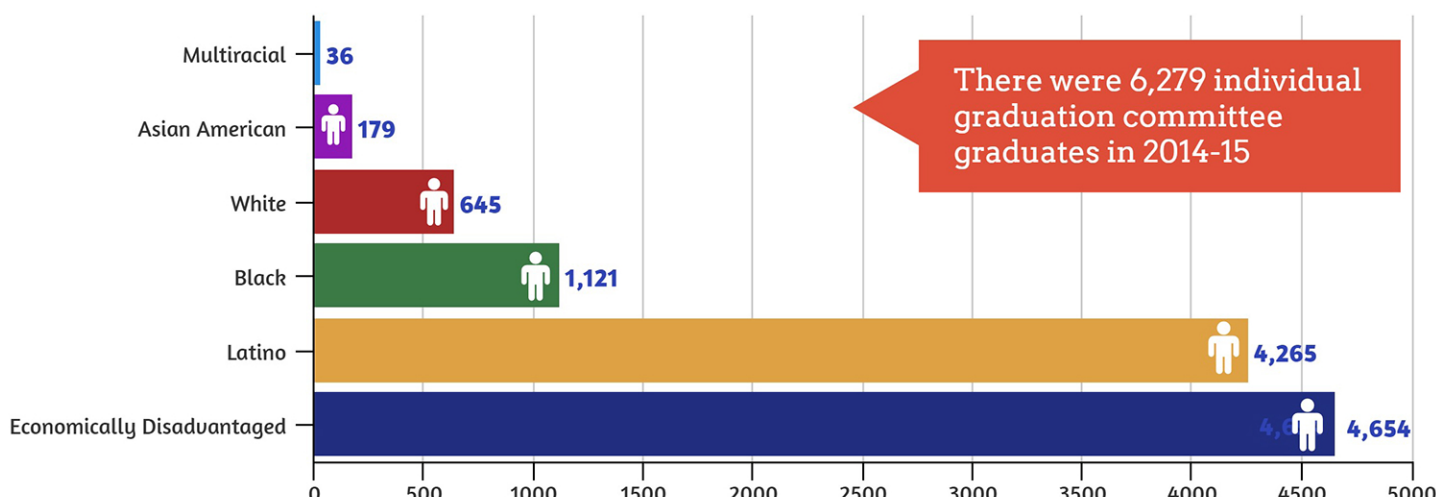




# Temporary Texas Policy Relieves High-Stakes for 6,000 Students

Texas requires students to pass five exit STAAR exams to graduate high school. With the new policy put in place in 2015, students who have completed all requirements and do not pass one or two of the end-of-course exams may still graduate if approved by an individual graduation committee. The policy is set to expire in 2017.

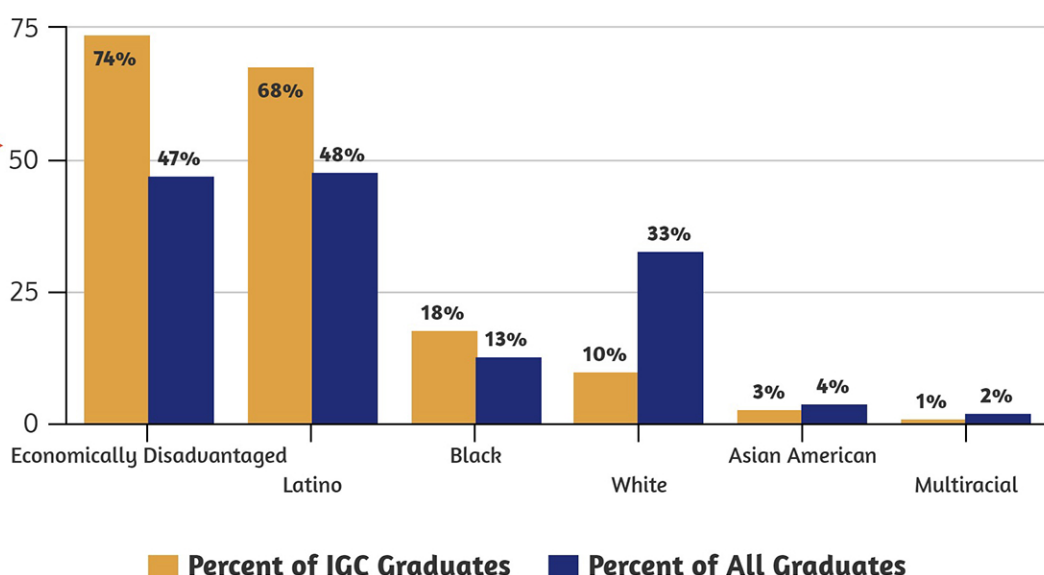


“Student assessment is essential to informing good teaching and can help communities hold local schools accountable for effectively serving all students, but children must not be hurt in the process.”

— Dr. María “Cuca” Robledo Montecel, IDRA president and CEO



Students who are economically disadvantaged, Latino or African American benefited most from the new policy in 2014-15



IGC graduates account for 2 percent of all graduates in Texas.

## Some ways accountability systems hurt children

- ✗ Holding students back a year, even when they may have only needed help in one subject
- ✗ Increasing children’s stress and anxiety over testing – the pressure can begin as early as kindergarten
- ✗ Denying diplomas, even for those who passed all their classes
- ✗ Disregarding what students do know and have learned
- ✗ Diluting instruction for all or part of a school year to focus on test-taking skills
- ✗ Punishing students for not knowing what they may not have been taught

It doesn't have to be this way