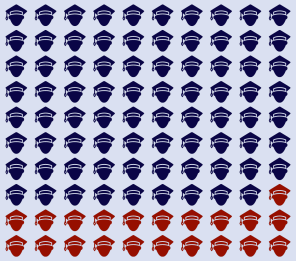
Texas Public School Attrition Study, 2024-25 – 40th Anniversary Analysis

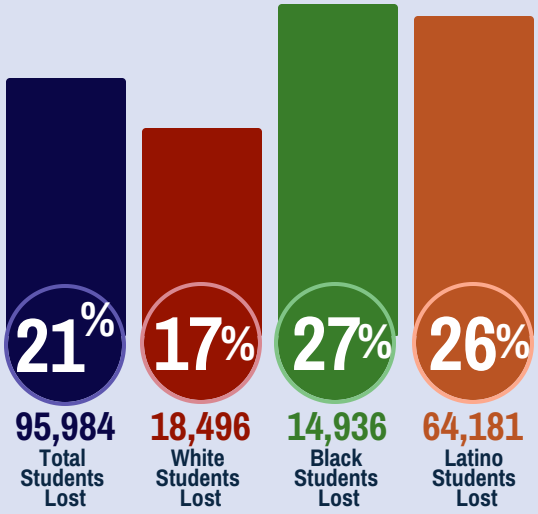
This infographic presents highlights from IDRA's 40th annual Texas high school attrition study. Attrition rates are an indicator of a school's holding power, or a school's ability to retain students until they graduate. Attrition data do not indicate why students are no longer enrolled in a Texas public high school or where they are. "Lost" means they were not in a Texas public high school by their senior year, and Texas does not know with any certainty where they are.

Texas high schools are losing 1 out of 5 students.

In four decades, Texas has only improved attrition 12 points from 33% to 21%.



Schools are 1.5 times as likely to lose Latino students and Black students as white students before they graduate.



An attrition rate measures how many ninth graders are still in school in 12th grade.

Biggest jump in 40 years

The attrition rate rose 3 points in 2024-25 to 21%, up from a historic low of 18% last year.

Boys were nearly 1.2 times as likely as girls to leave school before graduation.

Texas schools have lost a cumulative total of over

4.3 million students

from Texas public high schools since 1985-86.

That's like losing a city larger than Los Angeles.

Of the 95,984 students lost in 2024-25,

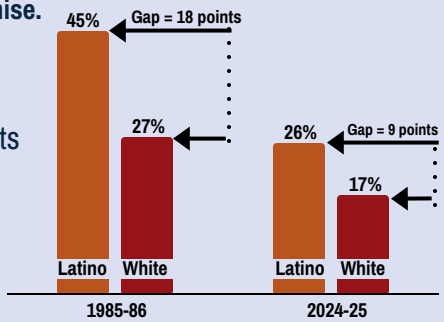
66% were Latino.

even though Latino students comprise **47%** of the student population.

Good News!

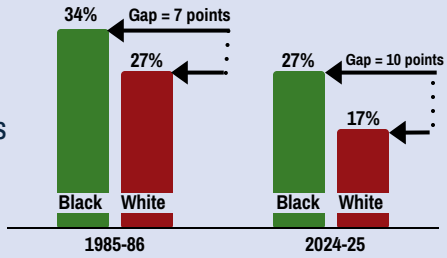
Schools' attention to dropout prevention has been showing promise.

The attrition gap between Latino students and their white peers has been cut in half.



However:

The attrition gap between Black students and their white peers has grown 43%.



It doesn't have to be this way

The strongest school predictor of dropping out is poor academic performance. Students are far more likely to succeed and graduate:

- when they can work with highly qualified, committed teachers
- when they have effective, accessible rigorous curricula
- when they attend well-funded schools
- when their parents and communities are engaged in their schools
- when the students themselves feel engaged

Learn more and see IDRA's 40th anniversary attrition study: https://idra.news/AttritionStudy