



PRESS RELEASE

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More HISD Students Graduate on Time and Fewer Drop Out

*Houston ISD's Four-Year Graduation Rate Increased 4.3 Percent for
the Class of 2010; Dropout Rate Dropped 3.2 percent*

June 16, 2011 – More Houston ISD students are earning their high school diplomas on time, and the number of students dropping out of school is on the decline, according to data released today by the Texas Education Agency.

The four-year graduation rate for the HISD Class of 2010 was 74.3 percent, a 4.3-point improvement from the prior year and a 7.2-point gain from 2006. Graduation rates improved among every racial and ethnic student group.

The dropout rate, meanwhile, is headed in the opposite direction and now stands at 12.6 percent, a 3.2-point decline from 2009 and a 5.3-point drop from 2006. The dropout rate declined among every racial and ethnic group.

“While we celebrate the success at so many of our schools today, we know there is still much work to do,” said HISD Superintendent of Schools Terry B. Grier. “HISD is committed to preparing every child for college and a rewarding career.”

Under Dr. Grier’s guidance, HISD has implemented several strategies to combat the dropout problem and to help students graduate on time. One of his first initiatives after arriving in HISD in 2009 was to create Grad Labs at every high school campus, where students who have fallen behind academically can take classes at their own pace online. This year, more than 4,000 courses were completed through Grad Labs, putting students back on track for graduation. Under Dr. Grier, HISD also created Twilight High Schools that offer evening courses for students who are unable to attend class during regular hours because of work or family obligations.

“These numbers show that all Houston students are capable of achieving their graduation goals if we put them in a position to succeed,” said Paula Harris, president of the HISD Board of Education.

Three of HISD’s 300 schools, however, did not meet the state’s minimum standards for graduation and dropout rates. HISD anticipates that Jones High School will be rated “academically unacceptable” because of its four-year completion rate. High dropout rates will result in “academically unacceptable” ratings for Ryan Middle School and the Texas Connection Academy.

The **Houston Independent School District** is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest in the United States with 298 schools and more than 200,000 students. The 301-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area with nearly 30,000 employees.

For more information, visit the HISD Web site at www.houstonisd.org.
