



GRADUATION FOR ALL

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Annual 2009-10 Texas Attrition Study • www.idra.org • October 2010

State breaks 30 percent barrier; still 119,836 Texas students are lost.

For the first time in 25 years, attrition rates in Texas fell below 30 percent, according to the [latest findings from IDRA's annual Texas Public School Attrition Study](#). Still, fully 119,836 high school freshman (29 percent) in Texas were lost from public school enrollment before reaching 12th grade. And, while attrition rates are falling overall, graduation gaps between White students and Black and Hispanic students are wider than they were 25 years ago. The study also finds that almost two out of every five African American, Latino and Native American males are lost to attrition.

[¡Usted puede recibir esta edición de Graduation for All en español!](#)

Schools and Communities in Action

Get the facts. Here is a snapshot of findings from IDRA's 2009-2010 Texas study, the 25th such study and the latest in a series of reports that began in the 1985-86 school year.



- The overall attrition rate was less than 30 percent for the first time in 25 years.
- About three of every 10 students from the freshman class of 2006-07 (119,836 students) left school prior to graduating with a high school diploma.
- Graduation gaps persist: a student in the class of 2009-10 who is Black or Hispanic is about two times more likely to leave school without a diploma than a student who is White.
- Almost two out of every five African American, Latino students and Native American students are lost to attrition.
- One quarter (25 percent) of all female students are lost to attrition.
- Since 1986, Texas schools have lost a cumulative total of more than 3 million students.

[For a report on the full study findings.](#)

[For the news release.](#)

[For searchable findings by county.](#)

How are students in other states faring?

For a ten-year (1996 - 2006) snapshot of graduation rates nationwide and for each state, visit Education Week's *Graduation in the States: Recent Gains at Risk of Eroding*. The report finds that about 69 percent of all public school students graduated from high school with a diploma. Although the majority of states have improved over the ten-year span, 35 percentage points separate the best- from the worst-performing states and large disparities persist among racial and ethnic groups. [For the full report from Education Week.](#)

Texas simply can't afford to lose another 3.5 million students to attrition over the next three decades, the rate of loss we can expect if we remain at our current pace, according to IDRA [forecasts by Dr. Felix Montes](#).

Toolbox

What you can do:

Get in-depth findings from the annual attrition study study.

- Visit the [Texas Public School Attrition Study, 2009-10](#)
- See the [Supplemental Analysis - Sluggish Attrition Rate Descent Means 1.9 Million to 3.5 Million More Texas Students May be Lost](#)
- [Look Up Your County - See attrition rates and trend graphs for over the last 10 years](#)
- Hear [Counting Dropouts](#), an IDRA Classnotes podcast interview with study author Mr. Roy L. Johnson, M.S. by Mr. Aurelio Montemayor, M.Ed.

Assess how your district, campus and community are faring in graduating all students, and preparing graduates for college success.

- Conduct your own assessment with the [Quality School Holding Power Checklist](#)
- Register for the [OurSchool online data portal](#) for information on every district and campus in the state (in [English](#) and [Spanish](#))

Create "courageous connections" - and establish a school-community-family action team prepared to tackle this issue and achieve results.

- For examples, read [Courage to Connect: A Quality Schools Action Framework](#), and
- Visit IDRA's new Courageous Connections webpage, with video highlights and resources www.idra.org/Courageous_Connections

Press for strategic shifts in local, state and federal policy to graduate all.

- Visit [principles for policymakers and school leaders](#)
- See [Ideas and Strategies for Action](#)
- Learn more about the [Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program](#), which keeps 98 percent of participating students in school

Youth Voices

"Since I entered the program, I have thought about the future and how I have helped the tutees. In these thoughts, I have included myself and the changes in me. Before, I thought that staying in school was a waste of time, that my brothers did not need my assistance and that they should move ahead on their own. But all those thoughts changed since I entered this program. Now, I realize that staying in school is good for my future and for those who surround me." - Wendy Ramírez, Middle School First Place, National Essay Contest, Eighth grade, Dr. Javier Sáenz Middle School, La Joya ISD. [For the full essay...](#)



To [learn more about the IDRA Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program](#). An [introductory seminar](#) on the program is being held on October 28th in Atlanta.

The [Intercultural Development Research Association](#) is an independent, private non-profit organization whose mission is to create schools that work for all children.

Let us hear from you! Have a story of school-community partnership that's raising graduation rates? We welcome your comments, questions and suggestions at gradforall@idra.org. **Forward to a Friend!** Feel free to [share Grad4All](#) with anyone who shares your passion for every student's success.

Thanks for reading!

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