

MEMORANDUM

December 2, 2016

TO: Board Members

FROM: Richard A. Carranza
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **Postsecondary Enrollment: Class of 2015**

CONTACT: Carla Stevens, 713-556-6700

The National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) is the nation's largest source for secondary and postsecondary student enrollment and degree information, maintaining records on students enrolled in more than 3,600 public and private colleges and universities across the country.

This report presents college enrollment data from NSC for HISD's class of 2015, and key findings are presented below. It is important to highlight college enrollment trends across Texas and the United States to provide context for HISD data. Since 2009, college enrollment rates have declined across Texas and the nation. For example, between 2002 and 2009, the proportion of Texas high school students who enrolled in a Texas institution of higher education the fall after graduation increased steadily from 52 percent to 56 percent. Between 2009 and 2013, enrollment rates declined to less than 54 percent.

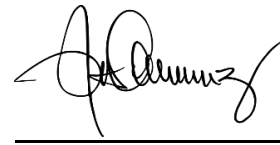
Key findings include:

- More HISD graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions in the year after high school in the Class of 2015 than the Class of 2006. HISD graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions at a similar rate in 2015 as 2014, 57 percent and 58 percent, respectively.
- 89 percent of HISD graduates who enrolled in higher education stayed in Texas to pursue their studies.
- Compared to the Class of 2014, 21 HISD high schools had increases in graduate enrollment and 15 high schools improved the enrollment rate to four-year colleges and universities.
- The persistence rate (i.e., the percentage of students who enroll in college and return for a second year) for HISD graduates in the Class of 2014 was 81 percent—a higher rate than other low-income, high minority, urban schools across the nation.

Administrative Response

In 2015-2016, the district launched a college advising initiative across all high schools that significantly increased college application and FAFSA completion rates. The district is hopeful that this will translate to an increase in postsecondary enrollment for HISD graduates, as will be reflected in NSC data for the class of 2016 when it is available. Through the expansion of programs such as Futures Academy, early colleges, and dual credit, the district also expects to see an increase in the number of students who graduate from high school already possessing a postsecondary degree or certificate. Often these students are not captured in NSC data, and therefore NSC enrollment data may underestimate levels of post-secondary attainment. The district is looking into ways that it may be able to capture data to reflect students who receive a degree or certificate while in high school.

Should you have any further questions, please contact Carla Stevens in Research and Accountability at 713-556-6700.


____ RAC

Attachment

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



RESEARCH

Educational Program Report

**POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT:
CLASS OF 2015**



2016 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Manuel Rodriguez, Jr.
President

Wanda Adams
First Vice President

Diana Dávila
Second Vice President

Jolanda Jones
Secretary

Rhonda Skillern-Jones
Assistant Secretary

Anna Eastman
Michael L. Lunceford
Greg Meyers
Harvin C. Moore

Richard A. Carranza
Superintendent of Schools

Carla Stevens
Assistant Superintendent
Department of Research and Accountability

Kevin Mulqueeny, Ph.D.
Research Specialist

Zack Bigner
Research Manager

Houston Independent School District
Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center
4400 West 18th Street Houston, Texas 77092-8501

www.HoustonISD.org

It is the policy of the Houston Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, handicap or disability, ancestry, national origin, marital status, race, religion, sex, veteran status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression in its educational or employment programs and activities.

Postsecondary Enrollment: Class of 2015

Executive Summary

More HISD graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions in the year after high school in 2015 than did in 2006. HISD graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions at about the same rate in 2015 as in 2014, 57 percent and 58 percent, respectively. While the enrollment rate has declined four percentage points since 2006, the number enrolled has actually increased by 20 percent from 4,622 to 5,551 during this same time period.

Most HISD graduates who enroll in higher education stay within the state of Texas. Eighty-nine percent of HISD graduates in 2015 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 2014, 21 high schools increased overall enrollment rates and 15 high schools improved the enrollment rate to four-year universities.

Postsecondary enrollment rates vary significantly among student demographic groups. More than 70 percent of 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 2014 is 81 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 2010 who enrolled in college, 45 percent earned a college credential within six years, a slight decline from 50 percent for the Class of 2008.

Purpose

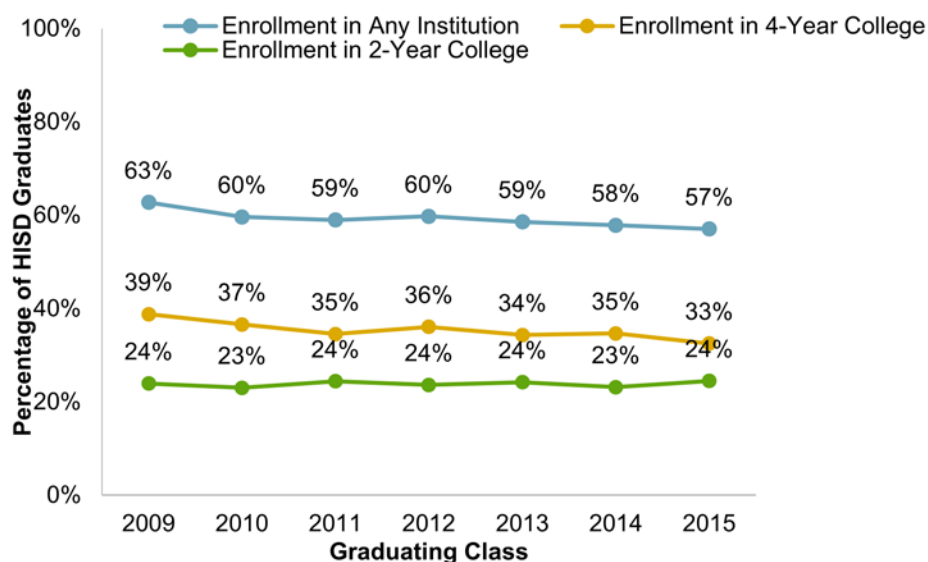
The purpose of this report is to summarize postsecondary enrollment and completion rates for HISD high school graduates. Recently released enrollment data from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) for the Class of 2015 and college outcomes for the Class of 2010 are presented. Persistence rates for the Class of 2014 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 declined from 2009 to 2015 (Figure 1).

HISD graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions at about the same rate in 2015 as in 2014, 57 percent and 58 percent, respectively. This continues a downward trend since the Class of 2009, with enrollment rates having dropped six percentage points. As shown in Figure 1, this decline has been driven entirely by decreased enrollment in four-year colleges and universities, as two-year college enrollment rates have remained stable over the last seven years.

Figure 1. Percentage of HISD graduates enrolled in college within one year of high school graduation by institution, Classes of 2009–2015



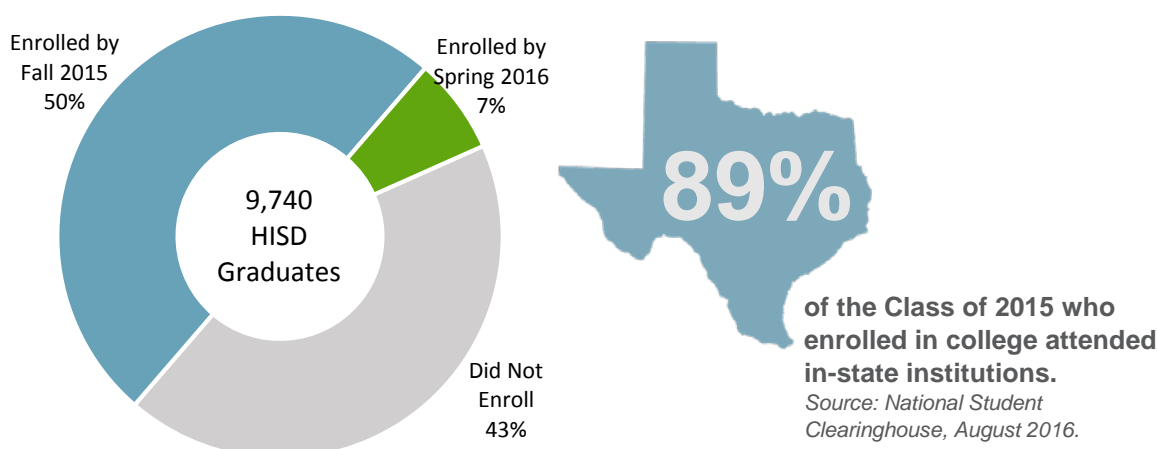
Source: National Student Clearinghouse, August 2016

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 declined by almost one million students for the country overall (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014).

Half (50%) of the Class of 2015 enrolled in college in the fall semester immediately following high school graduation. An additional seven percent enrolled by Spring 2016. Among the more than 5,500 HISD graduates who enrolled in college within one year of high school graduation, 89 percent stayed in Texas to continue their education, 89 percent attended an in-state public institution, 57 percent attended a four-year university, and 43 percent attended a two-year college.

Figure 2. College enrollment patterns for the Class of 2015



Source: National Student Clearinghouse, August 2016.

Where did the Class of 2015 enroll in college?

HISD graduates enroll in Texas colleges and universities most frequently. Two-thirds (67%) of HISD graduates who enrolled in college attended one of 10 postsecondary institutions located in Texas. Half of those students enrolled in Houston Community College. Three percent of HISD graduates enrolled in Texas' flagship research university, the University of Texas at Austin.

Table 1. Top 10 postsecondary institutions of HISD Class of 2015, based on enrollment

| | Postsecondary Institution | Type | Number Enrolled | Percent of all enrolled | Percent of in-state enrolled |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Houston Community College | Two-Year | 1,830 | 33 | 37 |
| 2 | University Of Houston | Four-Year | 443 | 8 | 9 |
| 3 | San Jacinto College | Two-Year | 294 | 5 | 6 |
| 4 | University of Houston – Downtown | Four-Year | 285 | 5 | 6 |
| 5 | Texas A&M University | Four-Year | 189 | 3 | 4 |
| 6 | University of Texas at Austin | Four-Year | 161 | 3 | 3 |
| 7 | Prairie View A&M University | Four-Year | 144 | 3 | 3 |
| 8 | Lone Star College System District | Two-Year | 142 | 3 | 3 |
| 9 | Texas State University – San Marcos | Four-Year | 112 | 2 | 2 |
| 10 | Sam Houston State University | Four-Year | 99 | 2 | 2 |
| HISD Top 10 Totals | | | 3,699 | 67 | 75 |

Note: 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 2016.

How did postsecondary enrollment compare for 2014 and 2015 graduates of HISD high schools?

At most HISD high schools, the Class of 2015 enrolled in postsecondary institutions at the same or lower rates than did the Class of 2014 (Figure 3). However, college enrollment rates were higher than they were for the previous year at 21 high school campuses. Even more promising, 15 high schools increased enrollment in four-year universities.

Figure 3. Percent of HISD Class of 2015 who enrolled in college within one year of graduation by institution type and change from 2014

Ranked by Percent in College for Class of 2015

| Campus Name | Class of 2015 | | | Change from 2014 | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|
| | Graduates | Percent in 4-Year | Percent in 2-Year | Percent in College | 4-Year Change | 2-Year Change | Total College Change |
| Debakey HS | 188 | 89 | 6 | 95 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| HS Perf. Vis. Arts | 169 | 76 | 15 | 91 | -8 | 8 | 0 |
| Carnegie HS | 139 | 88 | 3 | 91 | -3 | -1 | -4 |
| East EC HS | 106 | 76 | 11 | 88 | -1 | 3 | 3 |
| Challenge EC | 105 | 74 | 11 | 86 | -6 | 3 | -2 |
| South EC HS | 19 | 68 | 16 | 84 | 30 | -22 | 8 |
| YWCPA | 44 | 70 | 14 | 84 | -- | -- | -- |
| Leland YMCPA | 18 | 83 | 0 | 83 | -- | -- | -- |
| Lamar HS | 816 | 53 | 27 | 80 | -4 | 3 | -1 |
| Eastwood Acad. | 108 | 45 | 31 | 76 | -7 | 0 | -7 |
| N. Houston ECHS | 89 | 43 | 33 | 75 | 2 | 9 | 10 |
| Bellaire HS | 726 | 51 | 22 | 73 | 2 | -2 | 0 |
| Hou Acad. Intl. | 100 | 53 | 20 | 73 | -8 | 10 | 2 |
| Westside HS | 568 | 39 | 41 | 70 | -5 | 2 | -3 |
| Mount Carmel Acad. | 66 | 29 | 31 | 70 | -14 | 2 | -12 |
| Law Enf. CJHS | 105 | 41 | 29 | 70 | -7 | 6 | -1 |
| E-STEM Central HS | 6 | 50 | 17 | 67 | -21 | 3 | -18 |
| Heights HS | 479 | 31 | 29 | 61 | -4 | -4 | -7 |
| Sharpstown Intl. | 90 | 39 | 20 | 59 | 9 | -1 | 8 |
| Chavez HS | 671 | 20 | 36 | 56 | -2 | 1 | -1 |
| Hope Acad. | 18 | 17 | 39 | 56 | 6 | 28 | 34 |
| Waltrip HS | 314 | 22 | 33 | 55 | -1 | -1 | -2 |
| Jordan HS | 185 | 32 | 20 | 52 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Washington HS | 128 | 30 | 20 | 51 | -4 | 7 | 4 |
| Northside HS | 376 | 21 | 29 | 50 | -3 | 8 | 5 |
| Yates HS | 160 | 36 | 14 | 50 | 0 | -6 | -6 |
| Austin HS | 309 | 13 | 37 | 50 | 0 | 18 | 18 |
| TX Conn. Acad. | 228 | 17 | 31 | 48 | -4 | 13 | 9 |
| Jones HS | 21 | 43 | 5 | 48 | 20 | -9 | 11 |
| Milby HS | 410 | 13 | 35 | 48 | -1 | 4 | 3 |
| Westbury HS | 412 | 20 | 25 | 45 | -5 | 2 | -3 |
| Worthing HS | 111 | 23 | 22 | 44 | -7 | 10 | 2 |
| Madison HS | 317 | 22 | 21 | 43 | -4 | 2 | -2 |
| Sharpstown HS | 245 | 24 | 18 | 42 | -5 | -2 | -7 |
| Mid Coll - Gulfton | 29 | 3 | 38 | 41 | -- | -- | -- |
| North Forest HS | 182 | 24 | 17 | 41 | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Furr HS | 211 | 15 | 24 | 39 | -10 | 2 | -8 |
| Kashmere HS | 96 | 31 | 7 | 39 | 4 | -5 | 0 |
| Liberty HS | 26 | 4 | 35 | 38 | 1 | 32 | 32 |
| Wisdom HS | 235 | 18 | 20 | 38 | 4 | -1 | 3 |
| E-STEM West HS | 22 | 18 | 18 | 36 | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Wheatley HS | 151 | 19 | 17 | 35 | -10 | -2 | -13 |
| Sterling HS | 177 | 16 | 18 | 34 | -18 | 9 | -9 |
| Houston MSTC HS | 427 | 13 | 21 | 34 | -4 | 3 | -1 |
| Scarborough HS | 132 | 20 | 14 | 33 | 7 | -2 | 4 |
| Mid Coll - Fraga | 13 | 0 | 23 | 23 | -- | -- | -- |
| Reach Charter | 70 | 6 | 16 | 21 | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| AVA | 87 | 1 | 11 | 13 | -2 | -5 | -6 |
| HCC Lifeskills | 22 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | -1 | -1 |
| Harper Alt. | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | * | * | * |
| SOAR Center | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Houston ISD | 9740 | 33 | 24 | 57 | -2 | 1 | -1 |

Note: Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding. * Masked n< 5. -- denotes no data for Class of 2014. Source: National Student Clearinghouse, August 2016; figures for 2014 sourced from HISD Research and Accountability College Enrollment of HISD Graduates report dated February 9, 2016.

College Enrollment by HISD High School

21 HISD high schools increased overall postsecondary enrollment rates in 2015 compared to 2014.

15 HISD high schools increased *four-year* university enrollment rates in 2015.

At Lamar HS, the school with the largest graduating class in 2015, 80 percent of graduates enrolled in college.

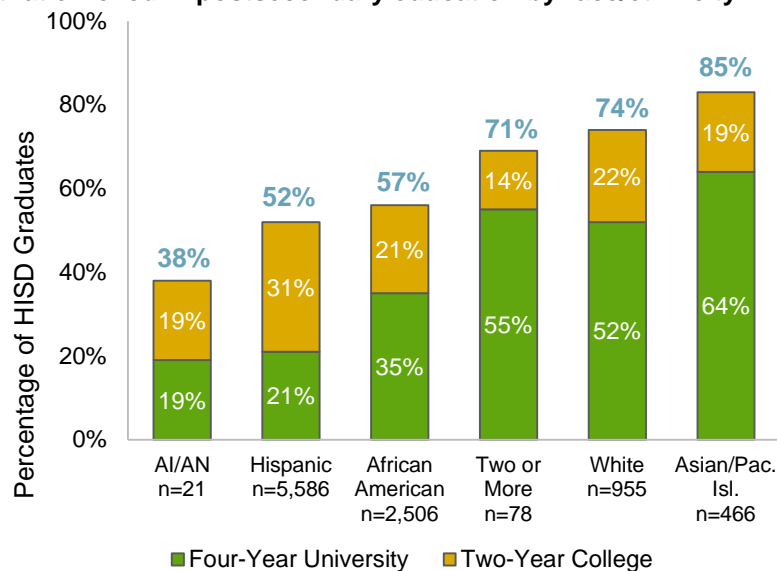
Hope Academy and Liberty HS experienced the greatest increases in college enrollment rates from 2014.

21 HISD high schools had lower overall postsecondary enrollment rates in 2015 than in 2014.

How did postsecondary enrollment vary among different student demographic groups?

Postsecondary enrollment rates vary by demographics. Asian, White, and multiracial students have higher postsecondary enrollment rates than their Hispanic and African-American peers (**Figure 4**). 85 percent of Asian students enrolled in higher education within one year compared to 52 percent of Hispanic students—a rate five percentage points lower than that of African-American students.

Figure 4. Percentage of HISD graduates from the Class of 2015 that enrolled in postsecondary education by race/ethnicity



Note: Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding, missing ethnicity data, and students who enrolled in post-secondary programs of fewer than 2 years. AI/AN = American Indian/Alaskan Native.

Source: National Student Clearinghouse, August 2016.

53 percent of economically-disadvantaged students in the Class of 2015 enrolled in higher education compared to 67 percent of students who are not economically-disadvantaged (**Figure 5, p. 6**). Non-economically-disadvantaged students are 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.

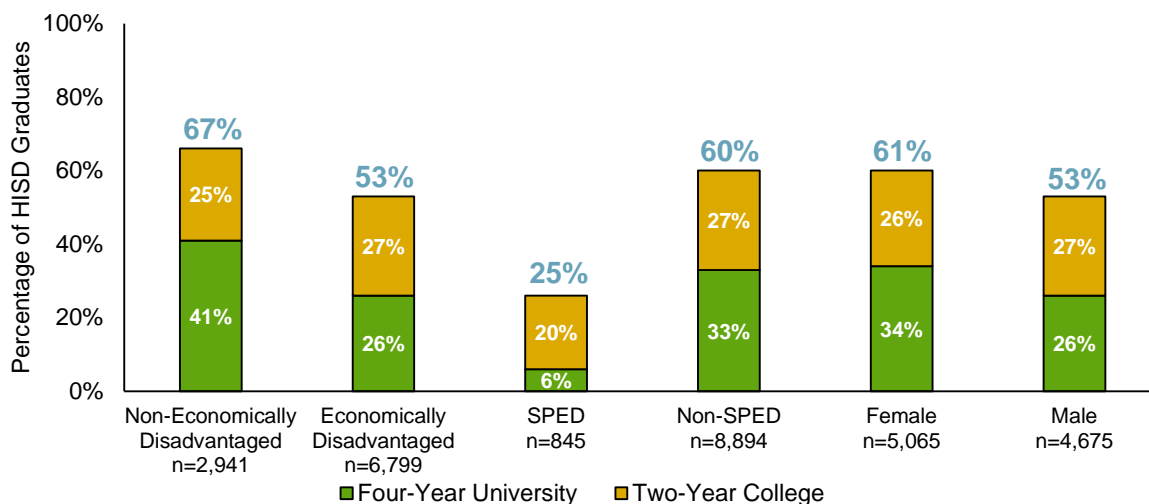
District Trends Reflect National Trends by Student Group

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 Student Clearinghouse, students from higher-income schools have fall college enrollment rates 15 percentage points higher than their peers from low-income schools (NSC, 2016).

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).

Figure 5. Percentage of HISD graduates from the Class of 2015 that enrolled in postsecondary education within one year by demographic indicators

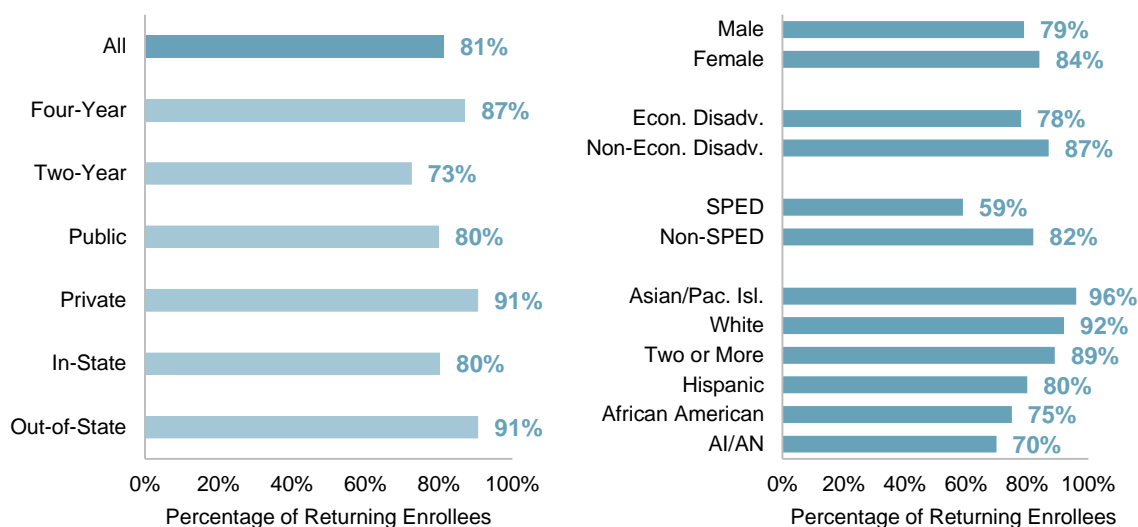


*Note: Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding, missing ethnicity data, and students who enrolled in post-secondary programs of fewer than 2 years. SPED = Students with disabilities.
Source: National Student Clearinghouse, August 2016.*

What percent of the Class of 2014 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 6**). Female, non-economically disadvantaged, and non-SPED students are also more likely to return to college for a second year. Among the Class of 2014, African-American, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native students had lower rates of persistence than their White and Asian counterparts.

Figure 6. Percentage of HISD Class of 2014 who enrolled in college within one year of graduation who returned for a second year, by institution type and student group

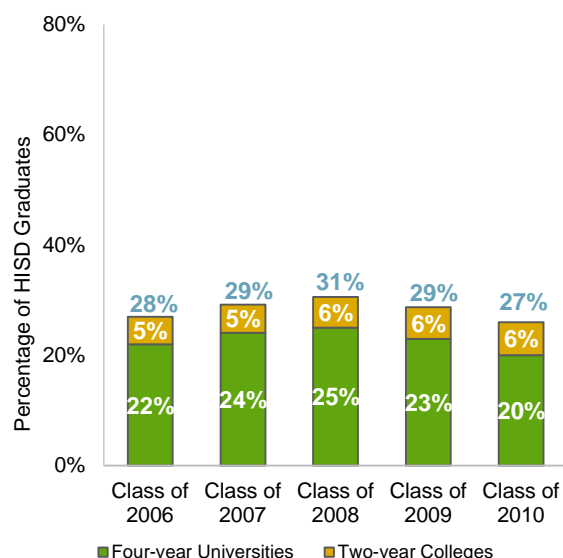


*Notes: SPED = Students with special needs. AI/AN = American Indian/Alaskan Native.
Source: National Student Clearinghouse, August 2016.*

What are the postsecondary outcomes among the Class of 2010?

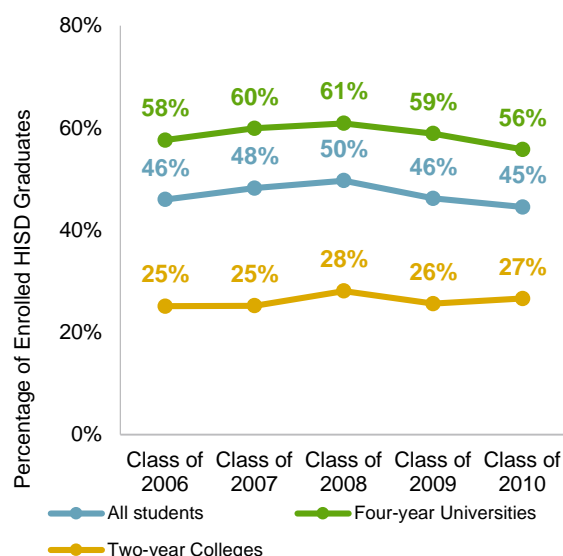
College graduation rates for HISD students are declining. 27 percent of HISD graduates from the Class of 2010 earned a college credential (certificate, associate, or baccalaureate degree) within six years of high school graduation (**Figure 7a**). Among those who enrolled in higher education (**Figure 7b**), 45 percent earned a college credential. Students who enrolled in four-year universities had a graduation rate more than twice that of those who enrolled in two-year colleges. Graduation rates for all groups were on the rise between the classes of 2006 and 2008 but have declined since.

Figure 7a. Percentage of all HISD graduates who earned a degree within six years.



Source: National Student Clearinghouse, August 2016.

Figure 7b. Percentage of enrolled HISD graduates who earned a degree within six years.



Source: National Student Clearinghouse, August 2016.

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 2010, three percent (183 students) of HISD graduates who enrolled in college earned a certificate (National Student Clearinghouse, August 2016).

National College Graduation

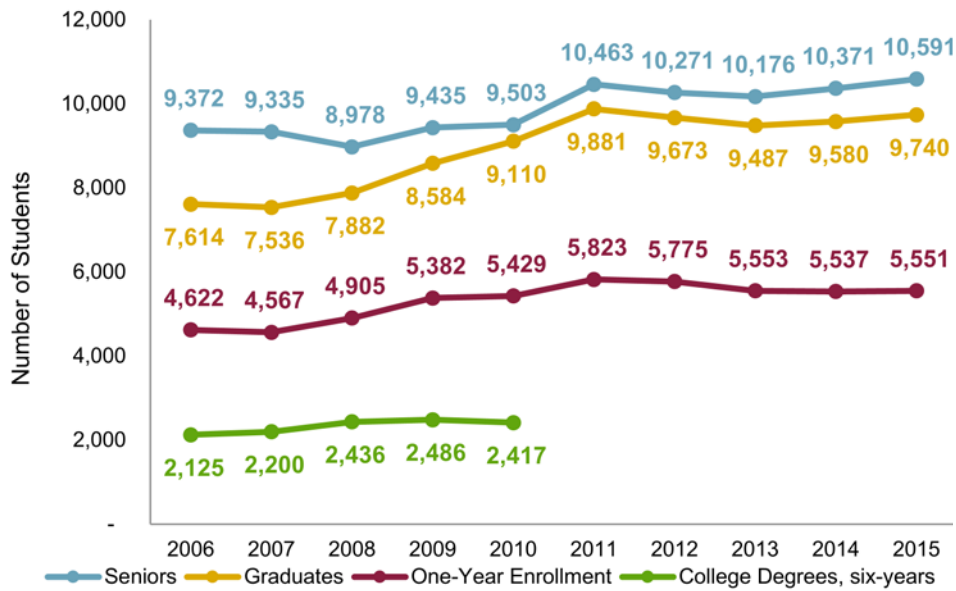
Graduation rates for HISD students are higher than those for students in other comparable, low-income, high-minority, urban areas. NSC reports that among a national sample of low income, high minority, urban high schools, 22 percent of the Class of 2009 had a college degree within six years of high school graduation. For HISD, that figure was 29 percent (National Student Clearinghouse, 2016).

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



Over the last two years, HISD has seen an increase in the number of seniors, number of graduates, and number of college enrollees (Figure 8). 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. The Class of 2010 was the first to show a decrease in the number, as well as the percentage, of graduates.

Figure 8. Number of HISD students in graduating class who enrolled in college and earned a credential, Classes of 2006–2015



Source: National Student Clearinghouse, August 2016.



Conclusion

The number of Houston ISD graduates enrolling in college continues to increase. More than one-half of all graduates in 2015 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 2014, certain Houston ISD campuses have not only increased the rate at which the Class of 2015 enrolled in college but also have increased the enrollment rate into four-year universities. Despite some gains, wide gaps remain across race/ethnicity, economic status, gender, and for students with disabilities.



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 2014 who enrolled in college returned for a second year. And almost half (45%) of the Class of 2010 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, 2016 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 2008–2015. District-level results are disaggregated by student demographic groups and by high school campus.

In 2009, HISD subscribed to the StudentTrackerSM service offered by 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.

StudentTrackerSM provides NSC records on over 252 million students, representing postsecondary enrollments and achievements nationwide. NSC maintains records on behalf of more than 3,600 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 StudentTrackerSM offers vastly improved data quality compared to the THECB results, not all graduates are found through this service, and the results represent the best estimates of college-enrollment for high school graduates.

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

- Kena, G., Musu-Gillette, L., Robinson, J., Wang, X., Rathbun, A., Zhang, J., .Dunlop Velez, E. (2015). *The condition of education 2015* (NCES 2015-144). U. S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Washington, DC.
- Krogstad, J. M., & Fry, R. (2014, April 24). *More Hispanics, Blacks enrolling in college, but lag in bachelor's degrees*. Washington, D.C.; Pew Research Center.
- National Student Clearinghouse (2016). *High School Benchmarks 2016: National College Progression Rates*. Retrieved from <https://nscresearchcenter.org/high-school-benchmarks-2016-national-college-progression-rates/>.
- Texas Higher Education Data. *High school graduates enrolled in Texas higher education*. Retrieved from <http://www.txhighereddata.org/>.
- 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>.