

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board of Education Meeting of November 12, 2008

October 27, 2008

SUBJECT: BOARD MONITORING SYSTEM—GOAL 1, SECTION B: IMPROVE DROPOUT RATE AND COMPLETION RATE

At the March 8, 2007 meeting, the Board of Education approved upon first reading a revised Board Monitoring System in order to efficiently maintain and measure Houston Independent School District (HISD) goals and core values. The monitoring system was designed to give district administrators clear direction on how to meet the Board's expectations in these crucial areas.

Board Policy AF(LOCAL) requires that *"the administration shall report to the Board of Education on each goal and core value using the specific method and timing set out."*

In reference the district's **Goal 1: Increase Student Achievement**, the attached report provides information regarding section **B: Improve Dropout Rate and Completion Rate**. The policy states that *"the administration shall provide the Board of Education with a report on the progress being made to decrease dropout rates and increase graduation rates. The report shall include data depicting the district's dropout rate and graduation rates as compared to the state averages. In addition, the report shall include analysis of these data by all students and various student groups."*

The attached report provides the annual dropout rates, graduation rates, and Completion Rate I for the district and state for all students and student groups. The district's targets have been included for each measure in the graphs.



Board Monitoring System: Indicator B

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose

The Houston Independent School District (HISD) exists to strengthen the social and economic foundation of Houston by assuring its youth the highest-quality elementary and secondary education available anywhere. In fulfilling this goal, HISD's Board of Education has designed a program to systematically monitor the district's goals and core values. The Board Monitoring System will report on each goal and core value on a routine basis. The goal currently under review is to improve the dropout rate and completion rate among students as measured by the Texas Education Agency (Goal 1, Section B).

Findings

Annual Dropout Rate

- In the 2006–2007 school year, the annual dropout rate (grades 7 and 8) decreased from 1.6 percent in the 2005–2006 school year to 1.2 percent (Figure 1).
- HISD's dropout rate of 1.2 percent exceeded the state's dropout rate of 0.4 percent (Table 1).
- The 2006–2007 African-American, Hispanic, and white student dropout rates decreased from the 2005–2006 school year. The African-American student dropout rate was 1.4 percent, the Hispanic student dropout rate was 1.2 percent, and the white student dropout rate was 0.7 percent, down from 1.9 percent, 1.5 percent, and 1.0 percent, respectively, for the 2005–2006 school year.
- By the end of the school year 2010–2011, the district goal is to lower the grades 7 and 8 annual dropout rate to 0.1 percent. This year's performance is above that target by 1.1 percentage points.

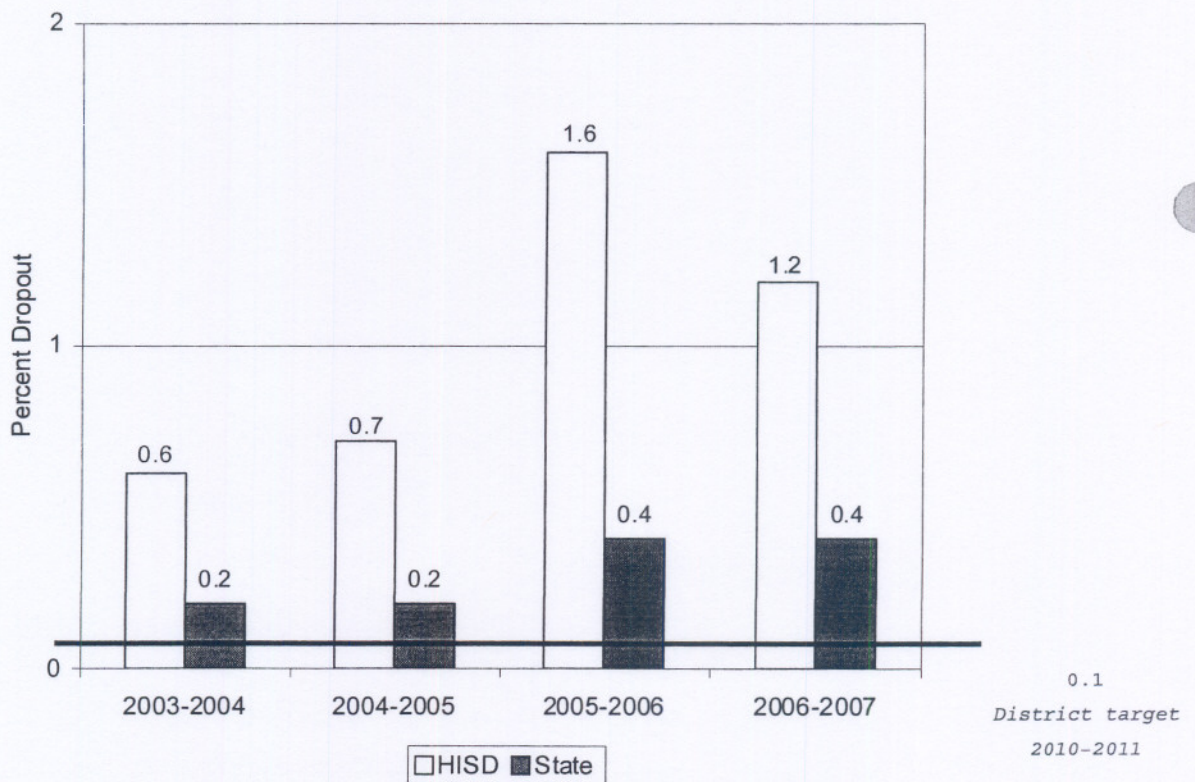
Four-Year Longitudinal Completion Status

- The percentage of students in the ninth grade cohort who dropped out of school by the end of four years increased from 17.9 percent for the class of 2006 to 22.1 percent for the class of 2007 (Table 2).
- The percentage of students who graduated in the ninth-grade cohort decreased more than nine percentage points over the last three years (from 2005 to 2007).

The graduation rate for the class of 2007 was 64.3 percent, which is 2.8 percentage points below last year's graduation rate of 67.1 percent (Figure 2).

- By the end of the 2006–2007 school year, the district goal was to increase the graduation rate to 85 percent. The district has fallen short of this target by 20.7 percentage points.
- By the end of the 2010–2011 school year, the district goal is to increase the four-year completion rate for the ninth grade cohort to 95 percent. This includes students who graduate or are still in school. This year's rate was 76.8 percent, a decrease from the class of 2006 at 80.9 percent (Figure 3).

Figure 1: HISD's Annual Dropout Rate for All Students in Grades 7–8, Class of 2003–2004 to 2006–2007



Source: *Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools 2006–2007*; Texas Education Agency, District Dropout and Completion Summary Tables 6/18/2008.

Table 1: Annual Dropout Rate for Grades 7 and 8 as Calculated by TEA for HISD and the State by Student Demographics, 2003–2004 to 2006–2007

	2003–2004		2004–2005		2005–2006		2006–2007	
	HISD	State	HISD	State	HISD	State	HISD	State
All Students	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.2	1.6	0.4	1.2	0.4
African Am.	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.2	1.9	0.8	1.4	0.7
Hispanic	0.7	0.3	0.8	0.3	1.5	0.6	1.2	0.5
White	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	1.0	0.2	0.7	0.2
Eco. Disad.	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.2	1.3	0.5	1.0	0.5

Note:

$$\text{Annual Dropout Rate Grades 7 and 8} = \frac{\text{Number of seventh- and eighth-grade students who dropped out at any time during the school year}}{\text{Number of seventh- and eighth-grade students who were in attendance at any time during the school year}} \times 100$$

Table 2: Four-Year Longitudinal Completion Status for HISD by Student Demographics, Class of 2005–2007

		2005				2006				2007			
		Grad	GED	Cont	Drop	Grad	GED	Cont	Drop	Grad	GED	Cont	Drop
All Students	HISD	73.8	2.3	11.4	12.5	67.1	1.2	13.7	17.9	64.3	1.1	12.5	22.1
	STATE	84.0	3.8	7.9	4.3	80.4	2.3	8.6	8.8	78.0	2.0	8.7	11.4
African Am.	HISD	75.8	1.8	10.4	11.9	69.6	1.3	11.3	17.8	66.7	1.1	9.6	22.6
	STATE	81.7	2.6	10.2	5.5	74.5	1.7	10.5	13.3	70.7	1.6	10.5	17.2
Hispanic	HISD	68.3	2.0	14.5	15.3	59.9	0.8	18.0	21.3	55.6	0.8	16.8	26.8
	STATE	77.4	3.4	12.3	6.9	71.7	2.0	13.2	13.1	68.5	1.8	13.3	16.4
White	HISD	86.4	5.2	3.2	5.2	84.4	3.0	4.8	7.8	86.9	2.5	3.8	6.7
	STATE	89.5	4.7	3.9	2.0	89.0	2.8	4.2	3.9	88.2	2.4	4.1	5.3
Asian	HISD	90.4	1.0	4.4	4.2	87.9	0.0	5.5	6.6	87.8	0.6	6.4	5.1
	STATE	92.7	1.2	4.3	1.8	92.0	0.7	4.2	3.2	91.5	0.5	4.2	3.8
Eco. Disadv.	HISD	70.3	2.0	13.6	14.2	65.8	1.0	12.8	20.4	59.9	1.0	13.2	25.9
	STATE	77.4	3.9	12.0	6.7	72.0	2.4	11.9	13.7	68.8	2.1	11.7	17.3

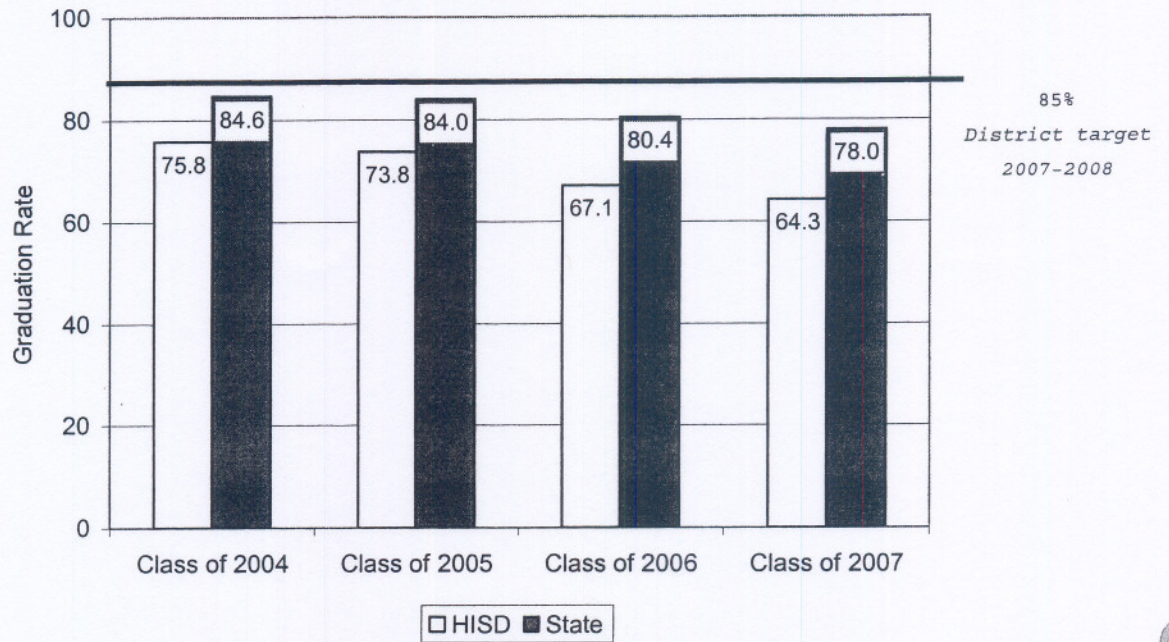
Note:

Grad = High School Graduate
 GED = Received General Educational Development Certificate
 Cont = Still in school after four years
 Drop = Dropout

$$\text{Longitudinal Dropout Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of students from the ninth grade cohort who dropped out before the end of twelfth grade}}{\text{Number of students in the 2003–2004 cohort}} \times 100$$

Source: *Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools 2006–2007*; Texas Education Agency, District Dropout and Completion Summary Tables 6/18/2008.

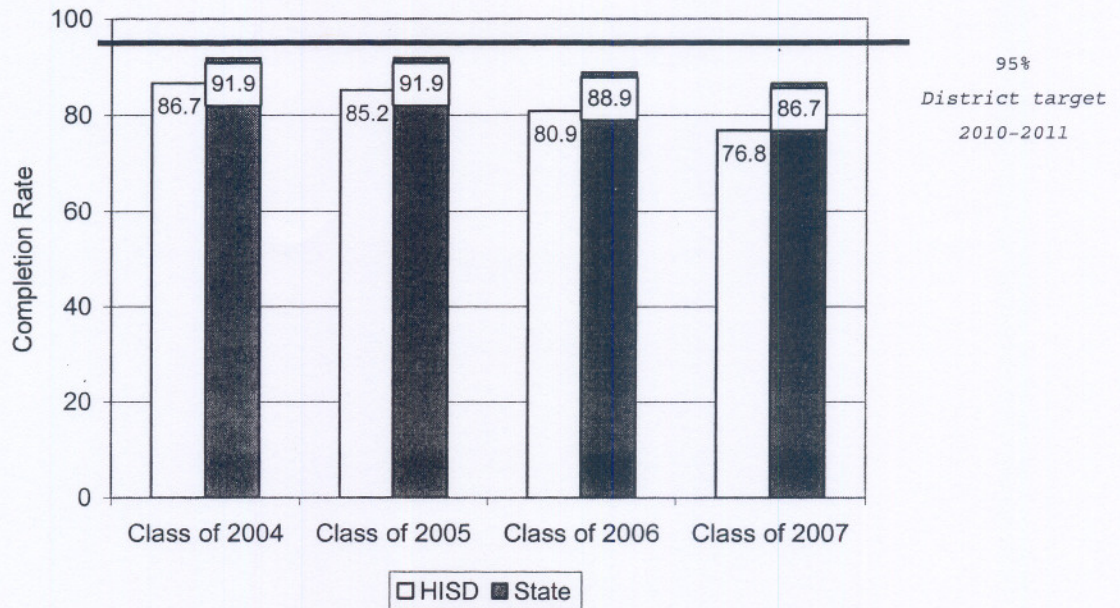
Figure 2: Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation for All Students in HISD and the State, Class of 2004–2007



Graduation Rate: Based on the ninth grade cohort, this shows the percentage who receive their high-school diploma on time or earlier by the end of their twelfth-grade year.

Source: *Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools 2006–2007*; Texas Education Agency, District Dropout and Completion Summary Tables 6/18/2008.

Figure 3: Longitudinal Completion Rate I for All Students in HISD and the State, Class of 2004–2007



Note: Two completion-rate measures have been defined for Texas public-school accountability beginning in 2004. Completion Rate I includes graduates and continuing enrollment. Completion Rate I is used in determining campus and district accountability ratings. Completion Rate II includes students who received a GED and is used for rating alternative education campuses.

Completion Rate I formula:

$$\frac{\text{graduates} + \text{continuers}}{\text{graduates} + \text{continuers} + \text{GED recipients} + \text{dropouts}}$$

Source: *Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools 2006–2007*; Texas Education Agency, *Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools 2006–07*.