



The Graduation Rate Crisis in Texas

Resource Page for data and analysis on the dropout crisis:
<http://centerforeducation.rice.edu/Research/dropoutconf.htm>

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Below, we provide resources and data on the graduation rate crisis in Texas.

- **Students are graduating at significantly lower rates than those officially reported by the Texas Education Agency. As reported by multiple researchers, approximately 67% of all students are graduating statewide, just 60% of African Americans, and 58% of Hispanic students. Graduation rates in our large urban districts hover around 50%.**

Texas Graduation Rates, 2002-2003

Percentage of Students Graduating in Four Years, using Cumulative Promotion Index and the Common Core of Data

Group	Using CPI (EPERC)	Official TEA Rate
All Students	66.8%	84.2%
African American	59.9%	81.1%
Hispanic	57.8%	77.3%
White	75.0%	89.8%
Asian	83.1%	91.5%
Female	71.0%	87.7%
Male	62.8%	80.9%
Houston ISD	48.9%	71.3%
Dallas ISD	46.3%	81.3%
Forth Worth ISD	48.0%	76.5%
Austin ISD	55.1%	78.8%
El Paso ISD	57.3%	78.6%
San Antonio ISD	51.9%	79.2%

Sources:

High School Graduation in Texas:

Independent Research to Understand and Combat the Graduation Crisis

Editorial Projects in Education Research Center

Christopher B. Swanson, Director

http://www.edweek.org/media/texas_eperc.pdf

Texas Education Agency, July, 2006

Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools, 2004-05

http://www.tea.state.tx.us/research/pdfs/dropcomp_2004-05.pdf

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- **Reports on research conducted by Magnus Lofstrom (UT Dallas) and John Tyler (Brown University) using longitudinal data to calculate how many students enrolled in a Texas public school at age 15 graduated by age 20 confirm recent graduation rates of 67% statewide.**

Texas Graduation Rates by Age 20 for Classes of 1996 through 1999

Year	Percent Graduated
1996	62.9%
1997	63.9%
1998	65.1%
1999	67.0%

Source: *Confronting the Graduation Rate Crisis in Texas*

By Daniel Losen, Gary Orfield, and Robert Balfanz

<http://centerforeducation.rice.edu/Research/dc/CRPdropout2006.pdf>

- **In this report, Dan Losen argues that the official graduation rates reported by the state are unjustifiably inflated by removing too many students from the cohort count.**

Source: *Confronting the Graduation Rate Crisis in Texas*

By Daniel Losen, Gary Orfield, and Robert Balfanz

<http://centerforeducation.rice.edu/Research/dc/CRPdropout2006.pdf>

- **A researcher now at the University of Texas analyzed six years of longitudinal student-level data from a large urban district in the state, and found the following graduation rates for that district for the class of 2001:**

Graduation Rate in Five Years in a Large Urban District, Class of 2001

Student Group	Coded Graduated within 5 Years
Overall	32.7%
African American	39.4%
Latino	24.8%
White	43.3%
Asian American	49.4%
Economically Disadvantaged	28.3%
LEP	20.0%
Did not pass 8 th grade Reading TAAS	19.3%
Did not pass 8 th grade Math TAAS	22.3%

Source: *Progress and Learning of Urban Minority Students in an Environment of Accountability,*

Julian Vasquez Heilig

Dissertation, Stanford University, 2006