
Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	24	15	35	20	256	416	252	933
Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	19	9	28	14	56	180	176	422
Region 10 (Richardson)	34	14	45	30	4,383	2,729	11,043	18,697
Region 11 (Fort Worth)	35	19	42	28	2,379	3,999	5,687	12,502
Region 12 (Waco)	35	19	37	27	1,030	1,078	1,172	3,333
Region 13 (Austin)	30	14	41	27	913	1,890	5,166	8,193
Region 14 (Abilene)	39	17	37	25	113	366	457	946
Region 15 (San Angelo)	**	6	21	13	**	91	427	513
Region 16 (Amarillo)	28	10	25	18	118	328	690	1,192
Region 17 (Lubbock)	20	7	27	18	96	149	827	1,076
Region 18 (Midland)	28	7	31	23	103	136	1,137	1,381
Region 19 (El Paso)	30	18	33	32	143	209	5,038	5,434
Region 20 (San Antonio)	41	20	39	34	1,089	1,525	9,189	11,968
Statewide	33	15	39	29	20,051	20,416	76,991	119,836

¹Calculated by: (1) dividing the high school enrollment in the end year by the high school enrollment in the base year; (2) multiplying the results from Calculation 1 by the ninth grade enrollment in the base year; (3) subtracting the results from Calculation 2 from the 12th grade enrollment in the end year; and (4) dividing the results of Calculation 3 by the result of Calculation 2. The attrition rate results (percentages) were rounded to the nearest whole number.

²The aggregate sum of individual regions may not equal the statewide sum due to rounding.

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2011

Exhibit 10: Attrition Rates by Race-Ethnicity



Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2011

Attrition Rate Gaps Increase

Statewide, about three of every 10 students leave school prior to graduating with a high school diploma. The overall attrition rate has declined from 33 percent in 1985-86 to 29 percent in 2009-10 (see Exhibit 10 on Page 7).

The gaps between the attrition rates of White students and Hispanic students and Black students have increased. In all regions, the gap between the attrition rates of White students and Black students has increased dramatically, some by more than 18 points. In 13 regions, the gap between the attrition rates of White students and Hispanic students has increased as well.

The regions with the worst attrition rates for Black students are: Region 20 (San Antonio), 41 percent; Region 14 (Abilene), 39 percent; Region 4 (Houston), 35 percent; Region 11 (Fort Worth), 35 percent; and Region 12 (Waco), 35 percent.

The regions with the worst attrition rates for Hispanic students are: Region 10 (Richardson), 45 percent; Region 11 (Fort Worth), 42 percent; Region 7 (Kilgore), 42 percent; and Region 4 (Houston), 42 percent.

IDRA releases its annual attrition study each October. Attrition rates are an indicator of a school's holding power, or ability to keep students enrolled in school and learning until they graduate. IDRA has used the same methodology since its inaugural statewide study in 1986. IDRA conducted Texas' first-ever comprehensive statewide study of high school dropouts using a high school attrition formula to estimate the number and percent of students who leave school prior to graduation. The study in 1986 was the state's first major effort to assess the school holding power of Texas public schools. The annual attrition studies since then include county-level data by race and ethnicity. Trend graphs of high school attrition in each Texas county are available online

Exhibit 11: 1985-86 and 2009-10 Gap, Hispanic Students

ESC Region	1985-86			2009-10			Point Increase in Gap 85-86 to 09-10
	White	Hispanic	Gap	White	Hispanic	Gap	
Region 1 (Edinburg)	27	45	18	11	39	28	10
Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	23	32	9	14	31	17	8
Region 3 (Victoria)	15	35	20	9	40	31	11
Region 4 (Houston)	31	55	24	13	42	29	5
Region 5 (Beaumont)	20	35	15	20	39	19	4
Region 6 (Huntsville)	34	50	16	20	41	21	5
Region 7 (Kilgore)	28	59	31	17	42	25	-6
Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	25	47	22	15	35	20	-2
Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	25	42	17	9	28	19	2
Region 10 (Richardson)	28	58	30	14	45	31	1
Region 11 (Fort Worth)	28	49	21	19	42	23	2
Region 12 (Waco)	25	34	9	19	37	18	9
Region 13 (Austin)	28	48	20	14	41	27	7
Region 14 (Abilene)	23	44	21	17	37	20	-1
Region 15 (San Angelo)	24	44	20	6	21	15	-5
Region 16 (Amarillo)	21	41	20	10	25	15	-5
Region 17 (Lubbock)	16	43	27	7	27	20	-7
Region 18 (Midland)	26	45	19	7	31	24	5
Region 19 (El Paso)	31	41	10	18	33	15	5
Region 20 (San Antonio)	23	44	21	20	39	19	-2
State of Texas	27	45	18	15	39	24	6

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2011

Exhibit 12: 1985-86 and 2009-10 Gap, Black Students

ESC Region	1985-86			2009-10			Point Increase in Gap 85-86 to 09-10
	White	Black	Gap	White	Black	Gap	
Region 1 (Edinburg)	27	30	3	11	25	14	11
Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	23	28	5	14	31	17	12
Region 3 (Victoria)	15	20	5	9	27	18	13
Region 4 (Houston)	31	39	8	13	35	22	14
Region 5 (Beaumont)	20	19	-1	20	29	9	10
Region 6 (Huntsville)	34	27	-7	20	30	10	17
Region 7 (Kilgore)	28	21	-7	17	24	7	14
Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	25	20	-5	15	24	9	14
Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	25	20	-5	9	19	10	15
Region 10 (Richardson)	28	39	11	14	34	20	9
Region 11 (Fort Worth)	28	32	4	19	35	16	12
Region 12 (Waco)	25	23	-2	19	35	16	18
Region 13 (Austin)	28	43	15	14	30	16	1
Region 14 (Abilene)	23	34	11	17	39	22	11
Region 15 (San Angelo)	24	31	7	6	**	**	**
Region 16 (Amarillo)	21	23	2	10	28	18	16
Region 17 (Lubbock)	16	25	9	7	20	13	4
Region 18 (Midland)	26	28	2	7	28	21	19
Region 19 (El Paso)	31	19	-12	18	30	12	24
Region 20 (San Antonio)	23	37	14	20	41	21	7
State of Texas	27	34	7	15	33	18	11

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2011

Historical Analysis

IDRA compared previous attrition study results to examine trends across Texas regions. The following provides an overview of key findings.

Findings from 1985-86

In its inaugural comprehensive study of school dropouts in Texas public schools completed in 1986, IDRA found that attrition rates ranged from a low of 21 percent in Region 5 (Beaumont) to a high of 43 percent in Region 1 (Edinburg), compared to the state average of 33 percent (see Exhibit 13).

Twelve regions (60 percent) had rates lower than the state average, seven (35 percent) had rates

higher than the state average, and one (5 percent) had a rate equal to the state average.

The regions with attrition rates lower than the state average included: Regions 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17.

The regions with attrition rates higher than the state average were: Regions 1, 4, 6, 10, 13, 19 and 20.

The attrition rate for Region 18 matched the state average.

Exhibit 14 shows regional attrition rates and numbers of students lost by racial-ethnic group.

Exhibit 13: 1982-83 and 1985-86 Enrollment, 1985-86 Attrition in Texas Education Service Center Regions

ESC Region	1982-83 9th Grade Enrollment	1985-86 12th Grade Enrollment	1982-83 9-12th Grade Enrollment	1985-86 9-12th Grade Enrollment	Students Lost to Attrition	Attrition Rate (%)
Region 1 (Edinburg)	15,251	9,891	45,208	51,619	7,571	43
Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	7,893	5,708	28,302	28,682	2,302	29
Region 3 (Victoria)	4,227	3,195	15,659	15,289	932	23
Region 4 (Houston)	52,203	34,461	168,587	176,898	20,577	37
Region 5 (Beaumont)	7,285	5,597	26,836	26,038	1,480	21
Region 6 (Huntsville)	8,104	5,651	27,026	28,372	2,881	34
Region 7 (Kilgore)	11,269	8,724	39,876	42,187	3,228	27
Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	3,970	3,035	14,687	14,830	974	24
Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	3,058	2,321	11,161	11,407	806	26
Region 10 (Richardson)	33,285	23,306	111,883	119,395	12,333	34
Region 11 (Fort Worth)	19,737	15,468	69,968	78,058	6,598	30
Region 12 (Waco)	7,158	5,632	26,443	28,026	1,957	26
Region 13 (Austin)	12,967	9,697	43,381	49,662	5,084	35
Region 14 (Abilene)	3,621	2,674	12,580	12,921	1,051	28
Region 15 (San Angelo)	4,033	2,798	13,146	13,460	1,346	32
Region 16 (Amarillo)	5,590	4,323	20,155	20,704	1,431	25
Region 17 (Lubbock)	6,180	4,375	21,933	21,267	1,624	27
Region 18 (Midland)	5,784	3,956	19,691	20,134	1,981	33
Region 19 (El Paso)	10,330	7,024	3,2147	35,105	4,284	38
Region 20 (San Antonio)	21,174	14,451	69,373	74,209	8,208	36
State of Texas	243,119	172,287	818,042	868,263	86,276	33

Figures calculated by IDRA from the Texas Education Agency Fall Membership Survey data. IDRA's 1985-86 attrition study involved the analysis of enrollment figures for public high school students in the ninth grade during 1982-83 school year and enrollment figures for 12th grade students in 1985-86. This period represents the time span when ninth grade students would be enrolled in school prior to graduation. The enrollment data for special school districts (military schools, state schools, and charter schools) were excluded from the analyses since they are likely to have unstable enrollments and/or lack a tax base to support school programs. The aggregate sum of individual regions may not equal the statewide sum due to rounding.

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2011

Exhibit 14: Attrition Rates in Texas Public Schools By Education Service Center Region and Race-Ethnicity, 1985-86

ESC Region	Attrition Rates ¹				Number Lost ²			
	Black	White	Hispanic	Total	Black	White	Hispanic	Total
Region 1 (Edinburg)	30	27	45	43	6	348	7,210	7,571
Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	28	23	32	29	64	658	1,540	2,302
Region 3 (Victoria)	20	15	35	23	98	327	482	932
Region 4 (Houston)	39	31	55	37	4,851	9,192	5,723	20,577
Region 5 (Beaumont)	19	20	35	21	361	985	69	1,480
Region 6 (Huntsville)	27	34	50	34	342	2,232	282	2,881
Region 7 (Kilgore)	21	28	59	27	543	2,487	184	3,228
Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	20	25	47	24	205	750	11	974
Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	20	25	42	26	48	633	118	806
Region 10 (Richardson)	39	28	58	34	3,094	6,410	2,428	12,333
Region 11 (Fort Worth)	32	28	49	30	769	4,742	956	6,598
Region 12 (Waco)	23	25	34	26	305	1,374	248	1,957
Region 13 (Austin)	43	28	48	35	695	2,625	1,697	5,084
Region 14 (Abilene)	34	23	44	28	77	620	356	1,051
Region 15 (San Angelo)	31	24	44	32	40	548	748	1,346
Region 16 (Amarillo)	23	21	41	25	61	880	469	1,431
Region 17 (Lubbock)	25	16	43	27	118	515	978	1,624
Region 18 (Midland)	28	26	45	33	97	872	1,008	1,981
Region 19 (El Paso)	19	31	41	38	56	762	3,464	4,284
Region 20 (San Antonio)	37	23	44	36	518	1,756	5,683	8,208
Statewide	34	27	45	33	12,268	38,717	33,583	86,276

¹Calculated by: (1) dividing the high school enrollment in the end year by the high school enrollment in the base year; (2) multiplying the results from Calculation 1 by the ninth grade enrollment in the base year; (3) subtracting the results from Calculation 2 from the 12th grade enrollment in the end year; and (4) dividing the results of Calculation 3 by the result of Calculation 2. The attrition rate results (percentages) were rounded to the nearest whole number.

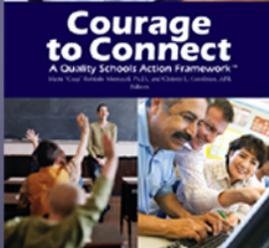
²The aggregate sum of individual regions may not equal the statewide sum due to rounding.

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2011



Courage to Connect A Quality Schools Action Framework™

Edited by María "Cuca" Robledo Montecel, Ph.D.,
and Christie L. Goodman, APR



The Quality Schools Action Framework shows how communities and schools can work together to strengthen their capacity to be successful with all students. The framework is based on experience and empirical evidence that emerges from existing theories of change. It gives a model for assessing a school's conditions and outcomes, for identifying leverage points for improvement, and for informing action.

"I believe it is time to dream together – to dream about education not for a lucky few but for all. And it is time to make the dream of education for all become fact."

– Dr. Maria Robledo Montecel, IDRA President & CEO

Available now for purchase
from IDRA (\$15 plus s&h)

To learn more about the book, visit
www.idra.org/couragetconnect
to view the framework, see the detailed
table of contents, read an excerpt and
listen to related podcasts.

Findings from 2005-06

In 2005-06, attrition rates ranged from a low of 18 percent in Region 17 (Lubbock) to a high of 46 percent in Region 1 (Edinburg), compared to the state average of 35 percent (see Exhibit 15).

Fifteen regions (75 percent) had rates lower than the state average of 35 percent, and five (25 percent) had rates higher than the state average.

The regions with attrition rates lower than the state average were: Regions 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 20.

The regions with attrition rates higher than the state average were: Regions 1, 4, 10, 11 and 19.

Exhibit 16 shows regional attrition rates and numbers of students lost by racial-ethnic group.

Exhibit 15: 2002-03 and 2005-06 Enrollment, 2005-06 Attrition in Texas Education Service Center Regions

ESC Region	2002-03 9th Grade Enrollment	2005-06 12th Grade Enrollment	2002-03 9-12th Grade Enrollment	2005-06 9-12th Grade Enrollment	Students Lost to Attrition	Attrition Rate (%)
Region 1 (Edinburg)	28,266	17,239	81,111	91,334	14,634	46
Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	9,407	6,373	30,480	30,078	2,935	31
Region 3 (Victoria)	5,125	3,398	16,611	15,871	1,528	31
Region 4 (Houston)	78,914	54,726	243,174	267,688	32,903	37
Region 5 (Beaumont)	7,309	5,042	24,036	23,173	2,023	28
Region 6 (Huntsville)	12,710	9,259	40,648	43,856	4,532	32
Region 7 (Kilgore)	13,919	10,114	45,888	46,819	4,287	29
Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	4,606	3,546	15,845	16,330	1,229	25
Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	3,410	2,652	11,844	11,749	740	22
Region 10 (Richardson)	54,288	36,901	166,440	180,475	22,695	37
Region 11 (Fort Worth)	39,176	27,537	122,290	134,297	16,015	36
Region 12 (Waco)	11,546	8,150	38,223	39,240	3,750	31
Region 13 (Austin)	24,828	18,296	81,220	87,262	8,515	31
Region 14 (Abilene)	3,895	2,749	13,563	12,843	958	25
Region 15 (San Angelo)	4,242	3,124	14,753	14,457	1,041	25
Region 16 (Amarillo)	6,360	4,675	21,955	21,912	1,727	26
Region 17 (Lubbock)	6,109	4,785	22,517	21,603	1,096	18
Region 18 (Midland)	6,436	4,463	22,331	21,510	1,791	28
Region 19 (El Paso)	14,362	9,798	45,690	49,169	5,703	37
Region 20 (San Antonio)	28,757	19,563	93,508	96,660	10,210	34
State of Texas	363,665	252,390	1,152,127	1,226,326	137,162	35

Figures calculated by IDRA from the Texas Education Agency Fall Membership Survey data. IDRA's 2005-06 attrition study involved the analysis of enrollment figures for public high school students in the ninth grade during 2002-03 school year and enrollment figures for 12th grade students in 2005-06. This period represents the time span when ninth grade students would be enrolled in school prior to graduation. The enrollment data for special school districts (military schools, state schools, and charter schools) were excluded from the analyses since they are likely to have unstable enrollments and/or lack a tax base to support school programs. The aggregate sum of individual regions may not equal the statewide sum due to rounding.

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2011

Exhibit 16: Attrition Rates in Texas Public Schools By Education Service Center Region and Race-Ethnicity, 2005-06

ESC Region	Attrition Rates ¹				Number Lost ²			
	Black	White	Hispanic	Total	Black	White	Hispanic	Total
Region 1 (Edinburg)	39	22	47	46	34	219	14,346	14,634
Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	31	19	37	31	98	466	2,348	2,935
Region 3 (Victoria)	29	14	47	31	152	284	1,075	1,528
Region 4 (Houston)	42	21	51	37	8,579	5,711	17,962	32,903
Region 5 (Beaumont)	37	22	44	28	836	876	279	2,023
Region 6 (Huntsville)	37	26	49	32	704	2,259	1,501	4,532
Region 7 (Kilgore)	31	22	51	29	970	1,960	1,328	4,287
Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	30	20	46	25	340	605	258	1,229
Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	35	17	36	22	107	403	222	740
Region 10 (Richardson)	44	19	56	37	6,075	4,153	11,913	22,695
Region 11 (Fort Worth)	44	26	54	36	2,887	6,025	6,586	16,015
Region 12 (Waco)	40	22	44	31	1,165	1,345	1,189	3,750
Region 13 (Austin)	41	19	46	31	1,154	2,500	4,673	8,515
Region 14 (Abilene)	40	17	42	25	101	392	452	958
Region 15 (San Angelo)	23	15	34	25	33	271	732	1,041
Region 16 (Amarillo)	40	15	41	26	162	517	1,027	1,727
Region 17 (Lubbock)	26	5	29	18	135	128	841	1,096
Region 18 (Midland)	31	11	40	28	100	253	1,419	1,791
Region 19 (El Paso)	36	19	39	37	149	239	5,274	5,703
Region 20 (San Antonio)	35	19	40	34	732	1,503	7,867	10,210
Statewide	40	21	47	35	24,366	29,903	80,505	137,162

¹Calculated by: (1) dividing the high school enrollment in the end year by the high school enrollment in the base year; (2) multiplying the results from Calculation 1 by the ninth grade enrollment in the base year; (3) subtracting the results from Calculation 2 from the 12th grade enrollment in the end year; and (4) dividing the results of Calculation 3 by the result of Calculation 2. The attrition rate results (percentages) were rounded to the nearest whole number.

²The aggregate sum of individual regions may not equal the statewide sum due to rounding.

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2011

Intercultural Development Research Association

Classnotes Podcast



Twice monthly, award-winning podcast for people who care about excellent and equitable education for all children.

Related Classnotes Podcast Episodes

This award-winning podcast series for teachers and administrators explores issues facing U.S. education today and strategies to better serve every student.

- “Connecting Every Student to a Meaningful Future,” featuring Daniel P. King, Ph.D.
- “Tool for Building Quality Schools,” featuring Aurelio M. Montemayor, M.Ed., and Bradley Scott, Ph.D.
- “Counting Dropouts,” featuring Roy L. Johnson, M.S.
- “School Holding Power for Every Child,” featuring María “Cuca” Robledo Montecel, Ph.D.
- “Learnings from the Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program,” featuring Linda Cantu, Ph.D., and Juanita García, Ph.D.

Visit www.idra.org/Podcasts. Also available from iTunes. Free!

Findings from 2006-07

In 2006-07, attrition rates ranged from a low of 20 percent in Region 17 (Lubbock) to a high of 46 percent in Region 1 (Edinburg), compared to the state average of 34 percent (see Exhibit 17).

Fourteen regions (70 percent) had rates lower than the state average of 34 percent, five (25 percent) had rates higher than the state average, and one region (5 percent) had a rate equal to the state average.

The regions with attrition rates lower than the state average were: Regions 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18.

The regions with attrition rates higher than the state average were: Regions 1, 4, 10, 19 and 20.

The attrition rate for ESC Region 11 matched the state average of 34 percent.

Exhibit 18 shows regional attrition rates and numbers of students lost by racial-ethnic group.

Exhibit 17: 2003-04 and 2006-07 Enrollment, 2006-07 Attrition in Texas Education Service Center Regions

ESC Region	2003-04 9th Grade Enrollment	2006-07 12th Grade Enrollment	2003-04 9-12th Grade Enrollment	2006-07 9-12th Grade Enrollment	Students Lost to Attrition	Attrition Rate (%)
Region 1 (Edinburg)	29,196	18,015	84,077	95,262	15,098	46
Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	9,243	6,387	30,255	29,965	2,797	30
Region 3 (Victoria)	4,860	3,441	16,472	15,636	1,187	25
Region 4 (Houston)	80,896	56,073	249,109	272,097	33,034	37
Region 5 (Beaumont)	7,098	4,929	23,858	23,164	1,981	28
Region 6 (Huntsville)	12,394	9,464	41,307	44,483	3,939	29
Region 7 (Kilgore)	13,703	9,973	45,981	46,363	3,917	28
Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	4,533	3,533	15,468	15,953	1,171	24
Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	3,374	2,582	11,662	11,414	730	22
Region 10 (Richardson)	53,933	37,579	170,747	182,781	20,696	35
Region 11 (Fort Worth)	39,926	28,884	125,449	137,433	15,305	34
Region 12 (Waco)	11,879	8,374	38,664	39,691	3,875	31
Region 13 (Austin)	24,794	18,843	82,281	90,303	8,529	31
Region 14 (Abilene)	3,901	2,829	13,255	12,975	1,006	26
Region 15 (San Angelo)	4,251	3,213	14,731	14,443	968	23
Region 16 (Amarillo)	6,454	4,883	21,765	22,100	1,712	25
Region 17 (Lubbock)	6,004	4,754	21,879	21,530	1,176	20
Region 18 (Midland)	6,467	4,587	22,156	21,378	1,697	26
Region 19 (El Paso)	14,429	10,105	46,229	50,052	5,549	35
Region 20 (San Antonio)	28,522	19,202	93,384	98,875	11,065	36
State of Texas	365,857	257,650	1,168,729	1,245,898	134,676	34

Figures calculated by IDRA from the Texas Education Agency Fall Membership Survey data. IDRA's 2006-07 attrition study involved the analysis of enrollment figures for public high school students in the ninth grade during 2003-04 school year and enrollment figures for 12th grade students in 2006-07. This period represents the time span when ninth grade students would be enrolled in school prior to graduation. The enrollment data for special school districts (military schools, state schools, and charter schools) were excluded from the analyses since they are likely to have unstable enrollments and/or lack a tax base to support school programs. The aggregate sum of individual regions may not equal the statewide sum due to rounding.

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2011

Exhibit 18: Attrition Rates in Texas Public Schools By Education Service Center Region and Race-Ethnicity, 2006-07

ESC Region	Attrition Rates ¹				Number Lost ²			
	Black	White	Hispanic	Total	Black	White	Hispanic	Total
Region 1 (Edinburg)	44	23	46	46	34	226	14,805	15,098
Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	26	18	36	30	82	427	2,285	2,797
Region 3 (Victoria)	27	10	40	25	122	197	853	1,187
Region 4 (Houston)	42	20	50	37	8,721	5,526	18,239	33,034
Region 5 (Beaumont)	38	22	40	28	846	854	253	1,981
Region 6 (Huntsville)	33	23	45	29	560	1,972	1,336	3,939
Region 7 (Kilgore)	32	21	48	28	942	1,722	1,206	3,917
Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	27	20	45	24	318	570	277	1,171
Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	35	16	38	22	106	376	232	730
Region 10 (Richardson)	41	18	52	35	5,446	3,859	10,975	20,696
Region 11 (Fort Worth)	42	24	52	34	2,849	5,573	6,473	15,305
Region 12 (Waco)	41	22	43	31	1,205	1,326	1,275	3,875
Region 13 (Austin)	40	18	46	31	1,188	2,350	4,792	8,529
Region 14 (Abilene)	44	17	42	26	127	400	468	1,006
Region 15 (San Angelo)	35	11	32	23	55	204	692	968
Region 16 (Amarillo)	43	15	37	25	173	519	992	1,712
Region 17 (Lubbock)	19	8	30	20	90	179	904	1,176
Region 18 (Midland)	37	10	36	26	132	229	1,319	1,697
Region 19 (El Paso)	35	20	37	35	159	247	5,105	5,549
Region 20 (San Antonio)	37	22	42	36	799	1,664	8,516	11,065
Statewide	40	20	45	34	23,845	28,339	80,445	134,676

¹Calculated by: (1) dividing the high school enrollment in the end year by the high school enrollment in the base year; (2) multiplying the results from Calculation 1 by the ninth grade enrollment in the base year; (3) subtracting the results from Calculation 2 from the 12th grade enrollment in the end year; and (4) dividing the results of Calculation 3 by the result of Calculation 2. The attrition rate results (percentages) were rounded to the nearest whole number.

²The aggregate sum of individual regions may not equal the statewide sum due to rounding.

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2011

Look Up Your Texas Region

IDRA is providing dropout trend data at your fingertips.

Go to the IDRA website to see a graph of high school attrition in your region. You'll also see the numbers of students by race-ethnicity who have been lost from enrollment in your region.

www.idra.org/Research/Attrition



Findings from 2007-08

In 2007-08, attrition rates ranged from a low of 18 percent in Region 9 (Wichita Falls) to a high of 44 percent in Region 1 (Edinburg), compared to the state average of 33 percent (see Exhibit 19).

Fifteen regions (75 percent) had rates lower than the state average of 33 percent, five (25 percent) had rates higher than the state average, and one had a rate equal to the state average.

The regions with attrition rates lower than the state average were: Regions 2, 3, 9, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18.

The regions with attrition rates higher than the state average were: Regions 1, 4, 10, 19 and 20.

Exhibit 20 shows regional attrition rates and numbers of students lost by racial-ethnic group.

Exhibit 19: 2004-05 and 2007-08 Enrollment, 2007-08 Attrition in Texas Education Service Center Regions

ESC Region	2004-05 9th Grade Enrollment	2007-08 12th Grade Enrollment	2004-05 9-12th Grade Enrollment	2007-08 9-12th Grade Enrollment	Students Lost to Attrition	Attrition Rate (%)
Region 1 (Edinburg)	30,013	19,236	86,769	98,762	14,957	44
Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	9,239	6,428	29,775	29,621	2,787	30
Region 3 (Victoria)	4,914	3,380	16,233	15,327	1,282	27
Region 4 (Houston)	82,223	58,081	255,699	277,221	31,851	35
Region 5 (Beaumont)	7,078	4,903	23,741	23,031	1,969	29
Region 6 (Huntsville)	12,745	9,879	42,151	45,097	3,830	28
Region 7 (Kilgore)	13,765	10,081	46,226	46,170	3,747	27
Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	4,639	3,618	16,110	16,253	1,075	23
Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	3,310	2,586	11,492	10,939	576	18
Region 10 (Richardson)	55,625	39,191	174,730	185,823	20,574	34
Region 11 (Fort Worth)	40,209	29,498	128,369	139,239	14,474	32
Region 12 (Waco)	11,831	8,645	38,640	40,070	3,695	30
Region 13 (Austin)	25,759	20,441	84,382	93,931	8,426	29
Region 14 (Abilene)	3,784	2,735	13,003	12,755	997	26
Region 15 (San Angelo)	4,137	3,184	14,524	14,115	852	21
Region 16 (Amarillo)	6,321	5,039	21,782	22,145	1,429	22
Region 17 (Lubbock)	6,075	4,874	21,608	21,340	1,138	19
Region 18 (Midland)	6,352	4,437	2,1814	21,189	1,768	28
Region 19 (El Paso)	15,252	10,969	47,498	51,379	5,554	34
Region 20 (San Antonio)	30,441	20,349	94,281	101,033	12,380	38
State of Texas	373,712	267,554	1,188,827	1,265,440	132,815	33

Figures calculated by IDRA from the Texas Education Agency Fall Membership Survey data. IDRA's 2007-08 attrition study involved the analysis of enrollment figures for public high school students in the ninth grade during 2004-05 school year and enrollment figures for 12th grade students in 2007-08. This period represents the time span when ninth grade students would be enrolled in school prior to graduation. The enrollment data for special school districts (military schools, state schools, and charter schools) were excluded from the analyses since they are likely to have unstable enrollments and/or lack a tax base to support school programs. The aggregate sum of individual regions may not equal the statewide sum due to rounding.

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2011

Exhibit 20: Attrition Rates in Texas Public Schools By Education Service Center Region and Race-Ethnicity, 2007-08

ESC Region	Attrition Rates ¹				Number Lost ²			
	Black	White	Hispanic	Total	Black	White	Hispanic	Total
Region 1 (Edinburg)	39	26	44	44	40	251	14,634	14,957
Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	30	19	35	30	92	459	2,209	2,787
Region 3 (Victoria)	31	11	41	27	166	209	892	1,282
Region 4 (Houston)	40	18	47	35	8,404	4,837	17,976	31,851
Region 5 (Beaumont)	36	23	43	29	762	896	283	1,969
Region 6 (Huntsville)	33	22	42	28	598	1,820	1,346	3,830
Region 7 (Kilgore)	31	20	45	27	913	1,573	1,223	3,747
Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	26	18	40	23	276	544	245	1,075
Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	29	13	31	18	81	286	198	576
Region 10 (Richardson)	39	16	51	34	5,256	3,272	11,584	20,574
Region 11 (Fort Worth)	39	23	49	32	2,628	5,241	6,139	14,474
Region 12 (Waco)	38	20	41	30	1,168	1,188	1,274	3,695
Region 13 (Austin)	36	16	44	29	1,136	2,150	4,943	8,426
Region 14 (Abilene)	46	17	43	26	126	377	495	997
Region 15 (San Angelo)	25	11	30	21	38	179	633	852
Region 16 (Amarillo)	32	12	33	22	127	413	875	1,429
Region 17 (Lubbock)	23	7	28	19	116	168	849	1,138
Region 18 (Midland)	40	11	37	28	132	243	1,369	1,768
Region 19 (El Paso)	32	19	35	34	141	232	5,160	5,554
Region 20 (San Antonio)	39	21	44	38	917	1,646	9,698	12,380
Statewide	38	18	44	33	23,036	25,923	81,640	132,815

¹Calculated by: (1) dividing the high school enrollment in the end year by the high school enrollment in the base year; (2) multiplying the results from Calculation 1 by the ninth grade enrollment in the base year; (3) subtracting the results from Calculation 2 from the 12th grade enrollment in the end year; and (4) dividing the results of Calculation 3 by the result of Calculation 2. The attrition rate results (percentages) were rounded to the nearest whole number.

²The aggregate sum of individual regions may not equal the statewide sum due to rounding.

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2011

Continuities – Lessons for the Future of Education from the IDRA Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program

by María Robledo Montecel, Ph.D.

This publication vividly captures seven key lessons for improving the quality of education for all students. It presents the voices of youth, teachers, family members and program leaders and the reasons valuing youth is at the heart of school transformation. It was released on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program and in celebration of its success in keeping tens of thousands of students in school and positively impacting more than half a million children, families and educators on three continents.

Available from IDRA for \$7.00, plus shipping, or free online at www.idra.org.



Findings from 2008-09

In 2008-09, attrition rates ranged from a low of 15 percent in Region 9 (Wichita Falls) to a high of 41 percent in Region 1 (Edinburg), compared to the state average of 31 percent (see Exhibit 21).

Fifteen regions (75 percent) had rates lower than the state average of 31 percent, four (20 percent) had higher than the state average and one (5 percent) had a rate equal to the state average.

The regions with attrition rates lower than the state average were: 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18.

The regions with attrition rates higher than the state average were: Region 1, 4, 19 and 20.

The attrition rate for Region 22 matched the state average of 31 percent.

Exhibit 22 shows regional attrition rates and numbers of students lost by racial-ethnic group.

Exhibit 21: 2005-06 and 2008-09 Enrollment, 2008-09 Attrition in Texas Education Service Center Regions

ESC Region	2005-06 9th Grade Enrollment	2008-09 12th Grade Enrollment	2005-06 9-12th Grade Enrollment	2008-09 9-12th Grade Enrollment	Students Lost to Attrition	Attrition Rate (%)
Region 1 (Edinburg)	32,009	20,832	91,334	100,647	14,469	41
Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	9,392	6,509	30,078	28,638	2,452	27
Region 3 (Victoria)	4,668	3,311	15,871	15,192	1,189	26
Region 4 (Houston)	84,820	59,658	267,688	280,011	30,252	33
Region 5 (Beaumont)	6,878	4,926	23,173	22,685	1,815	27
Region 6 (Huntsville)	13,039	9,799	43,856	45,442	3,781	27
Region 7 (Kilgore)	13,830	10,150	46,819	45,362	3,330	24
Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	4,642	3,613	16,330	15,969	941	20
Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	3,238	2,541	11,749	10,830	459	15
Region 10 (Richardson)	56,316	40,072	180,475	186,648	18,765	31
Region 11 (Fort Worth)	41,881	30,616	134,297	140,513	13,553	30
Region 12 (Waco)	11,926	8,651	39,240	39,664	3,461	28
Region 13 (Austin)	26,387	20,955	87,262	95,493	8,146	27
Region 14 (Abilene)	3,748	2,712	12,843	12,347	908	25
Region 15 (San Angelo)	4,108	3,221	14,457	13,774	698	18
Region 16 (Amarillo)	6,414	5,174	21,912	21,955	1,282	19
Region 17 (Lubbock)	5,981	4,687	21,603	20,826	1,093	19
Region 18 (Midland)	6,181	4,616	21,510	21,167	1,500	24
Region 19 (El Paso)	15,892	10,867	49,169	51,218	5,719	34
Region 20 (San Antonio)	31,711	21,205	96,660	102,424	12,532	37
State of Texas	383,061	274,115	1,226,326	1,270,802	125,508	31

Figures calculated by IDRA from the Texas Education Agency Fall Membership Survey data. IDRA's 2008-09 attrition study involved the analysis of enrollment figures for public high school students in the ninth grade during 2005-06 school year and enrollment figures for 12th grade students in 2008-09. This period represents the time span when ninth grade students would be enrolled in school prior to graduation. The enrollment data for special school districts (military schools, state schools, and charter schools) were excluded from the analyses since they are likely to have unstable enrollments and/or lack a tax base to support school programs. The aggregate sum of individual regions may not equal the statewide sum due to rounding.

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2011

Exhibit 22: Attrition Rates in Texas Public Schools By Education Service Center Region and Race-Ethnicity, 2008-09

ESC Region	Attrition Rates ¹				Number Lost ²			
	Black	White	Hispanic	Total	Black	White	Hispanic	Total
Region 1 (Edinburg)	35	18	42	41	29	169	14,231	14,469
Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	28	15	32	27	89	343	1,989	2,452
Region 3 (Victoria)	26	9	40	26	125	163	886	1,189
Region 4 (Houston)	37	16	45	33	7,503	3,965	18,207	30,252
Region 5 (Beaumont)	33	21	42	27	680	788	303	1,815
Region 6 (Huntsville)	33	21	43	27	596	1,712	1,420	3,781
Region 7 (Kilgore)	29	17	43	24	803	1,320	1,202	3,330
Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	25	15	41	20	253	419	259	941
Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	27	10	29	15	74	195	182	459
Region 10 (Richardson)	35	13	48	31	4,573	2,675	11,048	18,765
Region 11 (Fort Worth)	37	21	45	30	2,559	4,638	5,935	13,553
Region 12 (Waco)	36	20	38	28	1,099	1,130	1,156	3,461
Region 13 (Austin)	31	15	42	27	988	1,931	5,059	8,146
Region 14 (Abilene)	40	15	41	25	116	332	459	908
Region 15 (San Angelo)	24	8	26	18	35	128	537	698
Region 16 (Amarillo)	29	11	29	19	120	368	761	1,282
Region 17 (Lubbock)	20	7	27	19	102	163	824	1093
Region 18 (Midland)	33	10	32	24	126	204	1,159	1,500
Region 19 (El Paso)	30	21	36	34	131	232	5,315	5,719
Region 20 (San Antonio)	42	21	42	37	1,080	1,648	9,654	12,532
Statewide	35	17	42	31	21,019	22,476	79,878	125,508

¹Calculated by: (1) dividing the high school enrollment in the end year by the high school enrollment in the base year; (2) multiplying the results from Calculation 1 by the ninth grade enrollment in the base year; (3) subtracting the results from Calculation 2 from the 12th grade enrollment in the end year; and (4) dividing the results of Calculation 3 by the result of Calculation 2. The attrition rate results (percentages) were rounded to the nearest whole number.

²The aggregate sum of individual regions may not equal the statewide sum due to rounding.

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2011

© Intercultural Development Research Association, April 2011

IDRA is an independent, private non-profit organization, directed by María Robledo Montecel, Ph.D., dedicated to strengthening public schools to work for all children. As a vanguard leadership development and research team for more than three decades, IDRA has worked with people to create self-renewing schools that value and empower all children, families and communities. IDRA conducts research and development activities, creates, implements and administers innovative education programs and provides teacher, administrator, and parent training and technical assistance.

IDRA • 5815 Callaghan Road, Suite 101 • San Antonio, Texas 78228 • 210-444-1710 • contact@idra.org • www.idra.org