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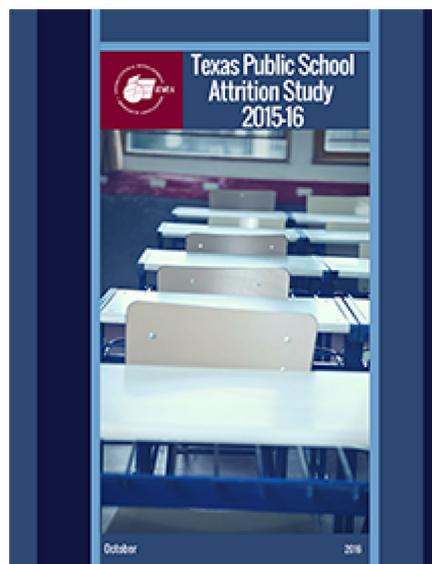
Despite Graduation Rate Progress, Texas Appears Stuck at Losing One-Fourth of High Schoolers

31st Annual Texas Public School Attrition Study
Released by IDRA

San Antonio (November 1, 2016) - Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Education reported the nation has reached an all-time high in graduation rates and Texas is near the top. Yet, IDRA's analysis - which examines time series data - found that the attrition rate in Texas has risen for the first time in 18 years.

Though just an increase of 1 percentage point, Texas schools have been losing between 26 percent and 24 percent of high school students annually for the last five years.

"One in four freshmen disappears by their senior year, and it's been that way for half a decade. We're losing 12 students every hour," said [Dr. María "Cuca" Robledo Montecel](#), IDRA president and CEO. "In today's economy, Texas cannot afford to fully educate some students and not others. We just can't."



The Intercultural Development Research Association [released detailed findings](#) today from its latest study. Key findings show:

- Texas is failing to graduate **one out of every four students**.
- Texas high schools **lost 102,610 students** between 2012-13 and 2015-16. At
- **106 counties had a lower attrition rate** than last year, **110 counties had a higher attrition rate** than last year, and 18 counties had the same rate as last year.
- The **racial-ethnic gaps** are nearly as high as or higher than 30 years ago.
- Black students and Hispanic students are about **two times more likely** to leave school without graduating with a diploma than White students.
- In the last 30 years, Texas schools have **lost a cumulative total of more than 3.6 million students** from public high school enrollment prior to graduation.

IDRA released a report, [College Bound and Determined](#), in February 2014 showing how one south Texas school district transformed itself from low achievement and low expectations to planning for all students to graduate from high school and college. The result was a school district that

doubled its number of high school graduates, cut dropout rates in half and increased college-going rates. Half of the district's students are earning college credit while still in high school.

"Clearly, some school districts are taking steps to improve their school holding power, and their investment in dropout prevention programs and college readiness initiatives is paying off," added Dr. Robledo Montecel. "But much of our state leadership has shown a willingness to neglect many of our students and their families by weakening curriculum and graduation requirements and by withholding fair funding that would pay for vital teachers and programs."

In 2015, IDRA released research showing [low funding for educating English learners](#) affects students across Texas. English learners are among the fastest growing segments of the student population but they are one of the lowest academically performing groups. And Texas is significantly underfunding ELL education (with supplemental funding of only 10 percent despite research indicating much higher weights are needed).

"If we want to have the better results, we have to truly invest and we have to be strategic. Since this problem is systemic, the solutions must address schools as systems," added Dr. Robledo Montecel. **IDRA's Quality School Action Framework™** guides communities and schools in identifying weak areas and strengthening public schools' capacities to graduate and prepare all students for success. IDRA's book, [Courage to Connect: A Quality Schools Action Framework](#), shows how communities and schools can work together to be successful with all of their students.

Each fall, IDRA releases its attrition study. The latest study became [available today online](#). Attrition rates are an indicator of a school's holding power, or the ability to keep students enrolled in school and learning until they graduate. IDRA was commissioned to conduct 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. That study in 1986 was the state's first major effort to assess the school holding power of Texas public schools and resulted in state-level policy reforms for the state education agency to count and report dropout data.

IDRA is the only organization that has examined Texas attrition rates consistently, with the same methodology, for 31 years.

The annual attrition studies released by IDRA include county-level data by race and ethnicity. [Trend graphs](#) of high school attrition in each Texas county are available online. The study includes detailed findings, a supplemental analysis for reaching a rate of zero and graphics showing different types of dropout data. IDRA's study also looks at the latest dropout studies released by the Texas Education Agency and the National Center for Education Statistics.

IDRA Attrition Study & Resources Online

[2016 Study - Texas Public School Attrition Study, 2014-16](#)

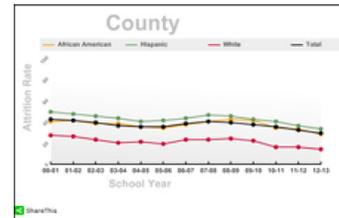
[Look Up Your County](#) - See attrition rates and numbers over the last 10 years

[Set of principles](#) for policymakers and school leaders

[Ideas and Strategies for Action](#)

[Classnotes Podcast: "Counting Dropouts"](#)

[Overview of the Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program](#), which keeps 98 percent of students in school



Look up your county

The infographic features a bar chart showing attrition rates for All Students (25%), White Students (15%), Black Students (27%), and Hispanic Students (31%). It also includes a timeline showing the attrition rate in 2015 (25%) and a projection for 2035 (29%) if the current trend continues. The text states that schools are twice as likely to lose Hispanic and Black students before they graduate.

Infographic

Texas public schools are losing one out of four students

[See Infographic](#)

The list is divided into three sections:

- 104 Counties Where High School Attrition Rates Increased Since Last Year:** A grid of 104 county names.
- 101 Counties Where High School Attrition Rates Decreased Since Last Year:** A grid of 101 county names.
- 10 Counties Where High School Attrition Rates Are the Same as Last Year:** A list of 10 county names.

County List

See which counties had attrition rates go up or down

[See List](#)

The eBook cover features a graduation cap icon and the title 'Types of Dropout Data Defined' in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the title, it says 'Intercultural Development Research Association'.

eBook

Types of Dropout Data Defined

[See eBook](#)



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IDRA works hand-in-hand with hundreds of thousands of educators and families each year in communities and classrooms around the country. All our work rests on an unwavering commitment to creating self-renewing schools that value and promote the success of students of all backgrounds.