

## MEMORANDUM

February 9, 2016

TO: Board Members

FROM: Terry B. Grier, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT: CLASS OF 2014**

CONTACT: Carla Stevens, Research and Accountability, (713) 556-6700

The **National Student Clearinghouse** (NSC) is the nation's largest source for secondary and postsecondary student enrollment and degree information. While the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) only tracks enrollment in Texas institutions, NSC maintains records on students enrolled in higher education across the country.

College enrollment data for HISD's Class of 2014 has been released by NSC and key findings are presented below. However, it is important to highlight college enrollment trends for both Texas and the nation to provide context for HISD data. **Since 2009, college enrollment rates have declined across Texas and the nation overall.** For example, between 2002 and 2009, the proportion of Texas high school students who enrolled in a Texas institution of higher education directly in the fall semester after graduating high school steadily increased from 52.2 percent to 56.3 percent. Between 2009 and 2013, enrollment rates declined from 56.3 percent to 53.7 percent.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, between 2011 and 2013, college enrollment numbers have declined by almost one million students for the country overall.<sup>2</sup>

### Key Findings:

- **More HISD graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions immediately after high school in 2014 than did in 2005.** HISD graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions at about the same rate in 2014 as in 2013, 58 percent and 57 percent, respectively.
- Ninety percent of HISD graduates in 2014 who enrolled in higher education, stayed in Texas to pursue their studies. The majority attended public two- and four-year institutions of higher education.
- Compared to Class of 2013, 16 high schools increased overall enrollment rates and 21 high schools improved the enrollment rate to four-year universities.
- The persistence rate (the percent of students who enroll in college and return for a second year) for HISD graduates in the Class of 2013 is 83 percent—a rate higher than that of other low-income, high minority, urban schools.

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<sup>1</sup> Texas Higher Education Data. *High School Graduates Enrolled in Texas Higher Education*. Retrieved from <http://www.txhighereddata.org/index.cfm?objectId=2783AAA6-ADCB-E35A-5BFC8F501DC1D65A>.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (September 14, 2014). *College Enrollment Declines for Second Year in a Row, Census Bureau Reports*. Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2014/cb14-177.html>.

## **Administrative Response**

### **The Secondary School Offices**

- **High schools are using a variety of strategies to increase postsecondary enrollment by:**
  - A. Hosting College Fairs to bring awareness to high school students and parents about postsecondary options.
  - B. Hiring College Access Counselors to assist students and parents in applying to college and awareness of postsecondary options.
  - C. Hosting “FAFSA Family Nights” to assist parents and students in completing postsecondary forms and applications.
  - D. Creating “College Corners” or areas in their schools to promote college awareness and provide assistance with applying to college.
  - E. Principals are offering prep courses for students for PSAT, SAT, and ACT college entry exams.
- **Middle and high schools are participating in the RACE TO THE TOP grant. Link Learning is funding:**
  - A. Middle school college visits.
  - B. Middle schools are visiting high schools to learn about HB5 and postsecondary options offered in high schools.
  - C. AVID courses in middle and high schools.
    - a. The Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program was developed to increase the number of secondary students who participate in rigorous academic courses, to accelerate student learning, and to improve student performance. The AVID program in the Houston Independent School District (HISD) targets students who (1) are in the academic middle and earn grades of B, C, and D; (2) desire to go to college; (3) are willing to work hard; (4) are capable of completing rigorous curricula; and (5) are not reaching their full academic potential.
- **Continue encouraging our high schools to connect, use, and implement our EMERGE program.**
  - A. Students enrolled in EMERGE-HISD differed significantly from the population of all HISD high school students. They had a higher representation of economically disadvantaged students, higher scores on tests for college-bound students, higher grade point averages, and a higher average number of rigorous courses taken.
  - B. Sixty-one (61) seniors who were in good standing with EMERGE-HISD at the end of the year documented the results of their college applications. Fifty-six (92 percent) of the students applied to at least one of *U.S. News and World Report’s* list of the top 100 research institutions of higher education and 34 (56 percent) applied to at least one of the top liberal arts institutions of higher education. All 61 were accepted to all of the institutions to which they applied.
  - C. Forty-five (45) of the seniors documented financial aid packages which averaged \$47,312 for the first year of study.

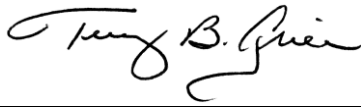
Source: HISD Research and Accountability 2013-2014 EMERGE-HISD Program Report

**The College Success Office**

**The College Success program ensures that all students have access to quality college advising.**

- HISD, with funding partnership with the Houston Endowment, allocated 28 College Success Advisors across all high schools in the district.
- The advisors pay special attention to college-eligible groups of students who historically are less likely to attend college.
- Early results show a significant increase in the number of seniors applying to college. At the end of January, 65% of seniors had applied to college, compared to 47% at the same time the previous year and 59% at the end of the previous year.
- The District conservatively projects that the class of 2016 will show an eight percentage point increase in students applying to college and a five percentage point increase in college enrollment compared to the class of 2015.

Should you have any further questions, please contact my office or Carla Stevens in the Research and Accountability Department at (713) 556-6700.

  
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**Attachments**

cc: Superintendent's Direct Reports  
Chief School Officers  
School Support Officers  
High School Principals



# RESEARCH

Educational Program Report

## POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT GRADUATING CLASS OF 2014

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND ACCOUNTABILITY  
HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



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## Postsecondary Enrollment: Class of 2014

### Executive Summary

**More HISD graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions immediately after high school in 2014 than did in 2005.** HISD graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions at about the same rate in 2014 as in 2013, 58 percent and 57 percent, respectively. While the enrollment rate has also remained flat from 2005, the number enrolled has actually increased by 15 percent from 4,759 to 5,473 during this same time period.

**Most HISD graduates who enroll in higher education stay within the state of Texas.** Ninety percent of HISD graduates in 2014 who enrolled in higher education, stayed in Texas to pursue their studies. The majority attended public two- and four-year institutions of higher education.

**Some HISD campuses made gains in postsecondary enrollment rates from last year.** Compared to Class of 2013, 16 high schools increased overall enrollment rates and 21 high schools improved the enrollment rate to four-year universities.

**Postsecondary enrollment rates vary significantly among student demographic groups.** More than three out of four Asian and White HISD graduates enrolled in higher education compared to just over half of Hispanic and African-American graduates. The rate at which economically-disadvantaged students enroll in postsecondary education is more than ten percentage points lower than that of their more economically-advantaged peers. Consistent with national data, women enroll in higher education at a higher rate than men.

**The majority of HISD graduates who enroll in higher education return for a second year.** The persistence rate (the percent of students who enroll in college and return for a second year) for HISD graduates in the Class of 2013 is 83 percent—a rate higher than that of other low-income, high-minority, urban schools. However, African-American and Hispanic students are less likely to return for a second year compared to their White and Asian counterparts.

**Almost half of HISD graduates who enroll in higher education will earn a college credential within six years.** Among the Class of 2009 who enrolled in college, 45 percent earned a college credential within six years, a slight decline from 48 percent for both the Classes of 2007 and 2008.

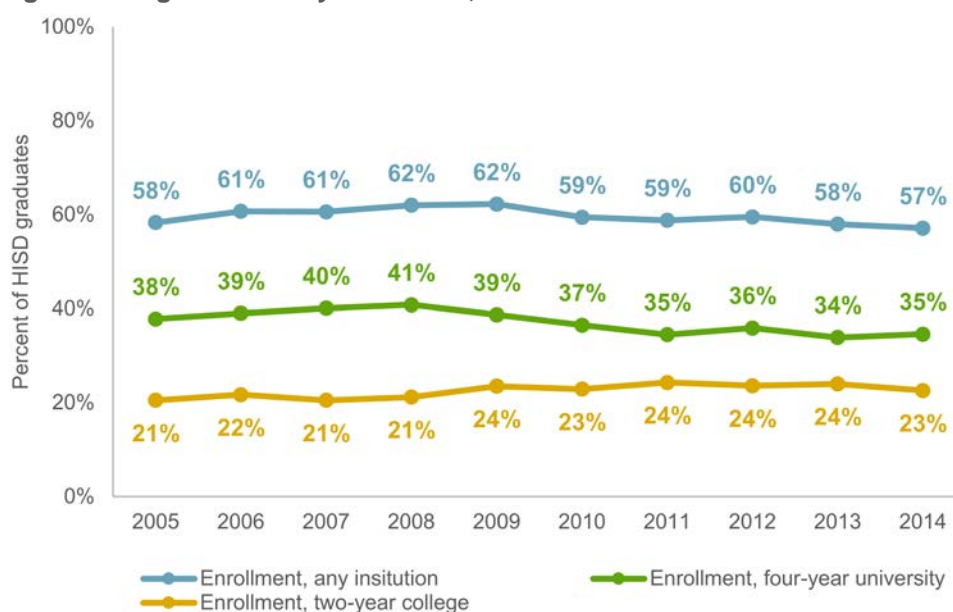
## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to summarize postsecondary enrollment and completion rates for HISD high school graduates. Recently released enrollment rate data from National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) for the Class of 2014 and college outcomes for the Class of 2009 are presented. Persistence rates for the Class of 2013 are also included. Postsecondary enrollment data are disaggregated by high school campus, student demographic group, and type of postsecondary institution. Historical, state, and national data are provided for context.

## How many HISD graduates enrolled in postsecondary education?

**Overall postsecondary enrollment rates remained stable from 2013 to 2014 (Figure 1).** HISD graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions at about the same rate in 2014 as in 2013, 58 percent and 57 percent, respectively. While the proportion of HISD graduates enrolled in college has remained steady, the *number* of HISD graduates who enroll in college has steadily increased over the past decade. For example, between 2005 and 2014, the number of students who enrolled in college within one year of graduation increased by 15 percent from 4,759 to 5,473, respectively (see **Figure 9, p. 8**).

**Figure 1. Percent of HISD graduates enrolled in college within one year of high school graduation by institution, Classes of 2005–2014**



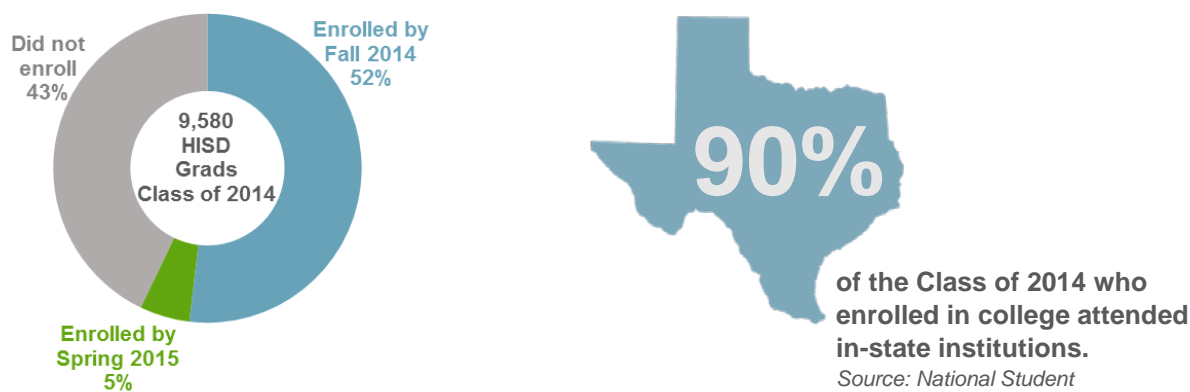
Source: National Student Clearinghouse, August 2015.

## State and National Enrollment Trends

College enrollment rates of HISD graduates have been in decline since 2009—a trend that is also witnessed in Texas and the nation overall. For example, between 2002 and 2009, the proportion of Texas high school students who enrolled in a Texas institution of higher education directly in the fall semester after graduating high school steadily increased from 52.2 percent to 56.3 percent; between 2009 and 2013, the enrollment rate declined from 56.3 percent to 53.7 percent (Texas Higher Education Data). Furthermore, between 2011 and 2013, college enrollment numbers have declined by almost one million students for the country overall (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014).

**More than half (52%) of the Class of 2014 enrolled in college in the fall semester immediately following high school graduation.** An additional five percent enrolled by Spring 2015. Among the almost 5,500 HISD graduates who enrolled in college within one year of high school graduation, 90 percent stayed in Texas to continue their education, 88 percent attended an in-state public institution, 61 percent attended a four-year university, and 39 percent attended a two-year college.

**Figure 2. College enrollment patterns for the Class of 2014**



Source: National Student Clearinghouse, August 2015.

### Where did the Class of 2014 enroll in college?

**HISD college-going graduates enroll in Texas colleges and universities most frequently.** Three out of every four HISD graduates enrolled in 11 postsecondary institutions located in Texas. Almost three out of every ten graduates enrolled in Houston Community College—nearly double the rate that enrolled in University of Houston, the second-most popular institution. Approximately two percent of HISD graduates enroll in Texas' flagship research university, the University of Texas at Austin.

**Table 1. Top 11 postsecondary institutions of HISD Class of 2014, based on enrollment**

	Postsecondary Institution	Type	Number Enrolled	Percent of all enrolled	Percent of in-state enrolled
1	Houston Community College	Two-Year	1,504	28	30
2	University Of Houston	Four-Year	847	16	17
3	University Of Houston-Downtown	Four-Year	364	7	7
4	Texas Southern University	Four-Year	291	5	6
5	San Jacinto College	Two-Year	289	5	6
6	Texas A&M University	Four-Year	153	3	3
7	Lone Star College System District	Two-Year	143	3	3
8	University Of Texas At Austin	Four-Year	124	2	3
9	Prairie View A&M University	Four-Year	121	2	2
10	Texas State University - San Marcos	Four-Year	121	2	2
11	Sam Houston State University	Four-Year	106	2	2
<b>HISD Top 11 Totals</b>			<b>4,063</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>82</b>

Note: Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding. Data for Number Enrolled are a possible undercount of the actual number of HISD students enrolled in specific postsecondary institutions due to student requests for privacy (FERPA).

Source: National Student Clearinghouse, August 2015.



**559**

HISD students from the Class of 2014 enrolled in a Top 100 National Research or Liberal Arts university, as ranked by U.S. News and World Report.



## How did postsecondary enrollment compare for 2013 and 2014 graduates of HISD high schools?

At most HISD high schools, the Class of 2014 enrolled in postsecondary institutions at lower rates than did the Class of 2013 (Figure 3). However, college enrollment rates were higher than they were for the previous year at 16 high school campuses. Even more promising, 21 high schools increased enrollment in four-year universities.

**Figure 3. Percent of HISD Class of 2014 who enrolled in college within one year of graduation by institution type and change from 2013**

Ranked by Percent in College for Class of 2014

Campus	Class of 2014			Change from Class of 2013			
	HISD Graduates	Percent in 4-Year	Percent in 2-year	Percent in College	Percent in 4-Year	Percent in 2-year	Percent in College
Carnegie HS	102	91	4	95	1	1	2
HS Perf. Vis. Arts	155	84	7	91	7	-3	5
DeBakey HS	171	86	4	90	-2	-1	-2
Challenge EC	96	80	8	89	14	-10	3
E-STEM Central HS	7	71	14	86	19	-25	-6
East EC HS	108	77	8	85	17	-8	9
Eastwood Acad.	93	52	31	83	8	-6	1
Mount Carmel Acad.	98	43	39	82	0	8	8
Lamar HS	843	57	24	81	2	4	6
South EC HS	8	38	38	75	--	--	--
Bellaire HS	689	49	24	73	-4	2	-2
Westside HS	621	44	29	73	-1	0	-1
H Acad. Intl. SHS	82	61	10	71	8	-8	0
Law Enf. CJHS	120	48	23	70	3	-7	-4
Reagan HS	497	35	33	68	0	1	2
N. Houston ECHS	76	41	24	64	-28	13	-15
Waltrip HS	372	23	34	57	1	-2	-1
Chavez HS	564	22	35	57	3	-1	2
Yates HS	197	36	20	56	-4	3	-1
Sharpstown Intl	101	30	21	50	-2	-11	-12
Jordan HS	227	30	20	50	0	-8	-8
Sharpstown HS	197	29	20	49	-1	2	1
Westbury HS	358	25	23	48	-2	-1	-3
Wheatley HS	157	29	19	48	-4	5	1
Furr HS	178	25	22	47	6	-14	-8
Washington HS	158	34	13	47	3	-5	-2
Milby HS	430	14	31	45	-5	-2	-7
Madison HS	399	26	19	45	8	-10	-2
Davis HS	278	24	21	44	-7	4	-3
Sterling HS	165	34	9	43	14	-9	5
Worthing HS	106	30	12	42	5	-1	5
Tx Conn. Acad.	129	21	18	39	--	--	--
Kashmere HS	83	27	12	39	12	-5	7
Scarborough HS	120	14	24	38	-4	-2	-6
Jones HS	71	23	14	37	-6	-1	-7
Austin HS	310	14	22	36	2	-5	-3
Lee HS	276	14	21	36	-4	0	-4
Houston MSTC HS	518	17	18	35	0	-3	-3
North Forest HS	162	17	17	35	--	--	--
E-STEM West HS	24	13	17	29	-6	-6	-12
Hope Acad.	18	11	11	22	4	-22	-18
AVA	88	3	16	19	1	0	1
Reach HS	62	0	15	15	-1	-6	-7
Liberty HS	31	3	3	6	-1	-25	-26
HCC Lifeskills	16	6	0	6	6	0	6
Harper Alt.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
SOAR Center	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rogers TH	9	0	0	0	0	-8	-8
<b>HISD</b>	<b>9,580</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>&lt; 1</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-1</b>

Note: Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding. \* Masked n< 5. -- denotes no data for Class of 2013. Source: National Student Clearinghouse, August 2015; figures for 2013 sourced from HISD Research and Accountability College Enrollment of HISD Graduates report dated September 30, 2014.

## College Enrollment by HISD High School

16 HISD high schools increased overall postsecondary enrollment rates in 2014 compared to 2013.

21 HISD high schools increased *four-year* university enrollment rates in 2014.

At Lamar HS, the school with the largest graduating class in 2014, more than **80 percent** of graduates enrolled in college.

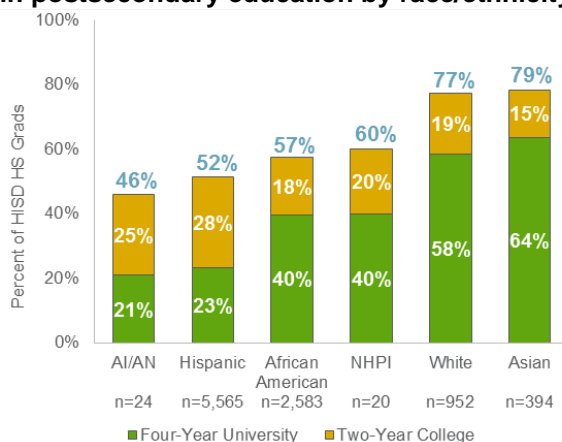
East EC HS, Mt. Carmel Academy, and Kashmere HS experienced the greatest increases in college enrollment rates from 2013.

26 HISD high schools had **lower** overall postsecondary enrollment rates in 2014 than in 2013.

## How did postsecondary enrollment vary among different student demographic groups?

**Postsecondary enrollment rates vary by demographics.** Asian and White students have higher postsecondary enrollment rates than their Hispanic and African-American peers (**Figure 4**). Almost eight out of ten Asian-American students enrolled in higher education within one year compared to 60 percent of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students—a rate similar to that of African-Americans.

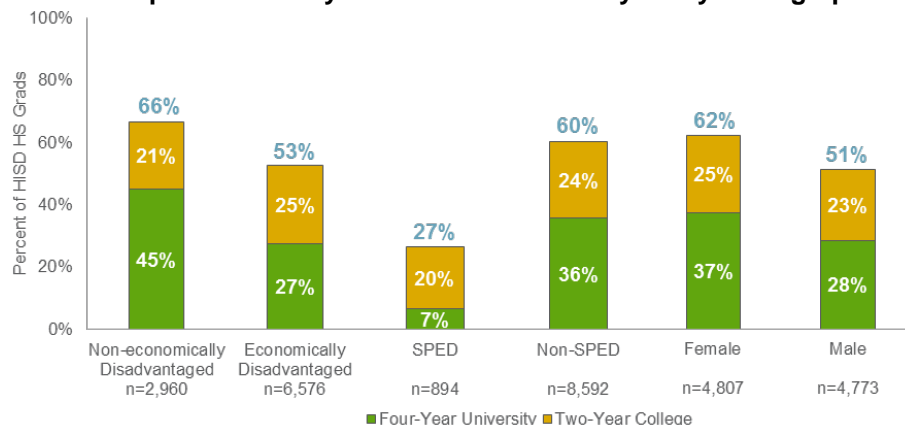
**Figure 4. Percent of HISD graduates from the Class of 2014 that enrolled in postsecondary education by race/ethnicity**



*Note: Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding. AI/AN = American Indian/Alaskan Native; NHPI = Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. Source: National Student Clearinghouse, August 2015.*

Approximately 53 percent of economically-disadvantaged students in the Class of 2014 enrolled in higher education compared to 66 percent of students who are not economically-disadvantaged (**Figure 5**). Non-economically-disadvantaged students are substantially more likely to enroll in four-year universities than their economically-disadvantaged peers. Consistent with national and state data, postsecondary enrollment rates for all HISD racial/ethnic and demographic groups have declined or remained flat since 2011.

**Figure 5. Percent of HISD graduates from the Class of 2014 that enrolled in postsecondary education within one year by demographic indicators**



*Note: Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding. SPED = Students with disabilities. Source: National Student Clearinghouse, August 2015.*

## District Trends Reflect National Trends by Student Group

While the increase in the number of Hispanic students enrolling in college is outpacing that of African-American and White students, the rate at which Hispanics enroll directly in college from high school is lower than that of Asian and White students (Krogstad & Fry, 2014).

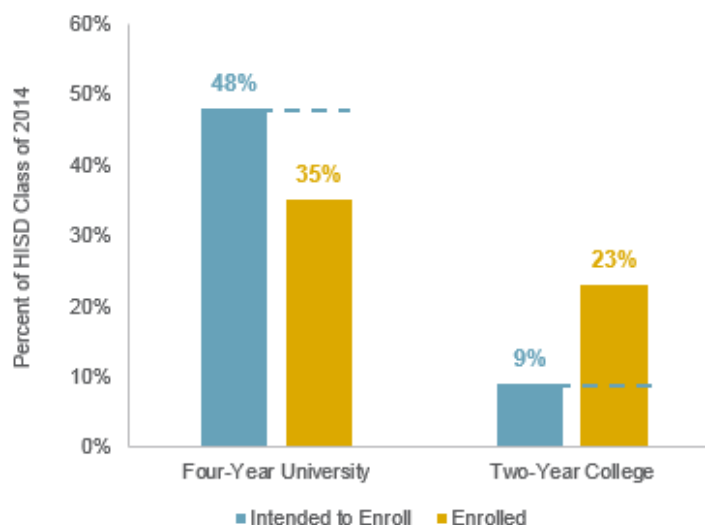
Income matters. According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) (2015), students from families with higher incomes are almost twice as likely to enroll in college immediately after high school graduation compared to their lower-income peers.

Men are more likely to be under-represented in higher education as their enrollment rates remain lower than those for women (Kena et al., 2015).

## What was the postsecondary Aspiration Gap for the Class of 2014?

**More students want to attend four-year universities than those who actually enroll.** In a College Board survey (part of the SAT questionnaire) of 84 percent of the class of 2014 about their college plans, almost half (48%) said they intended to enroll in a four-year university and nine percent intended to enroll in a two-year college (**Figure 6**). Comparisons about which type of institution students aspired to attend versus where they actually enrolled can be made when analyzing SAT Survey results against NSC enrollment data. A larger proportion of students enrolled in a two-year college than had intended to and a smaller proportion of students enrolled in a four-year university. Results should be interpreted with caution given the large proportion of students (43%) who were undecided or chose not to answer this optional question from the SAT survey.

**Figure 6. Aspiration Gap—postsecondary intentions and actions of HISD's graduating class of 2014**

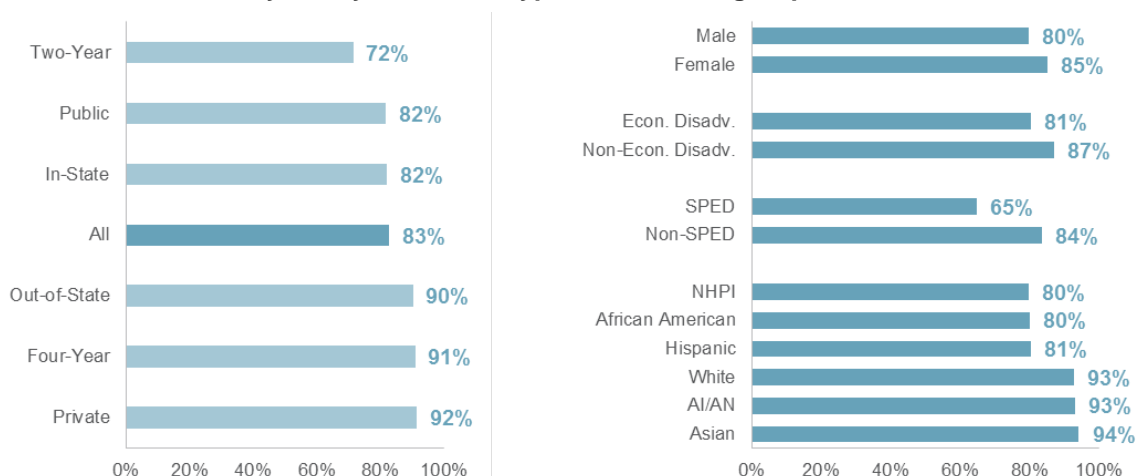


Source: College Board 2014 SAT results; National Student Clearinghouse, August 2015.

## What percent of the Class of 2013 graduates who enrolled in college returned for a second year?

**More than four out of five HISD graduates who enroll in college return for a second year.** Students who attend college outside Texas, four-year universities, and private institutions are more likely to persist in college than students who attend in-state, two-year, and public institutions (**Figure 7**). Female, non-economically disadvantaged, and non-SPED students are also more likely to return to college for a second year. Among the Class of 2013, African-American, Hispanic, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NHPI) students had lower rates of persistence than their White and Asian counterparts. Persistence rates have steadily increased from a low of 81 percent in 2011.

**Figure 7. Percent of HISD Class of 2013 who enrolled in college within one year of graduation who returned for a second year, by institution type and student group**

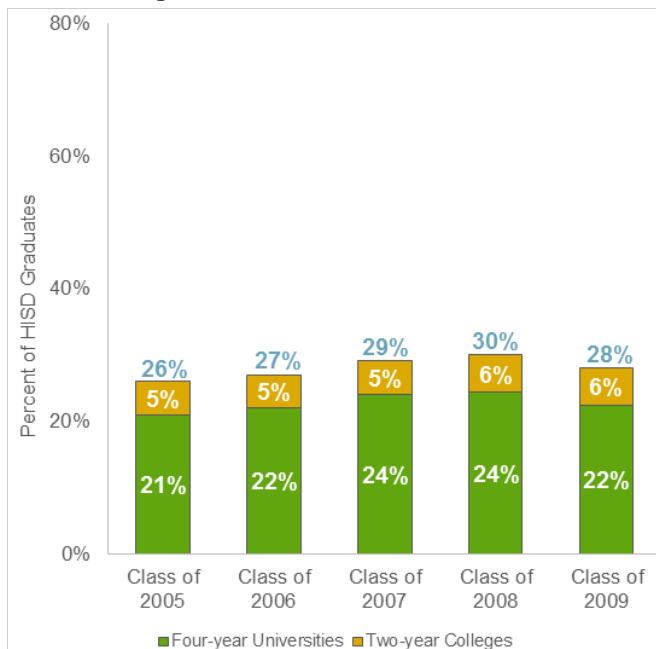


Notes: SPED = Students with special needs. NHPI = Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. AI/AN = American Indian/Alaskan Native. Source: National Student Clearinghouse, August 2015.

## What are the postsecondary outcomes among the Class of 2009?

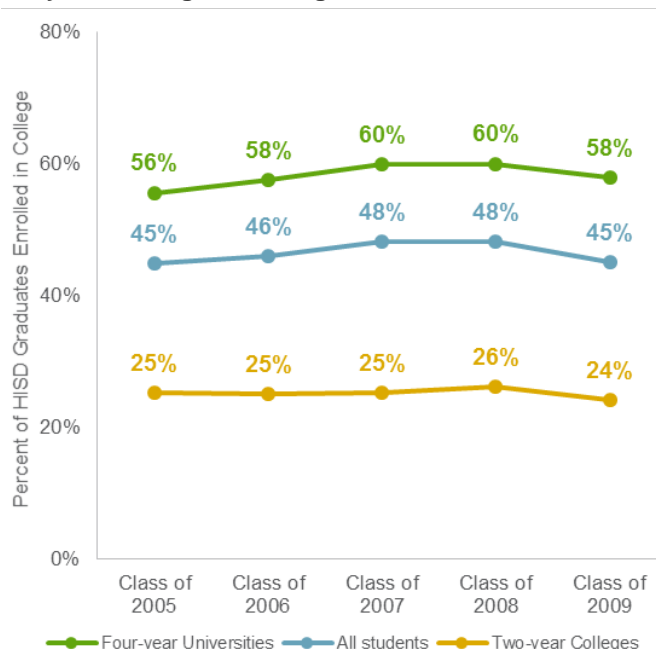
**College graduation rates for HISD students are relatively flat.** Almost three out of ten (28%) HISD graduates from the Class of 2009 earned a college credential (certificate, associate, or baccalaureate degree) within six years of high school graduation (**Figure 8a**). Among those who enrolled in higher education (**Figure 8b**), almost half (45%) earned a college credential. Students who enrolled in four-year universities are more than twice as likely to have earned a degree as those who enroll in two-year colleges. Graduation rates for all groups were on the rise between 2005 and 2008 but have recently declined.

**Figure 8a. Percent of all HISD Graduates with college credential within six years of high school graduation, 2005–2009**



Source: National Student Clearinghouse, August 2015.

**Figure 8b. Percent of HISD Graduates who enrolled in college with college credential within six years of high school graduation, 2005–2009**



Source: National Student Clearinghouse, August 2015.

**A small percentage of HISD graduates earn certificates.** HISD graduates earn certificates in addition to associate and baccalaureate degrees. Certificates are most common among students who wish to learn a specific skill and enter the workforce quickly after high school. Colleges and universities are not required to report degree program information to NSC, and any data is potentially an undercount of the number of students who earn certificates. However, among the Class of 2009, three percent of HISD graduates who enrolled in college earned a certificate (National Student Clearinghouse, August 2015).

### National Graduation

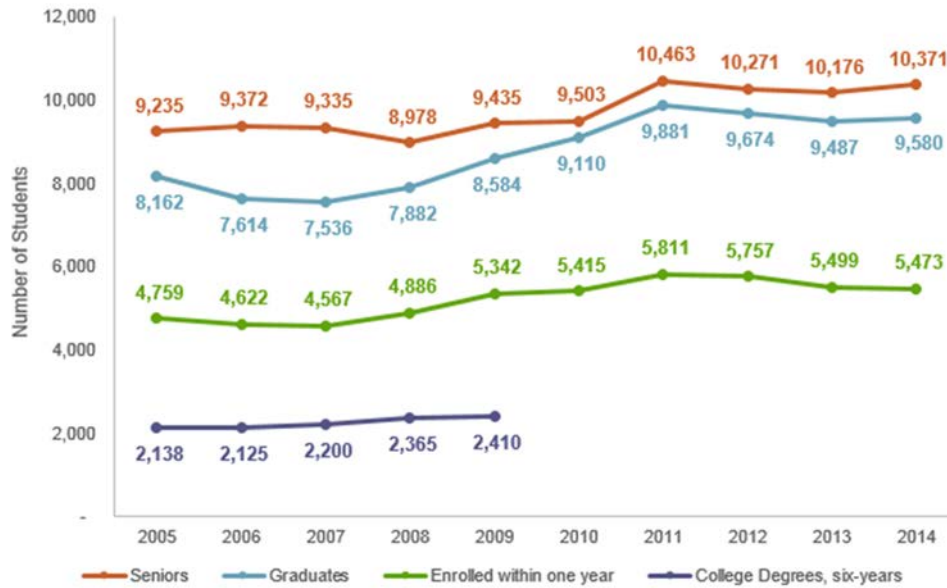
Graduation rates for HISD students are higher than those for students in other comparable, low-income, high-minority, urban areas. NSC reports that among a national sample of high schools, approximately 22 percent of the Class of 2008 had a college degree within six years of high school graduation. For HISD, that figure was 30 percent (National Student Clearinghouse, 2015).

AT HISD, OUR GOAL IS FOR  
EVERY STUDENT TO  
GRADUATE  
READY FOR THE WORLD.



The number of HISD graduates with college credentials is increasing (Figure 9). While the proportion of HISD graduates with a college degree declined slightly between 2008 and 2009, the number of HISD graduates with a degree continued to increase during this time period.

**Figure 9. Number of HISD students in graduating class who enrolled in college and earned a credential, Classes of 2005–2014**



Source: National Student Clearinghouse, August 2015.





## Conclusion

The number of Houston ISD graduates enrolling in, persisting through, and graduating from college continues to increase. Approximately half of all graduates in 2014 enrolled in higher education within one year of high school graduation. The majority of students enroll in Texas two- or four-year public institutions.



While the enrollment rate for HISD graduates has recently declined, these downward trends mirror those of the state and nation. Compared to 2013, certain Houston ISD campuses have not only increased the rate at which the Class of 2014 enrolled in college but also have increased the enrollment rate into four-year universities. Despite some gains, wide gaps across race/ethnicity, economic status, gender, and students with disabilities remain.

HISD graduates have above-average persistence and graduation rates compared to other comparable low-income, high-minority, urban schools. More than four out of five HISD graduates from the Class of 2013 who enrolled in college return for a second year. And almost half (45%) of the Class of 2009 who enrolled in college earned a college credential within six years.

## About this report and National Student Clearinghouse data

This report provides an analysis of the data available from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) based on the August 15, 2015 snapshot that includes historical information of college enrollment in the fall immediately following graduation and within one year of graduation from HISD high schools during the period 2007–2014. District-level results are disaggregated by student demographic groups and by high school campus.

In 2009, HISD started a subscription to the StudentTracker<sup>SM</sup> service offered by the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC), a non-profit organization that is the nation's largest source for secondary and post-secondary student degree, diploma and enrollment verification. Previously, HISD relied exclusively on the annual reporting of the college enrollment of high school graduates in higher education institutions provided by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). Unfortunately, the THECB data suffers from several drawbacks:

- tracks only enrollment in Texas institutions,
- relies heavily on student social security numbers and other PEIMS data for matching purposes that fails to track the enrollment of undocumented students, and
- does not track enrollment beyond the fall immediately following student graduation.

StudentTracker<sup>SM</sup> data enables administrators in school districts to access the NSC records on over 137 million students, which represent postsecondary enrollments and achievements nationwide. NSC maintains records on behalf of more than 3,500 public and private colleges and universities that enroll over 98 percent of the students in higher education. These institutions have authorized NSC to provide this information to high schools and school districts in order to help them improve their educational programs. However, it should be noted that while StudentTracker<sup>SM</sup> offers vastly improved data quality compared to the THECB results, not all graduates are found through this service, and the results therefore represent the best estimates of college-enrollment of the high school graduates.

It is important to note that NSC provides HISD with summary documents in addition to a student-level detailed data file. Not all students who are counted in the summary documents are included in the detailed data file due to student requests for privacy. As such, figures and analysis conducted using the data file may not match figures reported on summary documents.

## References

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