



Top Ten Percent Plan Expands College Access Across Texas

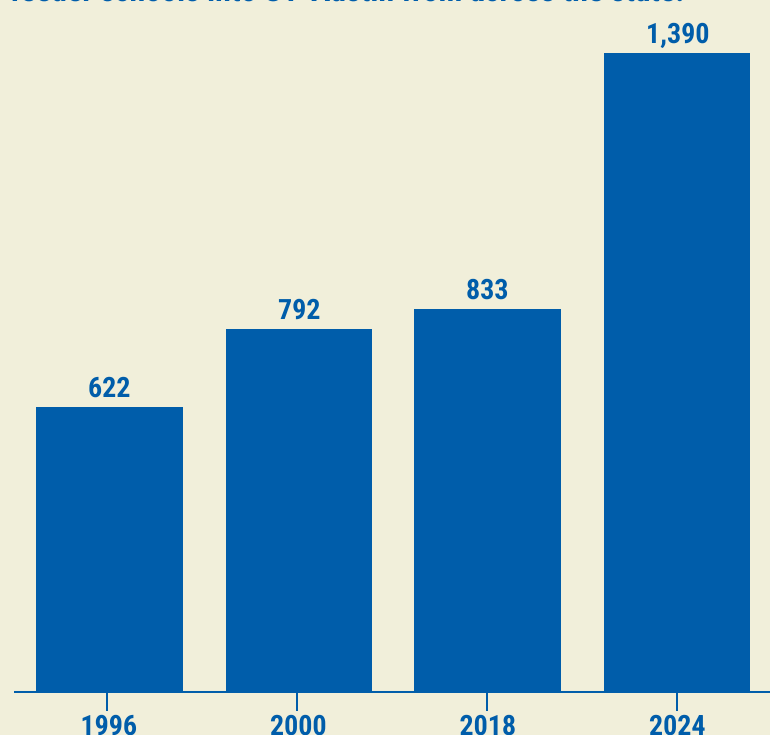


The Texas Top Ten Percent Plan has opened the doors of Texas' public universities to students of color, students from rural communities, students from low-income families, and students whose parents did not attend college – all groups who were typically denied access to many public universities, particularly the University of Texas at Austin. IDRA conducted an analysis of the entering freshman class who received automatic admission at UT-Austin in 2009 to 2024.



Expansive Access

The Top Ten Percent Plan has increased the number of feeder schools into UT-Austin from across the state.



Number of Feeder High Schools into UT-Austin

* Traditional public schools only



Background

The Texas Legislature adopted the Top Ten Percent Plan in 1997 in response to declining enrollment of students of color at UT-Austin and Texas A&M University.

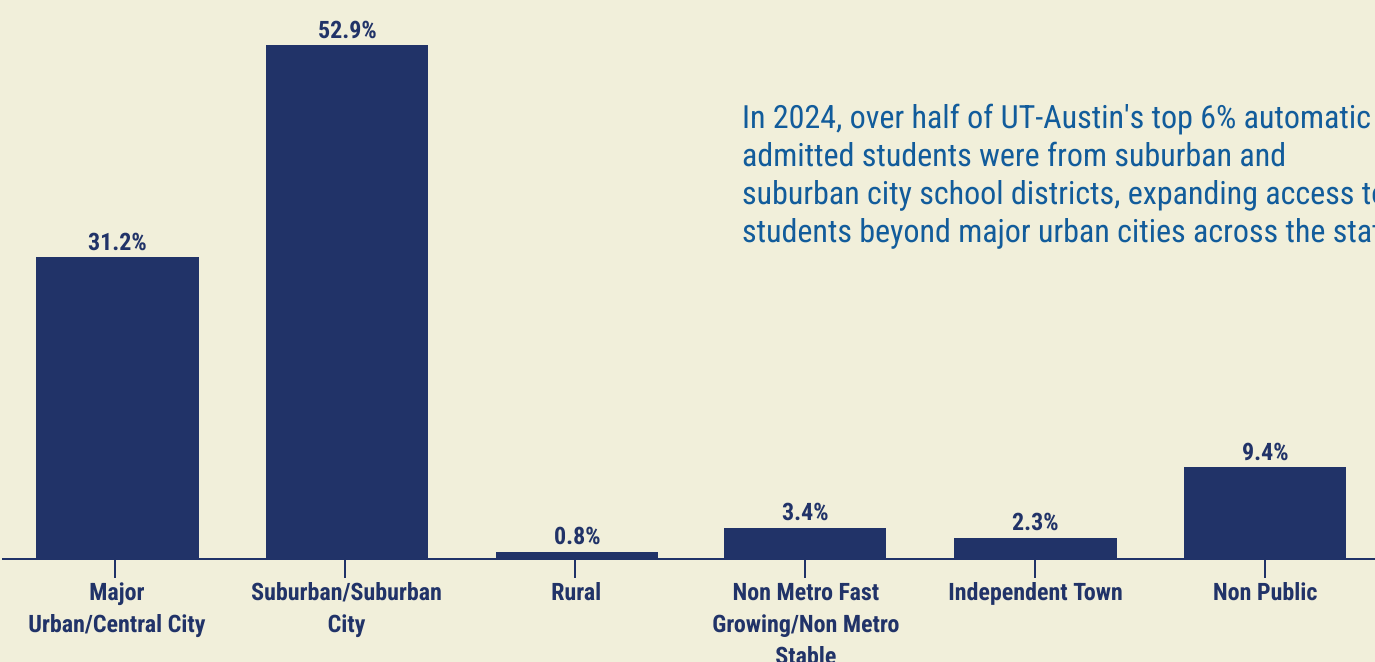
With bipartisan support from policymakers from both rural and urban districts, the plan required Texas' four-year public universities to admit high school students graduating in the top 10% of their class.

Starting with its 2011 class, UT-Austin alone was allowed to limit those students to 75% of the freshmen class. In 2018, the top 7% of students in each high school graduating class were automatically admitted to UT-Austin. Since then, the percentage has been the top 6%, but in 2026, it will be 5%.



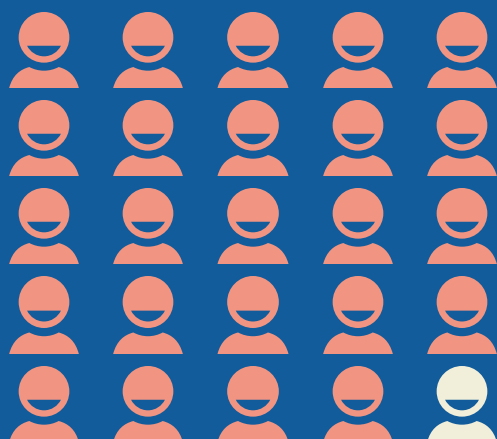
Geographic Impact

The Top Ten Percent Plan ensures students in every type of Texas community can access UT-Austin.



In 2024, over half of UT-Austin's top 6% automatic admitted students were from suburban and suburban city school districts, expanding access to students beyond major urban cities across the state.

Percentage of Top Ten Percent Plan Students Admitted to UT-Austin by District Type



The Top Ten Percent Plan accounts for

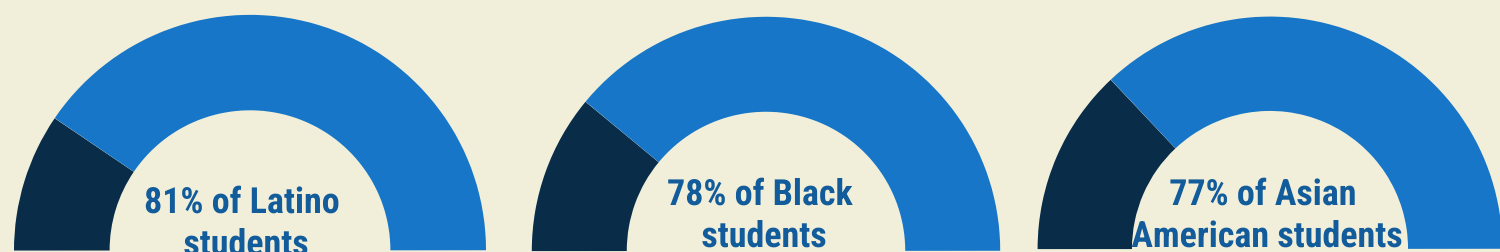
93%

of admitted rural students at UT-Austin in 2024



Students Admitted to UT-Austin through the Top Ten Percent Plan are More Diverse

Most students of color at UT-Austin are admitted through the Top Ten Percent Plan



Latino students are about twice as likely to be admitted through the Top Ten Percent Plan than by outside the plan

● Non-Top Ten Percent Plan Students
● Top Ten Percent Plan Students

Total number of students admitted in 2024: 16,272



The Top Ten Percent Plan has opened the doors of Texas' flagship universities to students of color, students from rural communities, and students from families with limited means – all groups that have historically been denied access.

For more information see <https://idra.news/TTP21>

Data Source: University of Texas at Austin. (December 31, 2024). Annual Data Report to the Texas Legislature on SB 175, 81st Legislature for the Period Ending Fall 2024

