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Completion and Dropouts  
in Texas Public Schools  
2015-16**

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**Secondary School  
Completion and Dropouts  
in Texas Public Schools  
2015-16**

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**Abstract.** The Texas Education Agency (TEA) prepares an annual report on graduates and dropouts in Texas public secondary schools. This report includes state summaries of the annual dropout rate, longitudinal graduation and dropout rates, and state attrition rates. In addition to statewide statistics, the report provides historical information about dropout policy in Texas and the evolution of the dropout definition used for accountability purposes. Common methods of measuring student progress through school are discussed, along with advantages and disadvantages associated with each measure. Extensive background information on TEA data collection, processing, and reporting is presented, and national requirements for dropout data are described.

**Keywords.** Secondary education, high school completion, dropouts, annual dropout rate, longitudinal dropout rate, longitudinal graduation rate, attrition rate, Grades 7-12, Grades 7-8, Grades 9-12.

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# Contents

Introduction .....	ix
Overview.....	x
Highlights.....	xi
Definitions and Calculations of High School Completion .....	1
Measures of High School Completion .....	2
Definitions and Calculations for Accountability .....	10
History of Graduation and Dropout Reporting in Texas .....	13
Chronology .....	14
Dropout Definition.....	18
Annual Dropout Rates.....	20
Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates .....	24
Data Used in Graduation and Dropout Reporting .....	29
Public Education Information Management System Data .....	30
Creating the Roster of Students .....	32
Accounting for Students by the Texas Education Agency .....	33
Accounting for Students by Districts .....	34
Processing Leaver Records.....	36
Reporting of Student and Program Information .....	39
District Results for Leaver Processing.....	44
Data Quality in Dropout Reporting.....	47
Results for Texas Public Schools .....	51
Annual Dropout Rates.....	52
Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates .....	72
Attrition Rates.....	104
Data Quality Measures.....	106
Uses of Texas Annual Dropout Data and Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Data .....	109
State Accountability System .....	110
Federal Accountability System .....	116
National Center for Education Statistics Reporting .....	117
Appendix A. Leaver Reason Codes and Documentation Requirements in the Public Education Information Management System .....	123
Appendix B. Student Characteristic and Program Participation Data in Annual Dropout Rates and Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates .....	135
Appendix C. Supplemental Tables .....	141

Appendix D. Comparison of a Grade 9-12 Longitudinal Dropout Rate and a Grade 9-12 Attrition Rate .....	157
References.....	159

## List of Tables

Table 1.	Common Methods of Measuring Student Progress Through School.....	3
Table 2.	Chronology of Texas Education Agency Dropout Definition and Data Processing Enhancements .....	21
Table 3.	Chronology of Texas Education Agency Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rate Definitions and Data Processing Enhancements .....	25
Table 4.	Leaver Reason Codes, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16 .....	35
Table 5.	District Leavers, Grades 7-12, by Leaver Reason, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16 .....	45
Table 6.	Criteria for Investigation of Leaver Data, 2014-15.....	49
Table 7.	Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-8, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2011-12 Through 2015-16 .....	53
Table 8.	Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-8, by Program Participation, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16.....	55
Table 9.	Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-8, by Student Characteristic, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16.....	55
Table 10.	Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 9-12, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2011-12 Through 2015-16 .....	56
Table 11.	Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 9-12, by Program Participation, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16.....	58
Table 12.	Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 9-12, by Student Characteristic, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16.....	58
Table 13.	Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2011-12 Through 2015-16 .....	59
Table 14.	Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Program Participation, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16.....	61
Table 15.	Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Student Characteristic, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16.....	61
Table 16.	Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Student Age, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16 .....	62
Table 17.	Annual Dropout Rate, by Grade and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16 .....	63
Table 18.	Annual Dropout Rate, by Grade, Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, English Language Learner Status, and Special Education Program Participation, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16 .....	64
Table 19.	Annual Dropout Rate, by Grade and Gender Within Racial/Ethnic Groups, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16 .....	67

Table 20.	Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, Hispanic Students by Race, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16 .....	68
Table 21.	Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-8 and Grades 9-12, Current and Former English Language Learners, by Special Language Program Instructional Model, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16 .....	70
Table 22.	Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Classes of 2012 Through 2016 .....	74
Table 23.	Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, Excluding Individual Graduation Committee Graduates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016.....	76
Table 24.	Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Program Participation, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016 .....	78
Table 25.	Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Student Characteristic, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016.....	78
Table 26.	Graduates Within Diploma Programs, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, Gender, Program Participation, and Student Characteristic, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016 Grade 9 Cohort .....	80
Table 27.	Graduates Within Diploma Programs, Excluding Individual Graduation Committee Graduates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, Gender, Program Participation, and Student Characteristic, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016 Grade 9 Cohort .....	82
Table 28.	Dropouts, by Grade and School Year, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016 Grade 9 Cohort .....	83
Table 29.	Other Leavers, by Leaver Reason, On-Grade Status, and School Year, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016 Grade 9 Cohort .....	84
Table 30.	Grade 9 Four-Year and Five-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2015 .....	87
Table 31.	Grade 9 Four-Year and Five-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Program Participation, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2015.....	88
Table 32.	Grade 9 Four-Year and Five-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Student Characteristic, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2015 .....	89
Table 33.	Grade 9 Five-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2012, as of Fall 2013, Class of 2013, as of Fall 2014, Class of 2014, as of Fall 2015, and Class of 2015, as of Fall 2016 .....	90
Table 34.	Graduates Within Diploma Programs, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, Gender, Program Participation, and Student Characteristic, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2015 Grade 9 Five-Year Extended Longitudinal Cohort, as of Fall 2016.....	93
Table 35.	Grade 9 Four-Year, Five-Year Extended, and Six-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2014.....	95

Table 36.	Grade 9 Four-Year, Five-Year Extended, and Six-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Program Participation, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2014.....	97
Table 37.	Grade 9 Four-Year, Five-Year Extended, and Six-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Student Characteristic, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2014.....	98
Table 38.	Grade 9 Six-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2011, as of Fall 2013, Class of 2012, as of Fall 2014, Class of 2013, as of Fall 2015, and Class of 2014, as of Fall 2016.....	99
Table 39.	Grade 9 Four-Year, Five-Year Extended, Six-Year Extended, and Seven-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2013.....	101
Table 40.	Grade 7 Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity and Economic Status, Texas Public Schools, Classes of 2013 Through 2016 .....	102
Table 41.	Attrition Rate, Grades 9-12, by Race/Ethnicity and Economic Status, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16 .....	104
Table 42.	Attrition Rate, Grades 7-12, by Race/Ethnicity and Economic Status, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16 .....	105
Table 43.	Comparison of Class of 2016 Four-Year Longitudinal Rate and 2015-16 Attrition Rate Calculations, Texas Public Schools.....	105
Table 44.	Reported and Underreported Students, Grades 7-12, Texas Public Schools, 2005-06 Through 2015-16 .....	106
Table 45.	Reported and Underreported Students, Grades 7-12, by Race/Ethnicity, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16 .....	107
Table 46.	Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Cohort, Texas Public Schools, Classes of 2012 Through 2016.....	108
Table 47.	Students and Dropouts Excluded From Campus and District Annual Dropout Rates for State Accountability Purposes, Grades 9-12, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16 .....	112
Table 48.	Students Excluded From Campus and District Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Rates for State Accountability Purposes, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016.....	113
Table 49.	Students Excluded From Campus and District Grade 9 Five-Year Extended Longitudinal Rates for State Accountability Purposes, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2015, as of Fall 2016.....	114
Table 50.	Students Excluded From Campus and District Grade 9 Six-Year Extended Longitudinal Rates for State Accountability Purposes, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2014, as of Fall 2016.....	115
Table 51.	National Center for Education Statistics Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates (%), by Race/Ethnicity and State, Class of 2015 .....	118
Table 52.	National Center for Education Statistics Averaged Freshman Graduation Rates, by State, 2010-11 Through 2012-13 .....	120



Table 53.	National Center for Education Statistics Event Dropout Rates, Grades 9-12, by State, 2009-10 Through 2011-12.....	122
Table A-1.	Leaver Reason Codes in the Public Education Information Management System .....	129
Table B-1.	Student Characteristic and Program Participation Data in Annual Dropout Rate and Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rate Calculations .....	138
Table C-1.	Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-8, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2005-06 Through 2010-11.....	142
Table C-2.	Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 9-12, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2005-06 Through 2010-11.....	145
Table C-3.	Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2005-06 Through 2010-11.....	148
Table C-4.	Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 9-12, Charters and Traditional Districts, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16.....	150
Table C-5.	Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Classes of 1996 Through 2005 .....	151
Table C-6.	Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Classes of 2006 Through 2011 .....	154
Table C-7.	Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, Charters and Traditional Districts, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016.....	156

## List of Figures

Figure 1.	Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation Rates and Policy Changes, Texas Public Schools, Classes of 2007 Through 2016 .....	28
Figure 2.	Year-to-Year Reporting of Students in Grades 7-12, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16.....	44
Figure 3.	Comparison of Nongraduates and Class Membership, by Race/Ethnicity, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016 .....	77
Figure 4.	Synopsis of Student Progress Through High School, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016 Grade 9 Cohort.....	85
Figure D-1.	Example: Comparison of a Grade 9-12 Longitudinal Dropout Rate and a Grade 9-12 Attrition Rate.....	158



# **Introduction**

Overview

Highlights

## Overview

This report provides annual dropout rates for students attending Texas public schools in 2015-16; four-year longitudinal graduation and dropout rates for students who were expected to graduate from Texas public schools in 2015-16; and extended longitudinal rates for students expected to graduate in previous years. The annual dropout rate measures the percentage of students who drop out of school during one school year. The four-year longitudinal rates reflect the percentages of students from a class of beginning ninth graders who, by the fall following their anticipated graduation date, graduate, remain enrolled, receive General Educational Development (GED) certificates, or drop out. The extended longitudinal rates reflect the percentages of students from a class of beginning ninth graders who, by the fall a year or more after their anticipated graduation date, graduate, remain enrolled, receive GED certificates, or drop out. Texas uses the National Center for Education Statistics dropout definition. Under this definition, a dropout is a student who is enrolled in public school in Grades 7-12, does not return to public school the following fall, is not expelled, and does not: graduate, receive a GED certificate, continue school outside the public school system, begin college, or die.

In addition to statewide statistics, the report provides historical information about dropout policy in Texas and the evolution of the dropout definition used for public school accountability purposes. Common methods of measuring student progress through school are discussed, along with advantages and disadvantages associated with each measure. Extensive background information on Texas Education Agency data collection, processing, and reporting is presented, and national requirements for dropout data are described.

## Highlights

### ***What's New in 2015-16***

- In 2015, the 84th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 1867, requiring an additional group of students be excluded from rates used for state accountability purposes (Texas Education Code §39.053(g-2), 2016). Beginning with the class of 2016, a student who: (a) is at least 18 years of age as of September 1 and has satisfied the credit requirements for high school graduation; (b) has not completed his or her individualized education program (IEP); and (c) is enrolled and receiving IEP services is excluded from campus and district longitudinal rate calculations.

### ***Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates***

- In the 2012-13 school year, 378,286 students began Grade 9 in Texas public schools. Over the next three years, 24,048 students who entered the Texas public school system were added to the Grade 9 cohort. Another 47,504 students left the system for reasons other than graduating, receiving General Educational Development (GED) certificates, or dropping out. By the fall semester following the spring 2016 anticipated graduation date for the cohort, 350,684 students had been assigned one of four final statuses: graduate, continuer, GED certificate recipient, or dropout. Students with final statuses made up the class of 2016. The final statuses for 4,146 students could not be determined because of data errors. Data errors can result from missing student records (i.e., underreported students) or misreported student identification information.
- Out of 350,684 students in the class of 2016, 89.1 percent graduated within four years. The four-year graduation rate for the class of 2016 was 0.1 percentage points higher than the rate for the class of 2015. An additional 4.2 percent of students in the class of 2016 continued in high school the fall after their anticipated graduation date, 0.1 percentage points higher than the continuation rate for the class of 2015. The GED certification rate and the dropout rate were 0.5 percent and 6.2 percent, respectively (both 0.1 percentage points lower than the same rates for the class of 2015). The four-year graduation, continuation, or GED certification rate was 93.8 percent, 0.1 percentage points higher than the rate for the class of 2015.
- Of class of 2016 graduates with diploma program information, 85.1 percent graduated under the Recommended or Advanced High School Program or the Foundation High School Program with an endorsement (with or without a distinguished level of achievement).
- Across the five largest racial/ethnic groups in the class of 2016, the four-year graduation rate was highest for Asian students (95.7%), followed by White (93.4%), multiracial (90.8%), Hispanic (86.9%), and African American (85.4%) students.

**Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates (%),  
Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016**

Group	Graduated	Continued	Received GED <sup>a</sup>	Dropped out
African American	85.4	5.1	0.4	9.1
American Indian	87.4	4.4	0.6	7.6
Asian	95.7	2.2	<0.1	2.0
Hispanic	86.9	5.2	0.4	7.5
Pacific Islander	88.0	5.7	0.6	5.7
White	93.4	2.6	0.7	3.4
Multiracial	90.8	3.8	0.7	4.7
Economically disadvantaged	86.0	5.1	0.5	8.5
ELL in 9-12 <sup>b</sup>	73.7	10.9	0.2	15.2
Special education	77.9	11.6	0.3	10.2
State	89.1	4.2	0.5	6.2

*Note.* Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity. Students may be counted in more than one of the following categories: economically disadvantaged, ELL in 9-12, and special education.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>Students identified as English language learners (ELLs) at any time while attending Grades 9-12 in Texas public schools.

- The four-year dropout rate was lowest for Asian students (2.0%), followed by White (3.4%), multiracial (4.7%), Hispanic (7.5%), and African American (9.1%) students.
- The four-year graduation rate for students identified as economically disadvantaged in the class of 2016 was 86.0 percent, 0.4 percentage points higher than the rate for the class of 2015. The four-year dropout rate for economically disadvantaged students was 8.5 percent, 0.2 percentage points lower than the rate for the class of 2015.
- Females in the class of 2016 had a higher four-year graduation rate (91.4%) than males (86.9%) and lower rates of continuation (3.2% vs. 5.1%), GED certification (0.3% vs. 0.6%), and dropping out (5.0% vs. 7.3%). Compared to the previous class, the graduation rates for males and females in the class of 2016 were both 0.1 percentage points higher.
- For the class of 2016, the four-year graduation rates for students in special education programs (77.9%) and for students identified as English language learners in Grades 9-12 (73.7%) were lower than the state average (89.1%). The dropout rates for these two student groups (10.2% and 15.2%, respectively) were higher than the state average (6.2%).
- A total of 21,610 students in the class of 2016 dropped out over a four-year span. In each year after the first year of high school, a majority of students who dropped out were one or more

grades behind the grade expected for the class. For example, 53.4 percent of students who dropped out in the second year had not reached Grade 10, and 58.6 percent who dropped out in the third year had not reached Grade 11.

- Students in the class of 2015 who began Grade 9 in 2011-12 or who later joined the cohort were tracked into the fall semester one year after their anticipated graduation date of spring 2015. By fall 2016, the five-year graduation rate for the class of 2015 was 91.3 percent, 2.3 percentage points higher than the four-year graduation rate of 89.0 percent in fall 2015. The five-year dropout rate was 6.7 percent, 0.4 percentage points higher than the four-year dropout rate of 6.3. The five-year graduation, continuation, or GED certification rate for the class of 2015 was 93.3 percent.

**Grade 9 Five-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates (%), Texas Public Schools, Class of 2015, as of Fall 2016**

Group	Graduated	Continued	Received GED <sup>a</sup>	Dropped out
African American	87.8	1.2	0.7	10.2
American Indian	88.5	1.1	1.3	9.0
Asian	96.5	0.7	0.2	2.5
Hispanic	89.4	1.6	0.8	8.3
Pacific Islander	91.1	1.1	1.3	6.5
White	94.8	0.8	1.1	3.4
Multiracial	93.9	0.8	0.9	4.4
Economically disadvantaged	88.5	1.5	1.0	9.1
ELL in 9-12 <sup>b</sup>	79.2	3.5	0.4	16.9
Special education	82.4	6.2	0.5	10.9
State	91.3	1.2	0.8	6.7

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity. Students may be counted in more than one of the following categories: economically disadvantaged, ELL in 9-12, and special education.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>Students identified as English language learners (ELLs) at any time while attending Grades 9-12 in Texas public schools.

- Students in the class of 2014 who began Grade 9 in 2010-11 or who later joined the cohort were tracked into the fall semester two years after their anticipated graduation date of spring 2014. By fall 2016, the six-year graduation rate for the class of 2014 was 90.9 percent, 2.6 percentage points higher than the four-year graduation rate of 88.3 percent in fall 2014. The six-year dropout rate was 7.2 percent, 0.6 percentage points higher than the four-year dropout rate of 6.6 percent. The six-year graduation, continuation, or GED certification rate for the class of 2014 was 92.8 percent.

**Grade 9 Six-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates (%), Texas Public Schools, Class of 2014, as of Fall 2016**

Group	Graduated	Continued	Received GED <sup>a</sup>	Dropped out
African American	87.3	0.6	1.2	10.9
American Indian	89.9	0.1	1.2	8.7
Asian	96.2	0.5	0.2	3.1
Hispanic	88.9	0.8	1.2	9.2
Pacific Islander	90.3	0.5	1.2	8.1
White	94.6	0.4	1.4	3.5
Multiracial	93.3	0.4	1.3	5.1
Economically disadvantaged	88.4	0.7	1.3	9.6
ELL in 9-12 <sup>b</sup>	78.1	1.7	0.6	19.5
Special education	83.8	3.7	0.7	11.8
State	90.9	0.6	1.2	7.2

*Note.* Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity. Students may be counted in more than one of the following categories: economically disadvantaged, ELL in 9-12, and special education.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>Students identified as English language learners (ELLs) at any time while attending Grades 9-12 in Texas public schools.

- For 2015-16, the attrition rates for Grades 9-12 and Grades 7-12 (i.e., the percentage change in fall enrollment between these grades across years) were 19.6 percent and 9.5 percent, respectively.

**Annual Dropout Rates**

- Out of 2,330,946 students who attended Grades 7-12 in Texas public schools during the 2015-16 school year, 1.4 percent were reported to have dropped out, a decrease of 0.1 percentage points from the previous year. The number of dropouts in Grades 7-12 increased to 33,466, a 0.1 percent increase from the 33,437 students who dropped out in 2014-15.
- In 2015-16, a total of 2,783 students dropped out of Grades 7-8, and 30,683 dropped out of Grades 9-12. The Grade 7-8 and Grade 9-12 dropout rates were 0.4 percent and 2.0 percent, respectively.
- In 2015-16, students who dropped out of Grade 9 accounted for 25.5 percent of all dropouts, the highest proportion of any grade. Across Grades 7-12, the numbers of dropouts ranged from 1,021 in Grade 7 to 8,548 in Grade 9.



**Annual Dropout Rate (%), Grades 7-8,  
Grades 9-12, and Grades 7-12, Texas Public  
Schools, 2015-16**

Group	Dropout rate		
	Grades 7-8	Grades 9-12	Grades 7-12
African American	0.6	3.0	2.1
American Indian	0.5	2.7	2.0
Asian	0.2	0.6	0.5
Hispanic	0.4	2.4	1.7
Pacific Islander	0.4	2.6	1.9
White	0.2	1.1	0.8
Multiracial	0.3	1.5	1.1
Economically disadvantaged	0.4	2.5	1.7
ELL <sup>a</sup>	0.6	4.2	2.6
Special education	0.4	2.8	2.0
State	0.4	2.0	1.4

*Note.* Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity. Students may be counted in more than one of the following categories: economically disadvantaged, ELL, and special education.

<sup>a</sup>English language learner.

- Across the five largest racial/ethnic groups in 2015-16, the Grade 7-12 dropout rate was highest for African American students (2.1%), followed by Hispanic (1.7%), multiracial (1.1%), White (0.8%), and Asian (0.5%) students.
- The Grade 7-12 dropout rate for males (1.6%) was higher than the rate for females (1.2%) in 2015-16. More males dropped out from Grade 9 (5,252) than from any other grade. By contrast, more females dropped out from Grade 12 (3,351) than from any other grade.
- In 2015-16, the Grade 7-12 dropout rate for students identified as economically disadvantaged was 1.7 percent. Economically disadvantaged students accounted for 73.1 percent of Grade 7-8 dropouts and 66.9 percent of Grade 9-12 dropouts.
- Some groups of students make up larger proportions of the dropout population than of the student population. The greatest percentage-point difference was among overage students, who accounted for 22.3 percent of the Grade 7-12 population in 2015-16 but 78.2 percent of dropouts.

***Leaver Reporting***

- The underreported student rate is the percentage of students in Grades 7-12 who attend in one school year and are not accounted for the next fall. Statewide, 99.7 percent (2,325,546)

of students in Grades 7-12 in 2015-16 were accounted for in district and charter data submissions or in TEA databases. Only 0.3 percent of students in Grades 7-12 were underreported, the same as in the previous year. The number of underreported students (6,686) decreased by 1,148 from the previous year.

- For the 2015-16 school year, 56 districts or charters exceeded thresholds for underreported student records: more than 75 underreported students and a rate of underreporting of at least 0.7 percent; or more than 4 underreported students and a rate of underreporting greater than 1.5 percent. Of these, five districts or charters had more than 75 underreported students as well as a rate of underreporting greater than 1.5 percent. Forty-eight districts or charters had rates of underreporting greater than 1.5 percent and more than 4, but fewer than 75, underreported students. Three districts had more than 75 underreported students but underreported rates of between 0.7 percent and 1.5 percent.
- A total of 490 districts and charters had no underreported students for 2015-16.

# **Definitions and Calculations of High School Completion**

Measures of  
High School Completion

Definitions and  
Calculations for Accountability

# Measures of High School Completion

## *Components of Rates*

Several measures of high school completion are available (Table 1). Measures differ in the definition of a dropout or a school completer, the accuracy of the data, the time period covered, and the student population considered. Some rates, for example, cover only one school year, whereas others cover multiple years. Some are based on individual student-level data, whereas others use estimated student counts. The selection of a completion or dropout measure depends on purpose and data availability. This section discusses three measures calculated by the Texas Education Agency (TEA): annual dropout rates; longitudinal graduation and dropout rates; and attrition rates. The discussion includes how each measure is calculated, the advantages and disadvantages of each measure, and factors that can affect each measure.

## *Annual Dropout Rates*

**Description.** The annual dropout rate is the percentage of students who drop out of school during one school year.

**Calculation.** An annual dropout rate is calculated by dividing the number of students who drop out during a single school year by the cumulative number of students who enrolled during the same year.

$$\frac{\text{number of students who dropped out during the school year}}{\text{number of students enrolled during the school year}}$$

**Factors affecting the rate.** Annual dropout rates reported by different organizations may differ because: (a) different grade levels are included in the calculation; (b) dropouts are defined and counted differently; (c) total student counts are taken at different times of the school year; or (d) the data systems employed provide different levels of precision. Annual dropout rates can also differ at the campus and district levels based on whether federal or state accountability exclusions are applied. No exclusions were applied to the state-level annual dropout rates presented in this report. See the sections "State Accountability System" and "Federal Accountability System" on pages 110-116 for additional information on exclusions.

**Advantages.** An annual dropout rate measures what happens in a school, district, or state during one school year and can be considered a measure of annual performance. Because it is based on a simple mathematical operation and requires data for only one school year, it has the greatest potential to produce accurate rates that are comparable across schools, districts, or states. It can be calculated for any school that has students in any of the grades included in the calculation, allowing the largest number of campuses to be included in an accountability system.

Annual dropout rates also can be calculated for student groups based on demographic characteristics (race/ethnicity, economic status, gender), special program participation (special

**Table 1  
Common Methods of Measuring Student Progress Through School**

	<b>Annual dropout rate</b>	<b>Longitudinal rates: graduation and dropout</b>	<b>Attrition rate</b>
<b>Description</b>	The percentage of students who drop out of school during one school year.	The percentage of students from a class of beginning ninth graders who graduate (graduation rate) or drop out before completing high school (dropout rate).	The percentage change in fall enrollment between Grade 9 and Grade 12 across years.
<b>Calculation</b>	Divide the number of students who drop out during a school year by the total number of students enrolled that year.	Divide the number of students who graduate or drop out by the end of Grade 12 by the total number of students in the original ninth-grade class. Students who enter the Texas public school system over the years are added to the class; students who leave the system are subtracted. For example, the graduation rate is calculated as follows:  $\frac{\text{graduates}}{\text{graduates} + \text{continuers} + \text{GED}^a \text{ recipients} + \text{dropouts}}$	Subtract Grade 12 enrollment from Grade 9 enrollment three years earlier, then divide by the Grade 9 enrollment. The rate may be adjusted for estimated population change over the three years.
<b>Advantages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measure of annual performance for program improvements.</li> <li>• Program improvements can be ascertained within one year.</li> <li>• Requires only one year of data.</li> <li>• Can be calculated for any school or district with students in any of the grades covered.</li> <li>• Can be disaggregated by grade level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The graduation rate is a positive indicator, measuring school success rather than failure.</li> <li>• More stable measures over time.</li> <li>• The longitudinal dropout rate is more consistent with the public's understanding of what a dropout rate reflects.</li> <li>• Districts have more time to encourage dropouts to return to school before being held accountable.</li> <li>• Can be extended to five or six years to account for students who take more than four years to complete high school.</li> </ul>	Provides an estimate of school leavers when aggregate enrollment numbers are the only data available.
<b>Disadvantages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produces the lowest rate of any method.</li> <li>• May not correspond to the public's understanding of a dropout rate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires multiple years of data; one year of inaccurate student identification data can remove a student from the measure.</li> <li>• Can only be calculated for schools that have had all those grades for the number of years necessary to calculate the rate. Since few high schools have Grades 7 and 8, longitudinal graduation and dropout rates are often calculated for Grades 9-12.</li> <li>• Program improvements may not be reflected for several years, and districts are not held accountable for some dropouts until years after they drop out.</li> <li>• Does not produce a dropout rate by grade.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produces the highest rate of any method.</li> <li>• Does not distinguish attrition that results from dropping out from attrition resulting from students being retained, moving to other schools, graduating early, etc.</li> <li>• Does not always correctly reflect the status of dropouts; adjustments for growth can further distort the rate.</li> <li>• Cannot be used in accountability systems because it is an estimate.</li> </ul>
<b>Remarks</b>	A Grade 7-12 annual dropout rate has been calculated by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) since 1987-88. In 2003, the Texas Legislature required districts and TEA to adopt the national dropout definition beginning with students who left Texas public schools in 2005-06.	Longitudinal rates are calculated such that the graduation rate, continuation rate, GED certification rate, and dropout rate add to 100 percent. Dropouts are counted according to the dropout definition in place the year they drop out. The national dropout definition, which was adopted in 2005-06, was fully incorporated in the graduation and dropout rates for the class of 2009.	The attrition rate reported by TEA is not adjusted for growth.
<b>2015-16 TEA reporting</b>	Annual dropout rates Grades 7-12: 1.4% Grades 9-12: 2.0% Grades 7-8: 0.4%	Class of 2016 Grade 9 four-year longitudinal rates Graduation: 89.1% Graduation, continuation, or GED: 93.8% Dropout: 6.2%  Class of 2015 Grade 9 five-year extended longitudinal rates Graduation: 91.3% Graduation, continuation, or GED: 93.3% Dropout: 6.7%  Class of 2014 Grade 9 six-year extended longitudinal rates Graduation: 90.9% Graduation, continuation, or GED: 92.8% Dropout: 7.2%	Unadjusted attrition rates Grades 7-12: 9.5% Grades 9-12: 19.6%

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate.

education, bilingual/English as a second language), or other factors (grade level, at-risk, overage for grade). This makes an annual dropout rate a practical tool to help educators determine who is dropping out and why—essential information for developing and evaluating dropout prevention and recovery programs.

**Disadvantages.** Because an annual dropout rate uses data for only one year, it produces the lowest dropout rate of any of the methods. There is concern that reporting low dropout rates may understate the severity of the dropout problem. The concern is based in part on the perception that an annual dropout rate is not consistent with the public's understanding of what a dropout rate is measuring.

### ***Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates***

**Description.** TEA calculates longitudinal rates for classes of Grade 7 students and classes of Grade 9 students. Although the discussion that follows focuses on rates for Grade 9 students, the principles apply to rates for Grade 7 students, as well. A four-year longitudinal graduation rate is the percentage of students from a class of beginning ninth graders who graduate within four years; that is, by the end of the fourth school year after they begin ninth grade. An extended longitudinal graduation rate is the percentage of students from a class of beginning ninth graders who graduate within five or more years. Similarly, a four-year longitudinal dropout rate is the percentage of students from a class of beginning ninth graders who drop out before completing high school. An extended longitudinal dropout rate reflects those students who drop out within five or more years after entering ninth grade. Dropouts are counted according to the dropout definition in place the year they drop out.

**Calculation.** Calculating four-year longitudinal rates requires tracking a cohort of students from the time they enter Grade 9 until the fall following their anticipated graduation date, or, for extended rates, the fall one or more years following their anticipated graduation date. A cohort is defined as the group of students who begin Grade 9 in Texas public schools for the first time in the same school year plus students who, in the next three school years, enter the Texas public school system in the grade level expected for the cohort. A subset of a cohort, called a class, is then used to calculate longitudinal student status rates. A class consists of all members of a cohort minus students who leave the Texas public school system for reasons other than graduating, receiving General Educational Development (GED) certificates, or dropping out and students who cannot be tracked. Only students in the cohort to whom final statuses are assigned are included as members of the class. The four final statuses—graduate, continuer, GED certificate recipient, or dropout—are defined in greater detail later in this section. The longitudinal graduation rate is the number of students who graduate divided by the total number of students in the class, and the longitudinal dropout rate is the number of students who drop out divided by the total number of students in the class.

For purposes of calculating a longitudinal rate, all students remain in their original cohort. For example, a student who entered Grade 9 in 2012-13 and was expected to graduate in 2015-16 but who graduated in 2014-15 is counted in the graduation rate for the class of 2016. Similarly, students who are retained in grade or who skip grades remain members of the cohorts they first joined.

Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) attendance data are used to build each cohort of students. Each cohort is identified by the starting grade and anticipated year of graduation. For example, students who attended Grade 9 in Texas public schools for the first time in the 2012-13 school year make up the 2016 cohort. Students who did not attend Grade 9 in Texas public schools that year but entered the system over the next three years were added to the cohort if, in the year they entered, they were in the grade level expected for the cohort. Students were tracked into the fall semester following their anticipated graduation date of spring 2016. Data collected for the 2016-17 school year made it possible to identify those who continued in school after their class graduated.

Any student for whom one of the designated outcomes of graduate, continuer, GED certificate recipient, or dropout could be determined was counted in the class. A student whose final status could not be determined was not counted in the class. In most cases, these were students who left the Texas public school system to enter other educational settings. In a small number of cases, students were not counted in the class because of missing records or data errors resulting from misreported student identification information.

This report provides four-year and five-, six-, and seven-year extended longitudinal rates for several classes based on the tracking of students into the fall of 2016. The longitudinal rates focus on selected long-term student outcomes over a period of years. For four-year rates, each student is assigned a final status by the fall after anticipated graduation. For extended rates, each student is assigned a final status by the fall one or more years after anticipated graduation. Neither dropping out nor leaving for other reasons necessarily determines the final status of a student. The status of a student who drops out or leaves will change if he or she subsequently returns and graduates, obtains a GED certificate, or continues in school. Dropout becomes the status of record only if it is the final status recorded for a student. Thus, the status of a student in the four-year rates may differ from his or her status in the extended rates.

There are four final statuses used to calculate longitudinal rates: graduate, continuer, GED certificate recipient, and dropout.

*Graduate.* A student is classified as a graduate in the year in which he or she is reported in PEIMS as a graduate from the Texas public school system. The student may have graduated in any of the years the cohort was in school. For example, for a student to be counted as a graduate in the class of 2016 four-year rates, a student may have graduated in 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, or 2015-16. Students who graduated in 2015-16 must have graduated by August 31, 2016. The graduation rate is calculated by dividing the number of graduates by the total number of graduates, continuers, GED certificate recipients, and dropouts in the class.

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

*Continuer.* A student is classified as a continuer if he or she is not a graduate and is reported as enrolled in the Texas public school system in the fall after his or her anticipated graduation or later.

For example, for a student to be counted as a continuer in the class of 2016 four-year rates, he or she must have been enrolled in the fall of 2016.

*GED certificate recipient.* GED tests are given at over 170 centers throughout the state in school districts, colleges and universities, and education service centers. Tests are given year-round and results are transmitted electronically to the TEA. Receipt of a GED certificate is reported as soon as the test is passed. A student in the class of 2016 is assigned a final status of GED certificate recipient if he or she is not a graduate, is not a continuer, and had received a certificate by August 31, 2016.

*Dropout.* A student is classified as a dropout if dropout is the final status recorded for the student. A student is assigned the final status of dropout if the student dropped out during one of the years that the cohort was in school and did not subsequently return and graduate, continue in school, receive a GED certificate, or leave for one of the 13 non-dropout, non-graduate leaver reasons outlined in Table 4 on page 35.

**Factors affecting the rate.** Longitudinal rates reported by different organizations may differ because they use: (a) different starting grades in the calculation (typically Grade 9 or Grade 7); (b) different definitions of a graduate or dropout; (c) different definitions of a cohort or class of students; or (d) different underlying methods to calculate the rates. Additionally, few organizations have the data to track individual students over a number of years, so longitudinal rates are often estimated based on state-level data or sample data from surveys. TEA tracks individual students using student-level data submitted by districts through the Texas Student Data System (TSDS). Finally, longitudinal rates can differ at the campus and district levels based on whether federal or state accountability exclusions are applied. No exclusions were applied to the state-level longitudinal rates presented in this report. See the sections "State Accountability System" and "Federal Accountability System" on pages 110-116 for additional information on exclusions.

**Advantages.** One advantage of a longitudinal measure over an annual measure is that it is more consistent with the public's understanding of what a graduate or dropout is—someone who begins Grade 9 in a particular school year and, within a specified period of time, graduates or drops out. Also, because students are tracked into the fall after their anticipated graduation date or later, districts have more time to encourage dropouts to return to school before being held accountable for them. A longitudinal measure can also be expected to be more stable over time than an annual measure. Fluctuations in an annual dropout rate may not necessarily reflect the long-term success or failure of a district dropout prevention program.

The graduation rate is more positive than the dropout rate, measuring school success instead of failure. Like most indicators of school success, an increase in the graduation rate represents improved performance. Because a separate rate can be reported for each status, such as graduate or GED certificate recipient, longitudinal rates can provide more information with which to evaluate districts than annual dropout rates.

Four-year longitudinal rates can be calculated for students who graduate on time, or within four years. Extended longitudinal rates can be calculated for students who take longer than four years to



graduate. Because of the longer period of analysis, extended rates arguably provide a more comprehensive picture of high school completion than four-year rates.

**Disadvantages.** Calculating a longitudinal rate requires linking individual student records from multiple sources from one year to the next over the time period covered. An error in student-identifying information can prevent a record from being linked to other records for that student. The method also requires that decisions be made about the classification of students who change schools or move in and out of special programs over time. Changes in data collection practices and in the dropout definition over time must also be incorporated in the method. For example, as a result of adoption of the national dropout definition in 2005-06, students from the class of 2008 who began Grade 9 in 2004-05 and who left school in 2004-05 without graduating were subject to a different dropout definition than the definition that applied to students from the same class who left in 2005-06 or later.

Students who continue in school in the fall after their anticipated graduation date and later leave without graduating are not counted as dropouts under a four-year longitudinal rate. Tracking students for additional years may result in changes in final statuses. For example, some continuing students drop out before they graduate, and some previous dropouts return to school and graduate or receive GED certificates.

Longitudinal rates can be calculated only for schools that have all the grade levels included in the rate and that have had all those grades for the number of years necessary to calculate the rate. Since few high schools include Grades 7 and 8, graduation and dropout rates are calculated for beginning Grade 9 students more commonly than for beginning Grade 7 students. The effects of the grade-span criteria become more pronounced when calculating extended longitudinal rates. As the number of years necessary to calculate the rate increases to five or six years, the less likely it is that a school will meet the criteria.

Longitudinal rates for special programs reflect decisions about the classification of students who move in and out of those programs. For example, the longitudinal dropout rate for students in special education programs may include only those students who are receiving special education services in the years they drop out.

Improvements in dropout prevention programs may not be reflected in a longitudinal dropout rate immediately because the rate may include students who dropped out before the prevention program was implemented. At the same time, many dropouts are not included in a longitudinal dropout rate until several years after they drop out. This means districts may not be held accountable for students who drop out until the longitudinal rate is calculated.

### ***Attrition Rates***

**Description.** An attrition rate is the percentage change in fall enrollment between two grades across years. Aggregate enrollment counts, rather than student-level data, are used to estimate the percentage

of Grade 7 students who are not enrolled in Grade 12 five years later, or the percentage of Grade 9 students who are not enrolled in Grade 12 three years later.

**Calculation.** The Grade 9-12 attrition rate is calculated by subtracting Grade 12 enrollment in the fall of one school year from Grade 9 enrollment three years earlier and dividing by Grade 9 enrollment. For 2015-16, the formula is as follows.

$$\frac{\text{Grade 9 enrollment in fall 2012} - \text{Grade 12 enrollment in fall 2015}}{\text{Grade 9 enrollment in fall 2012}}$$

The Grade 7-12 attrition rate is calculated by subtracting Grade 12 enrollment in the fall of one school year from Grade 7 enrollment five years earlier and dividing by Grade 7 enrollment. For 2015-16, the formula is as follows.

$$\frac{\text{Grade 7 enrollment in fall 2010} - \text{Grade 12 enrollment in fall 2015}}{\text{Grade 7 enrollment in fall 2010}}$$

**Advantages.** The attrition rate provides a measure of school leavers when aggregate enrollment numbers are the only data available. Because aggregate numbers are widely available, attrition rates can be calculated for most states and districts and are often used to compare entities that do not have student-level data.

**Disadvantages.** Unlike both the annual dropout rate and the longitudinal dropout rate, the attrition rate does not track individual students. Because it is an estimate, the attrition rate should not be used as a performance indicator in a high-stakes accountability system.

The attrition rate does not take into account the reasons beginning and ending enrollments differ (Appendix D). For example, the Grade 9-12 attrition rate does not take into account Grade 9 enrollment that may be high because some students are repeating Grade 9. The attrition rate also does not take into account Grade 12 enrollment that may be lower than Grade 9 enrollment three years earlier because some students left public school for other educational settings, graduated early, or are in school but not yet in Grade 12. Because the attrition rate is based on enrollment figures from the fall of the first year and fall three years later, it excludes some students. For example, Grade 9 students who enroll after the fall of the first year and students who enter the school system after the first year are excluded from the rates. Additionally, because the attrition rate is based on data from the fall before expected graduation, rather than after expected graduation, it does not take into account whether a student enrolled in Grade 12 in the fall goes on to graduate.

The attrition rate can fluctuate because of factors that are not considered reflective of school performance, such as the student mobility rate, and factors Texas has chosen not to include as accountability performance measures, such as retention rates. When used as a proxy for a longitudinal dropout rate, the attrition rate overstates the dropout problem.

Differences in growth rates across grade levels and between schools and districts can distort the attrition rate. Calculations sometimes include growth adjustments in an attempt to offset potential

inflation of the rates, yet the adjustments themselves may cause distortions. In fact, a negative attrition rate may result. For a school or district that is not growing but has an effective dropout prevention program, a growth adjustment would inflate the attrition rate.

## Definitions and Calculations for Accountability

### **Dropout Definition**

The U.S. Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is the federal entity with primary responsibility for collecting and analyzing data related to education in the United States. In 2003, the 78th Texas Legislature passed legislation requiring that dropout rates be computed according to the NCES dropout definition (Texas Education Code [TEC] §39.051, 2004). Districts began collecting data consistent with the NCES definition in the 2005-06 school year. A dropout is a student who is enrolled in public school in Grades 7-12, does not return to public school the following fall, is not expelled, and does not: graduate, receive a GED certificate, continue school outside the public school system, begin college, or die.

A summer dropout is a student who completes the school year but does not return in the fall. Under the NCES definition, a summer dropout is: (a) considered a dropout from the grade, district, and campus in which he or she would have been enrolled in the fall; and (b) included in the dropout count for the school year in which he or she failed to return to school. Under the TEA definition, a summer dropout is: (a) considered a dropout from the grade, district, and campus in which he or she was enrolled at the end of the school year just completed; and (b) included in the dropout count for the school year just completed.

### **State Accountability**

**Calculations.** The following measures were used for state accountability in 2017. See the section "State Accountability System" on page 110 for additional information.

*Annual dropout rates.* The annual dropout rate was calculated by dividing the number of students who dropped out during a single school year by the cumulative number of students who enrolled during the same year.

$$\frac{\text{number of students who dropped out during the school year}}{\text{number of students enrolled during the school year}}$$

*Graduation rates.* Four-year and five-year extended graduation rates were calculated by dividing the number of graduates by the total number of graduates, continuers, GED certificate recipients, and dropouts in the class.

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

*Graduation, continuation, or GED certification rates.* Four-year, five-year extended, and six-year extended graduation, continuation, or GED certification rates were calculated by dividing the number

of graduates, continuers, and GED certificate recipients by the total number of graduates, continuers, GED certificate recipients, and dropouts in the class.

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

**Exclusions.** State statute specified the following exceptions for attribution of records to campuses and districts for 2017 state accountability purposes.

- Under TEC §39.053(g-1) (2016), a student who meets at least one of the following criteria is excluded from campus and district annual dropout and longitudinal rate calculations: (a) a student who is ordered by a court to attend a high school equivalency certificate program but has not earned a high school equivalency certificate; (b) a student previously reported to the state as a dropout; (c) a student in attendance but who is not in membership for purposes of average daily attendance (i.e., students for whom school districts are not receiving state Foundation School Program [FSP] funds); (d) a student whose initial enrollment in a school in the United States in Grades 7 through 12 was as an unschooled refugee or asylee as defined by TEC §39.027(a-1); (e) a student who is in the district exclusively as a function of having been detained at a county detention facility but is otherwise not a student of the district in which the facility is located; or (f) a student who is incarcerated in a state jail or federal penitentiary as an adult or as a person certified to stand trial as an adult.
- Under TEC §39.054(f) (2016), the dropout record for a student who fails to enroll in school after leaving a residential treatment facility or a pre- or post-adjudication facility is not attributed to the district serving the facility.
- Under TEC §39.055 (2016), a student in a Texas Juvenile Justice Department facility or residential treatment facility served by a Texas public school district is excluded from campus and district rates.
- Under TEC §39.053(g-2) (2016), a student who (a) is at least 18 years of age as of September 1 and has satisfied the credit requirements for high school graduation; (b) has not completed his or her individualized education program (IEP); and (c) is enrolled and receiving IEP services is excluded from longitudinal rate calculations.

### ***Federal Accountability***

**Calculations.** To meet federal requirements, campuses and districts were evaluated on the percentage of students who graduate in four or five years. See the section "Federal Accountability System" on page 116 for additional information.

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

**Exclusions.** A student in a Texas Juvenile Justice Department facility or residential treatment facility served by a Texas public school district is excluded from campus and district graduation rate calculations.

# History of Graduation and Dropout Reporting in Texas

Chronology

Dropout Definition

Annual Dropout Rates

Longitudinal Graduation  
and Dropout Rates

## Chronology

In 1983, *A Nation at Risk* described the condition of education in the United States as unsatisfactory (National Commission on Excellence in Education, 1983). A year later, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 72, which mandated sweeping reforms in the state's public education system. The bill, among other changes, increased graduation requirements, established a minimum competency testing program with an exit-level test for graduation, prohibited social promotion, limited the number of permissible absences, and linked participation in extracurricular activities to academic standards with a "no pass/no play" policy.

HB 72 also addressed high school dropouts. The 1984 legislation authorized the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to implement a system for collecting data on student dropouts and to begin developing a program to reduce the statewide longitudinal dropout rate to no more than 5 percent (Texas Education Code [TEC] §11.205, 1986). At the same time, the bill directed the then Texas Department of Community Affairs (TDCA) to assess the state's dropout problem and its effect on the Texas economy. Under contract with TDCA, the Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA) conducted much of the research.

As this research was being conducted, change was underway in completion and dropout reporting. Statewide public reporting of student performance and progress began in 1985-86. A year before, the Texas Legislature had passed a law (TEC §21.258, 1986) requiring that all school districts publish annual performance reports (APRs). The reports were intended to inform communities about the quality of education in their districts and to provide educators and policymakers with information needed to analyze performance trends. For the most part, APRs were produced by the districts themselves, although the reports began to include aggregate student data collected and compiled by TEA shortly after they were introduced. In 1988, the reports included agency counts of district enrollment and high school graduates.

The report mandated by HB 72, known as the Texas School Dropout Survey Project, was presented to the 69th Legislature (IDRA, 1986). IDRA estimated that a third of Texas students dropped out before completing high school. The dropout rates for African American and Hispanic students were notably higher than that for White students. The reasons most frequently cited by students for leaving school included failing grades, excessive absences, marriage and pregnancy, and financial difficulties at home. Few Texas school districts reported having dropout prevention programs, and fewer still had evaluation data for those programs. Losses in potential earnings and tax revenues to the state for each cohort of dropouts were estimated to be substantial.

In response to the report and to growing concerns about dropouts, the legislature passed HB 1010 in 1987 (Frazer, Nichols, & Wilkinson, 1991). HB 1010 substantially increased state and local responsibilities for collecting student dropout information, monitoring dropout rates, and providing dropout reduction services (TEC §§11.205-11.207, 1988). HB 1010 also required TEA to establish a statewide dropout information clearinghouse and to form, along with other state agencies, an interagency council to coordinate policies and resources for dropouts and students identified as at risk of dropping out of school. A definition of a dropout was added to statute. In



addition, TEA was directed to produce biennial reports for the legislature presenting a broad range of statewide dropout statistics and a systematic plan to reduce dropout rates for all segments of the student population. HB 1010 also required school districts to designate one or more at-risk coordinators and to provide remedial and support programs for at-risk students.

The first TEA report on public school dropouts presented data on students who dropped out during the 1987-88 school year. Using student-level data from the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS), the report presented actual, not estimated, annual dropout counts and rates for Grades 7-12 by county, district, and campus. It also included five-year projections of cross-sectional and longitudinal dropout rates for the state, as mandated by statute (TEC §11.205, 1988).

The Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) established in 1990 replaced the agency information distributed through APRs. Among the initial performance indicators adopted by the State Board of Education (SBOE) and reported annually through AEIS reports were annual graduation counts and dropout rates. In 1991, TEA began reporting these rates in two additional publications: *Snapshot*, a compilation of district profile data; and *Pocket Edition*, a small brochure highlighting statewide education statistics.

In 1993, when the legislature directed that AEIS data form the foundation of a performance-based accountability system to rate districts and campuses, dropout rates became one of the indicators targeted in statute for this purpose. In 1994, Grade 7-12 annual dropout rates from the 1992-93 school year were used for *Exemplary* and *Recognized* ratings only. The next year, TEA began using annual dropout rates for *Academically Acceptable* and *Academically Unacceptable* ratings as well. Also in 1995, the agency was required to report detailed information about dropouts in the comprehensive biennial and interim reports to the Texas Legislature (TEC §39.182 and §39.185, 1996). In 2001, the legislature amended TEC §39.182, and the reports were combined into a single comprehensive annual report on Texas public schools (see, e.g., TEA, 2001). Based on legislative changes to TEC §39.332 in 2013, the annual report once again became biennial (see, e.g., TEA, 2017b).

Interest in reporting longitudinal indicators of student success or failure in school and in basing these indicators on actual, rather than estimated, figures had remained high since student-level data were first collected through PEIMS in 1988. In 1990-91, districts began submitting student-level enrollment and graduation records. This information, combined with dropout records, enabled TEA to analyze the progress attained by students on an annual basis. It also became possible for the first time to consider tracking student progress from one year to the next.

In 1996, TEA investigated using a high school completion rate as an alternative or supplement to an annual dropout rate in the accountability system (TEA, 1996). This measure, as a complement to the dropout rate, would provide an indicator of student and school success rather than failure. Four-year completion rates for the classes of 1996 and 1997 were published as report-only indicators in the 1998 AEIS reports. By 1998, the agency had sufficient years of PEIMS data to follow the progress of the members of a seventh-grade class through high school to determine their final statuses. Grade 7-12 longitudinal dropout rates for the class of 1998 were included in AEIS a year later.

As PEIMS continued to evolve, refinements in data collection, processing, and reporting helped meet the growing demand for reliable information about public education. The desire for a more comprehensive and accurate accounting of reported student outcomes led to a major change in data submission requirements for 1997-98. Until then, districts were required to report only students in Grades 7-12 from the previous year who had graduated or dropped out. The statuses of students who left school for other reasons were not reported through PEIMS.

From 1997-98 through 2004-05, districts were required to report the statuses of all students who attended Grades 7-12 during the previous school year. Beginning with students who attended in 2005-06, TEA has accounted for students who: (a) graduated in a previous school year; (b) moved from one public school district and enrolled in another; or (c) received General Educational Development (GED) certificates. Districts must report the statuses of all other Grade 7-12 students. Each fall, returning students are reported on enrollment records. Students who left during the previous year or who completed the school year but did not return the following fall are reported on leaver records. Based on the leaver records submitted by districts, school leavers are categorized as graduates, dropouts, or other leavers. Other leavers include students who withdraw to enroll in private schools in the state, enroll in schools outside the state, enroll in colleges, or enter home schooling.

Beginning with the class of 1998, separate longitudinal dropout rates and completion rates were replaced with a four-year high school completion/student status series. The series is made up of four complementary longitudinal rates based on the tracking of students into the fall four years after they begin Grade 9: graduate, continuer, GED certificate recipient, or dropout. The four rates add to 100 percent. Completion/student status rates appeared for the first time as report-only indicators in the 2000 AEIS reports. In 2001, the Texas Legislature added the Grade 9 completion rate to the list of performance indicators in statute (TEC §39.051, 2001). The rate became a base indicator in the 2004 accountability system.

In 1999, the 76th Texas Legislature approved the Student Success Initiative (SSI) (TEC §28.0211, 1999). Under SSI requirements, a student could advance to the next grade level only by meeting standards on state assessments or by unanimous decision of a grade placement committee. Students in the class of 2012 who attended third grade in 2002-03 were the first to be subject to SSI requirements. Specifically, these students were given three opportunities to pass the third-grade Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) reading test in 2002-03, the fifth-grade TAKS reading and mathematics tests in 2004-05, and the eighth-grade TAKS reading and mathematics tests in 2007-08. SSI requirements for third grade were eliminated after the 2008-09 school year.

TEA calculated two Grade 9 completion rates for campuses and districts through the 2011 accountability cycle. Completion II consisted of students who, four years after beginning Grade 9, graduated, continued in high school the fall after graduation was expected, or received GED certificates. Completion I, which was more rigorous, consisted of students who graduated or continued in high school. In 2004, the year that completion became a base indicator in the accountability system, campuses and districts were rated on Completion II. They also were rated on Completion II in 2005, the year that alternative education accountability (AEA) procedures were introduced. From 2006 to 2011, campuses and districts subject to standard accountability procedures

were rated on Completion I. Campuses and districts subject to AEA procedures, which applied to campuses and charter districts dedicated to serving students at risk of dropping out of school, were rated on Completion II.

In 2009, the legislature passed HB 3, requiring that TEA, among other mandates: (a) redesign the public school accountability system; and (b) exclude certain groups of students from campus and district annual dropout rate and longitudinal rate calculations used for state accountability purposes (TEC §39.053, 2010). Because of the redesign, no ratings were issued in 2012. Nevertheless, annual dropout and completion rates were calculated.

Accountability ratings returned in 2013 with students excluded from rates used for state accountability purposes. TEA calculated campus and district annual dropout and longitudinal graduation rates, as required by statute (TEC §39.053, 2013), as well as graduation or GED certification rates, for use as indicators in the new accountability system. In 2014, the graduation, continuation, or GED certification rate replaced the graduation or GED certification rate as an indicator in the state accountability system (TEC §39.0545, 2013). Campus and district longitudinal dropout, GED certification, and continuation rates are also calculated but not used in the state accountability system. See the section "Definitions and Calculations for Accountability" on page 10 for more information on these exclusions.

In 2015, the 84th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 1867, requiring an additional group of students be excluded from rates used for state accountability purposes (TEC §39.053(g-2), 2016). Beginning with class of 2016, a student who: (a) was at least 18 years of age as of September 1 and had satisfied the credit requirements for high school graduation; (b) had not completed his or her individualized education program (IEP); and (c) was enrolled and receiving IEP services was excluded from campus and district longitudinal rate calculations.

Also in 2015, the legislature passed SB 149, which revised the state's assessment graduation requirements for students enrolled in Grade 11 or 12 during the 2014-15, 2015-16, or 2016-17 school year (TEC §28.0258, 2016). Under the new requirements, a student who failed an end-of-course assessment for no more than two of five courses could still receive a Texas high school diploma if he or she was determined to be qualified to graduate by an individual graduation committee (IGC) (Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code [TAC] §101.3022, 2017, amended to be effective September 6, 2015). For the 2014-15 school year, school districts had the authority to establish necessary procedures and timelines regarding implementation of IGCs. In April 2016, the commissioner of education adopted rules related to IGC implementation, including timelines and related reporting requirements (19 TAC §74.1025, 2017, adopted to be effective April 19, 2016; TEC 28.0258(k), 2016).

## Dropout Definition

A dropout was first defined in statute in 1987 as a student in Grades 7-12 who did not hold a high school diploma or the equivalent and who was absent from school for 30 or more consecutive days with no evidence of being enrolled in another public or private school (TEC §11.205, 1988). As implemented by the SBOE, students with approved excuses were excluded from the dropout definition, as were students who returned to school the following semester or school year (19 TAC §61.64, 1988). The first PEIMS dropout records were submitted for students who dropped out during the 1987-88 school year.

The original dropout definition in the *1988-89 PEIMS Data Standards* (TEA, 1989) did not count as dropouts: (a) students who received GED certificates; (b) students who left to enter other educational settings leading to high school diplomas, GED certificates, or college degrees; (c) students who withdrew to enter health care facilities; and (d) students incarcerated in correctional facilities. When the age of compulsory attendance was raised from 16 to 17 in 1989, an exemption from the dropout definition was added for students who were at least 17 years old and enrolled in GED preparation programs (TEC §§21.032 and 21.033, 1990).

Beginning with the 1992-93 dropout rate, TEA searched dropout data for prior years to identify previously reported dropouts. Because students who drop out but return to school are more likely to drop out again, repeat dropouts were removed from the dropout count so as not to discourage districts from trying to recover these students. Also beginning in 1992-93, a student expelled for committing certain types of criminal acts on school property or at a school-related event was removed from the dropout count if the term of expulsion had not expired.

In 1994-95, the dropout definition itself was removed from state law and SBOE rule. Legislative direction at the time indicated that, in deleting the dropout definition from code, it was intended that students who met all coursework requirements for a diploma but left school without passing the exit-level test were not to be counted as dropouts. Also beginning that year, students who withdrew from school to return to their home countries were not counted as dropouts, even if the districts did not have evidence that the students had reenrolled in school.

In 1997, the compulsory attendance age was again raised, requiring a student to attend school until his or her 18th birthday (TEC §25.085, 1997). In 1999, the legislature added two groups of students to those who were exempted from the dropout count. SB 1472 exempted students who were at least 16 and enrolled in Job Corps programs (TEC §25.086, 1999). SB 103 exempted all expelled students from the dropout count during the terms of expulsion (TEC §39.051, 1999).

In 2003, the Texas Legislature passed SB 186, which amended the language on the dropout indicator. SB 186 required districts to report dropout data and TEA to compute dropout rates and graduation rates consistent with the standards and definitions of the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) (TEC §39.051(b)(2), 2004). Under the NCES definition, a dropout is a student who is enrolled in public school in Grades 7-12, does not return to public school the following fall, is not expelled, and does not: graduate, receive a GED certificate,

continue school outside the public school system, begin college, or die. Districts began collecting information according to the new dropout definition and procedures in 2005-06. In 2015, the 84th Texas Legislature raised the compulsory attendance age again, requiring a student to attend school until his or her 19th birthday (TEC §25.085, 2016).

## Annual Dropout Rates

An annual dropout rate was first calculated by TEA for the 1987-88 school year as the number of dropouts from Grades 7-12 divided by the total number of students enrolled in Grades 7-12 the fall of that same year (Table 2). The same calculation was used for the first five years of dropout reporting.

In 1992-93, districts began submitting individual student attendance records as part of the PEIMS data collection. For the first time, TEA was able to compute cumulative enrollment—the number of students in attendance in Grades 7-12 at any time during the previous school year. Cumulative enrollment more closely parallels the required reporting of dropouts, which covers students who drop out at any time during the school year and includes students who enroll after the fall enrollment count. Cumulative enrollment also provides the most consistent data for comparisons of dropout rates between districts and campuses with different mobility rates. For these reasons, cumulative enrollment replaced fall enrollment in the dropout rate calculation, beginning with the 1992-93 school year.

From 1992-93 through 2004-05, public school students who were ineligible for state Foundation School Program (FSP) funding, usually because they were being served fewer than two hours of instruction per day, were not included in the annual dropout count; thus, they were excluded from the denominator. With adoption of the NCES dropout definition in 2005-06, students not eligible for FSP funding who leave school without a valid reason are included in the dropout count. They are therefore included in the denominator. The addition of students who are not eligible for FSP funding and the adoption of cumulative, rather than fall, enrollment are the only changes that have been made to the dropout rate denominator.

Because rates for smaller groups can be less stable over time, comparisons of rates across racial/ethnic groups can be misleading when one group is small compared to other groups. The non-Hispanic American Indian and Pacific Islander student populations are small in number, compared to other racial/ethnic populations. Similarly, within the overall Hispanic student population, the Asian and Pacific Islander populations are small in number, compared to other racial populations. Therefore, discussions of annual results in this report, including comparisons across racial/ethnic groups, do not include these populations.

**Table 2**

**Chronology of Texas Education Agency Dropout Definition and Data Processing Enhancements**

Dropout definition	Data processing
<p>1987-88</p> <p>A dropout is defined in the Texas Education Code (TEC), Texas Administrative Code, and <i>Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) Data Standards</i> as a student in Grades 7-12 who does not hold a high school diploma or the equivalent and is absent from school for 30 or more consecutive days. Students with an approved excuse or documented move are excluded from the dropout definition, as are students who return to school the following semester or year.</p>	<p>The Texas Education Agency (TEA) begins collecting individual student-level records for students who drop out of school.</p>
<p>1990-91</p>	<p>TEA begins collecting individual student-level enrollment records and graduate records. An automated search of enrollment records is instituted, and reported dropouts found to be enrolled in another Texas public school district the following year are removed from the dropout count.</p>
<p>1992-93</p> <p>Students previously counted as dropouts, back to 1990-91, are removed from the dropout count.</p> <p>Students expelled for committing certain types of criminal behavior on school property or at school-related events are removed from the dropout count during the term of expulsion.</p>	<p>TEA begins collecting individual student-level attendance records. An automated search of attendance records is instituted, and reported dropouts found to be in attendance in another Texas public school district later in the year are removed from the dropout count.</p> <p>An automated search of graduate records and General Educational Development (GED) certificate records is instituted, and reported dropouts found to have graduated or received a GED certificate are removed from the dropout count.</p>
<p>1994-95</p> <p>The definition of a dropout is removed from state law and State Board of Education rule.</p> <p>Students who meet all graduation requirements but fail the exit-level test are removed from the dropout count.</p> <p>Students who return to their home countries are excluded from the dropout count even if there is no evidence that they have reenrolled in school.</p>	
<p>1995-96</p> <p>Students who enroll in alternative programs that are not state approved but who are in compliance with compulsory attendance and are working toward completion of high school diplomas or GED certificates are removed from the dropout count.</p>	
<p>1997-98</p>	<p>TEA begins collecting individual student-level records for all school leavers—graduates, dropouts, and students who left school for other reasons. Additional audits of dropout rates calculated from these data are conducted at the state level.</p>

**continues**

**Table 2 (continued)**  
**Chronology of Texas Education Agency Dropout Definition and Data Processing Enhancements**

Dropout definition	Data processing
1998-99	
	The automated search of enrollment records is expanded to include students who return to school in the fall but leave before the PEIMS snapshot date or do not return until after the PEIMS snapshot date.
1999-00	
<p>Sixteen-year-olds enrolled in Job Corps programs leading to high school equivalency certificates are removed from the dropout count.</p> <p>The circumstances under which expelled students are excluded from the dropout count are expanded in statute to cover students expelled for any reason.</p>	Within a district, each dropout is assigned to a campus based on attendance or reported campus of accountability.
2003-04	
<p>Students who fail to enroll in school after release from correctional facilities or residential treatment centers are not counted as dropouts for the districts in which the facilities are located if the serving districts are not the students' home districts.</p>	<p>Students served outside their districts are attributed to the sending districts.</p> <p>Dropout rates for districts serving Texas Youth Commission facilities do not include dropouts from the facilities unless the dropouts have been attributed to a regular campus in that district through campus of accountability procedures.</p>
2005-06	
<p>Texas adopts the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) dropout definition. Under the NCES definition, a dropout is a student who is enrolled in public school in Grades 7-12, does not return to public school the following fall, is not expelled, and does not: graduate, receive a GED certificate, continue high school outside the public school system, begin college, or die.</p>	<p>To track students more efficiently and reduce the number of records districts must submit, TEA begins using agency files to account for previous Texas public school graduates, students who receive GED certificates by August 31, and students who enroll in other Texas public school districts by the last Friday in September. Districts are no longer required to submit leaver records for students who are accounted for by TEA.</p>
2006-07	
<p>A student who fails to enroll in school after release from a residential treatment center is not counted as a dropout for the serving campus or district (i.e., the campus and district providing educational services to the center) if the serving district is not the student's home district.</p> <p>A student who fails to enroll in school after release from a Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) or Texas Youth Commission (TYC) facility is not counted as a dropout for the serving district.</p>	<p>Students served outside their districts are no longer attributed to the sending districts. Specifically: (a) a dropout from a residential treatment facility whose home district is not the serving district is not included in the dropout rates for the serving campus and district; and (b) a dropout from a TJPC facility is not included in the dropout rate for any district.</p> <p>A dropout from a TJPC facility is included in the dropout rate for the serving campus if the serving campus is the TJPC facility. A dropout from a TJPC facility whose home district is not the serving district but who is attributed to a regular campus in the serving district is not included in the dropout rate for any campus.</p> <p>A dropout from a TYC facility is included in the dropout rate for the serving campus if the serving campus is the TYC facility. A dropout from a TYC facility is included in the dropout rate for the serving district if, through campus of accountability procedures, he or she has been attributed to a regular campus in the serving district; otherwise, the dropout is not included in the dropout rate for any district.</p>

**continues**



**Table 2 (continued)**  
**Chronology of Texas Education Agency Dropout Definition and Data Processing Enhancements**

Dropout definition	Data processing
2007-08	<p>Since implementation of the national dropout definition in 2005-06, students have been required to return to school during the period of time between the first day of school and the last Friday in September (the "school-start window") so as not to be considered school leavers from the prior year. In response to the crisis declaration following Hurricane Ike, the 2008-09 school-start window for returning students is temporarily extended through Friday, October 24, 2008. The extension is implemented to accommodate both the closing of some districts and the enrollment of students displaced as a result of the hurricane into other public schools throughout the state. As with the original school-start window, districts are not required to submit leaver records for students found to have enrolled in another district during the temporarily extended school-start window.</p>
2008-09	<p>Students in the Optional Flexible School Day Program are accounted for in data processing.</p> <p>Determination of economic status changes. Before 2008-09, students were identified as economically disadvantaged if they were reported as such by any district in the fall. Beginning in 2008-09, students are identified as economically disadvantaged only if they are reported as such by the accountable district.</p>
2009-10	<p>TEA begins collecting data on student race and ethnicity in compliance with a new federal standard that requires separation of categories for ethnicity and categories for race. The data also are collected that year using the old standard. Rates calculated for 2009-10 reflect the new federal standard.</p>
2010-11	<p>In 2009, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 3, requiring that TEA exclude six groups of students from campus and district dropout rate calculations used for state accountability purposes (TEC §39.053, 2010). Although state accountability ratings are not issued in 2012, annual dropout rates are calculated with and without exclusions for 2010-11. See the section "Definitions and Calculations for Accountability" on page 10 for more information on exclusions.</p>
2011-12	<p>A new state accountability system is implemented in 2013. As in 2010-11, annual dropout rates for 2011-12 are calculated with and without exclusions. Rates with exclusions are used for state accountability. See the section "Definitions and Calculations for Accountability" on page 10 for more information on exclusions.</p>
2012-13	<p>In 2013, the Texas Legislature passed HB 5 and Senate Bill 306, clarifying some exclusions and requiring additional students be excluded for state accountability purposes (TEC 39.053(g-1)(2), 2013; TEC §39.055, 2013). See the section "Definitions and Calculations for Accountability" on page 10 for more information on exclusions.</p>

## Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates

TEA has calculated Grade 9 four-year graduation and dropout rates for the classes of 1996 through 2016 (Table 3). The rates are based on the final statuses of students who began Grade 9 in Texas public schools in a particular school year and were tracked into the fall after their expected graduation date. TEA has also calculated Grade 9 five-year extended rates for the classes of 2008 through 2015, and Grade 9 six-year extended rates for the classes of 2008 through 2014. The five- and six-year extended rates are based on the final statuses of students who began Grade 9 in a particular school year and were tracked into the fall one and two years, respectively, after their expected graduation date.

The method used to calculate the rates was developed so that the longitudinal graduation rate, continuation rate, GED certification rate, and dropout rate add to 100 percent. A student is considered to be a graduate, continuer, GED certificate recipient, or dropout from the school he or she last attended.

The definition of a dropout in the longitudinal rate is based on the same definition of a dropout used in the annual dropout rate. The national dropout definition, which was adopted in 2005-06, was fully incorporated in the four-year graduation and dropout rates for the class of 2009.

The denominator of each longitudinal rate consists of students who entered Grade 9 in Texas public schools and who, by the fall after their expected graduation date (or, in the case of extended rates, the fall one or two years after their expected graduation date), either graduated, received GED certificates, continued in high school, or dropped out. Students who left for reasons other than graduating, receiving GED certificates, or dropping out are not included in the denominator. Most other leavers are students who leave to enroll in other educational settings, such as private schools in the state, public or private schools outside the state, colleges, or home schooling. Also considered other leavers are students who: return to their home countries; are expelled for offenses under Texas Education Code §37.007 (2016) from districts located in counties that do not have juvenile justice alternative education programs to which the students can be assigned; are removed by Child Protective Services; are withdrawn by districts when the districts discover that the students are not entitled to enrollment in the districts because the students are not residents of the districts; or die.

Through the class of 2009, longitudinal rates were calculated for districts and campuses if they served Grade 9 and Grade 11 or 12 in the first and fifth years of the cohort. To comply with federal accountability standards, a second criterion was added beginning with the class of 2010. For the class of 2010 and later classes:

- four-year rates were calculated for districts and campuses if they: (a) served Grade 9 and Grade 11 or 12 in the first and fifth years of the cohort or (b) served Grade 12 in the first and fifth years of the cohort;
- five-year extended rates were calculated for districts and campuses if they: (a) served Grade 9 and Grade 11 or 12 in the first and sixth years of the cohort or (b) served Grade 12 in the first and sixth years of the cohort; and

**Table 3**  
**Chronology of Texas Education Agency Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rate Definitions and Data Processing Enhancements**

Longitudinal rate definitions	Data processing
1992-93 through 1996-97	
A Grade 7-12 estimated longitudinal dropout rate based on the Grade 7-12 annual dropout rate is calculated using aggregate numbers of dropouts and students.	
Classes of 1996 and 1997	
Completion rates using student-level data are first calculated for Grade 9 cohorts based on the holding power approach to high school completion (Hartzell, McKay, & Frymier, 1992). Completers are defined as graduates, high school continuers, and General Educational Development (GED) certificate recipients. Separate longitudinal dropout rates using student-level data are calculated for Grade 7 cohorts.	Completion rates are based on fall snapshot data. Longitudinal dropout rates are based on cumulative attendance data. Student characteristics and program participation statuses are assigned based on a student's first appearance in the cohort. A student who moves from one school to another is considered to be a completer or dropout from the last school attended.
Class of 1998	
Separate longitudinal dropout rates and completion rates are replaced with a four-year high school completion series. The series is made up of four complementary longitudinal rates: graduation, continuation in high school, GED certification, and dropout. The four rates add to 100 percent.	Longitudinal rates are based on cumulative attendance data. Student characteristics and program participation statuses are assigned based on a student's final record in the cohort.  A student who finishes the cohort period as both a continuer and a GED certificate recipient is assigned a final status of GED certificate recipient.  Rates are calculated for districts and campuses that served Grade 9 and Grade 11 or 12 in the first and fifth years of the cohort.
Class of 2003	
The dropout definition is the state definition in the dropout year for each of the four years of the cohort.	
Class of 2004	
	A student who earns a GED certificate is matched to the longitudinal cohort, regardless of the date the certificate is earned.  Completion rates for districts serving Texas Youth Commission facilities do not include students from the facilities unless the students have been attributed to regular campuses in the districts through campus of accountability procedures.
Class of 2005	
	A student who finishes the cohort period as both a continuer and a GED certificate recipient is assigned a final status of continuer.
Class of 2006	
Districts begin submitting data in 2005-06 based on the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) dropout definition. For the class of 2006, the dropout definition is the state definition for students who left in the first three years of the cohort and the NCES definition for students who left in the fourth year.	A student who finishes the cohort period as both an other leaver and a GED certificate recipient is assigned a final status of other leaver.
Class of 2007	
The dropout definition is the state definition for students who left in the first two years of the cohort and the NCES definition for students who left in the third and fourth years.	

continues

**Table 3 (continued)**  
**Chronology of Texas Education Agency Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rate Definitions and Data Processing Enhancements**

Longitudinal rate definitions	Data processing
<b>Class of 2008</b>	
<p>The dropout definition is the state definition for students who left in the first year of the cohort and the NCES definition for students who left in the final three years.</p>	<p>Since implementation of the national dropout definition in 2005-06, students have been required to return to school during the period of time between the first day of school and the last Friday in September (the "school-start window") so as not to be considered school leavers from the prior year. In response to the crisis declaration following Hurricane Ike, the 2008-09 school-start window for returning students (or "continuers") is temporarily extended through Friday, October 24, 2008. The extension is implemented to accommodate both the closing of some districts and the enrollment of students displaced as a result of the hurricane into other public schools throughout the state.</p>
<b>Class of 2009</b>	
<p>The dropout definition is the NCES definition for students who left in any of the four years of the cohort.</p>	<p>Students in the Optional Flexible School Day Program are accounted for in data processing.</p> <p>Determination of program participation and student characteristics changes. Before 2008-09, if the last district attended did not submit program participation or student characteristic data for a student, data from the previous year were used. Beginning in 2008-09, only program participation and student characteristic data submitted by the accountable district in the last year attended are used.</p>
<b>Class of 2010</b>	
	<p>In 2009-10, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) begins collecting data on student race and ethnicity in compliance with a new federal standard that requires separation of categories for ethnicity and categories for race. The data also are collected that year using the old standard. Graduates, GED certificate recipients, and dropouts, all of whom have final statuses in 2009-10 or earlier, are reported using the old racial/ethnic categories. Because they have final statuses in 2010-11, all continuers, with the exception of multiracial continuers, are reported using the new categories. Multiracial continuers are assigned the race/ethnicity reported for them in the most recent previous year.</p> <p>Completion rates for the class of 2010 are calculated for districts and campuses if they: (a) served Grade 9 and Grade 11 or 12 in the first and fifth years of the cohort or (b) served Grade 12 in the first and fifth years of the cohort.</p>
<b>Class of 2011</b>	
	<p>Rates calculated for the class of 2011 reflect the new federal standard that requires separation of categories for ethnicity and categories for race.</p> <p>In 2009, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 3, requiring that TEA exclude six groups of students from campus and district longitudinal rate calculations used for state accountability purposes (Texas Education Code [TEC] §39.053, 2010). Although state accountability ratings are not issued in 2012, completion rates are calculated with and without exclusions for the class of 2011. One group of students is excluded from campus and district longitudinal rate calculations used for federal accountability purposes. See the section "Definitions and Calculations for Accountability" on page 10 for more information on exclusions.</p>

**continues**

**Table 3 (continued)**  
**Chronology of Texas Education Agency Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rate Definitions and Data Processing Enhancements**

Longitudinal rate definitions	Data processing
Class of 2012	
	A new state accountability system is implemented in 2013. A graduation or GED certification rate is calculated for use in state accountability.
Class of 2013	
	<p>A new diploma program rate, the percentage of students graduating under the Recommended High School Program (RHSP) or Advanced High School Program (AHSP), is calculated for the class of 2013 for use in state accountability.</p> <p>In 2013, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 1538, requiring that a graduation, continuation, or GED certification rate replace the graduation or GED certification rate in state accountability (TEC §39.0545, 2013). The legislature also passed HB 5 and SB 306, clarifying some exclusions and requiring additional students be excluded for state accountability purposes (TEC 39.053(g-1)(2), 2013; TEC §39.055, 2013). See the section "Definitions and Calculations for Accountability" on page 10 for more information on exclusions.</p>
Class of 2015	
	<p>An additional diploma program rate, the percentage of students graduating under the RHSP or AHSP or Foundation High School Program with an endorsement (with or without a distinguished level of achievement), is calculated for the class of 2015 for use in state accountability.</p> <p>In 2015, the Texas Legislature passed SB 149, which revised the state's assessment graduation requirements for students enrolled in Grade 11 or 12 during the 2014-15, 2015-16, or 2016-17 school year. Under the new requirements, a student who failed an end-of-course assessment for no more than two courses could still receive a Texas high school diploma if he or she was determined to be qualified to graduate by an individual graduation committee (Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code §101.3022, 2017, amended to be effective September 6, 2015).</p>
Class of 2016	
	In 2015, the Texas Legislature passed SB 1867, requiring that TEA exclude an additional group of students from campus and district longitudinal rate calculations used for state accountability purposes (TEC §39.053(g-2), 2016). See the section "Definitions and Calculations for Accountability" on page 10 for more information on exclusions.

- six-year extended rates were calculated for districts and campuses if they: (a) served Grade 9 and Grade 11 or 12 in the first and seventh years of the cohort or (b) served Grade 12 in the first and seventh years of the cohort.

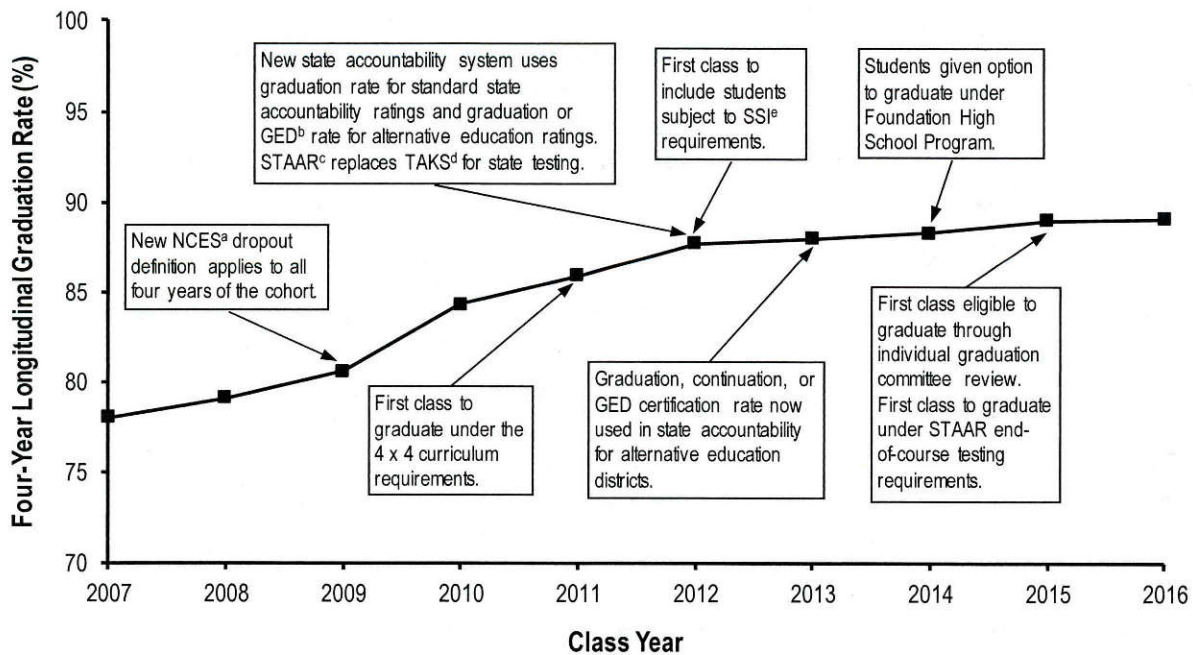
TEA also calculates longitudinal graduation and dropout rates for students who began Grade 7 in Texas public schools. A Grade 7-12 longitudinal dropout rate was calculated for the first time for the

class of 1998. The longitudinal graduation and dropout rates for the class of 2016 are based on the tracking of students who began Grade 7 in 2010-11 or who later joined the cohort.

Because rates for smaller groups can be less stable over time, comparisons of rates across racial/ethnic groups can be misleading when one group is small compared to other groups. The non-Hispanic American Indian and Pacific Islander student populations are small in number, compared to other racial/ethnic populations. Therefore, discussions of longitudinal results in this report, including comparisons across racial/ethnic groups, do not include these populations.

Figure 1 highlights the four-year longitudinal graduation rates for the classes of 2007 through 2016 and the significant education policies implemented over this time period. The boxes in Figure 1 describe policies that went into effect that may have influenced graduation rates. It is important to note that many factors, not only those presented here, influence graduation rates over time, and the figure should be interpreted with this in mind.

**Figure 1**  
**Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation Rates and Policy Changes, Texas Public Schools, Classes of 2007 Through 2016**



Note. The figure illustrates graduation rates and significant education policies implemented between 2007 and 2016. It is important to note that many factors, not only those presented here, influence graduation rates over time, and the figure should be interpreted with this in mind.

<sup>a</sup>National Center for Education Statistics. <sup>b</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>c</sup>State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness. <sup>d</sup>Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills. <sup>e</sup>Student Success Initiative.

# **Data Used in Graduation and Dropout Reporting**

Public Education Information  
Management System Data

Creating the  
Roster of Students

Accounting for Students by  
the Texas Education Agency

Accounting for  
Students by Districts

Processing  
Leaver Records

Reporting of  
Student and Program Information

District Results  
for Leaver Processing

Data Quality in  
Dropout Reporting

# Public Education Information Management System Data

## **Data Standards**

Districts have submitted Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) data to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) since the fall of 1987. The *Texas Education Data Standards* (TEDS) (e.g., TEA, 2016d), published annually by TEA, outlines requirements for submitting PEIMS data through the Texas Student Data System (TSDS). The TEDS provides descriptions of data elements and the values of codes used to report the data elements, subcategory specifications, submission timelines, and the responsibilities of districts, education service centers, and TEA with regard to the data submission process. The TSDS Unique ID system was introduced in 2012-13 to manage student identification information. It provides a mechanism for districts to assign a statewide unique identifier to each student enrolled in the Texas public school system. Starting in the 2012-13 school year, districts were required to assign Unique IDs to all students in their PEIMS submissions. Prior to implementation of the TSDS Unique ID system, the agency assigned unique identification numbers to students using the Person Identification Database (PID).

## **Leaver Data Documentation**

From 1997-98 through 2004-05, districts were required to report the statuses of all students who attended Grades 7-12 during the previous school year. Beginning with students who attended in 2005-06, TEA has accounted for students who: (a) graduated in a previous school year; (b) moved from one public school district and enrolled in another; or (c) received General Educational Development (GED) certificates. Districts must report the statuses of all other Grade 7-12 students. The TEDS requires that districts have documentation to support the leaver reason code assigned to each school leaver. To assist districts in meeting the requirements, specific documentation standards for each code are included in the TEDS (Appendix A).

## **Data Submission**

Districts submit PEIMS enrollment records for students who return and leaver records for students who do not return through the Web-based application TSDS. In addition, districts have been provided a number of Web-based tools to assist them in reducing data errors before and during data submission, including the ability to generate reports within TSDS to assist with data validation. Additionally, districts can use PID Enrollment Tracking (PET) to learn whether students who leave the district enroll in other public schools in the state. PET maintains up-to-date enrollment information for students in early education through Grade 12 Texas public schools. Districts are required to submit student enrollment information on a weekly basis, starting the third week of the school year. Enrollment dates and withdrawal dates for each student served by a district are submitted. Districts can search PET to locate students or view enrollment histories. Districts can also use the TSDS Unique ID system, which is synchronized with PID, to search for existing students, add new students, or update existing records in the Unique ID database. PET reports will also notify districts when students do not have a Unique ID and must be added to the Unique ID



database. Preliminary cohort lists available through TEA Secure Environment (TEASE) allow districts to determine a student's expected graduation year, for accountability purposes, and the year he or she last attended Texas public schools. In addition, districts have technical documentation that describes the steps used by TEA to build the Grade 9 cohorts and compute longitudinal rates. This document is available through TEASE and on the agency's public website.

## **Creating the Roster of Students**

The first step in the collection and processing of data used to calculate the graduation and dropout rates is the creation of a roster of all students who were in Grades 7-12 in Texas public schools the previous year. Each student has one entry on the roster for each district he or she attended. Every student on the roster must be accounted for through TEA or district records. TEA searches for students in enrollment and attendance records and in the graduate and GED databases. Based on the attendance and enrollment records of all districts, the records of Texas graduates for the last several years, and GED certificate records, TEA identifies students for whom districts do not need to submit leaver records. School districts must account for all other students by submission of leaver reasons.

# **Accounting for Students by the Texas Education Agency**

## ***GED Certificate Recipients***

GED testing centers submit records to TEA of students who receive GED certificates in Texas. TEA searches the records each year to identify students who received GED certificates prior to August 31. School districts are not required to submit leaver records for students with GED certificates.

## ***Previous Graduates***

Some students graduate from Texas public schools, return to school to take additional courses, and then leave again. TEA accounts for these "previous graduates" by searching a cumulative database of Texas public school graduates. School districts are not required to submit leaver records for previous graduates.

## ***Movers***

Students who move from one Texas public school district and enroll in another also are accounted for by TEA. Attendance records submitted each June by all Texas public school districts and enrollment records submitted each fall enable TEA to verify reenrollment. Students found to have enrolled in another district during the course of a single school year are identified as "school-year movers." Students found to have enrolled in another district during the school-start window, that is, between the first day of school and the last Friday in September, are identified as "summertime movers." Districts are not required to submit leaver records for movers.

## **Accounting for Students by Districts**

### ***Enrollment Reporting***

Each fall, districts submit records for students enrolled in their districts, including new enrollees and students who attended the previous school year. A district is not required to submit leaver records for students who return to the district between the first day of school and the last Friday in September (i.e., the "school-start window"). A district is required to submit leaver records for students who do not return or who return after that date, unless they have been accounted for by TEA.

### ***Leaver Reporting Requirement***

Districts begin submitting fall PEIMS data, including enrollment records and leaver records, as early as September, with final submission due in December and a resubmission opportunity in mid-January for districts with errors or omissions in their December submissions. During this time, TEA provides districts access to reports on the student roster so they can identify students for whom leaver records are not required. TEA updates the roster and generates reports as data are submitted. A district may not know whether a student has reenrolled in another district until the final data submission deadline in December. If the district is required to submit a leaver record and has not done so by the submission deadline, the district can submit the record during the resubmission process, which ends in mid-January.

A district is required to submit a leaver record for any student in Grades 7-12 the previous year, unless the student:

- received a GED certificate by August 31;
- is a previous Texas public school graduate;
- is a school-year mover or summertime mover from the district; or
- returned to the district on time, or by the last Friday in September.

### ***Leaver Reason Codes***

School districts can submit 1 of 17 leaver reason codes for each leaver (Table 4). One code is for students who graduate from a Texas public school. Thirteen codes are for "other leavers"—students who: enroll in school outside Texas; enroll in a Texas private school; enter home schooling; enter college early to pursue degrees; enroll in university high school diploma programs authorized by the State Board of Education; graduate outside Texas before entering a Texas public school, enter a Texas public school, and leave again; complete GEDs outside Texas; are expelled for offenses under Texas Education Code (TEC) §37.007 (2016) from districts located in counties that do not have juvenile justice alternative education programs to which the students can be assigned; are removed by Child Protective Services; graduate from other states under provisions of the Interstate Compact on

**Table 4**  
**Leaver Reason Codes, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16**

Code	Leaver reason
Graduated or received an out-of-state GED <sup>a</sup>	
01	Graduated from a campus in this district or charter
85	Graduated outside Texas before entering a Texas public school, entered a Texas public school, and left again
86	Completed the GED outside Texas
90	Graduated from another state under provisions of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
Moved to other educational setting	
24	Entered college and is working towards an Associate's or Bachelor's degree
60	Is home schooled
66	Removed by Child Protective Services (CPS), and the district has not been informed of the student's current status or enrollment
81	Enrolled in a private school in Texas
82	Enrolled in a public or private school outside Texas
87	Withdrew from/left school to enroll in the Texas Tech University ISD High School Diploma Program or the University of Texas at Austin High School Diploma Program
Withdrawn by district	
78	Expelled under the provisions of Texas Education Code (TEC) §37.007 and cannot return to school
83	Was attending and was withdrawn from school by the district when the district discovered that the student was not entitled to enrollment in the district because (a) the student was not a resident of the district, (b) was not entitled under other provisions of TEC §25.001 or as a transfer student, or (c) was not entitled to public school enrollment under TEC §38.001 or a corresponding rule of the Texas Department of State Health Services because the student was not immunized
Other reasons	
03	Died while enrolled in school or during the summer break after completing the prior school year
16	Returned to family's home country
88 <sup>b</sup>	Ordered by a court to attend a GED program and has not earned a GED certificate
89 <sup>b</sup>	Incarcerated in a state jail or federal penitentiary as an adult or as a person certified to stand trial as an adult
98 <sup>c</sup>	Other (reason unknown or not listed above)

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>School leavers with this leaver reason code are counted as dropouts for federal accountability purposes; they are not counted as dropouts for state accountability purposes at the campus and district levels. <sup>c</sup>School leavers with this leaver reason code are counted as dropouts for state and federal accountability purposes.

Educational Opportunity for Military Children; are withdrawn by districts when the districts discover that the students are not entitled to enrollment in the districts because the students are not residents of the districts; return to their home countries; or die. Three codes are for dropouts: students ordered by court to attend GED programs who have not earned GED certificates; students incarcerated in state jails or federal penitentiaries as adults or as persons certified to stand trial as adults; or students who leave for reasons other than those previously listed and cannot be accounted for by TEA processing.

# Processing Leaver Records

## ***Determining Student Statuses***

After all leaver records are received from districts, they are matched to the student roster and loaded into agency databases. Because multiple records per student are possible, and because a record from one district may affect a student's status at another, the agency uses all the data available for a student to determine the student's status. The agency determines whether the student returned to, or is a leaver from, each district he or she attended. The agency also determines whether the student returned to, or is a leaver from, the Texas public school system as a whole. District leaver statuses are used to determine the numbers of graduates, dropouts, other leavers, and underreported students for each district. State leaver statuses are used to determine the numbers of graduates, dropouts, other leavers, and underreported students for the state as a whole.

## ***State Leaver Status***

**Description.** State leaver status indicates whether a student is considered to be a leaver from the Texas public school system. State leaver status is determined by enrollment and leaver records submitted by districts in the fall and TEA records identifying movers, graduates, and GED certificate recipients. There are seven state leaver statuses: graduate, previous graduate, not a leaver, other leaver, GED certificate recipient, dropout, and underreported. A student can have only one state leaver status, regardless of the number of districts attended. State leaver statuses are not always mutually exclusive, so a hierarchy exists to determine the status.

**Graduate.** A status of "graduate" indicates the student graduated from a Texas public school district. A district submits a leaver record for the student with the leaver reason code for graduate.

**Previous graduate.** A status of "previous graduate" indicates that: (a) the preceding status does not apply; and (b) the student graduated in a previous school year from a Texas public school. A leaver record is not required for the student.

**Not a leaver.** A status of "not a leaver" indicates that: (a) the preceding two statuses do not apply; and (b) the student returned to a Texas public school on time in the fall or (c) the student returned, but not on time, and the student is a migrant. A leaver record is not required for a student who returns on time. If the student is a late-return migrant, the last district the student attended is required to submit a leaver record for the student.

**Other leaver.** A status of "other leaver" indicates that: (a) the preceding three statuses do not apply; and (b) the student left Texas public schools for a reason other than graduating or dropping out. A district submits a leaver record for the student with a leaver reason code for other leaver.

**GED certificate recipient.** A status of "GED certificate recipient" indicates that: (a) the preceding four statuses do not apply; and (b) the student received a GED certificate by August 31, 2016. A leaver record is not required for the student.

**Dropout.** A status of "dropout" indicates that: (a) the preceding five statuses do not apply; and (b) the student is a dropout. A district submits a leaver record for the student with a leaver reason code for dropout.

**Underreported.** A status of "underreported" indicates that the preceding six statuses do not apply. A leaver record is required for the student but is not received.

### ***District Leaver Status***

**Description.** District leaver status indicates whether a student is considered to be a leaver from the district. District leaver status is determined by enrollment and leaver records submitted by the district in the fall and TEA records identifying movers, graduates, and GED certificate recipients. For a student who attended more than one district, the district leaver status may differ from one district to another and may differ from the state leaver status. The district leaver statuses are the same as the state leaver statuses, but their definitions differ slightly, and there is one additional status: mover. Mover is not a status at the state level because a student who moves from one Texas public school district and enrolls in another has not left the Texas public school system. District leaver statuses are not always mutually exclusive, so a hierarchy exists to determine the status.

**Graduate.** A status of "graduate" indicates the student graduated from the district. The district is required to submit a leaver record for the student with the leaver reason code for graduate, and the record is loaded into the graduation database.

**Previous graduate.** A status of "previous graduate" indicates that: (a) the preceding status does not apply; and (b) the student graduated in a previous school year from a Texas public school. A leaver record is not required for the student.

**Not a leaver.** A status of "not a leaver" indicates that: (a) the preceding two statuses do not apply; and (b) the student returned to the district on time in the fall or (c) the student returned, but not on time, and the student is a migrant. A leaver record is not required for a student who returns on time. If the student is a late-return migrant, the district is required to submit a leaver record for the student, but the leaver record is not loaded into the leaver database.

**Mover.** A status of "mover" indicates that: (a) the preceding three statuses do not apply; and (b) the student moved from the district and enrolled in another Texas public school district. A leaver record is not required for the student.

**Other leaver.** A status of "other leaver" indicates that: (a) the preceding four statuses do not apply; and (b) the student left the district for a reason other than graduating or dropping out. The district is required to submit a leaver record for the student with a leaver reason code for other leaver, and the record is loaded into the other leaver database.

**GED certificate recipient.** A status of "GED certificate recipient" indicates that: (a) the preceding five statuses do not apply; and (b) the student received a GED certificate by August 31, 2016. A leaver record is not required for the student.

**Dropout.** A status of "dropout" indicates that: (a) the preceding six statuses do not apply; and (b) the student is a dropout. The district is required to submit a leaver record for the student with a leaver reason code for dropout, and the record is loaded into the dropout database.

**Underreported.** A status of "underreported" indicates that the preceding seven statuses do not apply. A leaver record is required for the student but is not received.



# Reporting of Student and Program Information

## Overview

In this report, graduation and dropout data are presented by race/ethnicity, gender, economically disadvantaged status, and other student characteristics (e.g., English language learner) and by program participation (e.g., special education). This section presents additional information about these student characteristic and program participation groupings.

## Data Masking

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (Title 20 of the United States Code §1232g; Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 99) prohibits improper disclosure of personally identifiable student information by any educational agency or institution that receives funding under any program administered by the U.S. Department of Education (ED). In 2016, ED guidance on reporting education data in compliance with FERPA changed, relaxing requirements for masking state-level data. Based on this guidance, data presented in this report will no longer be masked, beginning with 2015-16 reporting.

## Student Characteristics

**At-risk.** In this report, a student identified as at risk of dropping out of school is one who is under age 26 and who meets one or more of the following criteria:

- is in prekindergarten, kindergarten, or Grades 1, 2, or 3 and did not perform satisfactorily on a readiness test or assessment instrument administered during the current school year;
- is in Grades 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12 and did not maintain an average equivalent to 70 on a scale of 100 in two or more subjects in the foundation curriculum (language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies) during a semester in the preceding or current school year or is not maintaining such an average in two or more subjects in the foundation curriculum in the current semester;
- was not advanced from one grade level to the next for one or more school years;
- did not perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument administered to the student under TEC Subchapter B, Chapter 39, and who has not in the previous or current school year subsequently performed on that instrument or another appropriate instrument at a level equal to at least 110 percent of the level of satisfactory performance on that instrument;
- is pregnant or is a parent;
- has been placed in an alternative education program in accordance with TEC §37.006 during the preceding or current school year;
- has been expelled in accordance with TEC §37.007 during the preceding or current school year;

- is currently on parole, probation, deferred prosecution, or other conditional release;
- was previously reported through PEIMS to have dropped out of school;
- is a student of limited English proficiency, as defined by TEC §29.052;
- is in the custody or care of the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services or has, during the current school year, been referred to the department by a school official, officer of the juvenile court, or law enforcement official;
- is homeless, as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), Title X, Part C, Section 725(2), the term "homeless children and youths," and its subsequent amendments; or
- resided in the preceding school year or resides in the current school year in a residential placement facility in the district, including a detention facility, substance abuse treatment facility, emergency shelter, psychiatric hospital, halfway house, or foster group home.

**Economically disadvantaged.** A student identified as economically disadvantaged is one who is eligible for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch and Child Nutrition Program.

**English language learner.** A student is classified as an English language learner (ELL) when: (a) a language other than English is used as the primary language in the home, and (b) the student's English language proficiency is determined to be limited by a language proficiency assessment committee or as indicated by a test of English proficiency. Most students identified as ELLs receive bilingual or English as a second language instruction. With annual dropout rates, students were identified as ELLs in the 2015-16 school year. With longitudinal graduation and dropout rates, students were identified as ELLs: (a) at any time while attending Texas public schools; (b) at any time while attending Grades 9-12 in Texas public schools; and (c) in their last year in Texas public schools.

**Homeless.** A student is classified as homeless when the student lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as defined by NCLB, Title X, Part C, Section 725(2). This definition includes:

- children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
- children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described previously.

For annual dropout rates, students were identified as homeless in the 2015-16 school year. For longitudinal graduation and dropout rates, students were identified as homeless at any time while attending Grades 9-12 in Texas public schools.

**Immigrant.** A student identified as an immigrant is one who: (a) is aged 3 through 21; (b) was not born in any state in the United States, Puerto Rico, or the District of Columbia; and (c) has not been attending school in the United States for more than three full academic years. U.S. citizenship is not a factor when identifying a student as an immigrant for the purpose of public school data collection.

**Migrant.** A student identified as a migrant is one who: (a) is aged 3 through 21; (b) is (or whose parent, spouse, or guardian is) a migratory agricultural worker; and (c) in the preceding 36 months, to obtain temporary employment in agriculture or fishing, or to accompany a parent, spouse, or guardian to obtain such employment: (1) has moved from one school district to another; or (2) resides in a school district of more than 15,000 square miles and migrates a distance of 20 miles or more to a temporary residence to engage in a fishing activity.

**Overage.** Based on compulsory school attendance laws in Texas, under which most students begin Grade 1 at the age of six, the age of a student in any specified grade is usually equal to that grade level plus five years. For example, most students in Grade 9 are 14 years of age ( $9+5=14$ ). A student whose age on September 1 is higher than his or her grade level plus five years is classified as overage.

**Race/ethnicity.** In 2009-10, TEA began collecting data on race and ethnicity in compliance with a new federal standard (TEA, 2009). For that year only, as a transitional measure, the data also were collected using the old standard. The new standard requires that race and ethnicity be collected separately using a specific two-part question, presented in a specific order, and that both parts of the question be answered (TEA, 2016b).

Part 1. Ethnicity: Is the person Hispanic/Latino? Choose only one.

- Hispanic/Latino
- Not Hispanic/Latino

Part 2. Race: What is the person's race? Choose one or more, regardless of ethnicity.

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
- White

The racial/ethnic categories are defined as follows. Hispanic/Latino includes students of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. American Indian or Alaska Native includes students having origins in any of the original

peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintain a tribal affiliation or community attachment. Asian includes students having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent. Black or African American includes students having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa. Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander includes students having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands. White includes students having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

The new standard resulted in several important changes: (a) the combined racial category Asian/Pacific Islander is now separated into two categories; (b) students once identified exclusively as "Hispanic/Latino" must now report their race; (c) students may report more than one race; and (d) the definition for one of the racial categories—American Indian or Alaska Native—differs from that used in years past. Prior to 2009-10, American Indian or Alaska Native included students having origins in any of the original peoples of North America only.

Throughout the rest of this report, students classified in PEIMS as Hispanic/Latino are referred to as Hispanic; students classified as American Indian or Alaska Native are referred to as American Indian; students classified as Black or African American are referred to as African American; students classified as Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander are referred to as Pacific Islander; and students classified as having two or more races are referred to as multiracial.

For purposes of reporting Texas public school graduation and dropout data, TEA combines the answers to the two-part question to create seven mutually exclusive racial/ethnic categories. A student identified as Hispanic is included only in the count for Hispanics. A student not identified as Hispanic is included in the count for only one of the following six racial categories: African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, or multiracial. A student identified as having two or more races is included only in the count for multiracial students, not in the count for any single racial category. When reporting annual data by race/ethnicity for school years prior to 2009-10 and longitudinal data by race/ethnicity for the class of 2009 and earlier classes, TEA used the term Native American in place of the term American Indian. In this report, the term American Indian is used to present both current and historical data.

For this report, longitudinal rates for the class of 2010 and earlier classes were calculated based on the old racial/ethnic categories. Longitudinal rates for the class of 2011 and later classes were calculated based on the new racial/ethnic categories. For the classes of 2011 and 2012, racial/ethnic data for students who had final statuses in 2009-10 or later were collected using the new categories, whereas data for students who had final statuses in 2008-09 or earlier were collected using the old categories. Although most of the old racial/ethnic categories correspond to individual new categories, the category "Asian/Pacific Islander" does not. Thus, Asian/Pacific Islander students in the classes of 2011 and 2012 who had final statuses in 2008-09 or earlier, although included in state totals, are not included in the counts and rates for any individual racial/ethnic category.

## ***Program Participation***

**Bilingual or English as a second language.** Bilingual indicates that the student is participating in a state-approved bilingual education program. The program must be a full-time program that provides dual-language instruction through the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills in the content areas (mathematics, science, health, and social studies) in the primary language of ELLs. In addition, the program must provide for a carefully structured and sequenced mastery of English cognitive academic language development. English as a second language (ESL) indicates that a student is participating in a state-approved ESL program. An ESL program in Grade 8 and below is a program of intensive instruction in English from teachers either certified or endorsed in ESL who use second language acquisition information to teach ELLs the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS). An ESL program in Grades 9-12 is a program of intensive instruction in English from teachers trained in recognizing and dealing with language differences who use secondary language acquisition information to teach ELLs the ELPS.

**Career and technical education.** A student may be enrolled in a state-approved career and technical education (CTE) program either as a participant in the district's career and technical coherent sequence of courses or as a participant in the district's tech prep program. In this report, students enrolled in CTE courses as electives are excluded from CTE rates.

**Gifted and talented.** A student identified as gifted and talented is one who performs at or shows the potential for performing at a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment, and who: (a) exhibits high performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area; (b) possesses an unusual capacity for leadership; or (c) excels in a specific academic field.

**Special education.** A student enrolled in a special education program is one who is participating in a special education instructional and related services program or a general education program using special education support services, supplementary aids, or other special arrangements.

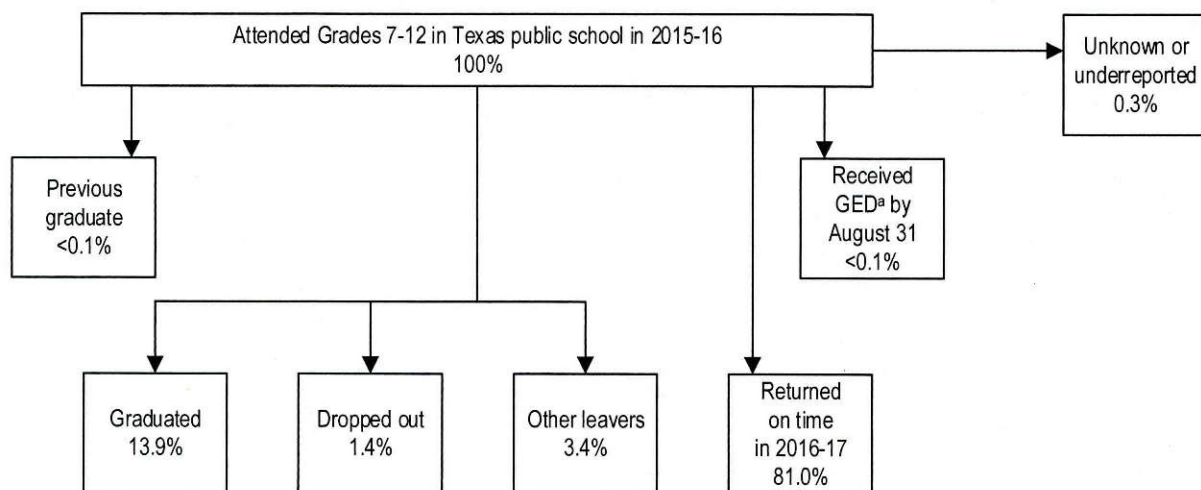
**Title I.** A Title I student is one participating in a program authorized under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which is designed to improve the academic achievement of disadvantaged students.

# District Results for Leaver Processing

## District Summary

Of the students in Grades 7-12 in the 2015-16 school year, 81.0 percent returned to Texas public schools the next fall on time, that is, by the last Friday in September (Figure 2). Another 13.9 percent graduated, 1.4 percent dropped out, and 3.4 percent left the Texas public school system for other reasons. In addition, fewer than 0.1 percent had graduated in previous school years, and fewer than 0.1 percent received GED certificates by August 31, 2016. The remaining 0.3 percent could not be accounted for through TEA and district records.

**Figure 2**  
**Year-to-Year Reporting of Students in Grades 7-12, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16**



Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate.

## Leaver Reasons Reported by Districts

The counts of graduates, dropouts, and other leavers summed across districts do not match total counts of graduates, dropouts, and other leavers summed at the state level. When two or more districts submit leaver records for the same student, TEA attempts to determine which district is accountable for the student. When the accountable district cannot be determined, all records are retained and included in processing. Each record submitted for a student is included in the district counts, whereas duplicate records are removed from state counts. Thus, the total counts of graduate, dropout, and other leaver records received by TEA do not match the total counts of graduate, dropout, and other leavers at the state level presented elsewhere in this report.

A majority (74.4%) of leaver records submitted by districts in fall 2016 were for students who graduated from Texas public schools (Table 5). An additional 7.7 percent were for students who

**Table 5**  
**District Leavers, Grades 7-12, by Leaver Reason, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16**

Code	Leaver reason	Other leavers		All leavers	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Graduated or received an out-of-state GED<sup>a</sup></b>					
01	Graduated from a campus in this district or charter	n/a <sup>b</sup>	n/a	324,311	74.4
85	Graduated outside Texas before entering a Texas public school, entered a Texas public school, and left again	59	0.1	59	<0.1
86	Completed the GED outside Texas	46	0.1	46	<0.1
90	Graduated from another state under provisions of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children	14	<0.1	14	<0.1
<b>Moved to other educational setting</b>					
24	Entered college and is working towards an Associate's or Bachelor's degree	303	0.4	303	0.1
60	Is home schooled	21,456	27.4	21,456	4.9
66	Removed by Child Protective Services (CPS), and the district has not been informed of the student's current status or enrollment	171	0.2	171	<0.1
81	Enrolled in a private school in Texas	7,412	9.5	7,412	1.7
82	Enrolled in a public or private school outside Texas	34,763	44.4	34,763	8.0
87	Withdrew from/left school to enroll in the Texas Tech University ISD High School Diploma Program or the University of Texas at Austin High School Diploma Program	207	0.3	207	<0.1
<b>Withdrawn by district</b>					
78	Expelled under the provisions of Texas Education Code (TEC) §37.007 and cannot return to school	132	0.2	132	<0.1
83	Was attending and was withdrawn from school by the district when the district discovered that the student was not entitled to enrollment in the district because (a) the student was not a resident of the district, (b) was not entitled under other provisions of TEC §25.001 or as a transfer student, or (c) was not entitled to public school enrollment under TEC §38.001 or a corresponding rule of the Texas Department of State Health Services because the student was not immunized	333	0.4	333	0.1
<b>All leaver reasons</b>					
		78,374	100	436,167	100

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. The counts of graduates, dropouts, and other leavers reflect all records received from districts. Because duplicate records are removed from state counts, district-level counts do not match state-level counts presented elsewhere in this report.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>Not applicable. Graduates (Code 01) and dropouts (Codes 88, 89, and 98) are not counted as other leavers. <sup>c</sup>School leavers with this leaver reason code are counted as dropouts for federal accountability purposes; they are not counted as dropouts for state accountability purposes at the campus and district levels. <sup>d</sup>School leavers with this leaver reason code are counted as dropouts for state and federal accountability purposes.

dropped out, and 18.0 percent were for students who left Texas public schools for reasons other than graduating or dropping out.

Among the 78,374 other leavers, or students who left Texas public schools for reasons other than graduating or dropping out, 44.4 percent left to enroll in school outside Texas. An additional 27.4 percent withdrew to begin home schooling, 16.5 percent withdrew to return to their home countries, and 9.5 percent withdrew to enroll in Texas private schools. The leaver records do not include students who received GED certificates in Texas or previous Texas public school graduates.



## **Data Quality in Dropout Reporting**

### ***Underreported Students***

Not all students from the previous year are accounted for through district records or TEA processing. For example, a district may fail to submit a record for a student. Or a district may submit a record, but an error in the student's identification information on the record prevents TEA from matching the record to a student. Students from the previous year who are not accounted for or for whom a record cannot be matched are considered underreported. The percentage of underreported students is calculated as the number of students who are unaccounted for divided by the total number of students served in Grades 7-12 the previous year.

Districts with high numbers or percentages of underreported students, high numbers or percentages of data errors, or anomalous use of certain leaver codes are subject to interventions and sanctions. For 2015-16 leavers, the standards were: more than 75 underreported students and a rate of underreporting of at least 0.7 percent; or more than 4 underreported students and a rate of underreporting greater than 1.5 percent.

An indeterminate fraction of underreported students are dropouts. Nevertheless, TEA counts and reports underreported students separately from dropouts. Counting underreported students as dropouts changes a dropout rate from a measure of dropouts to a measure of dropouts and data reporting problems combined. A combined measure is not a meaningful indicator of educational performance. An independent data quality measure has been very effective in monitoring and improving data quality.

### ***Student Identification Errors***

Data are reported to TEA through the Texas Student Data System (TSDS), and the agency uses the TSDS to store and manage identifying information on students. In the 2012-13 school year, TEA began implementing a Unique ID system through the TSDS that synchronizes with the Person Identification Database (PID). TEA uses the PID to process data used in calculating annual dropout and longitudinal graduation rates. The Unique ID system allows a student's records to be linked by matching several pieces of identifying information: the student's social security number or alternative identification number, last name, first name, middle name, date of birth, gender, and race/ethnicity. Unique ID provides enhanced matching logic for students who have closely matching information. It also allows authorized users to search for existing students, add new students, or update existing records in the Unique ID database. These features allow districts to correct errors before submitting data to TEA.

Prior to the 2016-17 school year, within the PID system, when a new student record matched an existing record on some, but not all matching criteria, a student identification error occurred. For example, an error occurred if the social security number on a new record matched the number on an existing record, but the last names on the two records did not match. In 2016-17, the Unique ID

system was fully implemented, and student identification errors within the PID can no longer occur. Errors within the Unique ID system can occur when districts create an additional Unique ID for a student who already has a Unique ID assigned. The agency has developed a process for retiring Unique IDs to resolve cases in which students have multiple Unique IDs.

### ***Monitoring, Interventions, and Investigations***

Standards and consequences are assigned to data quality measures. Districts with high numbers or percentages of underreported students or anomalous use of other leaver codes may be subject to audit.

The validation of leaver data has been integrated into a data validation component of the Performance-Based Monitoring (PBM) system under which districts with leaver data reporting anomalies are subject to graduated interventions (Table 6). Emphasis is on a continuous improvement process in which districts undertake activities that promote improved data reporting and TEA monitors their progress. Nevertheless, interventions can lead to corrective actions or sanctions.

Interventions include requirements to conduct analyses focused on leaver data reporting. The focus of the analyses is on data collection and reporting systems in the district. As appropriate to the indicator, student-level data reviews are required. The district is required to work with stakeholders to conduct the analyses and address identified issues in a continuous improvement plan. If substantial or imminent concerns are identified, or if appropriate progress is not made by the district in addressing leaver data reporting problems, a targeted on-site review may be conducted.

Interventions for data validation monitoring were implemented in 2005-06, a pilot year for the data validation component of PBM, using leaver data from 2002-03 and 2003-04.

In 2016-17, data validation monitoring using 2014-15 leaver data identified 124 districts and charters for Stage 1 interventions, 70 districts and charters for Stage 2 interventions, and 14 districts and charters for Stage 3 interventions.

**Table 6**  
**Criteria for Investigation of Leaver Data, 2014-15**

Indicator	Description
Use of one or more leaver codes	A potentially anomalous percentage of one or more leaver codes in 2014-15 (codes 03, 16, 24, 60, 66, 78, 81, 82, 83, 85, 86, 87, and 90). A minimum of 10 students with any non-graduate, non-dropout leaver reason code and a minimum of 5 leavers with any of the anomalous codes specified is required for evaluation on this indicator.
Use of leaver reason codes by districts with no dropouts	The number of 2014-15 dropouts reported is zero, and a potentially anomalous percentage of certain leaver reason codes (codes 16, 24, 60, 81, and 82) for 2014-15 leavers is used. A minimum of 10 students with any non-graduate, non-dropout leaver reason code and a minimum of 5 leavers with any of the anomalous codes specified is required for evaluation on this indicator.
Leaver data analysis	A decrease in Grade 7-12 annual dropout rate from 2012-13 to 2014-15 and from 2013-14 to 2014-15 given a district's: (a) change in total leavers (i.e., graduates, other leavers, and dropouts) in relation to total Grade 7-12 attendance; (b) change in the number and rate of graduates in relation to total leavers; (c) change in the number and rate of other leavers in relation to total leavers; (d) change in the number and rate of dropouts in relation to total leavers; and (e) change in the number and rate of underreported students. A minimum of 10 students and a minimum of 5 dropouts are required for evaluation on this indicator.
Above the threshold for number or percentage of underreported students	The underreported student count for 2014-15 exceeded 75, or the underreported student rate for 2014-15 exceeded 1.5 percent. A minimum of 5 underreported students and a rate of underreporting of at least 0.7 percent are required for evaluation on this indicator.
Use of certain leaver reason dropout codes	The number of 2014-15 dropouts with dropout codes 88 and 89 in relation to the number of 2014-15 dropouts with any leaver reason dropout code. A minimum of 10 dropouts and a minimum of 5 students reported with a code of 88 or 89 is required for evaluation on this indicator.
Continuing students' dropout rate	The class of 2014 Grade 9 cohort dropout rate for students who continued in school after the expected graduation date exceeds 30.0 percent. A minimum of 30 continuing students and a minimum of 5 dropouts are required for evaluation on this indicator.
Missing PET <sup>a</sup> submission (August 15, 2016 through September 16, 2016)	This indicator identifies districts that did not complete at least one PET submission between August 15, 2016, and September 16, 2016.
Missing PET submission (2015-16 reporting year)	This indicator identifies districts that did not complete at least one PET submission during the 2015-16 school year.

Source. Texas Education Agency (n.d.)

<sup>a</sup>Person Identification Database (PID) Enrollment Tracking.



# Results for Texas Public Schools

Annual Dropout Rates

Longitudinal Graduation  
and Dropout Rates

Attrition Rates

Data Quality Measures

## Annual Dropout Rates

### *Presentation and Interpretation of Results*

**Presentation of rates by race/ethnicity.** Annual dropout rates are provided for seven racial/ethnic categories. See the section "Reporting of Student and Program Information" on page 39 for additional information.

**Comparisons of rates by race/ethnicity.** The non-Hispanic American Indian and Pacific Islander student populations are small in number, compared to other racial/ethnic populations. Similarly, within the overall Hispanic student population, the Asian and Pacific Islander populations are small in number, compared to other racial populations. Therefore, discussions of annual results, including comparisons across racial/ethnic groups, do not include these populations. See the section "Annual Dropout Rates" on page 20 for additional information.

**Presentation of rates by program participation and student characteristic.** Dropout rates are presented by participation in special programs (bilingual/English as a second language, career and technical education, gifted and talented, special education, Title I) and student characteristics (at-risk, English language learner, homeless, immigrant, migrant, overage). See the section "Reporting of Student and Program Information" on page 39 for additional information. A student may be reported with more than one special demographic characteristic or as participating in more than one special instructional program. Table B-1 in Appendix B provides the Public Education Information Management System data sources within the Texas Student Data System used in calculating annual dropout rates by instructional program and student characteristic.

### **Grade 7-8 Annual Rate**

**State summary.** An array of complex, interrelated factors contribute to dropping out. Family and personal background, academic history, and characteristics of the school all may influence the decision of a student to drop out of school. For the 2015-16 school year, the statewide annual dropout rate for Grades 7-8 was 0.4 percent (Table 7). The Grade 7-8 dropout rate was lower than the 2.0 percent annual dropout rate for Grades 9-12 (Table 10 on page 56). There were 2,783 students who dropped out of Grades 7-8, and of these, 63.3 percent (or 1,762) dropped out of Grade 8 (Table 18 on page 64). The formula for calculating the annual dropout rate is on page 2.

**Rates by race/ethnicity, economic status, and gender.** Across the five largest racial/ethnic groups in 2015-16, the Grade 7-8 dropout rate was highest for African American students (0.6%), followed by Hispanic (0.4%), multiracial (0.3%), and Asian and White students (0.2% each). The dropout rate for students identified as economically disadvantaged was 0.4 percent. Male students had a higher dropout rate (0.4%) than female students (0.3%).

**Table 7**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-8, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status,**  
**and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2011-12 Through 2015-16**

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>African American</b>					
2011-12	96,678	13.0	382	19.2	0.4
2012-13	97,887	12.9	364	11.4	0.4
2013-14	99,675	12.7	447	11.2	0.4
2014-15	99,661	12.6	537	20.8	0.5
2015-16	99,489	12.5	548	19.7	0.6
<b>American Indian</b>					
2011-12	<3,475	0.5	– <sup>a</sup>	–	0.2
2012-13	<3,000	0.4	–	–	0.5
2013-14	2,915	0.4	15	0.4	0.5
2014-15	<3,000	0.4	–	–	0.4
2015-16	2,964	0.4	16	0.6	0.5
<b>Asian</b>					
2011-12	25,590	3.4	27	1.4	0.1
2012-13	26,438	3.5	27	0.8	0.1
2013-14	29,165	3.7	30	0.8	0.1
2014-15	30,749	3.9	54	2.1	0.2
2015-16	32,454	4.1	55	2.0	0.2
<b>Hispanic</b>					
2011-12	367,724	49.5	1,183	59.4	0.3
2012-13	381,097	50.1	2,311	72.5	0.6
2013-14	399,384	51.0	3,036	76.4	0.8
2014-15	405,126	51.4	1,473	57.0	0.4
2015-16	409,743	51.6	1,602	57.6	0.4
<b>Pacific Islander</b>					
2011-12	<925	0.1	–	–	0.3
2012-13	<1,000	0.1	–	–	0.2
2013-14	1,032	0.1	10	0.3	1.0
2014-15	<1,100	0.1	–	–	0.4
2015-16	1,088	0.1	4	0.1	0.4
<b>White</b>					
2011-12	236,001	31.8	365	18.3	0.2
2012-13	238,079	31.3	430	13.5	0.2
2013-14	237,598	30.3	403	10.1	0.2
2014-15	234,813	29.8	468	18.1	0.2
2015-16	232,673	29.3	507	18.2	0.2

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity. Results for school years prior to 2011-12 are found in Appendix C.

<sup>a</sup>A dash (–) indicates data are masked. When the number of dropouts is not reported, the total number of students is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the group. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information.

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**Table 7 (continued)**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-8, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status,**  
**and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2011-12 Through 2015-16**

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>Multiracial</b>					
2011-12	12,285	1.7	24	1.2	0.2
2012-13	13,142	1.7	37	1.2	0.3
2013-14	13,789	1.8	33	0.8	0.2
2014-15	14,410	1.8	35	1.4	0.2
2015-16	15,319	1.9	51	1.8	0.3
<b>Economically disadvantaged</b>					
2011-12	441,937	59.5	1,431	71.9	0.3
2012-13	453,346	59.6	2,639	82.8	0.6
2013-14	470,835	60.1	3,314	83.4	0.7
2014-15	465,366	59.0	1,838	71.1	0.4
2015-16	469,422	59.1	2,033	73.1	0.4
<b>Female</b>					
2011-12	361,544	48.7	909	45.7	0.3
2012-13	370,903	48.8	966	30.3	0.3
2013-14	380,935	48.6	1,045	26.3	0.3
2014-15	384,056	48.7	1,219	47.2	0.3
2015-16	386,352	48.7	1,280	46.0	0.3
<b>Male</b>					
2011-12	381,123	51.3	1,082	54.3	0.3
2012-13	389,720	51.2	2,221	69.7	0.6
2013-14	402,623	51.4	2,929	73.7	0.7
2014-15	404,759	51.3	1,365	52.8	0.3
2015-16	407,378	51.3	1,503	54.0	0.4
<b>State</b>					
2011-12	742,667	100	1,991	100	0.3
2012-13	760,623	100	3,187	100	0.4
2013-14	783,558	100	3,974	100	0.5
2014-15	788,815	100	2,584	100	0.3
2015-16	793,730	100	2,783	100	0.4

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity. Results for school years prior to 2011-2012 are found in Appendix C.

\*A dash (-) indicates data are masked. When the number of dropouts is not reported, the total number of students is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the group. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information.

**Rates by program participation and student characteristic.** In 2015-16, the annual dropout rate for Grade 7-8 students participating in special education programs (0.4%) was the same as the state average (Table 8). Students identified as English language learners made up 22.7 percent of all Grade 7-8 dropouts and had a higher dropout rate (0.6%) than the state average (Table 9). Overage students made up a majority (53.8%) of Grade 7-8 dropouts and had a dropout rate of 1.0 percent.



**Table 8**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-8, by Program Participation, Texas**  
**Public Schools, 2015-16**

Group	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Bilingual or ESL <sup>a</sup>	92,086	11.6	375	13.5	0.4
Gifted and talented	79,529	10.0	63	2.3	0.1
Special education	78,674	9.9	346	12.4	0.4
Title I	482,951	60.8	2,003	72.0	0.4
State	793,730	100	2,783	100	0.4

Note. Students may be counted in more than one category.

<sup>a</sup>English as a second language.

**Table 9**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-8, by Student Characteristic, Texas**  
**Public Schools, 2015-16**

Group	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
At-risk	366,546	46.2	1,320	47.4	0.4
English language learner	104,305	13.1	632	22.7	0.6
Homeless	13,946	1.8	289	10.4	2.1
Immigrant	11,078	1.4	77	2.8	0.7
Migrant	4,754	0.6	19	0.7	0.4
Overage	149,465	18.8	1,498	53.8	1.0
State	793,730	100	2,783	100	0.4

Note. Students may be counted in more than one category.

### **Grade 9-12 Annual Rate**

**State summary.** For the 2015-16 school year, the statewide annual dropout rate for Grades 9-12 was 2.0 percent, a decrease of 0.1 percentage points from the previous school year (Table 10 on page 56). The Grade 9-12 dropout rate was higher than the Grade 7-8 rate of 0.4 percent (Table 7 on page 53) and the Grade 7-12 rate of 1.4 percent (Table 13 on page 59). There were 30,683 students who dropped out of Grades 9-12 in the 2015-16 school year, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2014-15 (Table 10 on page 56). The formula for calculating the annual dropout rate is on page 2.

**Rates by race/ethnicity, economic status, and gender.** Across the five largest racial/ethnic groups in 2015-16, the Grade 9-12 dropout rate was highest for African American students (3.0%), followed by Hispanic (2.4%), multiracial (1.5%), White (1.1%), and Asian (0.6%) students. The dropout rate for students identified as economically disadvantaged was 2.5 percent. Male students had a higher dropout rate (2.3%) than female students (1.7%).

**Table 10**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 9-12, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status,**  
**and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2011-12 Through 2015-16**

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>African American</b>					
2011-12	187,634	13.3	7,062	20.6	3.8
2012-13	187,944	13.2	6,120	19.4	3.3
2013-14	189,446	13.0	5,868	18.7	3.1
2014-15	193,774	13.0	5,828	18.9	3.0
2015-16	198,005	12.9	5,842	19.0	3.0
<b>American Indian</b>					
2011-12	<6,980	0.5	— <sup>a</sup>	—	2.7
2012-13	<6,350	0.4	—	—	2.5
2013-14	6,257	0.4	147	0.5	2.3
2014-15	<6,300	0.4	—	—	2.8
2015-16	6,070	0.4	164	0.5	2.7
<b>Asian</b>					
2011-12	50,991	3.6	464	1.4	0.9
2012-13	52,377	3.7	420	1.3	0.8
2013-14	55,019	3.8	411	1.3	0.7
2014-15	57,939	3.9	457	1.5	0.8
2015-16	61,220	4.0	390	1.3	0.6
<b>Hispanic</b>					
2011-12	670,390	47.6	20,662	60.3	3.1
2012-13	693,069	48.5	19,247	61.1	2.8
2013-14	714,253	49.1	19,306	61.5	2.7
2014-15	742,506	49.7	18,724	60.7	2.5
2015-16	774,571	50.4	18,741	61.1	2.4
<b>Pacific Islander</b>					
2011-12	<1,900	0.1	—	—	1.7
2012-13	<2,000	0.1	—	—	2.2
2013-14	2,067	0.1	61	0.2	3.0
2014-15	<2,200	0.1	—	—	2.1
2015-16	2,285	0.1	60	0.2	2.6
<b>White</b>					
2011-12	467,344	33.2	5,529	16.1	1.2
2012-13	463,355	32.4	5,155	16.4	1.1
2013-14	462,905	31.8	5,218	16.6	1.1
2014-15	466,430	31.2	5,228	16.9	1.1
2015-16	467,359	30.4	5,076	16.5	1.1

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity. Results for school years prior to 2011-12 are found in Appendix C.

<sup>a</sup>A dash (—) indicates data are masked. When the number of dropouts is not reported, the total number of students is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the group. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information.

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**Table 10 (continued)**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 9-12, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2011-12 Through 2015-16**

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>Multiracial</b>					
2011-12	22,479	1.6	349	1.0	1.6
2012-13	23,784	1.7	365	1.2	1.5
2013-14	24,895	1.7	373	1.2	1.5
2014-15	26,210	1.8	397	1.3	1.5
2015-16	27,706	1.8	410	1.3	1.5
<b>Economically disadvantaged</b>					
2011-12	745,010	52.9	20,929	61.0	2.8
2012-13	763,807	53.5	20,217	64.2	2.6
2013-14	783,079	53.8	20,592	65.6	2.6
2014-15	793,461	53.1	20,177	65.4	2.5
2015-16	828,322	53.9	20,512	66.9	2.5
<b>Female</b>					
2011-12	685,384	48.7	14,771	43.1	2.2
2012-13	695,346	48.7	13,272	42.1	1.9
2013-14	708,579	48.7	12,857	41.0	1.8
2014-15	729,169	48.8	12,691	41.1	1.7
2015-16	749,847	48.8	12,546	40.9	1.7
<b>Male</b>					
2011-12	722,313	51.3	19,514	56.9	2.7
2012-13	733,473	51.3	18,237	57.9	2.5
2013-14	746,263	51.3	18,527	59.0	2.5
2014-15	766,125	51.2	18,162	58.9	2.4
2015-16	787,369	51.2	18,137	59.1	2.3
<b>State</b>					
2011-12	1,407,697	100	34,285	100	2.4
2012-13	1,428,819	100	31,509	100	2.2
2013-14	1,454,842	100	31,384	100	2.2
2014-15	1,495,294	100	30,853	100	2.1
2015-16	1,537,216	100	30,683	100	2.0

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity. Results for school years prior to 2011-12 are found in Appendix C.

<sup>a</sup>A dash (-) indicates data are masked. When the number of dropouts is not reported, the total number of students is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the group. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information.

**Rates by program participation and student characteristic.** For Grade 9-12 students participating in special education programs in 2015-16, the dropout rate was 2.8 percent, 0.8 percentage points higher than the state average of 2.0 percent (Table 11 on page 58). Students identified as English language learners had a dropout rate of 4.2 percent, more than double the state average (Table 12 on page 58). Overage students made up a majority (80.4%) of Grade 9-12 dropouts and had a dropout rate of 6.6 percent.

**Table 11**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 9-12, by Program Participation, Texas**  
**Public Schools, 2015-16**

Group	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Bilingual or ESL <sup>a</sup>	107,556	7.0	3,770	12.3	3.5
CTE <sup>b</sup>	643,051	41.8	6,301	20.5	1.0
Gifted and talented	138,118	9.0	266	0.9	0.2
Special education	135,974	8.8	3,854	12.6	2.8
Title I	673,476	43.8	17,707	57.7	2.6
State	1,537,216	100	30,683	100	2.0

Note. Students may be counted in more than one category.

<sup>a</sup>English as a second language <sup>b</sup>Career and technical education.

**Table 12**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 9-12, by Student Characteristic, Texas**  
**Public Schools, 2015-16**

Group	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
At-risk	692,208	45.0	18,411	60.0	2.7
English language learner	125,410	8.2	5,260	17.1	4.2
Homeless	25,932	1.7	1,853	6.0	7.1
Immigrant	25,046	1.6	1,071	3.5	4.3
Migrant	9,677	0.6	319	1.0	3.3
Overage	371,445	24.2	24,668	80.4	6.6
State	1,537,216	100	30,683	100	2.0

Note. Students may be counted in more than one category.

### **Grade 7-12 Annual Rate**

**State summary.** Out of 2,330,946 students who attended Grades 7-12 in Texas public schools during the 2015-16 school year, 1.4 percent were reported to have dropped out, a decrease of 0.1 percentage points from the previous school year (Table 13). Although the rate decreased, the number of dropouts in Grades 7-12 increased slightly to 33,466, a 0.1 percent increase from the 33,437 students who dropped out in 2014-15. The formula for calculating the annual dropout rate is on page 2.

**Rates by race/ethnicity, economic status, and gender.** Across the five largest racial/ethnic groups in 2015-16, the Grade 7-12 dropout rate was highest for African American students (2.1%), followed by Hispanic (1.7%), multiracial (1.1%), White (0.8%), and Asian (0.5%) students. The dropout rate for students identified as economically disadvantaged was 1.7 percent. Male students had a higher dropout rate (1.6%) than female students (1.2%).

**Table 13**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status,**  
**and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2011-12 Through 2015-16**

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>African American</b>					
2011-12	284,312	13.2	7,444	20.5	2.6
2012-13	285,831	13.1	6,484	18.7	2.3
2013-14	289,121	12.9	6,315	17.9	2.2
2014-15	293,435	12.8	6,365	19.0	2.2
2015-16	297,494	12.8	6,390	19.1	2.1
<b>American Indian</b>					
2011-12	<10,445	0.5	— <sup>a</sup>	—	1.9
2012-13	9,299	0.4	175	0.5	1.9
2013-14	9,172	0.4	162	0.5	1.8
2014-15	9,267	0.4	187	0.6	2.0
2015-16	9,034	0.4	180	0.5	2.0
<b>Asian</b>					
2011-12	76,581	3.6	491	1.4	0.6
2012-13	78,815	3.6	447	1.3	0.6
2013-14	84,184	3.8	441	1.2	0.5
2014-15	88,688	3.9	511	1.5	0.6
2015-16	93,674	4.0	445	1.3	0.5
<b>Hispanic</b>					
2011-12	1,038,114	48.3	21,845	60.2	2.1
2012-13	1,074,166	49.1	21,558	62.1	2.0
2013-14	1,113,637	49.8	22,342	63.2	2.0
2014-15	1,147,632	50.2	20,197	60.4	1.8
2015-16	1,184,314	50.8	20,343	60.8	1.7
<b>Pacific Islander</b>					
2011-12	<2,830	0.1	—	—	1.2
2012-13	2,971	0.1	45	0.1	1.5
2013-14	3,099	0.1	71	0.2	2.3
2014-15	3,224	0.1	49	0.1	1.5
2015-16	3,373	0.1	64	0.2	1.9
<b>White</b>					
2011-12	703,345	32.7	5,894	16.2	0.8
2012-13	701,434	32.0	5,585	16.1	0.8
2013-14	700,503	31.3	5,621	15.9	0.8
2014-15	701,243	30.7	5,696	17.0	0.8
2015-16	700,032	30.0	5,583	16.7	0.8

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity. Results for school years prior to 2011-12 are found in Appendix C.

<sup>a</sup>A dash (—) indicates data are masked. When the number of dropouts is not reported, the total number of students is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the group. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information.

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**Table 13 (continued)**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status,**  
**and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2011-12 Through 2015-16**

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>Multiracial</b>					
2011-12	34,764	1.6	373	1.0	1.1
2012-13	36,926	1.7	402	1.2	1.1
2013-14	38,684	1.7	406	1.1	1.0
2014-15	40,620	1.8	432	1.3	1.1
2015-16	43,025	1.8	461	1.4	1.1
<b>Economically disadvantaged</b>					
2011-12	1,186,947	55.2	22,360	61.6	1.9
2012-13	1,217,153	55.6	22,856	65.9	1.9
2013-14	1,253,914	56.0	23,906	67.6	1.9
2014-15	1,258,827	55.1	22,015	65.8	1.7
2015-16	1,297,744	55.7	22,545	67.4	1.7
<b>Female</b>					
2011-12	1,046,928	48.7	15,680	43.2	1.5
2012-13	1,066,249	48.7	14,238	41.0	1.3
2013-14	1,089,514	48.7	13,902	39.3	1.3
2014-15	1,113,225	48.7	13,910	41.6	1.2
2015-16	1,136,199	48.7	13,826	41.3	1.2
<b>Male</b>					
2011-12	1,103,436	51.3	20,596	56.8	1.9
2012-13	1,123,193	51.3	20,458	59.0	1.8
2013-14	1,148,886	51.3	21,456	60.7	1.9
2014-15	1,170,884	51.3	19,527	58.4	1.7
2015-16	1,194,747	51.3	19,640	58.7	1.6
<b>State</b>					
2011-12	2,150,364	100	36,276	100	1.7
2012-13	2,189,442	100	34,696	100	1.6
2013-14	2,238,400	100	35,358	100	1.6
2014-15	2,284,109	100	33,437	100	1.5
2015-16	2,330,946	100	33,466	100	1.4

*Note.* Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity. Results for school years prior to 2011-12 are found in Appendix C.

\*A dash (-) indicates data are masked. When the number of dropouts is not reported, the total number of students is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the group. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information.

Some racial/ethnic groups make up larger percentages of the dropout population than of the student population. In 2015-16, for example, Hispanic students made up 50.8 percent of students in Grades 7-12, but 60.8 percent of dropouts, a difference of 10.0 percentage points (Table 13). African American students made up 12.8 percent of students in Grades 7-12 in 2015-16, but 19.1 percent of dropouts, a difference of 6.3 percentage points.

Similar patterns were seen for students identified as economically disadvantaged and for males. Students identified as economically disadvantaged made up 55.7 percent of students in Grades 7-12 in 2015-16, but 67.4 percent of dropouts, a difference of 11.7 percentage points. Males made up 51.3 percent of students in Grades 7-12, but 58.7 percent of dropouts, a difference of 7.4 percentage points.

**Rates by program participation and student characteristic.** In Grades 7-12, students participating in special education programs had a dropout rate of 2.0 percent, and students identified as English language learners had a dropout rate of 2.6 percent, both higher than the state average of 1.4 percent (Tables 14 and 15). Overage students had a dropout rate of 5.0 percent. Whereas overage students accounted for 22.3 percent of students in Grades 7-12, they accounted for 78.2 percent of dropouts.

**Table 14**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Program Participation, Texas**  
**Public Schools, 2015-16**

Group	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Bilingual or ESL <sup>a</sup>	199,642	8.6	4,145	12.4	2.1
CTE <sup>b</sup>	643,051	27.6	6,301	18.8	1.0
Gifted and talented	217,647	9.3	329	1.0	0.2
Special education	214,648	9.2	4,200	12.6	2.0
Title I	1,156,427	49.6	19,710	58.9	1.7
State	2,330,946	100	33,466	100	1.4

Note. Students may be counted in more than one category.

<sup>a</sup>English as a second language. <sup>b</sup>Career and technical education.

**Table 15**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Student Characteristic, Texas**  
**Public Schools, 2015-16**

Group	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
At-risk	1,058,754	45.4	19,731	59.0	1.9
English language learner	229,715	9.9	5,892	17.6	2.6
Homeless	39,878	1.7	2,142	6.4	5.4
Immigrant	36,124	1.5	1,148	3.4	3.2
Migrant	14,431	0.6	338	1.0	2.3
Overage	520,910	22.3	26,166	78.2	5.0
State	2,330,946	100	33,466	100	1.4

Note. Students may be counted in more than one category.

## Annual Dropout Rates by Age

Students ages 16 through 25 accounted for larger percentages of the dropout population than of the student population (Table 16). For example, 17-year-old students accounted for 29.2 percent of dropouts, but 14.8 percent of students in Grades 7-12. Eighteen-year-old students accounted for 17.4 percent of dropouts, but 3.2 percent of students in Grades 7-12.

**Table 16**  
Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Student Age, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16

September 1 age	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
11	5,983	0.3	7	<0.1	0.1
12	325,180	14.0	544	1.6	0.2
13	387,881	16.6	1,061	3.2	0.3
14	393,926	16.9	1,717	5.1	0.4
15	395,946	17.0	3,330	10.0	0.8
16	380,245	16.3	7,061	21.1	1.9
17	346,134	14.8	9,758	29.2	2.8
18	74,922	3.2	5,831	17.4	7.8
19	12,290	0.5	2,253	6.7	18.3
20	4,228	0.2	832	2.5	19.7
21	2,236	0.1	346	1.0	15.5
22	548	<0.1	206	0.6	37.6
23	426	<0.1	144	0.4	33.8
24	337	<0.1	123	0.4	36.5
25	249	<0.1	106	0.3	42.6
Other	415	<0.1	147	0.4	35.4
State	2,330,946	100	33,466	100	1.4

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

## Annual Dropout Rates by Grade

In 2015-16, students who dropped out of Grade 9 accounted for 25.5 percent of all dropouts, the highest proportion of any grade (Table 17). Grade 7 had the lowest dropout rate (0.3%) and the smallest number of dropouts (1,021). Grade 12 had the highest dropout rate (2.2%), and Grade 9 had the largest number of dropouts (8,548).

There were more male than female dropouts in each of Grades 7-12 (Table 17). Across the five largest racial/ethnic groups in Grades 7-12, African American students in Grade 11 had the highest annual dropout rate (3.3%), followed by African American students in Grade 12 (3.1%), and African American students in Grade 10 (2.9%) (Table 18 on page 64). Asian students in Grade 7 had the lowest annual dropout rate (0.1%).



**Table 17**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, by Grade and Gender, Texas Public Schools,**  
**2015-16**

Grade	Students	Dropouts					
		Female		Male		State	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
Grade 7	397,693	460	0.2	561	0.3	1,021	0.3
Grade 8	396,037	820	0.4	942	0.5	1,762	0.4
Grade 9	439,480	3,296	1.6	5,252	2.3	8,548	1.9
Grade 10	395,615	2,927	1.5	4,491	2.2	7,418	1.9
Grade 11	351,665	2,972	1.7	4,189	2.4	7,161	2.0
Grade 12	350,456	3,351	1.9	4,205	2.4	7,556	2.2
Grades 7-12	2,330,946	13,826	1.2	19,640	1.6	33,466	1.4

**Table 18**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, by Grade, Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status,**  
**English Language Learner Status, and Special Education Program**  
**Participation, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16**

Group	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>Grade 7</b>					
African American	49,712	12.5	212	20.8	0.4
American Indian	1,509	0.4	7	0.7	0.5
Asian	16,500	4.1	21	2.1	0.1
Hispanic	205,554	51.7	563	55.1	0.3
Pacific Islander	550	0.1	1	0.1	0.2
White	115,995	29.2	199	19.5	0.2
Multiracial	7,873	2.0	18	1.8	0.2
Economically disadvantaged	236,924	59.6	745	73.0	0.3
English language learner	56,308	14.2	205	20.1	0.4
Special education	40,505	10.2	130	12.7	0.3
State	397,693	100	1,021	100	0.3
<b>Grade 8</b>					
African American	49,777	12.6	336	19.1	0.7
American Indian	1,455	0.4	9	0.5	0.6
Asian	15,954	4.0	34	1.9	0.2
Hispanic	204,189	51.6	1,039	59.0	0.5
Pacific Islander	538	0.1	3	0.2	0.6
White	116,678	29.5	308	17.5	0.3
Multiracial	7,446	1.9	33	1.9	0.4
Economically disadvantaged	232,498	58.7	1,288	73.1	0.6
English language learner	47,997	12.1	427	24.2	0.9
Special education	38,169	9.6	216	12.3	0.6
State	396,037	100	1,762	100	0.4
<b>Grade 9</b>					
African American	57,234	13.0	1,520	17.8	2.7
American Indian	1,773	0.4	52	0.6	2.9
Asian	16,806	3.8	71	0.8	0.4
Hispanic	230,261	52.4	5,565	65.1	2.4
Pacific Islander	647	0.1	19	0.2	2.9
White	124,911	28.4	1,216	14.2	1.0
Multiracial	7,848	1.8	105	1.2	1.3

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

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**Table 18 (continued)**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, by Grade, Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status,**  
**English Language Learner Status, and Special Education Program**  
**Participation, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16**

Group	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Economically disadvantaged	256,108	58.3	5,846	68.4	2.3
English language learner	49,205	11.2	1,723	20.2	3.5
Special education	41,386	9.4	1,163	13.6	2.8
State	439,480	100	8,548	100	1.9
<b>Grade 10</b>					
African American	50,829	12.8	1,464	19.7	2.9
American Indian	1,501	0.4	36	0.5	2.4
Asian	15,822	4.0	68	0.9	0.4
Hispanic	199,654	50.5	4,414	59.5	2.2
Pacific Islander	576	0.1	17	0.2	3.0
White	120,045	30.3	1,310	17.7	1.1
Multiracial	7,188	1.8	109	1.5	1.5
Economically disadvantaged	215,545	54.5	5,141	69.3	2.4
English language learner	33,396	8.4	1,187	16.0	3.6
Special education	33,633	8.5	1,027	13.8	3.1
State	395,615	100	7,418	100	1.9
<b>Grade 11</b>					
African American	44,844	12.8	1,478	20.6	3.3
American Indian	1,385	0.4	39	0.5	2.8
Asian	14,439	4.1	87	1.2	0.6
Hispanic	172,249	49.0	4,071	56.8	2.4
Pacific Islander	562	0.2	12	0.2	2.1
White	111,760	31.8	1,377	19.2	1.2
Multiracial	6,426	1.8	97	1.4	1.5
Economically disadvantaged	179,975	51.2	4,752	66.4	2.6
English language learner	22,684	6.5	880	12.3	3.9
Special education	27,542	7.8	944	13.2	3.4
State	351,665	100	7,161	100	2.0
<b>Grade 12</b>					
African American	45,098	12.9	1,380	18.3	3.1
American Indian	1,411	0.4	37	0.5	2.6

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

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**Table 18 (continued)**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, by Grade, Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status,**  
**English Language Learner Status, and Special Education Program**  
**Participation, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16**

Group	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Asian	14,153	4.0	164	2.2	1.2
Hispanic	172,407	49.2	4,691	62.1	2.7
Pacific Islander	500	0.1	12	0.2	2.4
White	110,643	31.6	1,173	15.5	1.1
Multiracial	6,244	1.8	99	1.3	1.6
Economically disadvantaged	176,694	50.4	4,773	63.2	2.7
English language learner	20,125	5.7	1,470	19.5	7.3
Special education	33,413	9.5	720	9.5	2.2
State	350,456	100	7,556	100	2.2

*Note.* Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

Within each of the five largest racial/ethnic groups in Grades 7-12, the dropout rate for males in each grade was the same as, or higher than, the rate for females, with the following exceptions: multiracial females in Grades 8 and 12, and Asian females in Grades 9 and 12 (Table 19). Across grades and racial/ethnic groups, the difference in dropout rates by gender was greatest among African American students in Grade 11, at 1.4 percentage points.

The annual dropout rate for students identified as economically disadvantaged increased from one grade level to the next between Grades 7 and 12, with the highest rate occurring in Grade 12, at 2.7 percent (Table 18). The largest number of students identified as English language learners (ELLs) dropped out in Grade 9 (1,723), whereas the dropout rate for ELLs was highest in Grade 12 (7.3%). The annual dropout rate for students participating in special education programs was highest in Grade 11 (3.4%).

### ***Annual Dropout Rates for Hispanic Students by Race***

Of the 1,184,314 students in Grades 7-12 who identified their ethnicity as Hispanic in the 2015-16 school year, 858,435 (72.5%) identified White as their race, and 267,186 (22.6%) identified American Indian (Table 20 on page 68). Across the four largest racial groups, the dropout rate was highest for White students (1.8%).

**Table 19**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, by Grade and Gender Within Racial/Ethnic Groups, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16**

Group	Students				Dropouts				Annual dropout rate (%)	
	Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	Male
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
<b>Grade 7</b>										
African American	24,234	12.5	25,478	12.5	88	19.1	124	22.1	0.4	0.5
American Indian	733	0.4	776	0.4	4	0.9	3	0.5	0.5	0.4
Asian	8,060	4.2	8,440	4.1	8	1.7	13	2.3	0.1	0.2
Hispanic	100,369	51.8	105,185	51.6	254	55.2	309	55.1	0.3	0.3
Pacific Islander	266	0.1	284	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.2	0.0	0.4
White	56,170	29.0	59,825	29.3	97	21.1	102	18.2	0.2	0.2
Multiracial	3,890	2.0	3,983	2.0	9	2.0	9	1.6	0.2	0.2
State	193,722	100	203,971	100	460	100	561	100	0.2	0.3
<b>Grade 8</b>										
African American	24,171	12.5	25,606	12.6	161	19.6	175	18.6	0.7	0.7
American Indian	741	0.4	714	0.4	6	0.7	3	0.3	0.8	0.4
Asian	7,837	4.1	8,117	4.0	18	2.2	16	1.7	0.2	0.2
Hispanic	99,517	51.7	104,672	51.5	476	58.0	563	59.8	0.5	0.5
Pacific Islander	268	0.1	270	0.1	0	0.0	3	0.3	0.0	1.1
White	56,417	29.3	60,261	29.6	142	17.3	166	17.6	0.3	0.3
Multiracial	3,679	1.9	3,767	1.9	17	2.1	16	1.7	0.5	0.4
State	192,630	100	203,407	100	820	100	942	100	0.4	0.5
<b>Grade 9</b>										
African American	27,057	12.9	30,177	13.2	604	18.3	916	17.4	2.2	3.0
American Indian	824	0.4	949	0.4	16	0.5	36	0.7	1.9	3.8
Asian	8,177	3.9	8,629	3.8	41	1.2	30	0.6	0.5	0.3
Hispanic	109,790	52.3	120,471	52.5	2,084	63.2	3,481	66.3	1.9	2.9
Pacific Islander	312	0.1	335	0.1	10	0.3	9	0.2	3.2	2.7
White	60,033	28.6	64,878	28.3	496	15.0	720	13.7	0.8	1.1
Multiracial	3,834	1.8	4,014	1.7	45	1.4	60	1.1	1.2	1.5
State	210,027	100	229,453	100	3,296	100	5,252	100	1.6	2.3
<b>Grade 10</b>										
African American	24,638	12.8	26,191	12.9	544	18.6	920	20.5	2.2	3.5
American Indian	685	0.4	816	0.4	15	0.5	21	0.5	2.2	2.6
Asian	7,785	4.0	8,037	4.0	35	1.2	33	0.7	0.4	0.4
Hispanic	97,641	50.7	102,013	50.3	1,759	60.1	2,655	59.1	1.8	2.6
Pacific Islander	281	0.1	295	0.1	10	0.3	7	0.2	3.6	2.4

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

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**Table 19 (continued)****Annual Dropout Rate, by Grade and Gender Within Racial/Ethnic Groups, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16**

Group	Students				Dropouts				Annual dropout rate (%)	
	Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	Male
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
White	58,055	30.1	61,990	30.6	519	17.7	791	17.6	0.9	1.3
Multiracial	3,630	1.9	3,558	1.8	45	1.5	64	1.4	1.2	1.8
State	192,715	100	202,900	100	2,927	100	4,491	100	1.5	2.2
<b>Grade 11</b>										
African American	22,374	12.8	22,470	12.7	578	19.4	900	21.5	2.6	4.0
American Indian	658	0.4	727	0.4	20	0.7	19	0.5	3.0	2.6
Asian	7,076	4.1	7,363	4.1	27	0.9	60	1.4	0.4	0.8
Hispanic	85,427	49.0	86,822	48.9	1,670	56.2	2,401	57.3	2.0	2.8
Pacific Islander	267	0.2	295	0.2	4	0.1	8	0.2	1.5	2.7
White	55,149	31.7	56,611	31.9	628	21.1	749	17.9	1.1	1.3
Multiracial	3,274	1.9	3,152	1.8	45	1.5	52	1.2	1.4	1.6
State	174,225	100	177,440	100	2,972	100	4,189	100	1.7	2.4
<b>Grade 12</b>										
African American	22,354	12.9	22,744	12.8	603	18.0	777	18.5	2.7	3.4
American Indian	697	0.4	714	0.4	17	0.5	20	0.5	2.4	2.8
Asian	6,814	3.9	7,339	4.1	84	2.5	80	1.9	1.2	1.1
Hispanic	85,668	49.6	86,739	48.8	2,073	61.9	2,618	62.3	2.4	3.0
Pacific Islander	226	0.1	274	0.2	6	0.2	6	0.1	2.7	2.2
White	53,905	31.2	56,738	32.0	515	15.4	658	15.6	1.0	1.2
Multiracial	3,216	1.9	3,028	1.7	53	1.6	46	1.1	1.6	1.5
State	172,880	100	177,576	100	3,351	100	4,205	100	1.9	2.4

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

**Table 20****Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, Hispanic Students by Race, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16**

Group	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
African American	18,498	1.6	319	1.6	1.7
American Indian	267,186	22.6	4,226	20.8	1.6
Asian	4,288	0.4	40	0.2	0.9
Pacific Islander	3,447	0.3	89	0.4	2.6
White	858,435	72.5	15,272	75.1	1.8
Multiracial	32,460	2.7	397	2.0	1.2
All Hispanic	1,184,314	100	20,343	100	1.7

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

## ***Annual Dropout Rates for Students Identified as English Language Learners***

Table 21 on page 70 presents annual dropout rates for current and former ELLs in Grades 7-8 and 9-12 by special language program instructional model. To fully evaluate the quality of educational services provided to ELLs, multiple factors must be examined. In addition to considering differences in instructional models, it is also important to consider the following: the policies that guide the placement of students in various instructional programs; the consistency with which districts follow guidelines for identifying ELLs and determining when they should be reclassified as English proficient; the length of time required for students to become English proficient and academically successful in core content areas; and the rate of immigrant influx. Over time, it may be possible to use current and former ELL performance data, along with other analyses, to evaluate the effectiveness of various instructional models in helping students attain long-term academic success in Texas public schools.

**Table 21**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-8 and Grades 9-12, Current and Former**  
**English Language Learners, by Special Language Program Instructional**  
**Model, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16**

Group	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>Grades 7-8</b>					
All current ELLs <sup>a</sup>	104,305	100	632	100	0.6
All bilingual education programs	1,283	1.2	7	1.1	0.5
Transitional bilingual/early exit	41	<0.1	0	0.0	0.0
Transitional bilingual/late exit	46	<0.1	1	0.2	2.2
Dual immersion/two-way	1,014	1.0	5	0.8	0.5
Dual immersion/one-way	182	0.2	1	0.2	0.5
All ESL <sup>b</sup> programs	88,582	84.9	366	57.9	0.4
ESL/content-based	35,227	33.8	150	23.7	0.4
ESL/pull-out	53,355	51.2	216	34.2	0.4
No services	14,440	13.8	259	41.0	1.8
All former ELLs <sup>c</sup>	28,857	100	39	100	0.1
All bilingual education programs	7,216	25.0	5	12.8	0.1
Transitional bilingual/early exit	2,500	8.7	2	5.1	0.1
Transitional bilingual/late exit	1,416	4.9	1	2.6	0.1
Dual immersion/two-way	747	2.6	0	0.0	0.0
Dual immersion/one-way	2,553	8.8	2	5.1	0.1
All ESL programs	18,695	64.8	29	74.4	0.2
ESL/content-based	7,914	27.4	12	30.8	0.2
ESL/pull-out	10,781	37.4	17	43.6	0.2
No services	2,946	10.2	5	12.8	0.2
<b>Grades 9-12</b>					
All current ELLs	125,410	100	5,260	100	4.2
All bilingual education programs	128	0.1	2	<0.1	1.6
Transitional bilingual/early exit	1	<0.1	1	<0.1	100
Transitional bilingual/late exit	0	0.0	0	0.0	.
Dual immersion/two-way	125	0.1	1	<0.1	0.8
Dual immersion/one-way	2	<0.1	0	0.0	0.0

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. A dot (.) indicates there were no students in the group.  
<sup>a</sup>Current English language learners (ELLs) were identified as limited English proficient in 2015-16. The group, all current ELLs, includes students for whom information about services received may be incomplete. <sup>b</sup>English as a second language. <sup>c</sup>Former ELLs are those in the first and second years of academic monitoring after exiting ELL status. The group, all former ELLs, includes students for whom information about services received may be incomplete.

**continues**



**Table 21 (continued)**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-8 and Grades 9-12, Current and Former English Language Learners, by Special Language Program Instructional Model, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16**

Group	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
All ESL <sup>b</sup> programs	105,353	84.0	3,750	71.3	3.6
ESL/content-based	55,748	44.5	2,004	38.1	3.6
ESL/pull-out	49,605	39.6	1,746	33.2	3.5
No services	19,929	15.9	1,508	28.7	7.6
All former ELLs <sup>c</sup>	24,186	100	208	100	0.9
All bilingual education programs	184	0.8	0	0.0	0.0
Transitional bilingual/early exit	1	<0.1	0	0.0	0.0
Transitional bilingual/late exit	1	<0.1	0	0.0	0.0
Dual immersion/two-way	151	0.6	0	0.0	0.0
Dual immersion/one-way	31	0.1	0	0.0	0.0
All ESL programs	20,951	86.6	170	81.7	0.8
ESL/content-based	9,049	37.4	82	39.4	0.9
ESL/pull-out	11,902	49.2	88	42.3	0.7
No services	3,051	12.6	38	18.3	1.2

*Note.* Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. A dot (.) indicates there were no students in the group.

<sup>a</sup>Current English language learners (ELLs) were identified as limited English proficient in 2015-16. The group, all current ELLs, includes students for whom information about services received may be incomplete. <sup>b</sup>English as a second language. <sup>c</sup>Former ELLs are those in the first and second years of academic monitoring after exiting ELL status. The group, all former ELLs, includes students for whom information about services received may be incomplete.

# Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates

## ***Presentation and Interpretation of Results***

**Definitions and calculations.** Calculating longitudinal rates requires tracking a cohort of students over time. A cohort is defined as the group of students who begin Grade 9 in Texas public schools for the first time in the same school year plus students who, in the next three school years, enter the Texas public school system in the grade level expected for the cohort. To calculate four-year longitudinal rates, students in a cohort are tracked into the fall following their anticipated graduation date, and for extended rates, the fall one or more years following their anticipated graduation date. A subset of a cohort, called a class, is used to calculate longitudinal student status rates. Any student who is determined to be a graduate, continuer, General Educational Development (GED) certificate recipient, or dropout is counted as a member of a class. See the section "Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates" on page 24 for additional information.

**Presentation of individual graduation committee graduates.** Students who graduated by decisions of individual graduation committees (IGCs) were included as graduates in longitudinal rates. Four-year longitudinal rates excluding IGC graduates are also presented. See the section "Chronology" on page 14 for additional information.

**Presentation of rates by race/ethnicity.** Longitudinal rates for the class of 2010 and earlier classes were calculated based on the old racial/ethnic categories. Longitudinal rates for the classes of 2011 and later classes were calculated based on the new racial/ethnic categories. For the classes of 2011 and 2012, racial/ethnic data for students who had final statuses in 2009-10 or later were collected using the new categories, whereas data for students who had final statuses in 2008-09 or earlier were collected using the old categories. Although most of the old racial/ethnic categories correspond to individual new categories, the category "Asian/Pacific Islander" does not. Thus, Asian/Pacific Islander students in the classes of 2011 and 2012 who had final statuses in 2008-09 or earlier, although included in state totals, are not included in the counts and rates for any individual racial/ethnic category. See the section "Reporting of Student and Program Information" on page 39 for additional information.

**Comparisons of rates by race/ethnicity.** The non-Hispanic American Indian and Pacific Islander student populations are small in number, compared to other racial/ethnic populations. Therefore, discussions of longitudinal results, including comparisons across racial/ethnic groups, do not include these populations. See the section "Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates" on page 24 for additional information.

**Presentation of rates by program participation and student characteristic.** Longitudinal rates are presented by participation in special programs (bilingual/English as a second language, career and technical education, gifted and talented, special education, Title I) and student characteristics (at-risk, English language learner [ELL], homeless, immigrant, migrant). See the section "Reporting of Student and Program Information" on page 39 for additional information. A student may be reported with more than one special demographic characteristic or as participating

in more than one special instructional program. Except in the cases of students who were identified as ELLs at any time while attending Texas public schools, those identified as ELLs at any time while attending Grades 9-12 in Texas public schools, and those identified as homeless at any time while attending Grades 9-12, student characteristics and program participation statuses are assigned based on the year of a student's final status in the cohort. Table B-1 in Appendix B provides the data sources used in calculating longitudinal rates by instructional program and student characteristic.

**Comparison of rates across years.** The national dropout definition, which was adopted in 2005-06, was fully incorporated in the four-year graduation and dropout rates for the class of 2009. Longitudinal rates for the class of 2009 and later classes are comparable to one another. Rates for classes in which the national dropout definition was phased in (i.e., classes of 2006, 2007, and 2008) are not comparable from one class to another, nor are they comparable to rates for prior or later classes. Results for classes prior to 2006 are found in Appendix C.

### ***Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates***

**State summary.** Out of 350,684 students in the class of 2016, 89.1 percent graduated within four years (Table 22 on page 74). An additional 4.2 percent of students in the class of 2016 continued school the fall after expected graduation, and 0.5 percent received GED certificates. The four-year longitudinal dropout rate for the class of 2016 was 6.2 percent. Compared to the class of 2015, the class of 2016 had higher rates of graduation and continuation and lower rates of GED certification and dropping out. The method for calculating longitudinal rates is discussed on page 4. Table 23 on page 76 presents four-year longitudinal rates with students who graduated by decisions of individual graduation committees (IGCs) excluded from the class. For more information about IGCs, see page 17.

**Rates by race/ethnicity, economic status, and gender.** Across the five largest racial/ethnic groups in the class of 2016, the four-year graduation rate was highest for Asian students (95.7%), followed by White (93.4%), multiracial (90.8%), Hispanic (86.9%), and African American (85.4%) students (Table 22 on page 74). The four-year graduation rate for students identified as economically disadvantaged was 86.0 percent. The four-year graduation rate was higher for females (91.4%) than males (86.9%). The four-year dropout rate was lowest for Asian students (2.0%), followed by White (3.4%), multiracial (4.7%), Hispanic (7.5%), and African American (9.1%) students. Economically disadvantaged students dropped out at a rate of 8.5 percent. Female students dropped out at a lower rate (5.0%) than male students (7.3%).

In the class of 2016, Hispanic and African American students made up larger percentages of nongraduates (59.6% and 17.7%, respectively) than of students in the class (49.4% and 13.2%, respectively) (Figure 3 on page 77). By comparison, Asian and White students made up smaller percentages of nongraduates (1.6% and 19.0%, respectively) than of students in the class (3.9% and 31.2%, respectively).

Table 22

**Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Classes of 2012 Through 2016**

Class year	Class	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out		Graduated, continued, or received GED	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
<b>African American</b>											
Class of 2012	43,141	36,036	83.5	2,393	5.5	360	0.8	4,352	10.1	38,789	89.9
Class of 2013	44,189	37,162	84.1	2,352	5.3	298	0.7	4,377	9.9	39,812	90.1
Class of 2014	43,707	36,807	84.2	2,323	5.3	280	0.6	4,297	9.8	39,410	90.2
Class of 2015	44,533	37,951	85.2	2,153	4.8	209	0.5	4,220	9.5	40,313	90.5
Class of 2016	46,151	39,404	85.4	2,336	5.1	200	0.4	4,211	9.1	41,940	90.9
<b>American Indian</b>											
Class of 2012	<1,600	– <sup>b</sup>	86.7	–	4.2	–	2.0	–	7.1	–	92.9
Class of 2013	<1,500	–	85.8	–	4.4	–	1.3	–	8.5	–	91.5
Class of 2014	<1,450	–	87.1	–	4.0	–	1.1	–	7.9	–	92.1
Class of 2015	1,486	1,283	86.3	62	4.2	11	0.7	130	8.7	1,356	91.3
Class of 2016	1,395	1,219	87.4	62	4.4	8	0.6	106	7.6	1,289	92.4
<b>Asian</b>											
Class of 2012	11,232	10,607	94.4	370	3.3	24	0.2	231	2.1	11,001	97.9
Class of 2013	12,058	11,312	93.8	360	3.0	21	0.2	365	3.0	11,693	97.0
Class of 2014	12,969	12,292	94.8	345	2.7	15	0.1	317	2.4	12,652	97.6
Class of 2015	13,444	12,822	95.4	298	2.2	24	0.2	300	2.2	13,144	97.8
Class of 2016	13,781	13,188	95.7	309	2.2	5	<0.1	279	2.0	13,502	98.0
<b>Hispanic</b>											
Class of 2012	145,230	122,378	84.3	9,782	6.7	1,486	1.0	11,584	8.0	133,646	92.0
Class of 2013	155,160	132,051	85.1	9,153	5.9	1,307	0.8	12,649	8.2	142,511	91.8
Class of 2014	159,708	136,586	85.5	8,869	5.6	1,203	0.8	13,050	8.2	146,658	91.8
Class of 2015	164,646	142,404	86.5	8,686	5.3	864	0.5	12,692	7.7	151,954	92.3
Class of 2016	173,265	150,564	86.9	8,985	5.2	729	0.4	12,987	7.5	160,278	92.5
<b>Pacific Islander</b>											
Class of 2012	<450	–	89.0	–	6.5	–	0.5	–	4.1	–	95.9
Class of 2013	<450	–	89.5	–	4.7	–	0.5	–	5.3	–	94.7
Class of 2014	<450	–	88.9	–	3.7	–	0.5	–	7.0	–	93.0
Class of 2015	541	480	88.7	21	3.9	5	0.9	35	6.5	506	93.5
Class of 2016	476	419	88.0	27	5.7	3	0.6	27	5.7	449	94.3
<b>White</b>											
Class of 2012	110,034	102,338	93.0	2,967	2.7	1,241	1.1	3,488	3.2	106,546	96.8
Class of 2013	109,915	102,213	93.0	2,845	2.6	996	0.9	3,861	3.5	106,054	96.5

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity. Results for classes prior to 2012 are found in Appendix C.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>A dash (–) indicates data are masked. When the number of students represented by a final status is not reported, the corresponding class size is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the class. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information. <sup>c</sup>Numbers in class for race/ethnicity may not sum to the state total because some student records did not correspond to any single new racial/ethnic category.

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**Table 22 (continued)**  
**Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Classes of 2012 Through 2016**

Class year	Class	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out		Graduated, continued, or received GED	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
Class of 2014	109,354	101,737	93.0	2,694	2.5	1,026	0.9	3,897	3.6	105,457	96.4
Class of 2015	109,200	102,000	93.4	2,622	2.4	848	0.8	3,730	3.4	105,470	96.6
Class of 2016	109,346	102,120	93.4	2,804	2.6	719	0.7	3,703	3.4	105,643	96.6
<b>Multiracial</b>											
Class of 2012	5,074	4,687	92.4	145	2.9	52	1.0	190	3.7	4,884	96.3
Class of 2013	5,345	4,899	91.7	165	3.1	48	0.9	233	4.4	5,112	95.6
Class of 2014	5,691	5,193	91.2	183	3.2	41	0.7	274	4.8	5,417	95.2
Class of 2015	5,776	5,322	92.1	171	3.0	33	0.6	250	4.3	5,526	95.7
Class of 2016	6,270	5,691	90.8	239	3.8	43	0.7	297	4.7	5,973	95.3
<b>Economically disadvantaged</b>											
Class of 2012	152,731	129,965	85.1	9,250	6.1	1,548	1.0	11,968	7.8	140,763	92.2
Class of 2013	162,779	138,630	85.2	8,868	5.4	1,493	0.9	13,788	8.5	148,991	91.5
Class of 2014	167,545	142,669	85.2	8,322	5.0	1,485	0.9	15,069	9.0	152,476	91.0
Class of 2015	169,386	144,957	85.6	8,510	5.0	1,151	0.7	14,768	8.7	154,618	91.3
Class of 2016	178,148	153,120	86.0	9,009	5.1	934	0.5	15,085	8.5	163,063	91.5
<b>Female</b>											
Class of 2012	155,183	139,751	90.1	6,205	4.0	1,080	0.7	8,147	5.2	147,036	94.8
Class of 2013	161,039	145,457	90.3	5,865	3.6	971	0.6	8,746	5.4	152,293	94.6
Class of 2014	163,308	147,598	90.4	5,806	3.6	920	0.6	8,984	5.5	154,324	94.5
Class of 2015	166,669	152,120	91.3	5,345	3.2	639	0.4	8,565	5.1	158,104	94.9
Class of 2016	171,633	156,924	91.4	5,569	3.2	577	0.3	8,563	5.0	163,070	95.0
<b>Male</b>											
Class of 2012	161,575	138,027	85.4	9,545	5.9	2,118	1.3	11,885	7.4	149,690	92.6
Class of 2013	167,545	143,841	85.9	9,095	5.4	1,721	1.0	12,888	7.7	154,657	92.3
Class of 2014	169,978	146,642	86.3	8,681	5.1	1,662	1.0	12,993	7.6	156,985	92.4
Class of 2015	172,957	150,142	86.8	8,668	5.0	1,355	0.8	12,792	7.4	160,165	92.6
Class of 2016	179,051	155,681	86.9	9,193	5.1	1,130	0.6	13,047	7.3	166,004	92.7
<b>State</b>											
Class of 2012 <sup>c</sup>	316,758	277,778	87.7	15,750	5.0	3,198	1.0	20,032	6.3	296,726	93.7
Class of 2013	328,584	289,298	88.0	14,960	4.6	2,692	0.8	21,634	6.6	306,950	93.4
Class of 2014	333,286	294,240	88.3	14,487	4.3	2,582	0.8	21,977	6.6	311,309	93.4
Class of 2015	339,626	302,262	89.0	14,013	4.1	1,994	0.6	21,357	6.3	318,269	93.7
Class of 2016	350,684	312,605	89.1	14,762	4.2	1,707	0.5	21,610	6.2	329,074	93.8

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity. Results for classes prior to 2012 are found in Appendix C.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>A dash (–) indicates data are masked. When the number of students represented by a final status is not reported, the corresponding class size is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the class. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information. <sup>c</sup>Numbers in class for race/ethnicity may not sum to the state total because some student records did not correspond to any single new racial/ethnic category.

**Table 23**  
**Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, Excluding Individual Graduation Committee Graduates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016**

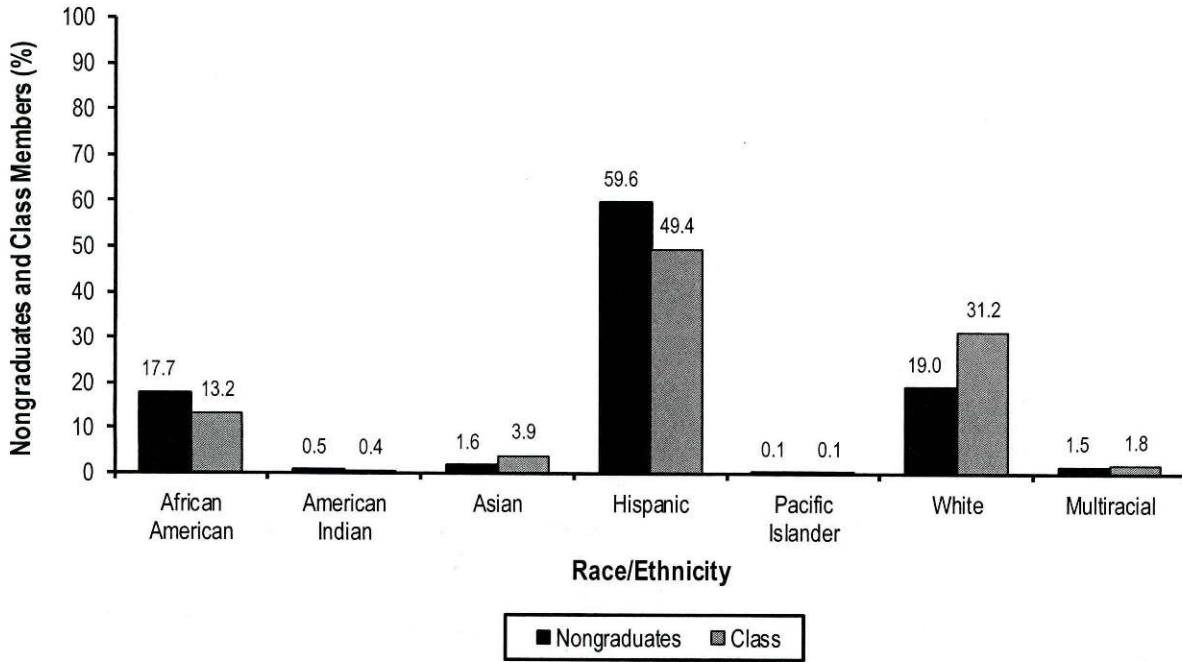
Group	Class	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out		Graduated, continued, or received GED	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
African American	44,664	37,917	84.9	2,336	5.2	200	0.4	4,211	9.4	40,453	90.6
American Indian	1,366	1,190	87.1	62	4.5	8	0.6	106	7.8	1,260	92.2
Asian	13,551	12,958	95.6	309	2.3	5	<0.1	279	2.1	13,272	97.9
Hispanic	167,817	145,116	86.5	8,985	5.4	729	0.4	12,987	7.7	154,830	92.3
Pacific Islander	467	410	87.8	27	5.8	3	0.6	27	5.8	440	94.2
White	108,575	101,349	93.3	2,804	2.6	719	0.7	3,703	3.4	104,872	96.6
Multiracial	6,216	5,637	90.7	239	3.8	43	0.7	297	4.8	5,919	95.2
Econ. disad. <sup>b</sup>	172,048	147,020	85.5	9,009	5.2	934	0.5	15,085	8.8	156,963	91.2
Female	168,039	153,330	91.2	5,569	3.3	577	0.3	8,563	5.1	159,476	94.9
Male	174,617	151,247	86.6	9,193	5.3	1,130	0.6	13,047	7.5	161,570	92.5
State	342,656	304,577	88.9	14,762	4.3	1,707	0.5	21,610	6.3	321,046	93.7

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>Economically disadvantaged.

**Figure 3**

**Comparison of Nongraduates and Class Membership, by Race/Ethnicity, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016**



*Note.* Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity. Nongraduates are members of a class who continued in high school in the fall after expected graduation, received General Educational Development certificates, or dropped out.

**Rates by program participation and student characteristic.** Students in the class of 2016 who participated in special education programs had a four-year graduation rate of 77.9 percent (Table 24 on page 78). Students identified as English language learners in Grades 9-12 had a graduation rate of 73.7 percent (Table 25 on page 78). The graduation rate for students identified as at risk of dropping out of school was 83.5 percent. All three rates were lower than the state average (89.1%).

**Graduates.** Students in the class of 2016 were required to enroll in a graduation program when they began Grade 9 in 2012-13. Students could enroll in the Recommended High School Program (RHSP) or the Advanced High School Program (AHSP), unless the student, the student's parent, and a school counselor or administrator agreed to allow the student to enroll in the Minimum High School Program (MHSP) (Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code [TAC] §74.61, 2017, amended to be effective August 23, 2010). In 2013, the 83rd Texas Legislature established the Foundation High School Program (FHSP) as the new high school graduation program for all students who entered Grade 9 in the 2014-15 school year or later (Texas Education Code [TEC] §28.025, 2013). The commissioner of education adopted a transition plan for students graduating in the 2013-14 through 2016-17 school years, giving those students the option of graduating under the new foundation program instead of the existing graduation plans (19 TAC §§74.1021 and 74.1022, 2017, amended to be effective December 16, 2013). Although students could graduate under the FHSP in 2013-14, FHSP requirements were not finalized until the 2014-15 school year.

**Table 24**  
**Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Program Participation, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016**

Group	Class	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
Bilingual or ESL <sup>b</sup>	17,338	12,838	74.0	1,886	10.9	29	0.2	2,585	14.9
CTE <sup>c</sup>	160,238	153,176	95.6	2,449	1.5	303	0.2	4,310	2.7
Gifted and talented	31,486	31,184	99.0	67	0.2	62	0.2	173	0.5
Special education	29,071	22,637	77.9	3,379	11.6	76	0.3	2,979	10.2
Title I	151,919	131,618	86.6	6,267	4.1	865	0.6	13,169	8.7
State	350,684	312,605	89.1	14,762	4.2	1,707	0.5	21,610	6.2

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Program participation was assigned based on the year of a student's final status in the cohort. Students may be counted in more than one category.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>English as a second language. <sup>c</sup>Career and technical education.

**Table 25**  
**Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Student Characteristic, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016**

Group	Class	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
At-risk	150,574	125,750	83.5	10,586	7.0	893	0.6	13,345	8.9
English language learner									
In K-12 <sup>b</sup>	104,313	90,027	86.3	6,009	5.8	284	0.3	7,993	7.7
In 9-12 <sup>c</sup>	27,110	19,974	73.7	2,956	10.9	61	0.2	4,119	15.2
In last year <sup>d</sup>	19,715	14,058	71.3	1,972	10.0	43	0.2	3,642	18.5
Homeless in 9-12 <sup>e</sup>	15,126	11,043	73.0	1,537	10.2	122	0.8	2,424	16.0
Immigrant	3,528	2,565	72.7	331	9.4	3	0.1	629	17.8
Migrant	2,421	2,037	84.1	107	4.4	10	0.4	267	11.0
State	350,684	312,605	89.1	14,762	4.2	1,707	0.5	21,610	6.2

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Except in the cases of students identified as English language learners (ELLs) at any time in Grades K-12, as ELLs at any time in Grades 9-12, or as homeless at any time in Grades 9-12, student characteristics were assigned based on the year of a student's final status in the cohort. Students may be counted in more than one category.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>Students identified as English language learners (ELLs) at any time while attending Texas public schools (TPS). <sup>c</sup>Students identified as ELLs at any time while attending Grades 9-12 in TPS. <sup>d</sup>Students identified as ELLs in their last year in TPS. <sup>e</sup>Students identified as homeless at any time while attending Grades 9-12 in TPS.

For 2014-15 and 2015-16 graduates who opted into the FHSP, the program required 22 credits to graduate, including four credits in English language arts and three credits each in mathematics, science, and social studies (19 TAC §74.12, 2017, amended to be effective July 8, 2014). Additionally, the program allowed students to earn special recognition, known as an endorsement, in one or more fields of study, such as business and industry or arts and humanities (19 TAC §74.13, 2017, amended to be effective July 8, 2014; TEC §28.025, 2016). A 2014-15 or 2015-16 graduate could earn an endorsement by successfully completing the following: the curriculum requirements for the FHSP; one additional credit each in mathematics and science;



two additional elective credits; and the curriculum requirements for the selected endorsement. Moreover, a graduate who met all of these requirements could also earn a distinguished level of achievement (DLA) if one of the four credits earned in mathematics was for Algebra II (19 TAC §74.11, 2017, amended to be effective July 8, 2014; TEC §28.025, 2016). Students receiving special education services were not eligible to pursue an endorsement if they received a modified curriculum in any course required for an endorsement or failed to perform satisfactorily on the required state assessments (19 TAC §89.1070(c), 2017, amended to be effective September 16, 2015). These students are excluded from the data presented in Table 26 on page 80 and Table 27 on page 82.

Of the 287,367 students in the class of 2016 who graduated under the MHSP, RHSP, or AHSP, 87.4 percent graduated under the RHSP or AHSP, and 12.6 percent graduated under the MHSP (Table 26 on page 80). Of the 25,009 students who graduated under the FHSP, 10,182 (40.6%) graduated without an endorsement, 1,374 (5.5%) graduated with an endorsement but did not earn a DLA, and 13,543 (54.0%) graduated with an endorsement and earned a DLA. Of all 312,466 graduates with diploma program information, 85.1 percent graduated under the RHSP or AHSP or the FHSP with an endorsement (with or without a DLA). Table 27 on page 82 presents the numbers and percentages of graduates within diploma programs excluding individual graduation committee (IGC) graduates.

**Dropouts.** Table 28 on page 83 provides aggregate counts of the 21,610 dropouts from the class of 2016 based on the grade and year in which they left Texas public schools. In each year after the first year of high school, a majority of students who dropped out were one or more grades behind the grade expected for the class. For example, 53.4 percent of students who dropped out in the second year had not reached Grade 10, and 58.6 percent who dropped out in the third year had not reached Grade 11.

**Other Leavers.** Of the 402,334 students who began Grade 9 in Texas public schools in 2012-13 or who transferred into the cohort later, 47,504 left for reasons other than graduating, receiving GED certificates, or dropping out (Table 29 on page 84 and Figure 4 on page 85). Of these other leavers, the largest percentage (30.3%) left in the third year of the cohort (2014-15) and the smallest percentage (16.7%) left in the fourth year (2015-16). Nearly all of the other leavers (97.1%) left for one of four reasons: (a) 37.4 percent withdrew to enroll in schools outside of Texas; (b) 32.5 percent withdrew to begin home schooling; (c) 16.6 percent withdrew to return to their home countries; and (d) 10.6 percent withdrew to enroll in Texas private schools. Among students who withdrew from Texas public schools to enroll in school outside Texas, the largest percentage (34.9%) withdrew in the first year of the cohort (2012-13). The largest percentages of students who withdrew to begin home schooling (33.7%), to return to their home countries (35.0%), or to enroll in Texas private schools (30.1%) left in the third year of the cohort (2014-15).

In general, students who left Texas public schools were less likely to be in the grade expected for a specific year than students who remained in Texas public schools. Specifically, 23.2 percent of other leavers were not on grade at the time of withdrawal. By leaver reason, the percentage of students not on grade was largest for students who withdrew to begin home schooling (40.9%).

**Table 26**  
**Graduates Within Diploma Programs, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, Gender, Program Participation, and Student Characteristic, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016 Grade 9 Cohort**

Group	Minimum		Recommended		Advanced		Foundation High School Program (FHSP) without endorsement	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
African American	6,622	18.1	28,014	76.4	2,044	5.6	1,590	58.9
American Indian	200	17.8	809	72.2	112	10.0	39	40.2
Asian	500	3.9	7,709	60.8	4,474	35.3	231	45.8
Hispanic	16,877	12.2	101,482	73.4	19,853	14.4	5,585	45.5
Pacific Islander	59	14.8	290	72.9	49	12.3	14	66.7
White	11,436	12.3	64,550	69.4	16,960	18.2	2,561	28.0
Multiracial	626	11.8	3,855	72.4	846	15.9	162	44.8
Econ. disad. <sup>a</sup>	21,982	15.7	102,816	73.3	15,419	11.0	5,796	45.2
Female	14,243	9.9	104,464	72.3	25,769	17.8	4,564	36.8
Male	22,077	15.5	102,245	71.6	18,569	13.0	5,618	44.2
Bilingual or ESL <sup>b</sup>	2,187	18.6	9,100	77.2	495	4.2	635	60.5
CTE <sup>c</sup>	16,060	11.5	101,032	72.3	22,581	16.2	3,976	29.6
Gifted and talented	334	1.1	15,645	52.8	13,661	46.1	234	15.2
Special education	15,358	72.7	5,585	26.4	186	0.9	940	65.9
Title I	14,443	12.0	87,150	72.3	19,016	15.8	3,765	34.4
At-risk	26,711	23.5	81,749	72.0	5,049	4.4	6,987	57.5
ELL <sup>d</sup>								
In K-12 <sup>e</sup>	9,470	11.3	61,615	73.7	12,556	15.0	3,239	51.0
In 9-12 <sup>f</sup>	3,404	18.5	13,933	75.7	1,071	5.8	910	58.5
In last year <sup>g</sup>	2,510	19.5	9,833	76.4	521	4.1	729	61.5
Homeless in 9-12 <sup>h</sup>	2,716	27.9	6,586	67.6	439	4.5	714	55.4
Immigrant	297	12.7	1,863	79.6	179	7.7	133	59.6
Migrant	227	11.8	1,365	71.2	325	17.0	46	39.0
State	36,320	12.6	206,709	71.9	44,338	15.4	10,182	40.6

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity. Except in the cases of students identified as English language learners (ELLs) at any time in Grades K-12, as ELLs at any time in Grades 9-12, or as homeless at any time in Grades 9-12, student characteristics were assigned based on the year of a student's final status in the cohort. Students may be counted in more than one category. The total number of graduates summed across diploma programs does not match the state-level count of graduates presented elsewhere in this report because 14 students graduated under the transitional FHSP in 2013-14, 87 students were not eligible to pursue an endorsement, and 38 students were missing diploma program information. The Minimum High School Program (MHSP), Recommended High School Program (RHSP), Advanced High School Program (AHSP), and RHSP or AHSP rates are each calculated by dividing the number of students graduating under each program (or combination thereof) by the sum of graduates in the three programs. Each of the three rates for FHSP graduates is derived by dividing the number of graduates with the specified program options by the sum of all FHSP graduates. The rate for students graduating under the RHSP, AHSP, or FHSP with an endorsement (with or without a distinguished level of achievement) is calculated by dividing the sum of students graduating under each of the programs as specified by all graduates with diploma information.

<sup>a</sup>Economically disadvantaged. <sup>b</sup>English as a second language. <sup>c</sup>Career and technical education. <sup>d</sup>English language learner. <sup>e</sup>Students identified as ELLs at any time while attending Texas public schools (TPS). <sup>f</sup>Students identified as ELLs at any time while attending Grades 9-12 in TPS. <sup>g</sup>Students identified as ELLs in their last year in TPS. <sup>h</sup>Students identified as homeless at any time while attending Grades 9-12 in TPS.

**continues**

Table 26 (continued)

**Graduates Within Diploma Programs, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, Gender, Program Participation, and Student Characteristic, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016 Grade 9 Cohort**

Group	FHSP with endorsement						Recommended, Advanced, or FHSP with endorsement	
	No distinguished level of achievement		Distinguished level of achievement		Recommended or Advanced		Number	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
African American	163	6.0	945	35.0	30,058	81.9	31,166	79.1
American Indian	5	5.2	53	54.6	921	82.2	979	80.4
Asian	17	3.4	256	50.8	12,183	96.1	12,456	94.5
Hispanic	606	4.9	6,091	49.6	121,335	87.8	128,032	85.1
Pacific Islander	0	0.0	7	33.3	339	85.2	346	82.6
White	565	6.2	6,009	65.8	81,510	87.7	88,084	86.3
Multiracial	18	5.0	182	50.3	4,701	88.2	4,901	86.1
Econ. disad. <sup>a</sup>	760	5.9	6,255	48.8	118,235	84.3	125,250	81.8
Female	638	5.1	7,191	58.0	130,233	90.1	138,062	88.0
Male	736	5.8	6,352	50.0	120,814	84.5	127,902	82.2
Bilingual or ESL <sup>b</sup>	71	6.8	343	32.7	9,595	81.4	10,009	78.0
CTE <sup>c</sup>	748	5.6	8,724	64.9	123,613	88.5	133,085	86.9
Gifted and talented	47	3.0	1,261	81.8	29,306	98.9	30,614	98.2
Special education	111	7.8	376	26.3	5,771	27.3	6,258	27.7
Title I	843	7.7	6,332	57.9	106,166	88.0	113,341	86.2
At-risk	753	6.2	4,402	36.3	86,798	76.5	91,953	73.2
ELL <sup>d</sup>								
In K-12 <sup>e</sup>	309	4.9	2,807	44.2	74,171	88.7	77,287	85.9
In 9-12 <sup>f</sup>	108	6.9	537	34.5	15,004	81.5	15,649	78.4
In last year <sup>g</sup>	83	7.0	374	31.5	10,354	80.5	10,811	76.9
Homeless in 9-12 <sup>h</sup>	84	6.5	491	38.1	7,025	72.1	7,600	68.9
Immigrant	15	6.7	75	33.6	2,042	87.3	2,132	83.2
Migrant	4	3.4	68	57.6	1,690	88.2	1,762	86.6
State	1,374	5.5	13,543	54.0	251,047	87.4	265,964	85.1

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity. Except in the cases of students identified as English language learners (ELLs) at any time in Grades K-12, as ELLs at any time in Grades 9-12, or as homeless at any time in Grades 9-12, student characteristics were assigned based on the year of a student's final status in the cohort. Students may be counted in more than one category. The total number of graduates summed across diploma programs does not match the state-level count of graduates presented elsewhere in this report because 14 students graduated under the transitional FHSP in 2013-14, 87 students were not eligible to pursue an endorsement, and 38 students were missing diploma program information. The Minimum High School Program (MHSP), Recommended High School Program (RHSP), Advanced High School Program (AHSP), and RHSP or AHSP rates are each calculated by dividing the number of students graduating under each program (or combination thereof) by the sum of graduates in the three programs. Each of the three rates for FHSP graduates is derived by dividing the number of graduates with the specified program options by the sum of all FHSP graduates. The rate for students graduating under the RHSP, AHSP, or FHSP with an endorsement (with or without a distinguished level of achievement) is calculated by dividing the sum of students graduating under each of the programs as specified by all graduates with diploma information.

<sup>a</sup>Economically disadvantaged. <sup>b</sup>English as a second language. <sup>c</sup>Career and technical education. <sup>d</sup>English language learner. <sup>e</sup>Students identified as ELLs at any time while attending Texas public schools (TPS). <sup>f</sup>Students identified as ELLs at any time while attending Grades 9-12 in TPS. <sup>g</sup>Students identified as ELLs in their last year in TPS. <sup>h</sup>Students identified as homeless at any time while attending Grades 9-12 in TPS.

**Table 27**  
**Graduates Within Diploma Programs, Excluding Individual Graduation Committee Graduates,**  
**by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, Gender, Program Participation, and Student Characteristic,**  
**Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016 Grade 9 Cohort**

Group	Recommended or Advanced		Recommended, Advanced, or Foundation High School Program (FHSP) with endorsement	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
African American	29,173	82.4	30,218	79.7
American Indian	903	82.5	960	80.7
Asian	12,038	96.3	12,299	94.9
Hispanic	117,738	88.2	124,160	85.6
Pacific Islander	335	85.9	341	83.2
White	81,195	88.0	87,719	86.6
Multiracial	4,679	88.6	4,877	86.5
Economically disadvantaged	114,267	84.7	120,982	82.3
Female	127,908	90.5	135,551	88.4
Male	118,153	84.9	125,023	82.7
Bilingual or ESL <sup>a</sup>	7,667	81.0	7,950	78.3
Career and technical education	121,368	88.7	130,641	87.2
Gifted and talented	29,287	98.9	30,594	98.2
Special education	5,397	26.1	5,857	26.5
Title I	102,613	88.3	109,504	86.6
At-risk	82,062	76.7	86,843	73.5
English language learner				
In K-12 <sup>b</sup>	71,218	89.1	74,118	86.5
In 9-12 <sup>c</sup>	12,878	81.4	13,372	78.9
In last year <sup>d</sup>	8,331	80.0	8,647	77.1
Homeless in 9-12 <sup>e</sup>	6,725	72.5	7,282	69.5
Immigrant	1,807	89.7	1,882	86.1
Migrant	1,587	88.3	1,654	86.8
State	246,061	87.7	260,574	85.6

Note. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity. Except in the cases of students identified as English language learners (ELLs) at any time in Grades K-12, as ELLs at any time in Grades 9-12, or as homeless at any time in Grades 9-12, student characteristics were assigned based on the year of a student's final status in the cohort. Students may be counted in more than one category. Not all graduates are included in diploma program calculations, including 14 students who graduated under the transitional FHSP in 2013-14, 84 students who were not eligible to pursue an endorsement, and 38 students who were missing diploma program information. The Recommended High School Program (RHSP) or Advanced High School Program (AHSP) rate was calculated by dividing the number of RHSP and AHSP graduates by the number of students who graduated under the RHSP, AHSP, or Minimum High School Program (MHSP). The rate for students graduating under the RHSP, AHSP, or FHSP with an endorsement (with or without a distinguished level of achievement) was calculated by dividing the sum of students graduating under each of the programs as specified by all graduates with diploma information.

<sup>a</sup>English as a second language. <sup>b</sup>Students identified as ELLs at any time while attending Texas public schools (TPS). <sup>c</sup>Students identified as ELLs at any time while attending Grades 9-12 in TPS. <sup>d</sup>Students identified as ELLs in their last year in TPS. <sup>e</sup>Students identified as homeless at any time while attending Grades 9-12 in TPS.

**Table 28**  
**Dropouts, by Grade and School Year, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016 Grade 9 Cohort**

Grade	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Grade 9	2,131	98.1	2,326	53.4	1,425	21.8	471	5.5	6,353	29.4
Grade 10	25	1.2	1,880	43.1	2,412	36.8	1,505	17.6	5,822	26.9
Grade 11	13	0.6	101	2.3	2,510	38.3	2,556	30.0	5,180	24.0
Grade 12	4	0.2	47	1.1	202	3.1	3,998	46.9	4,251	19.7
Total	2,173	10.1	4,357	20.2	6,550	30.3	8,530	39.5	21,610	100

*Note.* Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding or missing high school grade information. Numbers by school year may not sum to the total because of missing high school grade information.

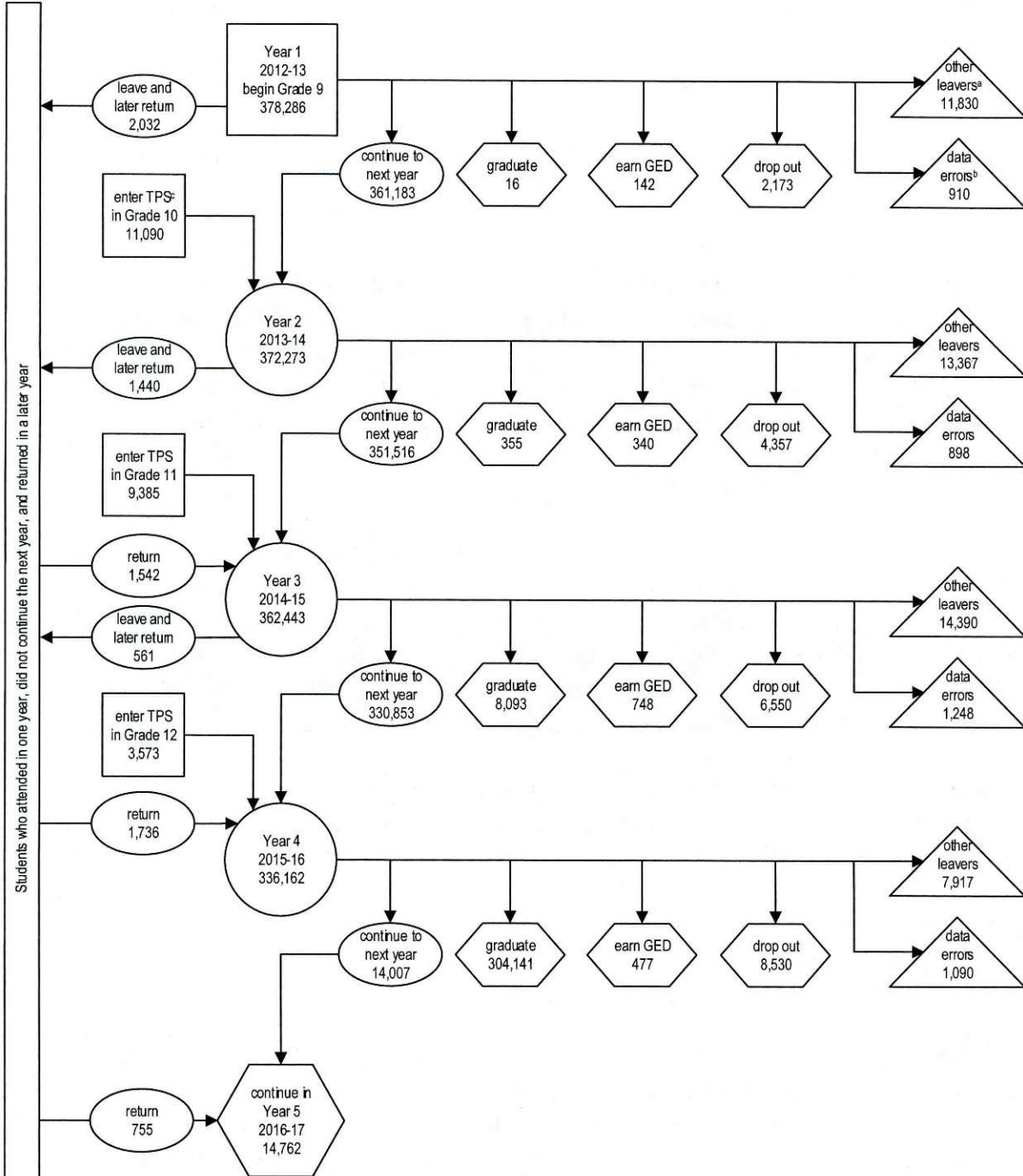
**Table 29**  
**Other Leavers, by Leaver Reason, On-Grade Status, and School Year, Texas Public Schools,**  
**Class of 2016 Grade 9 Cohort**

On-grade status <sup>a</sup>	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Enrolled in public or private school outside Texas										
On grade	6,197	100	4,698	89.2	3,989	88.1	1,429	80.7	16,313	91.9
Not on grade	0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0	566	10.8	537	11.9	341	19.3	1,444	8.1
Total	6,197	34.9	5,264	29.6	4,526	25.5	1,770	10.0	17,757	100
Is home schooled										
On grade	2,237	100	2,451	59.7	2,677	51.5	1,747	45.0	9,112	59.1
Not on grade	0	0.0	1,652	40.3	2,518	48.5	2,139	55.0	6,309	40.9
Total	2,237	14.5	4,103	26.6	5,195	33.7	3,886	25.2	15,421	100
Returned to family's home country										
On grade	2,134	100	1,448	69.9	2,164	78.4	525	56.6	6,271	79.5
Not on grade	0	0.0	624	30.1	596	21.6	402	43.4	1,622	20.5
Total	2,134	27.0	2,072	26.3	2,760	35.0	927	11.7	7,893	100
Enrolled in Texas private school										
On grade	1,064	100	1,073	73.1	1,023	67.3	574	58.1	3,734	74.1
Not on grade	0	0.0	395	26.9	496	32.7	414	41.9	1,305	25.9
Total	1,064	21.1	1,468	29.1	1,519	30.1	988	19.6	5,039	100
Left for other reasons <sup>c</sup>										
On grade	198	100	380	82.6	271	69.5	227	65.6	1,076	77.2
Not on grade	0	0.0	80	17.4	119	30.5	119	34.4	318	22.8
Total	198	14.2	460	33.0	390	28.0	346	24.8	1,394	100
Total other leavers										
On grade	11,830	100	10,050	75.2	10,124	70.4	4,502	56.9	36,506	76.8
Not on grade	0	0.0	3,317	24.8	4,266	29.6	3,415	43.1	10,998	23.2
Total	11,830	24.9	13,367	28.1	14,390	30.3	7,917	16.7	47,504	100
Total students in cohort enrolled in the school year indicated <sup>d</sup>										
On grade	378,286	100	345,705	92.9	334,082	92.2	319,944	95.3	n/a <sup>e</sup>	n/a
Not on grade	0	0.0	26,567	7.1	28,335	7.8	15,910	4.7	n/a	n/a

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

<sup>a</sup>Students were on grade if they were in the grade level expected for the cohort or a higher grade level in the school year indicated. <sup>b</sup>Students were added to the 2016 cohort in 2012-13 if they attended Grade 9 in Texas public schools for the first time that year, regardless of other grades attended that year or in previous years. Therefore, all students added in 2012-13 were considered to be on grade. <sup>c</sup>Because of small numbers, students who left for other reasons are grouped together. For a list of the other reasons, see Table 4 on page 35. <sup>d</sup>Numbers for school years may not match counts presented elsewhere in the report because of missing high school grade information. <sup>e</sup>Not applicable. Because a student's on-grade status can change from year to year, totals for students who remained in school could not be determined. Totals for other leavers were calculated based on the years the students left school.

**Figure 4**  
**Synopsis of Student Progress Through High School, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016**  
**Grade 9 Cohort**



Note. ○ indicates students who returned to Texas public school. □ indicates students added to the cohort. ◊ indicates final student statuses. △ indicates students without final statuses. ○ indicates students who attended that school year.  
<sup>a</sup>Students who left the Texas public school system for reasons other than graduating, receiving General Educational Development (GED) certificates, or dropping out and who did not return. <sup>b</sup>Data errors can result from missing student records (i.e., underreported students) or misreported student identification information. <sup>c</sup>Texas public schools.

As noted previously, to calculate four-year longitudinal rates, students were tracked from the time they entered Grade 9 for the first time in 2012-13 or transferred into the cohort until the fall after their anticipated graduation date. Figure 4 on page 85 provides a synopsis of student progress through school for the 2016 cohort. In addition to showing final statuses of students by year, Figure 4 shows the number of students who left Texas public schools each year, how many continued from one year to the next, and how many left Texas public schools and came back in a later year.

### ***Grade 9 Five-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates***

**State summary.** Many students took longer than four years to graduate. Students who began Grade 9 in Texas public schools for the first time in 2011-12 or who later joined the cohort were tracked into the fall one year following their anticipated graduation date of spring 2015. The total number of students with final statuses changed between fall 2015 and fall 2016 because: (a) some students who continued high school in fall 2015 left Texas public schools by fall 2016 for reasons other than graduating, receiving GED certificates, or dropping out; and (b) some students who left Texas public schools by fall 2015 without graduating returned to Texas public schools and graduated, received GED certificates, continued high school, or dropped out by fall 2016. In addition, students with changes in year of final status were added to, or removed from, relevant student groups.

By the fall of 2015, 89.0 percent of the class of 2015 had graduated, 4.1 percent were still in high school, 0.6 percent had received GED certificates, and 6.3 percent had dropped out (Table 30). By the fall of 2016, 91.3 percent of the class of 2015 had graduated, 1.2 percent were still in high school, 0.8 percent had received GED certificates, and 6.7 percent had dropped out (Table 30 on facing page and Table 33 on page 90). The five-year graduation rate for the class of 2015 was 2.3 percentage points higher than the four-year graduation rate.

**Rates by race/ethnicity, economic status, and gender.** Across the five largest racial/ethnic groups in the class of 2015, the percentage-point increase in graduation rate from fall 2015 to fall 2016 was highest for Hispanic students (2.9 points), followed by African American (2.6 points), multiracial (1.8 points), White (1.4 points) and Asian (1.1 points) students (Table 30). The graduation rate for students identified as economically disadvantaged increased by 2.9 percentage points to 88.5 percent. Graduation rates increased by 2.8 percentage points for males and by 1.7 percentage points for females.

**Rates by program participation and student characteristic.** The five-year graduation rate for students participating in special education programs was 4.2 percentage points higher than the four-year rate, increasing from 78.2 percent to 82.4 percent (Table 31 on page 88). Students identified as English language learners in Grades 9-12 had a five-year graduation rate of 79.2 percent, 5.9 percentage points higher than their four-year rate (Table 32 on page 89). The five-year graduation rates for both groups continued to be lower than the state average (91.3%).

**Graduates.** Students in the class of 2015 were required to enroll in a graduation program when they began Grade 9 in 2011-12. Students could enroll in the Recommended High School Program (RHSP) or the Advanced High School Program (AHSP), unless the student, the student's parent, and a school



**Table 30**  
**Grade 9 Four-Year and Five-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by**  
**Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2015**

Status date	Class <sup>b</sup>	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out		Graduated, continued, or received GED	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
<b>African American</b>											
As of fall 2015	44,533	37,951	85.2	2,153	4.8	209	0.5	4,220	9.5	40,313	90.5
As of fall 2016	44,414	38,997	87.8	548	1.2	333	0.7	4,536	10.2	39,878	89.8
<b>American Indian</b>											
As of fall 2015	1,486	1,283	86.3	62	4.2	11	0.7	130	8.7	1,356	91.3
As of fall 2016	1,484	1,314	88.5	17	1.1	20	1.3	133	9.0	1,351	91.0
<b>Asian</b>											
As of fall 2015	13,444	12,822	95.4	298	2.2	24	0.2	300	2.2	13,144	97.8
As of fall 2016	13,428	12,959	96.5	97	0.7	31	0.2	341	2.5	13,087	97.5
<b>Hispanic</b>											
As of fall 2015	164,646	142,404	86.5	8,686	5.3	864	0.5	12,692	7.7	151,954	92.3
As of fall 2016	164,233	146,801	89.4	2,619	1.6	1,239	0.8	13,574	8.3	150,659	91.7
<b>Pacific Islander</b>											
As of fall 2015	541	480	88.7	21	3.9	5	0.9	35	6.5	506	93.5
As of fall 2016	542	494	91.1	6	1.1	7	1.3	35	6.5	507	93.5
<b>White</b>											
As of fall 2015	109,200	102,000	93.4	2,622	2.4	848	0.8	3,730	3.4	105,470	96.6
As of fall 2016	109,052	103,361	94.8	820	0.8	1,160	1.1	3,711	3.4	105,341	96.6
<b>Multiracial</b>											
As of fall 2015	5,776	5,322	92.1	171	3.0	33	0.6	250	4.3	5,526	95.7
As of fall 2016	5,760	5,408	93.9	48	0.8	50	0.9	254	4.4	5,506	95.6
<b>Economically disadvantaged</b>											
As of fall 2015	169,386	144,957	85.6	8,510	5.0	1,151	0.7	14,768	8.7	154,618	91.3
As of fall 2016	168,922	149,427	88.5	2,452	1.5	1,613	1.0	15,430	9.1	153,492	90.9
<b>Female</b>											
As of fall 2015	166,669	152,120	91.3	5,345	3.2	639	0.4	8,565	5.1	158,104	94.9
As of fall 2016	166,426	154,846	93.0	1,750	1.1	926	0.6	8,904	5.4	157,522	94.6
<b>Male</b>											
As of fall 2015	172,957	150,142	86.8	8,668	5.0	1,355	0.8	12,792	7.4	160,165	92.6
As of fall 2016	172,487	154,488	89.6	2,405	1.4	1,914	1.1	13,680	7.9	158,807	92.1
<b>State</b>											
As of fall 2015	339,626	302,262	89.0	14,013	4.1	1,994	0.6	21,357	6.3	318,269	93.7
As of fall 2016	338,913	309,334	91.3	4,155	1.2	2,840	0.8	22,584	6.7	316,329	93.3

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>The total number of students with final statuses changed between fall 2015 and fall 2016 because: (a) some students who continued high school in fall 2015 left Texas public schools (TPS) by fall 2016 for reasons other than graduating, receiving GED certificates, or dropping out; and (b) some students who left TPS by fall 2015 without graduating returned to TPS and graduated, received GED certificates, continued high school, or dropped out by fall 2016. In addition, students with changes in year of final status were added to, or removed from, relevant student groups.

**Table 31**  
**Grade 9 Four-Year and Five-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by**  
**Program Participation, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2015**

Status date	Class <sup>b</sup>	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out		Graduated, continued, or received GED	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
<b>Bilingual or ESL<sup>c</sup></b>											
As of fall 2015	15,794	11,679	73.9	1,744	11.0	39	0.2	2,332	14.8	13,462	85.2
As of fall 2016	15,540	12,476	80.3	462	3.0	52	0.3	2,550	16.4	12,990	83.6
<b>Career and technical education</b>											
As of fall 2015	150,997	144,340	95.6	2,163	1.4	384	0.3	4,110	2.7	146,887	97.3
As of fall 2016	151,029	145,802	96.5	469	0.3	549	0.4	4,209	2.8	146,820	97.2
<b>Gifted and talented</b>											
As of fall 2015	31,197	30,942	99.2	61	0.2	48	0.2	146	0.5	31,051	99.5
As of fall 2016	31,201	30,985	99.3	7	<0.1	55	0.2	154	0.5	31,047	99.5
<b>Special education</b>											
As of fall 2015	29,045	22,703	78.2	3,214	11.1	102	0.4	3,026	10.4	26,019	89.6
As of fall 2016	29,153	24,014	82.4	1,812	6.2	159	0.5	3,168	10.9	25,985	89.1
<b>Title I</b>											
As of fall 2015	147,966	128,088	86.6	5,903	4.0	1,001	0.7	12,974	8.8	134,992	91.2
As of fall 2016	148,422	131,656	88.7	1,742	1.2	1,420	1.0	13,604	9.2	134,818	90.8
<b>State</b>											
As of fall 2015	339,626	302,262	89.0	14,013	4.1	1,994	0.6	21,357	6.3	318,269	93.7
As of fall 2016	338,913	309,334	91.3	4,155	1.2	2,840	0.8	22,584	6.7	316,329	93.3

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Program participation was assigned based on the year of a student's final status in the cohort. Students may be counted in more than one category.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>The total number of students with final statuses changed between fall 2015 and fall 2016 because: (a) some students who continued high school in fall 2015 left Texas public schools (TPS) by fall 2016 for reasons other than graduating, receiving GED certificates, or dropping out; and (b) some students who left TPS by fall 2015 without graduating returned to TPS and graduated, received GED certificates, continued high school, or dropped out by fall 2016. In addition, students with changes in year of final status were added to, or removed from, relevant student groups. <sup>c</sup>English as a second language.

**Table 32**  
**Grade 9 Four-Year and Five-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by**  
**Student Characteristic, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2015**

Status date	Class <sup>b</sup>	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out		Graduated, continued, or received GED	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
<b>At-risk</b>											
As of fall 2015	161,179	136,960	85.0	10,023	6.2	1,068	0.7	13,128	8.1	148,051	91.9
As of fall 2016	160,321	141,970	88.6	2,929	1.8	1,516	0.9	13,906	8.7	146,415	91.3
<b>Ever ELL in K-12<sup>c</sup></b>											
As of fall 2015	99,592	85,528	85.9	5,909	5.9	381	0.4	7,774	7.8	91,818	92.2
As of fall 2016	99,311	88,500	89.1	1,772	1.8	556	0.6	8,483	8.5	90,828	91.5
<b>Ever ELL in 9-12<sup>d</sup></b>											
As of fall 2015	24,513	17,962	73.3	2,789	11.4	72	0.3	3,690	15.1	20,823	84.9
As of fall 2016	24,324	19,263	79.2	849	3.5	102	0.4	4,110	16.9	20,214	83.1
<b>ELL in last year<sup>e</sup></b>											
As of fall 2015	18,037	12,888	71.5	1,848	10.2	54	0.3	3,247	18.0	14,790	82.0
As of fall 2016	17,954	13,831	77.0	513	2.9	77	0.4	3,533	19.7	14,421	80.3
<b>Immigrant</b>											
As of fall 2015	3,090	2,327	75.3	311	10.1	5	0.2	447	14.5	2,643	85.5
As of fall 2016	3,038	2,444	80.4	92	3.0	9	0.3	493	16.2	2,545	83.8
<b>Migrant</b>											
As of fall 2015	2,540	2,070	81.5	143	5.6	19	0.7	308	12.1	2,232	87.9
As of fall 2016	2,534	2,153	85.0	30	1.2	27	1.1	324	12.8	2,210	87.2
<b>State</b>											
As of fall 2015	339,626	302,262	89.0	14,013	4.1	1,994	0.6	21,357	6.3	318,269	93.7
As of fall 2016	338,913	309,334	91.3	4,155	1.2	2,840	0.8	22,584	6.7	316,329	93.3

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. With the exception of two groups of students identified as English language learners (ELLs) (ever ELL in K-12 and ever ELL in 9-12), student characteristics were assigned based on the year of a student's final status in the cohort. Students may be counted in more than one category.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>The total number of students with final statuses changed between fall 2015 and fall 2016 because: (a) some students who continued high school in fall 2015 left Texas public schools (TPS) by fall 2016 for reasons other than graduating, receiving GED certificates, or dropping out; and (b) some students who left TPS by fall 2015 without graduating returned to TPS and graduated, received GED certificates, continued high school, or dropped out by fall 2016. In addition, students with changes in year of final status were added to, or removed from, relevant student groups. <sup>c</sup>Students identified as English language learners (ELLs) at any time while attending TPS. <sup>d</sup>Students identified as ELLs at any time while attending Grades 9-12 in TPS. <sup>e</sup>Students identified as ELLs in their last year in TPS.

**Table 33**  
**Grade 9 Five-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2012, as of Fall 2013, Class of 2013, as of Fall 2014, Class of 2014, as of Fall 2015, and Class of 2015, as of Fall 2016**

Class year	Class	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out		Graduated, continued, or received GED	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
<b>African American</b>											
Class of 2012	42,872	37,077	86.5	580	1.4	443	1.0	4,772	11.1	38,100	88.9
Class of 2013	43,978	38,145	86.7	586	1.3	438	1.0	4,809	10.9	39,169	89.1
Class of 2014	43,491	37,760	86.8	588	1.4	391	0.9	4,752	10.9	38,739	89.1
Class of 2015	44,414	38,997	87.8	548	1.2	333	0.7	4,536	10.2	39,878	89.8
<b>American Indian</b>											
Class of 2012	<1,600	– <sup>b</sup>	88.6	–	1.2	–	2.3	–	7.8	–	92.2
Class of 2013	<1,500	–	87.6	–	1.3	–	2.1	–	9.0	–	91.0
Class of 2014	1,423	1,271	89.3	11	0.8	15	1.1	126	8.9	1,297	91.1
Class of 2015	1,484	1,314	88.5	17	1.1	20	1.3	133	9.0	1,351	91.0
<b>Asian</b>											
Class of 2012	11,189	10,769	96.2	113	1.0	26	0.2	281	2.5	10,908	97.5
Class of 2013	12,040	11,472	95.3	121	1.0	31	0.3	416	3.5	11,624	96.5
Class of 2014	12,950	12,425	95.9	109	0.8	23	0.2	393	3.0	12,557	97.0
Class of 2015	13,428	12,959	96.5	97	0.7	31	0.2	341	2.5	13,087	97.5
<b>Hispanic</b>											
Class of 2012	144,452	127,054	88.0	2,497	1.7	1,757	1.2	13,144	9.1	131,308	90.9
Class of 2013	154,480	136,228	88.2	2,532	1.6	1,783	1.2	13,937	9.0	140,543	91.0
Class of 2014	158,985	140,341	88.3	2,639	1.7	1,565	1.0	14,440	9.1	144,545	90.9
Class of 2015	164,233	146,801	89.4	2,619	1.6	1,239	0.8	13,574	8.3	150,659	91.7
<b>Pacific Islander</b>											
Class of 2012	<450	–	92.0	–	1.7	–	0.5	–	5.8	–	94.2
Class of 2013	<450	–	91.4	–	1.2	–	0.5	–	7.0	–	93.0
Class of 2014	433	388	89.6	5	1.2	5	1.2	35	8.1	398	91.9
Class of 2015	542	494	91.1	6	1.1	7	1.3	35	6.5	507	93.5
<b>White</b>											
Class of 2012	109,883	103,867	94.5	890	0.8	1,402	1.3	3,724	3.4	106,159	96.6
Class of 2013	109,816	103,635	94.4	882	0.8	1,361	1.2	3,938	3.6	105,878	96.4
Class of 2014	109,224	102,992	94.3	893	0.8	1,376	1.3	3,963	3.6	105,261	96.4
Class of 2015	109,052	103,361	94.8	820	0.8	1,160	1.1	3,711	3.4	105,341	96.6

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>A dash (–) indicates data are masked. When the number of students represented by a final status is not reported, the corresponding class size is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the class. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information. <sup>c</sup>Numbers in class for race/ethnicity may not sum to the state total because some student records did not correspond to any single new racial/ethnic category.

**continues**

**Table 33 (continued)**

**Grade 9 Five-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2012, as of Fall 2013, Class of 2013, as of Fall 2014, Class of 2014, as of Fall 2015, and Class of 2015, as of Fall 2016**

Class year	Class	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out		Graduated, continued, or received GED	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
<b>Multiracial</b>											
Class of 2012	5,063	4,758	94.0	34	0.7	62	1.2	209	4.1	4,854	95.9
Class of 2013	5,341	4,990	93.4	41	0.8	60	1.1	250	4.7	5,091	95.3
Class of 2014	5,681	5,277	92.9	60	1.1	57	1.0	287	5.1	5,394	94.9
Class of 2015	5,760	5,408	93.9	48	0.8	50	0.9	254	4.4	5,506	95.6
<b>Economically disadvantaged</b>											
Class of 2012	151,679	134,549	88.7	2,248	1.5	1,830	1.2	13,052	8.6	138,627	91.4
Class of 2013	161,878	142,831	88.2	2,288	1.4	2,041	1.3	14,718	9.1	147,160	90.9
Class of 2014	166,757	146,424	87.8	2,345	1.4	1,906	1.1	16,082	9.6	150,675	90.4
Class of 2015	168,922	149,427	88.5	2,452	1.5	1,613	1.0	15,430	9.1	153,492	90.9
<b>Female</b>											
Class of 2012	154,714	142,605	92.2	1,758	1.1	1,248	0.8	9,103	5.9	145,611	94.1
Class of 2013	160,637	148,056	92.2	1,751	1.1	1,356	0.8	9,474	5.9	151,163	94.1
Class of 2014	162,823	149,968	92.1	1,796	1.1	1,180	0.7	9,879	6.1	152,944	93.9
Class of 2015	166,426	154,846	93.0	1,750	1.1	926	0.6	8,904	5.4	157,522	94.6
<b>Male</b>											
Class of 2012	160,787	142,691	88.7	2,382	1.5	2,481	1.5	13,233	8.2	147,554	91.8
Class of 2013	166,931	148,106	88.7	2,436	1.5	2,350	1.4	14,039	8.4	152,892	91.6
Class of 2014	169,364	150,486	88.9	2,509	1.5	2,252	1.3	14,117	8.3	155,247	91.7
Class of 2015	172,487	154,488	89.6	2,405	1.4	1,914	1.1	13,680	7.9	158,807	92.1
<b>State</b>											
Class of 2012 <sup>c</sup>	315,501	285,296	90.4	4,140	1.3	3,729	1.2	22,336	7.1	293,165	92.9
Class of 2013	327,568	296,162	90.4	4,187	1.3	3,706	1.1	23,513	7.2	304,055	92.8
Class of 2014	332,187	300,454	90.4	4,305	1.3	3,432	1.0	23,996	7.2	308,191	92.8
Class of 2015	338,913	309,334	91.3	4,155	1.2	2,840	0.8	22,584	6.7	316,329	93.3

*Note.* Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>A dash (-) indicates data are masked. When the number of students represented by a final status is not reported, the corresponding class size is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the class. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information. <sup>c</sup>Numbers in class for race/ethnicity may not sum to the state total because some student records did not correspond to any single new racial/ethnic category.

counselor or administrator agreed to allow the student to enroll in the Minimum High School Program (MHSP) (Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code [TAC] §74.61, 2017, amended to be effective August 23, 2010). In 2013, the 83rd Texas Legislature established the Foundation High School Program (FHSP) as the new high school graduation program for all students who entered Grade 9 in the 2014-15 school year or later (Texas Education Code [TEC] §28.025, 2013). The commissioner of education adopted a transition plan for students graduating in the 2013-14 through 2016-17 school years, giving those students the option of graduating under the new foundation program instead of the existing graduation plans (19 TAC §§74.1021 and 74.1022, 2017, amended to be effective December 16, 2013).

Students who graduated under the FHSP in 2014-15 and 2015-16 were able to earn an endorsement and earn a distinguished level of achievement (DLA) (19 TAC §§74.11-74.13, 2017, amended to be effective July 8, 2014; TEC §28.025, 2016). Students receiving special education services were not eligible to pursue an endorsement if they received a modified curriculum in any course required for an endorsement or failed to perform satisfactorily on the required state assessments (19 TAC §89.1070(c), 2017, amended to be effective September 16, 2015). These students are excluded from the numbers and rates presented in Table 34.

By the fall of 2016, 294,208 students in the class of 2015 had graduated under the MHSP, RHSP, or AHSP. Of these students, 85.1 percent graduated under the RHSP or AHSP, a decrease of 1.0 percentage points from the fall of 2015 (Table 34 and TEA, 2016a, Table 26). Of the 14,968 students who graduated under the FHSP, 59.0 percent graduated without an endorsement, 3.6 percent graduated with an endorsement but did not earn a DLA, and 37.4 percent graduated with an endorsement and earned a DLA. Of all 309,176 graduates with diploma program information, 83.0 percent graduated under the RHSP or AHSP or the FHSP with an endorsement (with or without a DLA) by the fall of 2016, a decrease of 1.1 percentage points from the fall of 2015.

### ***Grade 9 Six-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates***

**State summary.** Students who began Grade 9 in Texas public schools for the first time in 2010-11 or who later joined the cohort were tracked into the fall semester two years following their anticipated graduation date of spring 2014. The total number of students with final statuses changed between fall 2014 and fall 2016 because: (a) some students who continued high school in fall 2014 left Texas public schools by fall 2016 for reasons other than graduating, receiving GED certificates, or dropping out; and (b) some students who left Texas public schools by fall 2014 without graduating returned to Texas public schools and graduated, received GED certificates, continued high school, or dropped out by fall 2016. In addition, students with changes in year of final status were added to, or removed from, relevant student groups.

By the fall of 2014, 88.3 percent of the class of 2014 had graduated, 4.3 percent were still in high school, 0.8 percent had received GED certificates, and 6.6 percent had dropped out (Table 35 on page 95). By the fall of 2016, 90.9 percent of the class had graduated, 0.6 percent were still in

**Table 34**  
**Graduates Within Diploma Programs, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, Gender, Program Participation, and Student Characteristic, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2015 Grade 9 Five-Year Extended Longitudinal Cohort, as of Fall 2016**

Group	Minimum		Recommended		Advanced		Foundation High School Program (FHSP) without endorsement	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
African American	7,802	20.9	27,589	73.9	1,936	5.2	1,231	75.1
American Indian	245	19.5	875	69.6	138	11.0	28	53.8
Asian	660	5.2	7,568	59.7	4,450	35.1	139	51.1
Hispanic	20,312	14.6	100,344	72.2	18,311	13.2	5,016	64.6
Pacific Islander	80	16.6	353	73.4	48	10.0	8	61.5
White	13,859	14.1	66,813	68.0	17,634	17.9	2,279	45.5
Multiracial	753	14.5	3,627	69.9	811	15.6	132	62.0
Econ. disad. <sup>a</sup>	25,922	18.3	101,458	71.6	14,262	10.1	4,994	64.9
Female	16,992	11.5	105,363	71.3	25,345	17.2	3,858	54.7
Male	26,719	18.2	101,806	69.5	17,983	12.3	4,975	62.8
Bilingual or ESL <sup>b</sup>	2,480	21.2	8,880	75.9	347	3.0	577	76.2
CTE <sup>c</sup>	18,185	13.1	99,120	71.4	21,547	15.5	3,603	52.2
Gifted and talented	396	1.3	16,295	54.0	13,505	44.7	215	27.5
Special education	17,589	75.9	5,418	23.4	163	0.7	663	80.1
Title I	17,516	14.0	89,808	71.7	17,910	14.3	4,020	63.0
At-risk	32,501	24.4	95,353	71.5	5,423	4.1	6,136	71.3
ELL <sup>d</sup>								
In K-12 <sup>e</sup>	11,559	13.7	61,561	72.9	11,379	13.5	2,792	70.5
In 9-12 <sup>f</sup>	3,976	21.9	13,362	73.5	833	4.6	799	74.7
In last year <sup>g</sup>	2,904	22.4	9,691	74.7	381	2.9	636	75.7
Immigrant	314	13.5	1,849	79.7	156	6.7	69	61.6
Migrant	264	12.6	1,515	72.1	323	15.4	36	70.6
State	43,711	14.9	207,169	70.4	43,328	14.7	8,833	59.0

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity. With the exception of two groups of students identified as English language learners (ELLs) (ever ELL in K-12 and ever ELL in 9-12), student characteristics were assigned based on the year of a student's final status in the cohort. Students may be counted in more than one category. The total number of graduates summed across diploma programs does not match the state-level count of graduates presented elsewhere in this report because 115 students graduated under the transitional FHSP in 2013-14, 29 students were not eligible to pursue an endorsement, and 14 students were missing diploma program information. The Minimum High School Program (MHSP), Recommended High School Program (RHSP), Advanced High School Program (AHSP), and RHSP or AHSP rates are each calculated by dividing the number of students graduating under each program (or combination thereof) by the sum of graduates in the three programs. Each of the three rates for FHSP graduates is derived by dividing the number of graduates with the specified program options by the sum of all FHSP graduates. The rate for students graduating under the RHSP, AHSP, or FHSP with an endorsement (with or without a distinguished level of achievement) is calculated by dividing the sum of students graduating under each of the programs as specified by all graduates with diploma information.

<sup>a</sup>Economically disadvantaged. <sup>b</sup>English as a second language. <sup>c</sup>Career and technical education. <sup>d</sup>English language learner. <sup>e</sup>Students identified as ELLs at any time while attending Texas public schools (TPS). <sup>f</sup>Students identified as ELLs at any time while attending Grades 9-12 in TPS. <sup>g</sup>Students identified as ELLs in their last year in TPS.

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**Table 34 (continued)**

**Graduates Within Diploma Programs, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, Gender, Program Participation, and Student Characteristic, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2015 Grade 9 Five-Year Extended Longitudinal Cohort, as of Fall 2016**

Group	FHSP with endorsement				Recommended, Advanced, or FHSP with endorsement			
	No distinguished level of achievement		Distinguished level of achievement		Recommended or Advanced		Advanced, or FHSP with endorsement	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
African American	114	7.0	295	18.0	29,525	79.1	29,934	76.8
American Indian	0	0.0	24	46.2	1,013	80.5	1,037	79.2
Asian	35	12.9	98	36.0	12,018	94.8	12,151	93.8
Hispanic	246	3.2	2,507	32.3	118,655	85.4	121,408	82.7
Pacific Islander	0	0.0	5	38.5	401	83.4	406	82.2
White	144	2.9	2,586	51.6	84,447	85.9	87,177	84.4
Multiracial	5	2.3	76	35.7	4,438	85.5	4,519	83.6
Econ. disad. <sup>a</sup>	297	3.9	2,404	31.2	115,720	81.7	118,421	79.3
Female	248	3.5	2,946	41.8	130,708	88.5	133,902	86.5
Male	296	3.7	2,645	33.4	119,789	81.8	122,730	79.5
Bilingual or ESL <sup>b</sup>	49	6.5	131	17.3	9,227	78.8	9,407	75.5
CTE <sup>c</sup>	253	3.7	3,049	44.2	120,667	86.9	123,969	85.1
Gifted and talented	37	4.7	530	67.8	29,800	98.7	30,367	98.0
Special education	28	3.4	137	16.5	5,581	24.1	5,746	23.9
Title I	206	3.2	2,153	33.8	107,718	86.0	110,077	83.6
At-risk	337	3.9	2,130	24.8	100,776	75.6	103,243	72.8
ELL <sup>d</sup>								
In K-12 <sup>e</sup>	162	4.1	1,004	25.4	72,940	86.3	74,106	83.8
In 9-12 <sup>f</sup>	61	5.7	210	19.6	14,195	78.1	14,466	75.2
In last year <sup>g</sup>	53	6.3	151	18.0	10,072	77.6	10,276	74.4
Immigrant	8	7.1	35	31.3	2,005	86.5	2,048	84.2
Migrant	0	0.0	15	29.4	1,838	87.4	1,853	86.1
State	544	3.6	5,591	37.4	250,497	85.1	256,632	83.0

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity. With the exception of two groups of students identified as English language learners (ELLs) (ever ELL in K-12 and ever ELL in 9-12), student characteristics were assigned based on the year of a student's final status in the cohort. Students may be counted in more than one category. The total number of graduates summed across diploma programs does not match the state-level count of graduates presented elsewhere in this report because 115 students graduated under the transitional FHSP in 2013-14, 29 students were not eligible to pursue an endorsement, and 14 students were missing diploma program information. The Minimum High School Program (MHSP), Recommended High School Program (RHSP), Advanced High School Program (AHSP), and RHSP or AHSP rates are each calculated by dividing the number of students graduating under each program (or combination thereof) by the sum of graduates in the three programs. Each of the three rates for FHSP graduates is derived by dividing the number of graduates with the specified program options by the sum of all FHSP graduates. The rate for students graduating under the RHSP, AHSP, or FHSP with an endorsement (with or without a distinguished level of achievement) is calculated by dividing the sum of students graduating under each of the programs as specified by all graduates with diploma information.

<sup>a</sup>Economically disadvantaged. <sup>b</sup>English as a second language. <sup>c</sup>Career and technical education. <sup>d</sup>English language learner. <sup>e</sup>Students identified as ELLs at any time while attending Texas public schools (TPS). <sup>f</sup>Students identified as ELLs at any time while attending Grades 9-12 in TPS. <sup>g</sup>Students identified as ELLs in their last year in TPS.



**Table 35**  
**Grade 9 Four-Year, Five-Year Extended, and Six-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation**  
**and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools,**  
**Class of 2014**

Status date	Class <sup>b</sup>	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out		Graduated, continued, or received GED	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
<b>African American</b>											
As of fall 2014	43,707	36,807	84.2	2,323	5.3	280	0.6	4,297	9.8	39,410	90.2
As of fall 2015	43,491	37,760	86.8	588	1.4	391	0.9	4,752	10.9	38,739	89.1
As of fall 2016	43,489	37,981	87.3	265	0.6	507	1.2	4,736	10.9	38,753	89.1
<b>American Indian</b>											
As of fall 2014	1,426	1,242	87.1	57	4.0	15	1.1	112	7.9	1,314	92.1
As of fall 2015	1,423	1,271	89.3	11	0.8	15	1.1	126	8.9	1,297	91.1
As of fall 2016	1,422	1,279	89.9	2	0.1	17	1.2	124	8.7	1,298	91.3
<b>Asian</b>											
As of fall 2014	12,969	12,292	94.8	345	2.7	15	0.1	317	2.4	12,652	97.6
As of fall 2015	12,950	12,425	95.9	109	0.8	23	0.2	393	3.0	12,557	97.0
As of fall 2016	12,947	12,461	96.2	63	0.5	27	0.2	396	3.1	12,551	96.9
<b>Hispanic</b>											
As of fall 2014	159,708	136,586	85.5	8,869	5.6	1,203	0.8	13,050	8.2	146,658	91.8
As of fall 2015	158,985	140,341	88.3	2,639	1.7	1,565	1.0	14,440	9.1	144,545	90.9
As of fall 2016	158,922	141,282	88.9	1,198	0.8	1,850	1.2	14,592	9.2	144,330	90.8
<b>Pacific Islander</b>											
As of fall 2014	431	383	88.9	16	3.7	2	0.5	30	7.0	401	93.0
As of fall 2015	433	388	89.6	5	1.2	5	1.2	35	8.1	398	91.9
As of fall 2016	433	391	90.3	2	0.5	5	1.2	35	8.1	398	91.9
<b>White</b>											
As of fall 2014	109,354	101,737	93.0	2,694	2.5	1,026	0.9	3,897	3.6	105,457	96.4
As of fall 2015	109,224	102,992	94.3	893	0.8	1,376	1.3	3,963	3.6	105,261	96.4
As of fall 2016	109,250	103,355	94.6	481	0.4	1,561	1.4	3,853	3.5	105,397	96.5
<b>Multiracial</b>											
As of fall 2014	5,691	5,193	91.2	183	3.2	41	0.7	274	4.8	5,417	95.2
As of fall 2015	5,681	5,277	92.9	60	1.1	57	1.0	287	5.1	5,394	94.9
As of fall 2016	5,679	5,296	93.3	24	0.4	71	1.3	288	5.1	5,391	94.9

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>The total number of students with final statuses changed between fall 2014 and fall 2016 because: (a) some students who continued high school in fall 2014 left Texas public schools (TPS) by fall 2016 for reasons other than graduating, receiving GED certificates, or dropping out; and (b) some students who left TPS by fall 2014 without graduating returned to TPS and graduated, received GED certificates, continued high school, or dropped out by fall 2016. In addition, students with changes in year of final status were added to, or removed from, relevant student groups.

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**Table 35 (continued)**  
**Grade 9 Four-Year, Five-Year Extended, and Six-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2014**

Status date	Class <sup>b</sup>	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out		Graduated, continued, or received GED	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
<b>Economically disadvantaged</b>											
As of fall 2014	167,545	142,669	85.2	8,322	5.0	1,485	0.9	15,069	9.0	152,476	91.0
As of fall 2015	166,757	146,424	87.8	2,345	1.4	1,906	1.1	16,082	9.6	150,675	90.4
As of fall 2016	166,697	147,326	88.4	1,105	0.7	2,245	1.3	16,021	9.6	150,676	90.4
<b>Female</b>											
As of fall 2014	163,308	147,598	90.4	5,806	3.6	920	0.6	8,984	5.5	154,324	94.5
As of fall 2015	162,823	149,968	92.1	1,796	1.1	1,180	0.7	9,879	6.1	152,944	93.9
As of fall 2016	162,849	150,645	92.5	880	0.5	1,386	0.9	9,938	6.1	152,911	93.9
<b>Male</b>											
As of fall 2014	169,978	146,642	86.3	8,681	5.1	1,662	1.0	12,993	7.6	156,985	92.4
As of fall 2015	169,364	150,486	88.9	2,509	1.5	2,252	1.3	14,117	8.3	155,247	91.7
As of fall 2016	169,293	151,400	89.4	1,155	0.7	2,652	1.6	14,086	8.3	155,207	91.7
<b>State</b>											
As of fall 2014	333,286	294,240	88.3	14,487	4.3	2,582	0.8	21,977	6.6	311,309	93.4
As of fall 2015	332,187	300,454	90.4	4,305	1.3	3,432	1.0	23,996	7.2	308,191	92.8
As of fall 2016	332,142	302,045	90.9	2,035	0.6	4,038	1.2	24,024	7.2	308,118	92.8

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>The total number of students with final statuses changed between fall 2014 and fall 2016 because: (a) some students who continued high school in fall 2014 left Texas public schools (TPS) by fall 2016 for reasons other than graduating, receiving GED certificates, or dropping out; and (b) some students who left TPS by fall 2014 without graduating returned to TPS and graduated, received GED certificates, continued high school, or dropped out by fall 2016. In addition, students with changes in year of final status were added to, or removed from, relevant student groups.

high school, 1.2 percent had received GED certificates, and 7.2 percent had dropped out (Table 35 on this page and Table 38 on page 99). The six-year graduation rate for the class of 2014 was 2.6 percentage points higher than the four-year graduation rate.

**Rates by race/ethnicity, economic status, and gender.** Across the five largest racial/ethnic groups in the class of 2014, the percentage-point increase between the four-year and six-year graduation rates was highest for Hispanic students (3.4 points), followed by African American (3.1 points), multiracial (2.1 points), White (1.6 points), and Asian (1.4 points) students (Table 35). The graduation rate for students identified as economically disadvantaged increased by 3.2 percentage points over the two year period to 88.4 percent. Graduation rates increased by 3.1 percentage points for males and by 2.1 percentage points for females.

**Rates by program participation and student characteristic.** The six-year graduation rate for students participating in special education programs was 6.3 percentage points higher than the four-year rate, increasing from 77.5 percent to 83.8 percent (Table 36). Students identified

**Table 36**

**Grade 9 Four-Year, Five-Year Extended, and Six-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Program Participation, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2014**

Status date	Class <sup>b</sup>	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out		Graduated, continued, or received GED	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
<b>Bilingual or ESL<sup>c</sup></b>											
As of fall 2014	10,748	6,712	62.4	1,604	14.9	32	0.3	2,400	22.3	8,348	77.7
As of fall 2015	10,442	7,191	68.9	447	4.3	52	0.5	2,752	26.4	7,690	73.6
As of fall 2016	10,368	7,311	70.5	187	1.8	66	0.6	2,804	27.0	7,564	73.0
<b>Career and technical education</b>											
As of fall 2014	146,696	139,583	95.2	2,057	1.4	526	0.4	4,530	3.1	142,166	96.9
As of fall 2015	146,729	140,865	96.0	470	0.3	725	0.5	4,669	3.2	142,060	96.8
As of fall 2016	146,740	141,071	96.1	236	0.2	854	0.6	4,579	3.1	142,161	96.9
<b>Gifted and talented</b>											
As of fall 2014	30,479	30,212	99.1	49	0.2	53	0.2	165	0.5	30,314	99.5
As of fall 2015	30,482	30,255	99.3	7	<0.1	68	0.2	152	0.5	30,330	99.5
As of fall 2016	30,479	30,256	99.3	5	<0.1	76	0.2	142	0.5	30,337	99.5
<b>Special education</b>											
As of fall 2014	29,875	23,149	77.5	3,240	10.8	141	0.5	3,345	11.2	26,530	88.8
As of fall 2015	29,988	24,462	81.6	1,827	6.1	176	0.6	3,523	11.7	26,465	88.3
As of fall 2016	30,044	25,172	83.8	1,121	3.7	218	0.7	3,533	11.8	26,511	88.2
<b>Title I</b>											
As of fall 2014	143,169	122,721	85.7	6,061	4.2	1,310	0.9	13,077	9.1	130,092	90.9
As of fall 2015	143,295	125,766	87.8	1,648	1.2	1,708	1.2	14,173	9.9	129,122	90.1
As of fall 2016	143,464	126,518	88.2	781	0.5	2,027	1.4	14,138	9.9	129,326	90.1
<b>State</b>											
As of fall 2014	333,286	294,240	88.3	14,487	4.3	2,582	0.8	21,977	6.6	311,309	93.4
As of fall 2015	332,187	300,454	90.4	4,305	1.3	3,432	1.0	23,996	7.2	308,191	92.8
As of fall 2016	332,142	302,045	90.9	2,035	0.6	4,038	1.2	24,024	7.2	308,118	92.8

*Note.* Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Program participation was assigned based on the year of a student's final status in the cohort. Students may be counted in more than one category.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>The total number of students with final statuses changed between fall 2014 and fall 2016 because: (a) some students who continued high school in fall 2014 left Texas public schools (TPS) by fall 2016 for reasons other than graduating, receiving GED certificates, or dropping out; and (b) some students who left TPS by fall 2014 without graduating returned to TPS and graduated, received GED certificates, continued high school, or dropped out by fall 2016. In addition, students with changes in year of final status were added to, or removed from, relevant student groups. <sup>c</sup>English as a second language.

as English language learners in Grades 9-12 had a six-year graduation rate of 78.1 percent, 6.6 percentage points higher than their four-year rate (Table 37 on page 98). The six-year graduation rates for both groups continued to be lower than the state average (90.9%).

**Table 37**  
**Grade 9 Four-Year, Five-Year Extended, and Six-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Student Characteristic, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2014**

Status date	Class <sup>b</sup>	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out		Graduated, continued, or received GED	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
<b>At-risk</b>											
As of fall 2014	136,889	111,527	81.5	10,199	7.5	1,385	1.0	13,778	10.1	123,111	89.9
As of fall 2015	135,703	115,803	85.3	2,972	2.2	1,839	1.4	15,089	11.1	120,614	88.9
As of fall 2016	135,555	116,846	86.2	1,432	1.1	2,156	1.6	15,121	11.2	120,434	88.8
<b>Ever ELL in K-12<sup>c</sup></b>											
As of fall 2014	97,030	82,367	84.9	6,076	6.3	490	0.5	8,097	8.3	88,933	91.7
As of fall 2015	96,504	84,836	87.9	1,782	1.8	673	0.7	9,213	9.5	87,291	90.5
As of fall 2016	96,450	85,462	88.6	809	0.8	827	0.9	9,352	9.7	87,098	90.3
<b>Ever ELL in 9-12<sup>d</sup></b>											
As of fall 2014	25,382	18,142	71.5	3,131	12.3	78	0.3	4,031	15.9	21,351	84.1
As of fall 2015	25,066	19,225	76.7	973	3.9	123	0.5	4,745	18.9	20,321	81.1
As of fall 2016	25,016	19,542	78.1	432	1.7	154	0.6	4,888	19.5	20,128	80.5
<b>ELL in last year<sup>e</sup></b>											
As of fall 2014	12,515	7,549	60.3	1,697	13.6	56	0.4	3,213	25.7	9,302	74.3
As of fall 2015	12,341	8,132	65.9	478	3.9	84	0.7	3,647	29.6	8,694	70.4
As of fall 2016	12,324	8,298	67.3	199	1.6	107	0.9	3,720	30.2	8,604	69.8
<b>Immigrant</b>											
As of fall 2014	3,288	2,453	74.6	336	10.2	5	0.2	494	15.0	2,794	85.0
As of fall 2015	3,230	2,536	78.5	119	3.7	6	0.2	569	17.6	2,661	82.4
As of fall 2016	3,183	2,559	80.4	19	0.6	8	0.3	597	18.8	2,586	81.2
<b>Migrant</b>											
As of fall 2014	2,749	2,270	82.6	147	5.3	26	0.9	306	11.1	2,443	88.9
As of fall 2015	2,722	2,327	85.5	34	1.2	31	1.1	330	12.1	2,392	87.9
As of fall 2016	2,715	2,339	86.2	7	0.3	38	1.4	331	12.2	2,384	87.8
<b>State</b>											
As of fall 2014	333,286	294,240	88.3	14,487	4.3	2,582	0.8	21,977	6.6	311,309	93.4
As of fall 2015	332,187	300,454	90.4	4,305	1.3	3,432	1.0	23,996	7.2	308,191	92.8
As of fall 2016	332,142	302,045	90.9	2,035	0.6	4,038	1.2	24,024	7.2	308,118	92.8

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. With the exception of two groups of students identified as English language learners (ELLs) (ever ELL in K-12 and ever ELL in 9-12), student characteristics were assigned based on the year of a student's final status in the cohort. Students may be counted in more than one category.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>The total number of students with final statuses changed between fall 2014 and fall 2016 because: (a) some students who continued high school in fall 2014 left Texas public schools (TPS) by fall 2016 for reasons other than graduating, receiving GED certificates, or dropping out; and (b) some students who left TPS by fall 2014 without graduating returned to TPS and graduated, received GED certificates, continued high school, or dropped out by fall 2016. In addition, students with changes in year of final status were added to, or removed from, relevant student groups. <sup>c</sup>Students identified as English language learners (ELLs) at any time while attending TPS. <sup>d</sup>Students identified as ELLs at any time while attending Grades 9-12 in TPS. <sup>e</sup>Students identified as ELLs in their last year in TPS.

**Table 38**  
**Grade 9 Six-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2011, as of Fall 2013, Class of 2012, as of Fall 2014, Class of 2013, as of Fall 2015, and Class of 2014, as of Fall 2016**

Class year	Class	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out		Graduated, continued, or received GED	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
<b>African American</b>											
Class of 2011	44,811	38,088	85.0	318	0.7	578	1.3	5,827	13.0	38,984	87.0
Class of 2012	42,866	37,268	86.9	240	0.6	622	1.5	4,736	11.0	38,130	89.0
Class of 2013	43,953	38,346	87.2	248	0.6	563	1.3	4,796	10.9	39,157	89.1
Class of 2014	43,489	37,981	87.3	265	0.6	507	1.2	4,736	10.9	38,753	89.1
<b>American Indian</b>											
Class of 2011	<1,600	– <sup>b</sup>	90.0	–	0.3	–	2.2	–	7.5	–	92.5
Class of 2012	<1,600	–	89.2	–	0.5	–	2.6	–	7.7	–	92.3
Class of 2013	<1,500	–	87.8	–	0.7	–	2.4	–	9.1	–	90.9
Class of 2014	1,422	1,279	89.9	2	0.1	17	1.2	124	8.7	1,298	91.3
<b>Asian</b>											
Class of 2011	10,679	10,363	97.0	60	0.6	27	0.3	229	2.1	10,450	97.9
Class of 2012	11,185	10,807	96.6	55	0.5	38	0.3	285	2.5	10,900	97.5
Class of 2013	12,032	11,505	95.6	64	0.5	42	0.3	421	3.5	11,611	96.5
Class of 2014	12,947	12,461	96.2	63	0.5	27	0.2	396	3.1	12,551	96.9
<b>Hispanic</b>											
Class of 2011	142,543	123,996	87.0	1,121	0.8	2,258	1.6	15,168	10.6	127,375	89.4
Class of 2012	144,386	127,988	88.6	1,131	0.8	2,221	1.5	13,046	9.0	131,340	91.0
Class of 2013	154,385	137,121	88.8	1,092	0.7	2,142	1.4	14,030	9.1	140,355	90.9
Class of 2014	158,922	141,282	88.9	1,198	0.8	1,850	1.2	14,592	9.2	144,330	90.8
<b>Pacific Islander</b>											
Class of 2011	<450	–	92.5	–	0.5	–	1.1	–	5.9	–	94.1
Class of 2012	<450	–	93.2	–	0.2	–	0.5	–	6.1	–	93.9
Class of 2013	<450	–	91.6	–	0.2	–	0.5	–	7.7	–	92.3
Class of 2014	433	391	90.3	2	0.5	5	1.2	35	8.1	398	91.9
<b>White</b>											
Class of 2011	113,261	106,821	94.3	479	0.4	1,867	1.6	4,094	3.6	109,167	96.4
Class of 2012	109,917	104,226	94.8	460	0.4	1,718	1.6	3,513	3.2	106,404	96.8
Class of 2013	109,841	103,969	94.7	481	0.4	1,598	1.5	3,793	3.5	106,048	96.5
Class of 2014	109,250	103,355	94.6	481	0.4	1,561	1.4	3,853	3.5	105,397	96.5
<b>Multiracial</b>											
Class of 2011	4,346	4,103	94.4	23	0.5	57	1.3	163	3.8	4,183	96.2
Class of 2012	5,064	4,771	94.2	14	0.3	84	1.7	195	3.9	4,869	96.1

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>A dash (–) indicates data are masked. When the number of students represented by a final status is not reported, the corresponding class size is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the class. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information. <sup>c</sup>Numbers in class for race/ethnicity may not sum to the state total because some student records did not correspond to any single new racial/ethnic category.

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**Table 38 (continued)**

**Grade 9 Six-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2011, as of Fall 2013, Class of 2012, as of Fall 2014, Class of 2013, as of Fall 2015, and Class of 2014, as of Fall 2016**

Class year	Class	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out		Graduated, continued, or received GED	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
Class of 2013	5,340	5,005	93.7	17	0.3	72	1.3	246	4.6	5,094	95.4
Class of 2014	5,679	5,296	93.3	24	0.4	71	1.3	288	5.1	5,391	94.9
<b>Economically disadvantaged</b>											
Class of 2011	146,899	130,364	88.7	1,090	0.7	2,103	1.4	13,342	9.1	133,557	90.9
Class of 2012	151,530	135,409	89.4	979	0.6	2,366	1.6	12,776	8.4	138,754	91.6
Class of 2013	161,770	143,693	88.8	1,021	0.6	2,452	1.5	14,604	9.0	147,166	91.0
Class of 2014	166,697	147,326	88.4	1,105	0.7	2,245	1.3	16,021	9.6	150,676	90.4
<b>Female</b>											
Class of 2011	156,130	142,512	91.3	850	0.5	1,731	1.1	11,037	7.1	145,093	92.9
Class of 2012	154,702	143,247	92.6	852	0.6	1,560	1.0	9,043	5.8	145,659	94.2
Class of 2013	160,593	148,652	92.6	887	0.6	1,548	1.0	9,506	5.9	151,087	94.1
Class of 2014	162,849	150,645	92.5	880	0.5	1,386	0.9	9,938	6.1	152,911	93.9
<b>Male</b>											
Class of 2011	161,659	142,705	88.3	1,158	0.7	3,102	1.9	14,694	9.1	146,965	90.9
Class of 2012	160,755	143,595	89.3	1,057	0.7	3,168	2.0	12,935	8.0	147,820	92.0
Class of 2013	166,877	148,996	89.3	1,027	0.6	2,906	1.7	13,948	8.4	152,929	91.6
Class of 2014	169,293	151,400	89.4	1,155	0.7	2,652	1.6	14,086	8.3	155,207	91.7
<b>State</b>											
Class of 2011 <sup>c</sup>	317,789	285,217	89.8	2,008	0.6	4,833	1.5	25,731	8.1	292,058	91.9
Class of 2012 <sup>c</sup>	315,457	286,842	90.9	1,909	0.6	4,728	1.5	21,978	7.0	293,479	93.0
Class of 2013	327,470	297,648	90.9	1,914	0.6	4,454	1.4	23,454	7.2	304,016	92.8
Class of 2014	332,142	302,045	90.9	2,035	0.6	4,038	1.2	24,024	7.2	308,118	92.8

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>A dash (-) indicates data are masked. When the number of students represented by a final status is not reported, the corresponding class size is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the class. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information. <sup>c</sup>Numbers in class for race/ethnicity may not sum to the state total because some student records did not correspond to any single new racial/ethnic category.

**Grade 9 Seven-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates**

Students who began Grade 9 in Texas public schools for the first time in 2009-10 or who later joined the cohort were tracked into the fall semester three years following their anticipated graduation date of spring 2013. The total number of students with final statuses changed between fall 2013 and fall 2016 because: (a) some students who continued high school in fall 2013 left Texas public schools by fall 2016 for reasons other than graduating, receiving GED certificates, or dropping out; and (b) some students who left Texas public schools by fall 2013 without graduating returned to Texas public schools and graduated, received GED certificates, continued high school, or dropped out

by fall 2016. In addition, students with changes in year of final status were added to, or removed from, relevant student groups.

By the fall of 2013, 88.0 percent of the class of 2013 had graduated, 4.6 percent were still in high school, 0.8 percent had received GED certificates, and 6.6 percent had dropped out (Table 39). By the fall of 2016, 91.2 percent of the class of 2013 had graduated, 0.2 percent were still in high school, 1.5 percent had received GED certificates, and 7.1 percent had dropped out.

**Table 39**  
**Grade 9 Four-Year, Five-Year Extended, Six-Year Extended, and Seven-Year Extended Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2013**

Status date	Class <sup>b</sup>	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
As of fall 2013	328,584	289,298	88.0	14,960	4.6	2,692	0.8	21,634	6.6
As of fall 2014	327,568	296,162	90.4	4,187	1.3	3,706	1.1	23,513	7.2
As of fall 2015	327,470	297,648	90.9	1,914	0.6	4,454	1.4	23,454	7.2
As of fall 2016	327,537	298,594	91.2	807	0.2	4,935	1.5	23,201	7.1

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>The total number of students with final statuses changed between fall 2013 and fall 2016 because: (a) some students who continued high school in fall 2013 left Texas public schools (TPS) by fall 2016 for reasons other than graduating, receiving GED certificates, or dropping out; and (b) some students who left TPS by fall 2013 without graduating returned to TPS and graduated, received GED certificates, continued high school, or dropped out by fall 2016.

### ***Grade 7 Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates***

The class of 2016 Grade 7 cohort includes students who entered Grade 7 in Texas public schools for the first time in in 2010-11 plus students who, in the next five school years, entered the Texas public school system in the grade level expected for the cohort. For the class of 2016 Grade 7 cohort, 88.5 percent graduated, 4.7 percent continued in high school the year following their anticipated graduation date, 0.5 percent received GED certificates, and 6.3 percent dropped out (Table 40 on page 102). As with the Grade 9 cohort, the graduation rate for the Grade 7 cohort increased between the class of 2015 and the class of 2016 (Table 22 on page 74 and Table 40 on page 102).

**Table 40**  
**Grade 7 Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity and Economic Status,**  
**Texas Public Schools, Classes of 2013 Through 2016**

Class year	Class	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
<b>African American</b>									
Class of 2013	43,915	36,476	83.1	2,698	6.1	290	0.7	4,451	10.1
Class of 2014	43,649	36,359	83.3	2,609	6.0	272	0.6	4,409	10.1
Class of 2015	44,668	37,667	84.3	2,499	5.6	202	0.5	4,300	9.6
Class of 2016	46,150	39,106	84.7	2,582	5.6	184	0.4	4,278	9.3
<b>American Indian</b>									
Class of 2013	<1,500	– <sup>b</sup>	84.8	–	5.3	–	1.2	–	8.7
Class of 2014	<1,450	–	85.6	–	4.8	–	1.0	–	8.5
Class of 2015	1,478	1,273	86.1	67	4.5	10	0.7	128	8.7
Class of 2016	1,397	1,210	86.6	68	4.9	7	0.5	112	8.0
<b>Asian</b>									
Class of 2013	11,975	11,213	93.6	392	3.3	19	0.2	351	2.9
Class of 2014	12,991	12,253	94.3	393	3.0	15	0.1	330	2.5
Class of 2015	13,455	12,775	94.9	344	2.6	23	0.2	313	2.3
Class of 2016	13,760	13,129	95.4	334	2.4	6	<0.1	291	2.1
<b>Hispanic</b>									
Class of 2013	154,396	129,917	84.1	10,336	6.7	1,251	0.8	12,892	8.3
Class of 2014	159,509	135,158	84.7	10,053	6.3	1,147	0.7	13,151	8.2
Class of 2015	165,028	141,324	85.6	9,899	6.0	820	0.5	12,985	7.9
Class of 2016	173,168	149,252	86.2	9,896	5.7	710	0.4	13,310	7.7
<b>Pacific Islander</b>									
Class of 2013	<450	–	88.7	–	5.4	–	0.5	–	5.4
Class of 2014	<450	–	88.2	–	4.9	–	0.2	–	6.7
Class of 2015	542	476	87.8	22	4.1	5	0.9	39	7.2
Class of 2016	482	418	86.7	34	7.1	1	0.2	29	6.0
<b>White</b>									
Class of 2013	108,977	100,928	92.6	3,282	3.0	942	0.9	3,825	3.5
Class of 2014	109,403	101,146	92.5	3,255	3.0	1,010	0.9	3,992	3.6
Class of 2015	109,269	101,498	92.9	3,137	2.9	805	0.7	3,829	3.5
Class of 2016	109,433	101,633	92.9	3,267	3.0	696	0.6	3,837	3.5
<b>Multiracial</b>									
Class of 2013	5,293	4,845	91.5	185	3.5	45	0.9	218	4.1
Class of 2014	5,676	5,162	90.9	207	3.6	38	0.7	269	4.7
Class of 2015	5,810	5,302	91.3	205	3.5	34	0.6	269	4.6
Class of 2016	6,279	5,667	90.3	268	4.3	42	0.7	302	4.8

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>A dash (–) indicates data are masked. When the number of students represented by a final status is not reported, the corresponding class size is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the class. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information. <sup>c</sup>Numbers in class for race/ethnicity may not sum to the state total because some student records did not correspond to any single new racial/ethnic category.

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**Table 40 (continued)**  
**Grade 7 Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity and Economic Status,**  
**Texas Public Schools, Classes of 2013 Through 2016**

Class year	Class	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
<b>Economically disadvantaged</b>									
Class of 2013	161,745	136,055	84.1	10,298	6.4	1,448	0.9	13,944	8.6
Class of 2014	167,210	140,943	84.3	9,655	5.8	1,432	0.9	15,180	9.1
Class of 2015	169,731	143,722	84.7	9,887	5.8	1,094	0.6	15,028	8.9
Class of 2016	178,024	151,639	85.2	10,031	5.6	903	0.5	15,451	8.7
<b>State</b>									
Class of 2013 <sup>c</sup>	326,482	285,009	87.3	16,994	5.2	2,567	0.8	21,912	6.7
Class of 2014 <sup>c</sup>	333,100	291,684	87.6	16,607	5.0	2,498	0.7	22,311	6.7
Class of 2015	340,250	300,315	88.3	16,173	4.8	1,899	0.6	21,863	6.4
Class of 2016	350,669	310,415	88.5	16,449	4.7	1,646	0.5	22,159	6.3

*Note.* Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>A dash (-) indicates data are masked. When the number of students represented by a final status is not reported, the corresponding class size is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the class. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information. <sup>c</sup>Numbers in class for race/ethnicity may not sum to the state total because some student records did not correspond to any single new racial/ethnic category.

## Attrition Rates

An attrition rate is the percentage change in fall enrollment between two grades across years. It provides a measure of school leavers when aggregate enrollment numbers are the only data available. For Grades 9-12, the rate is calculated by subtracting the number of students enrolled in Grade 12 in Texas public schools in the fall of one school year from Grade 9 enrollment three years earlier, and dividing by the Grade 9 enrollment (Table 41). Grade 7 enrollment five years earlier is used to calculate the Grade 7-12 attrition rate (Table 42). The attrition rate calculations are on page 8.

**Table 41**  
**Attrition Rate, Grades 9-12, by Race/Ethnicity and Economic Status,**  
**Texas Public Schools, 2015-16**

Group	Fall enrollment			Attrition rate (%)
	Grade 9, 2012-13	Grade 12, 2015-16	Change	
African American	54,003	40,730	13,273	24.6
American Indian	1,828	1,307	521	28.5
Asian	13,610	13,830	-220	-1.6
Hispanic	204,130	156,961	47,169	23.1
Pacific Islander	522	447	75	14.4
White	121,795	104,374	17,421	14.3
Multiracial	6,538	5,829	709	10.8
Economically disadvantaged	229,926	152,608	77,318	33.6
State	402,426	323,478	78,948	19.6

*Note.* Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

The attrition rate does not take into account any of the reasons beginning and ending enrollments differ (Table 43). For example, the Grade 9-12 attrition rate does not take into account Grade 9 enrollment that may be high because some students are repeating Grade 9. The attrition rate also does not take into account Grade 12 enrollment that may be lower than Grade 9 enrollment three years earlier because some students left Texas public schools for other educational settings, graduated early, or are in school but not yet in Grade 12. Because the attrition rate is based on enrollment figures from the fall of the first year and fall three years later, it excludes some students. For example, Grade 9 students who enroll after the fall of the first year and students who enter the school system after the first year are excluded from the rates. Additionally, because the attrition rate is based on data from the fall before expected graduation, rather than after expected graduation, it does not take into account whether a student enrolled in Grade 12 in the fall goes on to graduate. The attrition rates were not adjusted for growth in student enrollment over the time period covered.

**Table 42**  
**Attrition Rate, Grades 7-12, by Race/Ethnicity and Economic Status,**  
**Texas Public Schools, 2015-16**

Group	Fall enrollment			Attrition rate (%)
	Grade 7, 2010-11	Grade 12, 2015-16	Change	
African American	46,735	40,730	6,005	12.8
American Indian	1,741	1,307	434	24.9
Asian	11,966	13,830	-1,864	-15.6
Hispanic	175,954	156,961	18,993	10.8
Pacific Islander	401	447	-46	-11.5
White	114,986	104,374	10,612	9.2
Multiracial	5,561	5,829	-268	-4.8
Economically disadvantaged	206,764	152,608	54,156	26.2
State	357,344	323,478	33,866	9.5

Note. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

**Table 43**  
**Comparison of Class of 2016 Four-Year Longitudinal Rate and 2015-16 Attrition Rate**  
**Calculations, Texas Public Schools**

Four-year longitudinal rates, based on tracking individual students		Attrition rate, based on aggregate numbers	
	Students who: (a) began Grade 9 in Texas public schools (TPS) in 2012-13, with repeaters excluded; or (b) entered TPS in Grade 10 in 2013-14, Grade 11 in 2014-15, or Grade 12 in 2015-16. 402,334		Students in Grade 9 in TPS in fall 2012, with students repeating Grade 9 included. 402,426
<b>minus</b>	Students reported to have left TPS in 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, or 2015-16 for reasons other than graduating, receiving General Educational Development (GED) certificates, or dropping out. 47,504	<b>minus</b>	Students in Grade 12 in TPS in fall 2015. Individual students are not tracked. Students enrolled in Grade 12 in TPS in fall 2015 may or may not have been enrolled in Grade 9 in TPS in fall 2012. 323,478
<b>minus</b>	Students who could not be tracked across years because of data errors. <sup>a</sup> 4,146		
<b>equals</b>	Class of 2016 350,684	<b>equals</b>	Change in enrollment 78,948
<b>final statuses</b>	Graduated 312,605		
	Continued 14,762		
	Received GED 1,707		
	Dropped out 21,610		
	Graduation rate 89.1		
	Continuation rate 4.2	Attrition rate	19.6
	Received GED rate 0.5		
	Dropout rate 6.2		

<sup>a</sup>Data errors can result from missing student records (i.e. underreported students) or misreported student identification information. Districts with high numbers or percentages of underreported students, high numbers or percentages of data errors, or high use of certain leaver codes are subject to interventions and sanctions.

## Data Quality Measures

### Data Quality in the Annual Rates

From 1997-98 through 2004-05, districts were required to report the statuses of all students who attended Grades 7-12 during the previous school year. In 2004-05, there were only 3,449 underreported student records. This was a substantial decrease from the 67,281 underreported student records in 1997-98. On a percentage basis, students in Grades 7-12 who had not been accounted for the next fall decreased from 3.6 percent in 1997-98 to 0.2 percent in 2004-05. As a result of major changes in leaver reporting following adoption of the national dropout definition in 2005-06, underreported student rates for 2004-05 and prior school years are not comparable to rates for 2005-06 and beyond.

Beginning with students who attended in 2005-06, TEA has accounted for students who: (a) graduated in a previous school year; (b) moved from one public school district and enrolled in another; or (c) received General Educational Development (GED) certificates. Districts must report the statuses of all other Grade 7-12 students. From 2005-06 to 2015-16, the percentage of students who were not accounted for decreased overall from 0.8 percent to 0.3 percent (Table 44). Across the five largest racial/ethnic groups in 2015-16, two groups—African American and multiracial students—accounted for larger percentages of underreported students than of reported students. The percentage point difference was greatest for African American students (17.7% vs. 12.7%) (Table 45).

**Table 44**  
**Reported and Underreported Students,**  
**Grades 7-12, Texas Public Schools, 2005-06**  
**Through 2015-16**

Year	Students accounted for <sup>a</sup>		Underreported students	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2005-06	2,006,156	99.2	15,887	0.8
2006-07	2,012,621	99.3	13,316	0.7
2007-08	2,031,807	99.4	12,668	0.6
2008-09	2,054,752	99.5	10,045	0.5
2009-10	2,086,735	99.6	8,667	0.4
2010-11	2,117,269	99.6	8,149	0.4
2011-12	2,145,440	99.6	7,620	0.4
2012-13	2,184,207	99.7	7,351	0.3
2013-14	2,231,873	99.6	8,429	0.4
2014-15	2,278,043	99.7	7,834	0.3
2015-16	2,325,546	99.7	6,686	0.3

<sup>a</sup>Students enrolled in Grades 7-12 in one school year who were accounted for by districts or the Texas Education Agency the following fall.

**Table 45**  
**Reported and Underreported Students,**  
**Grades 7-12, by Race/Ethnicity, Texas Public**  
**Schools, 2015-16**

Group	Students accounted for <sup>a</sup>		Underreported students	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
African American	296,114	12.7	1,184	17.7
American Indian	8,596	0.4	48	0.7
Asian	93,496	4.0	167	2.5
Hispanic	1,185,099	51.0	3,351	50.1
Pacific Islander	3,274	0.1	10	0.2
White	695,122	29.9	1,788	26.7
Multiracial	43,845	1.9	138	2.1
State	2,325,546	100	6,686	100

*Note.* Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>Students enrolled in Grades 7-12 in 2015-16 who were accounted for by districts or the Texas Education Agency the following fall.

### ***Data Quality in the Longitudinal Rates***

Calculating longitudinal rates requires tracking a cohort of students over a number of years, from the time they enter Grade 9 until after their anticipated graduation date. Using information submitted through TSDS and other data files, most students are assigned one of four final statuses: graduate, continuer, GED certificate recipient, or dropout.

Two groups of students from a cohort are not assigned final statuses: students who cannot be tracked from year to year because districts submitted their records to the Texas Education Agency with identification errors; and students for whom districts did not submit final status records, who are considered underreported. For the class of 2016 Grade 9 cohort, 471 students (0.1%) could not be tracked because of identification errors, and 3,675 students (0.9%) were underreported by districts (Table 46 on page 108).

In addition to tracking students in the class of 2016, TEA tracked continuers in the class of 2015 through 2015-16 to determine whether they dropped out that year. There were 14,013 students in the class of 2015 who remained enrolled in fall 2015. Of these, 2,470 dropped out in 2015-16, resulting in a dropout rate for continuing students of 17.6 percent.

**Table 46**  
**Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Cohort, Texas Public Schools, Classes of 2012 Through 2016**

Cohort ending year	Cohort							
	Class					Data errors		Cohort
	Graduated	Continued	Received GED <sup>a</sup>	Dropped out	Other leavers <sup>b</sup>	Student ID errors	Underreported students	
2012	277,778	15,750	3,198	20,032	49,601	915	3,917	371,191
2013	289,298	14,960	2,692	21,634	50,113	867	4,072	383,636
2014	294,240	14,487	2,582	21,977	48,998	749	4,144	387,177
2015	302,262	14,013	1,994	21,357	48,906	583	3,828	392,943
2016	312,605	14,762	1,707	21,610	47,504	471	3,675	402,334

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>Other leavers are students who left the Texas public school system for reasons other than graduating, receiving GED certificates, or dropping out. For more information on other leavers, see Table A-1 in Appendix A.

# **Uses of Texas Annual Dropout Data and Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Data**

State Accountability System

Federal Accountability System

National Center for  
Education Statistics Reporting

## State Accountability System

The public school accountability system consists of four indices: student achievement, student progress, closing performance gaps, and postsecondary readiness (TEA, 2017a). Annual dropout rates, longitudinal graduation rates, and diploma program rates are components of the postsecondary readiness index. The rates used for 2017 accountability procedures for campuses and districts include: the class of 2016 four-year graduation rate and the class of 2015 five-year graduation rate. In addition, two four-year diploma program rates were calculated using different combinations of the four state high school diploma programs: Minimum (MHSP), Recommended (RHSP), Advanced (AHSP), and Foundation (FHSP). The diploma program rate that gave the district or campus the most points was used for state accountability.

One rate measured the percentage of MHSP, RHSP, and AHSP graduates who graduated under the RHSP or AHSP and was calculated as follows.

$$\frac{\text{RHSP} + \text{AHSP}}{\text{MHSP} + \text{RHSP} + \text{AHSP}}$$

The other rate measured the percentage of MHSP, RHSP, and AHSP graduates and FHSP graduates with and without an endorsement who graduated under the RHSP or AHSP or the FHSP with an endorsement (with or without a DLA) and was calculated as follows.

$$\frac{\text{RHSP} + \text{AHSP} + \text{FHSP with endorsement (with or without DLA)}}{\text{MHSP} + \text{RHSP} + \text{AHSP} + \text{FHSP without endorsement} + \text{FHSP with endorsement (with or without DLA)}}$$

The groups evaluated on graduation rates were: all students, students ever identified as English language learners (ELLs) during high school, students served in special education programs, and the seven racial/ethnic groups used for federal reporting (African American, American Indian, Asian, Hispanic, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial). The groups evaluated on diploma program rate were all students and the seven racial/ethnic groups used for federal reporting. For campuses and districts that did not meet the grade span criteria needed for calculation of a graduation rate, the Grade 9-12 annual dropout rate was used. The same groups evaluated for graduation rates were evaluated for the Grade 9-12 annual dropout rate.

For alternative education campuses and districts, the class of 2016 four-year, class of 2015 five-year extended, and class of 2014 six-year extended graduation, continuation, or General Educational Development (GED) certification rates were used. The groups evaluated for the graduation, continuation, or GED certification rates were: all students; students ever identified as ELLs during high school; students served in special education programs; and the seven racial/ethnic groups used for federal reporting. For campuses and districts that did not have a graduation, continuation, or GED certification rate, the Grade 9-12 annual dropout rate was used.

Under Texas Education Code (TEC) §39.053(g-1) (2016), a student who meets at least one of the following criteria is excluded from campus and district rate calculations used for state



accountability purposes, beginning with the class of 2011: (a) a student who is ordered by a court to attend a high school equivalency certificate program but has not earned a high school equivalency certificate; (b) a student previously reported to the state as a dropout; (c) a student in attendance but who is not in membership for purposes of average daily attendance (i.e., students for whom school districts are not receiving state Foundation School Program [FSP] funds); (d) a student whose initial enrollment in a school in the United States in Grades 7 through 12 was as an unschooled refugee or asylee as defined by TEC §39.027(a-1); (e) a student who is in the district exclusively as a function of having been detained at a county detention facility but is otherwise not a student of the district in which the facility is located; or (f) a student who is incarcerated in a state jail or federal penitentiary as an adult or as a person certified to stand trial as an adult. In addition, beginning with 2014 accountability procedures, any student in a residential treatment facility served by a Texas public school district is excluded from campus and district rate calculations used for state accountability purposes (TEC §39.055, 2016).

Beginning with the class of 2016, a student is also excluded from campus and district longitudinal rate calculations if the student: (a) is at least 18 years of age as of September 1 of the school year and has satisfied the credit requirements for high school graduation; (b) has not completed his or her individualized education program (IEP) under Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code §89.1070(b)(2) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 United States Code §1400 et seq.); and (c) is enrolled and receiving IEP services (TEC §39.053(g-2), 2016).

A total of 25,826 students, 5,750 of whom were dropouts, were excluded from the 2015-16 campus and district Grade 9-12 annual dropout rates for state accountability ratings in 2017 (Table 47 on page 112). For each student enrolled in Texas public schools in 2015-16, the exclusion criteria he or she met were summed across all districts attended. The majority of students, represented in the first six rows of the table, met one exclusion criterion at a single district. Some students met multiple exclusion criteria at one district or across multiple districts. Such students were counted only in the "two or more exclusions" category in the "students" column. Exclusions for dropouts were counted somewhat differently. A student was attributed as a dropout only to the last district he or she attended; therefore, the student was counted as a dropout only in the exclusion category reported by that district. If the district reported multiple exclusion criteria for the student, he or she was counted only in the "two or more exclusions" category. The following example illustrates the difference in methods and helps explain why the number of excluded dropouts exceeded the number of excluded students in some cases. A student reported as ineligible for FSP funding at one district transfers to another district. In the second district, the student is determined to be eligible for FSP funding but is court-ordered to attend a GED program, does not receive a GED certificate, and drops out. In this case, in the "students" column, the student would be counted only in the "two or more exclusions" category, rather than in the separate categories, "ineligible for FSP funding" and "court-ordered GED program, no GED certificate earned." In the "dropouts" column, the same student would be counted only in the category "court-ordered GED program, no GED certificate earned."

**Table 47**  
**Students and Dropouts Excluded From Campus and District Annual Dropout Rates for State Accountability Purposes, Grades 9-12, Texas Public Schools, 2015-16**

Exclusion <sup>a</sup>	Students		Dropouts	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Court-ordered GED <sup>b</sup> program, no GED certificate earned	405	1.6	424	7.4
Previously reported to the state as a dropout	7,929	30.7	2,238	38.9
Ineligible for FSP <sup>c</sup> funding	2,560	9.9	702	12.2
Unschooling refugee or asylee <sup>d</sup>	1,441	5.6	109	1.9
In a juvenile detention or residential treatment facility	11,982	46.4	1,428	24.8
Incarcerated in state jail or federal penitentiary as an adult	222	0.9	246	4.3
Two or more exclusions	1,287	5.0	603	10.5
State	25,826	100	5,750	100

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

<sup>a</sup>Students may be eligible for exclusion based on more than one criterion. <sup>b</sup>General Educational Development. <sup>c</sup>Foundation School Program. <sup>d</sup>To be excluded, the student must also be reported as an English language learner.

A total of 8,070 students in the class of 2016, 8,390 students in the class of 2015, and 9,295 students in the class of 2014 were excluded from campus and district longitudinal rates calculated for state accountability purposes in 2017 (Table 48 on facing page, Table 49 on page 114, and Table 50 on page 115, respectively). For each student in the three classes, all exclusions that applied in the district of his or her final status were counted. The majority of students, represented in the first seven rows of each table, met one exclusion criterion in their districts of final status. Students who met multiple exclusion criteria were counted only in the "two or more exclusions" category. Some exclusions applied only to students assigned specific final statuses or whose final statuses were in specific years. For example, only students enrolled in the fifth, sixth, or seventh years of the cohort were excluded for being ineligible for FSP funding because students are considered eligible for funding during the first four years of high school. Also, only continuing special education students were excluded if they had met graduation requirements, were at least 18 years of age, but were still working toward completing an Individualized Educational Plan. In addition, students court-ordered to attend GED programs who did not earn GED certificates and students incarcerated in state jails or federal penitentiaries as adults were assigned final statuses of dropout because the exclusions were identified through leaver codes associated with dropping out (see the section "Accounting for Students by Districts" on page 34 for additional information). Students excluded from campus and district rates for state accountability purposes were not excluded from state-level rates. Nevertheless, had these students been excluded: (a) the four-year graduation rate for the class of 2016 would have been 1.9 percentage points higher (91.0%), and the continuation, GED certification, and dropout rates would have been 0.9, 0.1, and 0.9 percentage points lower (3.3%, 0.4%, and 5.3%), respectively; (b) the five-year extended graduation rate for the class of 2015 would have been 1.7 percentage points higher (93.0%), and the continuation, GED certification, and dropout rates would have been 0.5, 0.1, and 1.1 percentage points lower (0.7%, 0.7%, and 5.6%), respectively; and (c) the six-year

**Table 48**  
**Students Excluded From Campus and District Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Rates for State Accountability Purposes, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016**

Exclusion <sup>b</sup>	Graduates		Continuers		GED <sup>a</sup> recipients		Dropouts		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Court-ordered GED program, no GED certificate earned	n/a <sup>c</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,201	100	1,201	14.9
Previously reported to the state as a dropout	618	28.1	605	27.5	31	1.4	948	43.1	2,202	27.3
Ineligible for FSP <sup>d</sup> funding	n/a	n/a	1,199	100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,199	14.9
Unschooling refugee or asylee <sup>e</sup>	127	54.0	37	15.7	0	0.0	71	30.2	235	2.9
In a juvenile detention or residential treatment facility	223	18.3	24	2.0	220	18.0	752	61.7	1,219	15.1
Incarcerated in state jail or federal penitentiary as an adult	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	197	100	197	2.4
IEP <sup>f</sup> continuers	n/a	n/a	1,353	100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,353	16.8
Two or more exclusions	11	2.4	143	30.8	27	5.8	283	61.0	464	5.7
<b>State</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>3,361</b>	<b>41.6</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3,452</b>	<b>42.8</b>	<b>8,070</b>	<b>100</b>

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>Students may be eligible for exclusion based on more than one criterion. <sup>c</sup>Not applicable. Please see table discussion for additional information. <sup>d</sup>Foundation School Program. <sup>e</sup>To be excluded, the student must also be reported as an English language learner. <sup>f</sup>Individualized education program.

**Table 49**  
**Students Excluded From Campus and District Grade 9 Five-Year Extended Longitudinal Rates**  
**for State Accountability Purposes, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2015, as of Fall 2016**

Exclusion <sup>b</sup>	Graduates		Continuers		GED <sup>a</sup> recipients		Dropouts		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Court-ordered GED program, no GED certificate earned	n/a <sup>c</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,395	100	1,395	16.6
Previously reported to the state as a dropout	976	34.8	468	16.7	70	2.5	1,287	45.9	2,801	33.4
Ineligible for FSP <sup>d</sup> funding	554	45.2	350	28.5	9	0.7	314	25.6	1,227	14.6
Unschooling refugee or asylee <sup>e</sup>	111	57.5	3	1.6	0	0.0	79	40.9	193	2.3
In a juvenile detention or residential treatment facility	226	19.5	6	0.5	276	23.9	649	56.1	1,157	13.8
Incarcerated in state jail or federal penitentiary as an adult	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	215	100	215	2.6
IEP <sup>f</sup> continuers	n/a	n/a	928	100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	928	11.1
Two or more exclusions	19	4.0	132	27.8	31	6.5	292	61.6	474	5.6
State	1,886	22.5	1,887	22.5	386	4.6	4,231	50.4	8,390	100

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>Students may be eligible for exclusion based on more than one criterion. <sup>c</sup>Not applicable. Please see table discussion for additional information. <sup>d</sup>Foundation School Program. <sup>e</sup>To be excluded, the student must also be reported as an English language learner. <sup>f</sup>Individualized education program.

**Table 50**  
**Students Excluded From Campus and District Grade 9 Six-Year Extended Longitudinal Rates**  
**for State Accountability Purposes, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2014, as of Fall 2016**

Exclusion <sup>b</sup>	Graduates		Continuers		GED <sup>a</sup> recipients		Dropouts		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Court-ordered GED program, no GED certificate earned	n/a <sup>c</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,359	100	1,359	14.6
Previously reported to the state as a dropout	1,163	38.5	231	7.6	137	4.5	1,489	49.3	3,020	32.5
Ineligible for FSP <sup>d</sup> funding	835	39.3	250	11.8	30	1.4	1,012	47.6	2,127	22.9
Unschooling refugee or asylee <sup>e</sup>	76	43.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	99	56.6	175	1.9
In a juvenile detention or residential treatment facility	230	18.1	5	0.4	351	27.6	686	53.9	1,272	13.7
Incarcerated in state jail or federal penitentiary as an adult	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	188	100	188	2.0
IEP <sup>f</sup> continuers	n/a	n/a	600	100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	600	6.5
Two or more exclusions	38	6.9	114	20.6	54	9.7	348	62.8	554	6.0
State	2,342	25.2	1,200	12.9	572	6.2	5,181	55.7	9,295	100

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>Students may be eligible for exclusion based on more than one criterion. <sup>c</sup>Not applicable. Please see table discussion for additional information. <sup>d</sup>Foundation School Program. <sup>e</sup>To be excluded, the student must also be reported as an English language learner. <sup>f</sup>Individualized education program.

extended graduation rate for the class of 2014 would have been 1.9 percentage points higher (92.8%), and the continuation, GED certification, and dropout rates would have been 0.3, 0.1, and 1.4 percentage points lower (0.3%, 1.1%, and 5.8%), respectively.

## Federal Accountability System

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was first passed by Congress in 1965 as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB, 2003) reauthorized this legislation. The primary function of the Act was to close the achievement gap between groups of students by requiring greater accountability and offering increased flexibility and choice. Under NCLB, the state and all public school districts and campuses were evaluated annually for adequate yearly progress (AYP), and AYP statuses were assigned to Texas public school districts and campuses from 2003 through 2012.

In 2013, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) approved a Texas Education Agency (TEA) request to waive 2012-13 and 2013-14 AYP calculations, noting that TEA's existing intervention systems adequately guide the support and improvement of schools (TEA, 2016c). Specifically, TEA system safeguards identify schools that are eligible for additional federal funding while subject to a series of federally-prescribed interventions. In 2014, TEA requested a one-year extension of ED's approval to implement ESEA flexibility through the end of the 2014-15 school year. ED approved the extension request with conditions related to the state's teacher and principal evaluation and support systems. Texas received another extension effective through the 2015-16 school year.

On December 10, 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA, 2015) reauthorized the ESEA and provides states with new flexibility to develop a state accountability system to meet federal accountability requirements. However, the new accountability provisions of ESSA do not affect the state accountability ratings assigned for the 2016–17 school year. Furthermore, ESSA regulations did not require states to request AYP waivers for the 2016-17 school year. The targets established in the 2015-16 waiver will continue to be used until the state's new federal accountability plan is approved.

For 2017, TEA accountability system safeguard measures included four components: (1) assessment performance rates, (2) assessment participation rates, (3) graduation rates, and (4) limits on use of the alternative assessment (TEA, 2017a). The long-term statewide goal for the four-year graduation rate was 90.0 percent. Districts and campuses that did not meet this goal must have met one of the following targets: (a) four-year graduation rate annual target of 88.5 percent; (b) four-year graduation rate growth target of a 10.0 percent decrease in the difference between prior-year graduation rate and the 90.0 percent goal; or (c) five-year graduation rate annual target of 91.0 percent. The targets applied to 11 student groups: all students, students ever identified as English language learners in high school, students served in special education programs, students identified as economically disadvantaged, and the seven racial/ethnic groups used for federal reporting (African American, American Indian, Asian, Hispanic, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial). A student in a Texas Juvenile Justice Department facility or residential treatment facility served by a Texas public school district was excluded from campus and district graduation rate calculations.

# National Center for Education Statistics Reporting

## ***Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate***

In 2004, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) released a report with the recommendations of a panel of experts on graduation rate calculations. The lead recommendation was for all states to adopt a standard, four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate (NCES, 2004). The adjusted cohort graduation rate is based on the tracking of individual students from the time they begin Grade 9 until the fall following their expected graduation and is the same as the graduation rate that TEA calculates for federal accountability. NCES released the class of 2015 adjusted cohort graduation rates in September 2016 (NCES, 2016). For the class of 2015, the rates ranged from 90.8 percent in Iowa to 68.5 percent in the District of Columbia (Table 51 on page 118). Texas ranked fourth out of 50 states and the District of Columbia, with an adjusted cohort graduation rate of 89.0 percent.

## ***Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate***

In addition to collecting adjusted cohort graduation rates calculated by each state based on student-level data, NCES calculates averaged freshman graduation rates (AFGRs) based on aggregate enrollment and graduation counts. The AFGR is calculated by dividing the number of high school students who graduate with a regular high school diploma in a given school year by the average of three enrollments: Grade 8 enrollment five years earlier, Grade 9 enrollment four years earlier, and Grade 10 enrollment three years earlier.

$$\frac{\text{number of graduates in year 5}}{\text{average of (Grade 8 enrollment in year 1, Grade 9 enrollment in year 2, Grade 10 enrollment in year 3)}}$$

NCES released the 2012-13 AFGRs through the Digest of Education Statistics (NCES, n.d.). For 2012-13, the rates ranged from 93.3 percent in Nebraska to 67.5 percent in Nevada (Table 52 on page 120). Texas, along with California, ranked 20th out of 50 states and the District of Columbia, with an AFGR of 83.6 percent.

A state's AFGR may be lower than its adjusted cohort graduation rate because the AFGR does not account for students who leave for home schools, private schools, or schools out of state. By contrast, a state's AFGR may be higher than its adjusted cohort graduation rate because the AFGR: (a) excludes from the denominator students who entered a state's public schools in the last years of a cohort or (b) includes in its numerator students who take more than four years to graduate.

**Table 51**  
**National Center for Education Statistics Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates (%), by**  
**Race/Ethnicity and State, Class of 2015**

State	Rank	All students	African American	American Indian	Asian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic	White
Iowa	1	90.8	79.0	85.0	92.0	83.0	92.4
New Jersey	2	89.7	81.5	89.0	96.3	82.8	94.0
Alabama	3	89.3	87.0	90.0	93.0	90.0	90.5
<b>Texas</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>89.0</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>95.1</b>	<b>86.5</b>	<b>93.4</b>
Nebraska	5	88.9	75.0	76.0	79.0	81.6	92.5
Wisconsin	6	88.4	64.1	78.0	91.0	77.5	92.9
New Hampshire	7	88.1	80.0	75.0	91.0	75.0	88.9
Kentucky	8	88.0	80.4	81.0	91.0	83.0	89.3
Tennessee	9	87.9	80.6	85.0	93.0	83.5	90.9
Missouri	10	87.8	75.6	86.0	93.0	84.0	90.6
Vermont	11	87.7	81.0	>=50.0 <sup>a</sup>	76.0	82.0	88.5
Maine	12	87.5	80.0	82.0	93.0	80.0	87.9
Massachusetts	13	87.3	77.5	80.0	92.3	72.2	91.6
Connecticut	14	87.2	78.0	87.0	95.0	74.8	92.7
Indiana	15	87.1	74.9	86.0	88.0	83.0	89.6
Maryland	16	87.0	82.3	79.0	95.9	76.9	92.0
North Dakota	17	86.6	76.0	60.0	78.0	75.0	90.6
West Virginia	18	86.5	83.0	71.0	>=95.0 <sup>a</sup>	83.0	86.7
Montana	19	86.0	82.0	67.0	95.0	83.0	88.7
Kansas	20	85.7	79.0	81.0	91.0	78.2	88.3
Virginia	20	85.7	78.8	n/a <sup>b</sup>	91.9	76.0	89.6
Delaware	22	85.6	83.2	69.0	94.0	81.0	88.0
Illinois	22	85.6	75.5	79.0	93.8	80.7	90.2
North Carolina	22	85.6	82.2	82.0	92.0	80.0	88.3
Arkansas	25	84.9	77.5	80.0	86.0	84.5	87.4
Pennsylvania	26	84.8	71.8	76.0	90.7	69.5	89.3
Utah	26	84.8	70.0	70.0	86.0	74.4	87.4
South Dakota	28	83.9	72.0	49.0	81.0	70.0	89.5
Rhode Island	29	83.2	77.0	65.0	87.0	76.0	86.6
Oklahoma	30	82.5	77.4	82.2	89.0	78.8	84.2

Source. Primary data from National Center for Education Statistics (2016).

<sup>a</sup>The result is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the rate while maintaining student anonymity. <sup>b</sup>Not available. <sup>c</sup>A dash (-) indicates data were not reported to protect student anonymity. <sup>d</sup>The rate for American Indian students in the United States were estimated using reported data from 49 states and the District of Columbia and imputed data for Virginia.

**continues**



**Table 51 (continued)**  
**National Center for Education Statistics Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates (%), by Race/Ethnicity and State, Class of 2015**

State	Rank	All students	African American	American Indian	Asian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic	White
California	31	82.0	71.0	73.0	92.2	79.0	88.0
Minnesota	32	81.9	62.0	52.0	82.7	65.6	86.9
Hawaii	33	81.6	74.0	61.0	82.8	75.0	79.0
Ohio	34	80.7	59.7	75.0	86.0	69.9	85.7
South Carolina	35	80.3	76.7	80.0	91.0	77.0	82.7
Michigan	36	79.8	67.3	71.0	90.3	72.1	83.5
Wyoming	37	79.3	68.0	45.0	88.0	72.0	81.8
New York	38	79.2	66.5	65.0	84.9	66.0	88.7
Idaho	39	78.9	75.0	66.0	84.0	71.2	80.8
Georgia	40	78.8	75.2	76.0	87.9	72.0	82.8
Washington	41	78.2	68.8	60.0	85.5	69.6	80.9
Florida	42	77.9	68.0	76.0	90.5	76.7	82.7
Louisiana	43	77.5	71.4	76.0	90.0	75.0	82.7
Arizona	44	77.4	72.6	66.8	87.0	72.7	83.2
Colorado	45	77.3	69.9	64.0	87.0	67.6	82.6
Alaska	46	75.6	71.0	64.0	83.0	72.0	80.0
Mississippi	47	75.4	72.0	70.0	85.0	68.0	79.4
Oregon	48	73.8	63.0	55.0	84.0	67.4	76.0
Nevada	49	71.3	55.5	58.0	82.0	66.7	78.0
New Mexico	50	68.6	61.0	63.0	79.0	67.2	73.6
District of Columbia	51	68.5	67.1	– <sup>c</sup>	79.0	68.0	86.0
<b>United States</b>		<b>83.2</b>	<b>74.6</b>	<b>71.6<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>90.2</b>	<b>77.8</b>	<b>87.6</b>

Source. Primary data from National Center for Education Statistics (2016).

<sup>a</sup>The result is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the rate while maintaining student anonymity. <sup>b</sup>Not available. <sup>c</sup>A dash (–) indicates data were not reported to protect student anonymity. <sup>d</sup>The rate for American Indian students in the United States were estimated using reported data from 49 states and the District of Columbia and imputed data for Virginia.

**Table 52**  
**National Center for Education Statistics Averaged Freshman Graduation Rates, by State,**  
**2010-11 Through 2012-13**

State	2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		State	2010-11		2011-12		2012-13	
	Rate (%)	Rank	Rate (%)	Rank	Rate (%)	Rank		Rate (%)	Rank	Rate (%)	Rank	Rate (%)	Rank
Nebraska	89.8	4	92.7	1	93.3	1	Tennessee	81.1	23	83.6	20	82.4	26
Wisconsin	92.2	2	92.2	2	93.0	2	Idaho	83.2	17	83.9	17	82.1	27
North Dakota	90.2	3	91.1	4	91.4	3	Utah	78.5	32	77.6	37	81.6	28
Minnesota	89.2	5	88.4	6	91.0	4	West Virginia	78.1	33	80.3	27	81.5	29
Iowa	89.0	6	89.3	5	89.4	5	Indiana	79.9	27	80.0	29	81.0	30
Vermont	92.7	1	91.9	3	89.3	6	North Carolina	76.8	38	78.7	32	80.5	31
New Jersey	86.6	7	86.4	12	89.1	7	Washington	79.0	30	79.2	31	80.4	32
Kansas	86.5	9	88.3	7	88.4	8	Arkansas	77.0	37	78.1	34	80.1	33
Massachusetts	85.4	12	86.5	11	88.4	8	Alaska	77.9	35	78.6	33	79.9	34
Pennsylvania	85.8	10	88.3	7	88.4	8	Oklahoma	79.9	27	79.3	30	79.4	35
Maine	85.7	11	86.7	10	87.5	11	Rhode Island	76.6	39	77.1	40	79.0	36
Connecticut	84.7	13	86.1	13	87.4	12	New York	77.6	36	77.1	40	78.5	37
New Hampshire	86.6	7	87.0	9	87.3	13	Michigan	74.7	42	77.5	38	78.3	38
Missouri	84.7	13	85.9	14	86.6	14	Hawaii	73.7	43	77.9	36	78.0	39
Maryland	83.8	15	84.5	16	85.6	15	District of Columbia	64.9	50	70.8	48	77.7	40
Ohio	82.3	19	83.9	17	84.9	16	Delaware	76.1	40	77.1	40	77.0	41
Virginia	82.7	18	83.9	17	84.8	17	Oregon	78.1	33	78.0	35	76.8	42
Montana	83.7	16	85.7	15	84.7	18	Arizona	78.9	31	77.3	39	76.5	43
South Dakota	81.6	21	83.1	21	83.8	19	Florida	72.0	44	74.7	44	75.8	44
California	79.7	29	81.7	26	83.6	20	Alabama	76.1	40	75.1	43	74.2	45
<b>Texas</b>	<b>81.4</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>83.0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>83.6</b>	<b>20</b>	South Carolina	69.0	48	71.6	47	74.2	45
Colorado	82.0	20	82.3	23	83.3	22	Louisiana	71.2	45	71.9	46	72.7	47
Kentucky	80.9	24	81.9	25	83.1	23	New Mexico	70.7	46	74.3	45	71.6	48
Illinois	80.0	26	82.1	24	82.7	24	Georgia	69.6	47	69.6	49	70.5	49
Wyoming	80.4	25	80.2	28	82.5	25	Mississippi	68.5	49	67.3	50	68.4	50
							Nevada	58.7	51	59.5	51	67.5	51
							<b>United States<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>79.6</b>		<b>80.8</b>		<b>81.9</b>	

Source. Primary data from National Center for Education Statistics (n.d.).

<sup>a</sup>United States totals include any of the 50 states and the District of Columbia that reported all data elements.

## **Event Dropout Rate**

TEA submits annual Grade 9-12 dropout data to NCES, which uses the data, along with dropout information submitted by other states, to calculate event dropout rates. The NCES event dropout rate is the percentage of students who drop out of school during one school year. It is calculated by dividing the number of students who drop out by the total number of students enrolled on a single day of the year, usually October 1.

$$\frac{\text{number of students who dropped out during the school year}}{\text{number of students enrolled on October 1 of the school year}}$$

The TEA annual dropout rate differs from the NCES event dropout rate. The denominator in the TEA annual dropout rate formula is the cumulative number of students in attendance at any time during the school year. By contrast, the denominator in the NCES event dropout rate formula is the number of students enrolled at a single point in time in the fall of the school year.

NCES released the 2011-12 Grade 9-12 event dropout rates in April 2014 (NCES, 2014). For 2011-12, the rates ranged from 1.3 percent in New Hampshire to 7.0 percent in Alaska (Table 53 on page 122). Texas, along with five other states, ranked 15th out of 50 states and the District of Columbia, with an event dropout rate of 2.5 percent.

**Table 53**  
**National Center for Education Statistics Event Dropout Rates, Grades 9-12, by State, 2009-10**  
**Through 2011-12**

State	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		State	2009-10		2010-11		2011-12	
	Rate (%)	Rank	Rate (%)	Rank	Rate (%)	Rank		Rate (%)	Rank	Rate (%)	Rank	Rate (%)	Rank
New Hampshire	1.2	1	1.3	1	1.3	1	South Dakota	2.6	16	2.6	19	3.1	25
Alabama	1.8	6	1.4	2	1.4 <sup>a</sup>	2	Arkansas	3.6	29	3.5	30	3.2	27
New Jersey	1.6	3	1.4	2	1.4	2	Iowa	3.4	26	3.4	27	3.2	27
Utah	2.6	16	1.5	4	1.5	4	Maine	4.2	34	3.5	30	3.2	27
Idaho	1.4	2	1.6	5	1.9	5	Mississippi	7.4	50	3.2	23	3.2	27
Minnesota	1.6	3	1.8	6	1.9	5	Oregon	3.4	26	3.2	23	3.4	31
Virginia	2.1	7	2.3	13	1.9	5	Delaware	3.9	32	3.6	32	3.5	32
Wisconsin	2.2	10	2.0	9	1.9	5	Tennessee	2.7	18	3.6	32	3.7	33
Connecticut	3.0	23	1.9	8	2.1	9	Maryland	2.7	18	3.3	25	3.8	34
Florida	2.3	13	2.1	10	2.1	9	New York	3.6	29	3.6	32	3.8	34
Indiana	1.6	3	1.8	6	2.1	9	Washington	4.2	34	4.0	38	3.8	34
Kansas	2.1	7	2.3	13	2.1	9	Georgia	3.8	31	3.9	35	3.9	37
Nebraska	2.2	10	2.1	10	2.2	13	Nevada	4.5	39	4.1	39	3.9	37
Illinois	2.9	22	2.9	22	2.4	14	California	4.6	40	4.2	40	4.0	39
Kentucky	3.2	25	2.5	16	2.5	15	Montana	4.3	37	4.3	41	4.1	40
Massachusetts	2.8	21	2.7	20	2.5	15	Rhode Island	4.6	40	5.2	46	4.2	41
Oklahoma	2.4	14	2.5	16	2.5	15	Wyoming	6.0	46	5.4	47	4.3	42
South Carolina	3.0	23	2.8	21	2.5	15	Ohio	4.2	34	4.4	42	4.6	43
<b>Texas</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>15</b>	Hawaii	5.2	44	5.1	44	4.7	44
Vermont	2.4	14	2.5	16	2.5	15	Colorado	5.3	45	5.1	44	4.9	45
West Virginia	4.0	33	3.4	27	2.7	21	Louisiana	4.8	43	3.9	35	5.7	46
Pennsylvania	2.1	7	2.2	12	2.8	22	District of Columbia	7.0 <sup>b</sup>	49	6.1	48	5.8	47
Missouri	3.5	28	3.4	27	2.9	23	Arizona	7.8	51	5.0	43	5.9	48
North Dakota	2.2	10	3.3	25	3.0	24	New Mexico	6.9	47	6.6	49	6.4	49
North Carolina	4.7	42	3.9	35	3.1	25	Michigan	4.3	37	7.2	51	6.9	50
							Alaska	6.9	47	6.9	50	7.0	51
							<b>United States<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>3.4</b>		<b>3.3</b>		<b>3.3</b>	

Source. Primary data from National Center for Education Statistics (2014).

<sup>a</sup>Data were imputed based on prior-year reported data. <sup>b</sup>Data were imputed based on prior-year rates. <sup>c</sup>United States totals include any of the 50 states and the District of Columbia that reported all data elements.

**Appendix A  
Leaver Reason Codes  
and Documentation Requirements  
in the Public Education Information  
Management System**

Introduction

General Documentation Requirements

Documentation Requirements  
by LEAVER-REASON-CODE

Table A-1  
Leaver Reason Codes  
in the Public Education  
Information Management System

## Introduction

Table A-1 on page 129 provides expanded definitions and specific documentation guidelines for each of the leaver reason codes listed in Code Table C162 of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) *2016-2017 Texas Education Data Standards* (TEDS) (TEA, 2016d). The table is organized into the following broad categories of leavers:

- completed high school or General Educational Development (GED) program
- moved to other educational setting
- withdrawn by school district
- other

Leaver records are not submitted for students who enroll in other Texas public school districts or charters and students who obtain GED certificates at Texas examination sites by August 31. Students who move to other Texas public school districts are considered movers, not leavers. Documentation as described in this appendix is not required for movers; districts may wish to develop local policy on documentation for movers. The Person Identification Database (PID) Enrollment Tracking (PET) may be used to establish tentative local documentation that students are movers. The final determination of whether students are movers will be made by TEA.

## General Documentation Requirements

Districts must document the withdrawal of students and maintain on file the appropriate paperwork associated with student withdrawals. Documentation is required for all leaver reason codes. Documentation requirements for leaver codes are provided in the Documentation Requirements by LEAVER-REASON-CODE section. Documentation supporting use of a leaver reason code must exist in the district at the time the leaver data are submitted, i.e., no later than the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) Submission 1 January resubmission date.

### ***Timelines for Establishing Leaver Reasons and Obtaining Documentation***

**Students who leave during the school year.** For students who leave during the school year, leaver reasons apply at the time of withdrawal, and documentation should be obtained at that time. For example, for students who are withdrawn by Child Protective Services (CPS), LEAVER-REASON-CODE 66, documentation would be obtained when the student is removed.

**Students who fail to return in the fall.** For students who fail to return the following fall, leaver reasons apply on the first day of school or its approximation, the school-start window. The school-start window is the period of time between the first day of school and the last Friday in September. Districts should use the LEAVER-REASON-CODE that most appropriately describes the student's whereabouts during the school-start window. For example, to use LEAVER-REASON-CODE 60 student withdrew from/left school for home schooling, a district would establish that a student was being home schooled at some point during the school-start window. The district could obtain the documentation to support the leaver code at any time up until the PEIMS Submission 1 resubmission date.

**Students who were attending and were withdrawn under LEAVER-REASON-CODE 83 when the district discovered that the student was not entitled to public school enrollment in the district.** LEAVER-REASON-CODE 83, not entitled to public school enrollment in the district, applies to students who are attending and are withdrawn by the district because the district discovers, when verifying enrollment information, that the student was not entitled to enrollment in the district because the student was not a resident of the district or was not entitled under other provisions of Texas Education Code (TEC) §25.001 or as a transfer student. It is not for a student who was a resident and stops attending because he/she has moved out of the district.

This code is also used for those rare situations in which the student has not met the requirements under TEC §38.001 or a corresponding rule of the Texas Department of State Health Services for immunization, provisional enrollment, or exemption. Leaver reasons for LEAVER-REASON-CODE 83 apply at the time of withdrawal and documentation showing due process supporting the withdrawal should be obtained at that time.

## ***Signatures on Documentation***

Documentation must be signed and dated by an authorized representative of the district. The district should have a written policy stating who can act as an authorized representative for purposes of signing withdrawal forms and other leaver reason documentation.

Withdrawal documentation should also be signed for the student by a:

- parent, or
- guardian, or
- responsible adult as recorded in school records, such as a foster parent or a probation officer, or
- qualified student. A qualified student is one who, at the time he/she stops attending school:
  - is married, or
  - is 18 years or older, or
  - has established a residence separate and apart from the student's parent, guardian, or other person having lawful control of the student.

An original signature is not required on withdrawal forms received in the district by fax. Withdrawal forms received by e-mail do not need to be signed by the parent/guardian or qualified student. Written documentation of oral statements made in person or by telephone by the parent/guardian or qualified student is acceptable documentation in some situations if it is signed and dated by the district representative.

## ***Evaluation of Documentation***

Merits of leaver documentation are assessed at the time the documentation is requested during a data inquiry investigation. Determination of the acceptability of documentation is made by the professional staff conducting the investigation. These guidelines describe the most common types of documentation the investigator would expect to find supporting use of each leaver reason code. Other documentation that represents good business practice and shows a good faith effort on the part of the district to properly report leaver status will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

## ***Completeness of Documentation***

Withdrawal documentation shall be considered incomplete without a date, signature(s), and destination. Documentation will not be deemed insufficient when information is missing because the parent or parents refuse to provide information requested by the district. A district should document at the time of the conversation that the information was requested, and the parent refused to provide it. Appropriate documentation of a parent refusal to provide information includes the date, content of



conversation, name of person with whom the conversation was conducted, and the signature of the school official verifying the conversation.

### **Changing LEAVER-REASON-CODEs**

Once a district meets the documentation standard that supports the leaver reason code used, the district is not required to obtain additional information on the student. Local policy will determine if an existing leaver reason code is updated for a student when additional information is received. The policy should be clearly stated in the district's published guidelines on leaver procedures. For example, if a district assigned LEAVER-REASON-CODE 60 *student withdrew from/left school for home schooling* for a student and later received a request for transcript information from a private school for the same student, the district may change the LEAVER-REASON-CODE to 81 *enroll in a Texas private school* but is not obligated to.

## **Documentation Requirements by LEAVER-REASON-CODE**

In addition to general documentation requirements, requirements specific to leaver reason codes also apply. Following are the specific documentation requirements by leaver reason code. They are grouped into four major categories: graduated or received an out-of-state GED, moved to other educational setting, withdrawn by school district, and other reasons. School leavers with this LEAVER-REASON-CODE are counted as dropouts for state accountability purposes: code 98. School leavers with this LEAVER-REASON-CODE are counted as dropouts for federal accountability purposes: codes 88, 89, 98.

**Table A-1  
Leaver Reason Codes in the Public Education Information Management System**

Leaver code	Explanation/clarification and documentation requirements
<b>Graduated or received an out-of-state GED</b>	
01	<p><b>Student graduated from a campus in this district or charter</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> Use for students who meet all high school graduation requirements (which includes passing the state assessments required for graduation) at any time during the prior school year, including the summer (through August 31) following the close of the prior year.</p> <p>To graduate, a student must satisfy the requirements under 19 TAC Chapter 74, Subchapter B. Special education students must satisfy requirements under 19 TAC §89.1070. Students who complete all course requirements for graduation in one school year but do not pass the state assessments required for graduation until a later year, are reported as graduates in the school year in which the state assessments are passed and the diploma is issued.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Transcript showing sufficient credits, successful completion of the state assessments (including testing dates) required for graduation, graduation seal, school official signature, and date of completion.</p>
85	<p><b>Student graduated outside Texas before entering a Texas public school, entered a Texas public school, and left again</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> This code may be used for students who graduated in another state or country before entering Texas public schools. This code may also be used for students who graduated from Texhoma High School, Texhoma, Oklahoma.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Transcript showing sufficient credits, date, and school official signature, and a diploma with a graduation seal.</p>
86	<p><b>Student completed the GED outside Texas</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> This code may be used for students who earned GED certificates outside Texas, including students living in Texas and earning GED certificates online from a testing company in another state, before enrolling or after leaving Texas public schools.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Acceptable documentation is a copy of the GED certificate or some other written document provided by the testing company showing completion of the GED. Written documentation from the testing company must include the date of GED completion, location, address, and contact information of the company.</p>
90	<p><b>Student graduated from another state under provisions of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> Per TEC §162.002, student lives in the household of an active-duty military serviceperson, transferred into Texas public schools at the beginning of or during his or her senior year, did not meet requirements to graduate from Texas public schools, did meet requirements to graduate from a school in the sending state, and, under provisions of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, graduated from a school or district in the sending state.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Transcript showing sufficient credits, date, and school official signature, or a diploma with a graduation seal.</p>
<b>Moved to other educational setting</b>	
24	<p><b>Student entered college and is working towards an Associate's or Bachelor's degree</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> This code is for students who leave secondary school to enter college early. It should be used for students who are enrolled full-time (at least 9 credit hours per semester). This code is also for students who leave school to enter a dual-credit program established by the Texas Legislature at the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science at the University of North Texas, the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities at Lamar University, the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science at the University of Texas at Brownsville, and the Texas Academy of International Studies at Texas A&amp;M International University.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Documentation of enrollment in a college or university must indicate that the student is enrolled full-time in an academic program. Per federal requirement, it is <u>not</u> permissible for a district to document that, at the time of withdrawal, the student intended to enter a postsecondary educational setting. Beginning with students</p>

Source. Texas Education Agency (2016d).

**continues**

**Table A-1 (continued)**  
**Leaver Reason Codes in the Public Education Information Management System**

Leaver code	Explanation/clarification and documentation requirements
	<p>leaving in the 2011-12 school year, a district must document that the student has actually entered a postsecondary educational setting. One of the following types of documentation is required to verify enrollment:</p> <p><b>Transcript request.</b> Acceptable documentation of enrollment in college is a records request from the college in which the student is enrolled. Telephone requests must be documented in writing, including the date of the call, the name of the college requesting the records, the name of the person making the request, and the name of the person who received the call. Telephone requests should appear on a standardized, district-approved form. The original of the form should be included in the student's permanent file. Documentation of the method of records dissemination also must be included in the student's permanent file (e.g., copy of fax activity log, certified mail receipt, encrypted e-mail receipt confirmation, or postage/mail log with complete address information for requesting school).</p> <p><b>Verification by an authorized representative of the college.</b> A signed letter from the college verifying enrollment is also acceptable documentation. The letter must state the name and location of the college in which the student is enrolled and the date of enrollment. Other acceptable documentation is written documentation of an oral statement by a representative of the college providing the name and location of the college and verifying that the student is enrolled, signed and dated by an authorized representative of the district.</p> <p><b>Verification by the parent/guardian or qualified student.</b> Acceptable documentation includes a letter, signed and dated from the parent, guardian, or qualified student stating that the student has enrolled in college in a program leading to an associate's or bachelor's degree.</p>
60	<p><b>Student is home schooled</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> Student is being home schooled. This code may be used only for a student whose parent/guardian confirms that the student is pursuing, under direct supervision of the parent/guardian, a curriculum designed to meet basic education goals. The district is not required to obtain evidence that the program being provided meets educational standards.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> A district must document that the parent/guardian is home schooling the student. Per federal requirement, it is <u>not</u> permissible for a district to document that, at the time of withdrawal, the student intended to be home schooled. Beginning with students leaving in the 2011-12 school year, the following documentation is required to verify enrollment:</p> <p><b>Verification by the parent/guardian.</b> A letter, signed and dated, from the parent/guardian stating that the student is being home schooled is acceptable documentation. Letters from parents/guardians must indicate the actual date home schooling began.</p>
66	<p><b>Student was removed by Child Protective Services (CPS) and the district has not been informed of the student's current status or enrollment</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> This code applies only to Child Protective Services. Private agencies that provide asylum for students do not have the legal authority to remove students from school.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Acceptable documentation includes due process documentation supporting the withdrawal; a written statement, signed and dated by the CPS officer, including the CPS officer's name and contact information; or written documentation of an oral statement by a CPS representative that the child was removed, including the CPS representative's name, the date of the conversation, and the signature of the school official.</p>
81 82	<p><b>Student enrolled in a private school in Texas</b></p> <p><b>Student enrolled in a public or private school outside of Texas</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> Student is enrolled in a private school in Texas (code 81), the Texas Job Corps Diploma Program (code 81), or a public or private school outside Texas (code 82). Documentation of actual enrollment is required. This code is also used when a student moves from the district without withdrawing but the district receives a records request.</p> <p>If the student enrolls in another school in the district or another public school district in Texas, a leaver record is not submitted.</p> <p>If the district did not assign code 81 or code 82 when the student stopped attending, the district can change the original code assigned to the student when the records request or communication from the parent/guardian or qualified</p>

Source. Texas Education Agency (2016d).

continues

**Table A-1 (continued)**  
**Leaver Reason Codes in the Public Education Information Management System**

Leaver code	Explanation/clarification and documentation requirements
	<p>student is received. If the original withdrawal date for the student is later than the date the student enrolled in the other school, the withdrawal date must be changed and all attendance accounting records affected by this change must be updated.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Per federal requirement, it is <u>not</u> permissible for a district to document that, at the time of withdrawal, the student intended to enter another educational setting. Beginning with students leaving in the 2011-12 school year, a district must document that the student has actually enrolled in a private school in Texas, the Texas Job Corps Diploma Program, or a private or public school outside Texas. One of the following types of documentation is required to verify enrollment:</p> <p><b>Transcript request.</b> Acceptable documentation of enrollment in another school is a records request from the school in which the student is enrolled. Telephone requests are acceptable, but they must be documented in writing, including the date of the call, the name of the school requesting the records, the name of the person making the request, and the name of the person who received the call. Telephone requests should appear on a standardized, district-approved form. The original of the form should be included in the student's permanent file. Documentation of the method of records dissemination also must be included in the student's permanent file (e.g., copy of fax activity log, certified mail receipt, encrypted e-mail receipt confirmation, or postage/mail log with complete address information for requesting school).</p> <p><b>Verification by the superintendent or authorized campus or district administrator of the receiving district.</b> A signed letter from the receiving school verifying enrollment is acceptable documentation. The letter must state the name and location of the school in which the student is enrolled and the date of enrollment. Other acceptable documentation is written documentation of an oral statement by a representative of the receiving school providing the name and location of and contact information for the school and verifying that the student is enrolled, signed and dated by an authorized campus or district administrator of the district.</p> <p><b>Verification by the parent/guardian or qualified student.</b> Acceptable documentation includes a letter, signed and dated, from the parent/guardian or qualified student stating that the student has enrolled in a private school in Texas or a private or public school outside of Texas leading to the completion of a high school diploma.</p>
87	<p><b>Student withdrew from/left school to enroll in the Texas Tech University ISD High School Diploma Program or the University of Texas at Austin High School Diploma Program</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> Student was withdrawn from school and parent/guardian or qualified student indicated at time of withdrawal that the student has enrolled in the State Board of Education-authorized Texas Tech University ISD High School Diploma Program or the University of Texas at Austin High School Diploma Program.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> The district must receive either a) a records or transcript request from the high school diploma program or b) a letter from the high school diploma program stating that the student is enrolled.</p>
<b>Withdrawn by school district</b>	
78	<p><b>Student was expelled under the provisions of TEC §37.007 and cannot return to school</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> This code may only be used when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the student was expelled under the provisions of TEC §37.007, and</li> <li>• the term of expulsion has not expired or the student's failure to attend school is due to court action.</li> </ul> <p>This code may only be used for a student who was expelled for an offense included in TEC §37.007. This code is not intended for use by districts which assign students to a Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP).</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Due process documentation supporting the expulsion.</p>
83	<p><b>Student was attending and was withdrawn from school by the district when the district discovered that the student was not entitled to enrollment in the district because a) the student was not a resident of the district, b) was not entitled under other provisions of TEC §25.001 or as a transfer student, or c) was not entitled to public school enrollment under TEC §38.001 or a corresponding rule of the Texas Department of State Health Services because the student was not immunized.</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> This code is for situations in which the district discovers when verifying enrollment information that the student is not entitled to enrollment in the district because the student is not a resident of the district or is not entitled under other provisions of TEC §25.001 or as a transfer student. It is not for a student who was a resident of the district</p>

Source: Texas Education Agency (2016d).

continues

**Table A-1 (continued)**  
**Leaver Reason Codes in the Public Education Information Management System**

Leaver code	Explanation/clarification and documentation requirements
	<p>and who stops attending because he/she has moved. This code is also for rare situations in which the student has not met the requirements under TEC §38.001 or a corresponding rule of the Texas Department of State Health Services for immunization, provisional enrollment, or exemption.</p> <p>Subject to the exceptions in TEC §38.001(c), a student is required to be fully immunized against disease as required by the Texas Department of State Health Services (TEC §38.001(a)). A student may be provisionally admitted if the student has begun the required immunizations and continues to receive the necessary immunizations as rapidly as medically feasible (TEC §38.001(e)). Except as provided by TEC §38.001(c) or by rule of the Department of State Health Services, a student who is not fully immunized and has not begun the required immunizations may not attend school. For further information about enrollment procedures, please see the <i>Student Attendance Accounting Handbook</i>. For further information about immunization requirements, immunization exemptions, and immunization documentation, please contact the Texas Department of State Health Services.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Due process documentation supporting the withdrawal. All district actions to withdraw a student must be documented or the documentation for use of this leaver reason code may be considered insufficient. For purposes of leaver reason code 83, due process is defined as completion of the following steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. District provides oral or written notice, appropriately documented, to the student's parent, guardian, or qualified student him- or herself of intent to withdraw the student, reasons for the withdrawal, effective date of withdrawal, and date of hearing or conference at which the parent, guardian, or qualified student will have an opportunity to respond to the allegations that the student is not entitled to be enrolled in the district. Steps 2 and 3 are not required for cases in which the parent, guardian or qualified student agrees that the student is not entitled to enrollment in the district. Step 4 is always required for charter districts.</li> <li>2. District provides a hearing or conference at which the district presents the reasons for withdrawal, and the parent, guardian, or qualified student is given the opportunity to respond to the reasons for withdrawal.</li> <li>3. District provides a written report to the parent, guardian, or qualified student that contains the findings of fact and district decision following the hearing or conference. The written report shall include notice of the parent's, guardian's, or qualified student's right to appeal the district's decision.</li> <li>4. Charter districts shall notify the school district in which the student resides within three business days of withdrawing a student from a charter school, per Texas Administrative Code §100.1211.</li> </ol>
<b>Other reasons</b>	
03	<p><b>Student died while enrolled in school or during the summer break after completing the prior school year</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> Self-explanatory.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Acceptable documentation includes a copy of the death certificate or obituary, a program from the funeral or memorial service, a written statement from the parent or guardian, and written documentation of an oral statement by a parent or guardian stating that the student has died.</p>
16	<p><b>Student returned to family's home country</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> Use for students who are leaving the United States to return to their home country. A student may be leaving with or without family members to live with his or her family, immediate or extended, in the home country. The citizenship of the student is not relevant in assigning this code. This code can also be used for foreign exchange students.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Acceptable documentation is a copy of the Transfer Document for Binational Migrant Student completed at the time the student withdraws from school, signed and dated by an authorized campus or district administrator. Acceptable documentation is also a copy of the withdrawal form signed and dated by the parent/guardian or qualified student and a campus or district administrator. The withdrawal form should indicate that the student is leaving school because the student is returning to the home country and should specify the destination. An original signature is not required on withdrawal forms received in the district by fax. Withdrawal forms received by e-mail do not need to be signed by the parent/guardian or qualified student. A signed letter from the parent/guardian or qualified student stating that the student is leaving school because the student is returning to the home country is also acceptable documentation. Acceptable documentation for foreign exchange students includes a written, signed, and dated statement from the student's host family or the foreign student advisor verifying the student's return to his or her home country. Other</p>

Source. Texas Education Agency (2016d).

continues

**Table A-1 (continued)**  
**Leaver Reason Codes in the Public Education Information Management System**

Leaver code	Explanation/clarification and documentation requirements
	acceptable documentation is written documentation of an oral statement by an adult neighbor or other adult with knowledge of the family's whereabouts, signed and dated by an authorized campus or district administrator.
88	<p><b>Student was ordered by a court to attend a GED program and has not earned a GED certificate</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> This code is for students who are court-ordered to attend a GED program and have not earned a GED certificate at any time during the prior school year, including the summer (through August 31) following the close of the prior year.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Acceptable documentation is a copy of the court order stating that the student has been ordered to attend a high school equivalency or GED program. Documentation must include the name of the student, the date of the order, the name of the judge making the order, and the county in which the judge presides. The order should state that the court is ordering the student to attend a high school equivalency or GED program or to take a high school equivalency or GED exam.</p>
89	<p><b>Student is incarcerated in a state jail or federal penitentiary as an adult or as a person certified to stand trial as an adult</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> Student is incarcerated in a state jail or federal penitentiary as an adult or as a person certified to stand trial as an adult.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Acceptable documentation is one of the following: 1) Oral notification from a law enforcement agency, the office of the prosecuting attorney, or the jail or penitentiary, to an authorized representative of the district, that the student is incarcerated. The written statement of the oral notification shall be signed and dated by the authorized representative. 2) Written notification from a law enforcement agency, the office of the prosecuting attorney, or the jail or penitentiary, that the student is incarcerated.</p>
98	<p><b>Other (reason unknown or not listed above)</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> This code is used for students who are withdrawn by the school district after a period of time because they have quit attending school and their reason for leaving is not known. It is also used for students who withdrew from/left school for reasons not listed above.</p>

Source: Texas Education Agency (2016d).





**Appendix B**  
**Student Characteristic and Program**  
**Participation Data in Annual Dropout Rates**  
**and Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates**

Introduction

Table B-1  
Student Characteristic and Program  
Participation Data in Annual Dropout Rate  
and Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rate Calculations

## Introduction

### Overview

Table B-1 on page 138 specifies the criteria the Texas Education Agency (TEA) applies to the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) data elements used to calculate annual dropout rates and longitudinal graduation and dropout rates for students with special demographic characteristics and students participating in special instructional programs. Texas public school districts report the data to the TEA through the Texas Student Data System (TSDS). The table also identifies, when applicable, the subcategories through which the data elements are submitted. Refer to the *Texas Education Data Standards* (TEDS), published annually by TEA, for a detailed description of the data elements in Table B-1 (TEA, 2016b).

### Annual Dropout Rates

The annual dropout rate for students with a special demographic characteristic is calculated as the number of students reported with the specified characteristic who drop out during a single school year divided by the total number of students reported with the specified characteristic enrolled during the same school year. Likewise, the annual dropout rate for students participating in a special instructional program is calculated as the number of students reported as participating in the specified program who drop out during a single school year divided by the total number of students reported as participating in the specified program who attended the same school year. A student may be reported with more than one special demographic characteristic or as participating in more than one special instructional program. Following, as an example, is the annual dropout rate calculation for immigrant students.

$$\frac{\text{number of students reported to TEA as immigrants who dropped out during the school year}}{\text{number of students reported to TEA as immigrants enrolled during the school year}}$$

### Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates

Calculating longitudinal four-year rates requires tracking a cohort of students from the time they enter Grade 9, or transfer into the cohort, until the fall following their anticipated graduation date. Calculating extended longitudinal rates requires tracking a cohort of students until the fall one or more years after their anticipated graduation date. The longitudinal graduation rate is the number of students who graduate divided by the total number of students in the cohort who have final statuses. The longitudinal dropout rate is the number of students who drop out divided by the total number of students who have final statuses.

PEIMS attendance data are used to build each cohort of students. Each cohort is identified by the starting grade and anticipated year of graduation. For example, students who attended Grade 9 in Texas public schools for the first time in 2012-13 make up the class of 2016 Grade 9 cohort. Students who did not attend Grade 9 in Texas public schools that year but entered the system over the next

three years were added to the cohort if, in the year they entered, they were in the grade level expected for the cohort. Each cohort was tracked using PEIMS data through the four or more years of the cohort. Students in the class of 2016 were tracked into the fall semester following their anticipated graduation date of spring 2016. Students in previous cohorts were tracked into the fall semester one or more years following their anticipated graduation date.

Any student who was determined to be a graduate, continuer, GED certificate recipient, or dropout was counted in the class of 2016. This included students who began Grade 9 in Texas public schools, as well as students who later entered Texas public schools in the grade level expected for the cohort and were added to the cohort. A student whose final status could not be determined was not included as a member of the class. A student who left the Texas public school system during the time period covered for reasons other than graduating, receiving GED certificates, or dropping out was not included as a member of the class.

A student may be reported with more than one special demographic characteristic or as participating in more than one special instructional program. Program participation is assigned to a student based on data elements reported on the student's last record of attendance. Demographic characteristics also are assigned based on data reported on the student's last record of attendance, except in the cases of: (a) students identified as English language learners (ELLs) at any time while attending Texas public schools, (b) students identified as ELLs at any time while attending Grades 9-12 in Texas public schools, and (c) students identified as homeless at any time while attending Grades 9-12 in Texas public schools. For example, if the student last attended in 2015-16 and was identified as a migrant that year, the student is included in rate calculations for migrant students.

As an example, the longitudinal graduation rate for migrant students is calculated as the number of students who graduated and were reported as migrants on their last records of attendance divided by the number of students in the class who were reported as migrants on their last records of attendance.

$$\frac{\text{graduates reported as migrants on last records of attendance}}{\text{graduates + continuers + GED recipients + dropouts reported as migrants on last records of attendance}}$$

Through the TEA Secure Environment (TEASE), school districts have access to the preliminary cohort for a given year, as well as technical documentation describing how TEA builds a cohort and how longitudinal rates are calculated. The technical documentation is also available on the agency's public website.

**Table B-1  
Student Characteristic and Program Participation Data in Annual Dropout Rate and Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rate Calculations**

Data element	TSDS <sup>a</sup> source and criteria
Instructional program	
Bilingual or English as a second language (ESL)	<p><b>Data source.</b> PEIMS<sup>b</sup> fall collection (Submission 1) on the 40110-Enrollment subcategory and the 40100 Student Basic Information subcategory.</p> <p><b>Criteria.</b> Student coded as: (a) "2," "3," "4," or "5" for the Bilingual Program Type Code or "2" or "3" for the ESL Program Type Code; and (b) "1" for the limited English proficient (LEP) Indicator Code.</p>
Transitional bilingual/early exit	<p><b>Data source.</b> PEIMS fall collection (Submission 1) on the 40110-Enrollment subcategory and the 40100 Student Basic Information subcategory.</p> <p><b>Criteria.</b> Student coded as: (a) "2" for the Bilingual Program Type Code and (b) "1" for the LEP Indicator Code.</p>
Transitional bilingual/late exit	<p><b>Data source.</b> PEIMS fall collection (Submission 1) on the 40110-Enrollment subcategory and the 40100 Student Basic Information subcategory.</p> <p><b>Criteria.</b> Student coded as: (a) "3" for the Bilingual Program Type Code and (b) "1" for the LEP Indicator Code.</p>
Dual language immersion/two-way	<p><b>Data source.</b> PEIMS fall collection (Submission 1) on the 40110-Enrollment subcategory and the 40100 Student Basic Information subcategory.</p> <p><b>Criteria.</b> Student coded as: (a) "4" for the Bilingual Program Type Code and (b) "1" for the LEP Indicator Code.</p>
Dual language immersion/one-way	<p><b>Data source.</b> PEIMS fall collection (Submission 1) on the 40110-Enrollment subcategory and the 40100 Student Basic Information subcategory.</p> <p><b>Criteria.</b> Student coded as: (a) "5" for the Bilingual Program Type Code and (b) "1" for the LEP Indicator Code.</p>
ESL content-based	<p><b>Data source.</b> PEIMS fall collection (Submission 1) on the 40110-Enrollment subcategory and the 40100 Student Basic Information subcategory.</p> <p><b>Criteria.</b> Student coded as: (a) "2" for the ESL Program Type Code and (b) "1" for the LEP Indicator Code.</p>
ESL pull-out	<p><b>Data source.</b> PEIMS fall collection (Submission 1) on the 40110-Enrollment subcategory and the 40100 Student Basic Information subcategory.</p> <p><b>Criteria.</b> Student coded as: (a) "3" for the ESL Program Type Code and (b) "1" for the LEP Indicator Code.</p>
Career and technical education	<p><b>Data source.</b> For students enrolled in membership, PEIMS summer collection (Submission 3) on the 40110-Enrollment subcategory. For students enrolled but not in membership or enrolled in the fall after expected graduation, PEIMS fall collection (Submission 1) on the 40110-Enrollment subcategory.</p> <p><b>Criteria.</b> Student coded as "2" or "3" for the Career and Technology Ed Indicator Code.</p>
Gifted and talented	<p><b>Data source.</b> For students enrolled in membership, PEIMS summer collection (Submission 3) on the 40110-Enrollment subcategory. For students enrolled but not in membership or enrolled in the fall after expected graduation, PEIMS fall collection (Submission 1) on the 40110-Enrollment subcategory.</p> <p><b>Criteria.</b> Student coded as "1" for the Gifted Talented Indicator Code.</p>

<sup>a</sup>Texas Student Data System. <sup>b</sup>Public Education Information Management System.

**continues**

**Table B-1 (continued)**  
**Student Characteristic and Program Participation Data in Annual Dropout Rate and Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rate Calculations**

Data element	TSDS <sup>a</sup> source and criteria
Special education	<p><b>Data source.</b> PEIMS<sup>b</sup> summer collection (Submission 3) on either the 40110-Enrollment subcategory or the 42405-Special Education Attendance subcategory and either the 42500-Flexible Attendance subcategory or the 42505-Special Education Flexible Attendance subcategory. For students enrolled but not in membership or enrolled in the fall after expected graduation, PEIMS fall collection (Submission 1) on the 40110-Enrollment subcategory.</p> <p><b>Criteria.</b> (a) a 42405-Special Education Attendance subcategory submission; (b) a 40110-Enrollment subcategory submission where Total Elig Sp Ed Mainstream Days Present is greater than 0; (c) a 42505-Special Education Flexible Attendance subcategory submission; (d) a 42500-Flexible Attendance subcategory submission where Flex Attend Total Sp Ed Mainstream Days Eligible is greater than 0; or (e) student coded as "1" on the Special Ed Indicator Code on the 40110- Enrollment subcategory.</p>
Title I	<p><b>Data source.</b> PEIMS summer collection (Submission 3) on the 41461-Title I, Part A Program subcategory. For students enrolled but not in membership or enrolled in the fall after expected graduation, PEIMS fall collection (Submission 1) on the 40110-Enrollment subcategory.</p> <p><b>Criteria.</b> Any 41461-Title I, Part A Program subcategory submission or student coded as "A," "6," "7," or "9" on the Title I, Part A, Indicator Code on the 40110-Enrollment subcategory.</p>
<b>Student characteristic</b>	
At-risk	<p><b>Data source.</b> PEIMS fall collection (Submission 1) on the 40100-Student Basic Information subcategory.</p> <p><b>Criteria.</b> Student coded as "1" for the At-Risk Indicator Code.</p>
Economically disadvantaged	<p><b>Data source.</b> For students enrolled in membership, PEIMS summer collection (Submission 3) on the 40100-Student Basic Information subcategory. For students enrolled but not in membership or enrolled in the fall after expected graduation, PEIMS fall collection (Submission 1) on the 40100-Student Basic Information subcategory.</p> <p><b>Criteria.</b> Student coded as "01," "02," or "99" for the Economic Disadvantage Code.</p>
English language learner	<p><b>Data source.</b> For students enrolled in membership, PEIMS summer collection (Submission 3) on the 40100-Student Basic Information subcategory. For students enrolled but not in membership or enrolled in the fall after expected graduation, PEIMS fall collection (Submission 1) on the 40100-Student Basic Information subcategory.</p> <p><b>Criteria.</b> Student coded as "1" for the LEP Indicator Code.</p>
Homeless	<p><b>Data source.</b> For students enrolled in membership, PEIMS summer collection (Submission 3) on the 40100-Student Basic Information subcategory. For students enrolled but not in membership or enrolled in the fall after expected graduation, PEIMS fall collection (Submission 1) on the 40100-Student Basic Information subcategory.</p> <p><b>Criteria.</b> Student coded as "1," "2," "3," or "4" on Homeless Status Code.</p>
Immigrant	<p><b>Data source.</b> PEIMS fall collection (Submission 1) on the 40100-Student Basic Information subcategory.</p> <p><b>Criteria.</b> Student coded as "1" for the Immigrant Indicator Code.</p>

<sup>a</sup>Texas Student Data System. <sup>b</sup>Public Education Information Management System.

continues

**Table B-1 (continued)**  
**Student Characteristic and Program Participation Data in Annual Dropout Rate and Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rate Calculations**

Data element	TSDS <sup>a</sup> source and criteria
Migrant	<p><b>Data source.</b> For students enrolled in membership, PEIMS<sup>b</sup> summer collection (Submission 3) on the 40100-Student Basic Information subcategory. For students enrolled but not in membership or enrolled in the fall after expected graduation, PEIMS fall collection (Submission 1) on the 40100-Student Basic Information subcategory.</p> <p><b>Criteria.</b> Student coded as "1" for the Migrant Indicator Code.</p>
Overage	<p><b>Data source.</b> PEIMS summer collection (Submission 3) on the 40100-Student Basic Information subcategory, 42400 Basic Attendance subcategory, and 42500-Flexible Attendance subcategory.</p> <p><b>Criteria.</b> For each district attended, the highest grade in the last six weeks is used. The Texas Education Agency calculates a student's age based on September 1 of the school year in question.</p>

<sup>a</sup>Texas Student Data System. <sup>b</sup>Public Education Information Management System.

## **Appendix C Supplemental Tables**

Table C-1  
Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-8,  
by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender,  
Texas Public Schools, 2005-06 Through 2010-11

Table C-2  
Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 9-12,  
by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender,  
Texas Public Schools, 2005-06 Through 2010-11

Table C-3  
Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12,  
by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender,  
Texas Public Schools, 2005-06 Through 2010-11

Table C-4  
Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 9-12,  
Charters and Traditional Districts,  
Texas Public Schools, 2015-16

Table C-5  
Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates,  
by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender,  
Texas Public Schools, Classes of 1996 Through 2005

Table C-6  
Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates,  
by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender,  
Texas Public Schools, Classes of 2006 Through 2011

Table C-7  
Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates,  
Charters and Traditional Districts,  
Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016

**Table C-1**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-8, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status,**  
**and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2005-06 Through 2010-11**

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>African American</b>					
2005-06	108,041	15.5	829	27.3	0.8
2006-07	102,967	14.9	740	25.6	0.7
2007-08	100,628	14.6	475	23.9	0.5
2008-09	100,818	14.3	505	22.9	0.5
2009-10	93,727	13.1	356	21.3	0.4
2010-11	95,360	13.1	321	21.0	0.3
<b>American Indian</b>					
2005-06	2,428	0.3	11	0.4	0.5
2006-07	2,454	0.4	10	0.3	0.4
2007-08	2,518	0.4	6	0.3	0.2
2008-09	2,603	0.4	13	0.6	0.5
2009-10	<3,675	0.5	- <sup>a</sup>	-	0.2
2010-11	<3,625	0.5	-	-	0.3
<b>Asian</b>					
2005-06	n/a <sup>b</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006-07	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007-08	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008-09	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009-10	24,207	3.4	26	1.6	0.1
2010-11	24,994	3.4	15	1.0	0.1
<b>Hispanic</b>					
2005-06	303,028	43.4	1,680	55.3	0.6
2006-07	307,440	44.6	1,626	56.3	0.5
2007-08	315,045	45.6	1,126	56.6	0.4
2008-09	327,594	46.5	1,289	58.5	0.4
2009-10	344,999	48.3	999	59.7	0.3
2010-11	356,057	48.9	870	56.9	0.2
<b>Pacific Islander</b>					
2005-06	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006-07	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007-08	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008-09	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009-10	<870	0.1	-	-	0.1
2010-11	<900	0.1	-	-	0.3

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>A dash (-) indicates data are masked. When the number of dropouts is not reported, the total number of students is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the group. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information. <sup>b</sup>Not available.

**continues**



**Table C-1 (continued)**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-8, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status,**  
**and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2005-06 Through 2010-11**

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>White</b>					
2005-06	263,909	37.8	476	15.7	0.2
2006-07	254,861	37.0	471	16.3	0.2
2007-08	249,849	36.1	343	17.3	0.1
2008-09	248,422	35.3	357	16.2	0.1
2009-10	235,537	33.0	258	15.4	0.1
2010-11	235,642	32.4	289	18.9	0.1
<b>Multiracial</b>					
2005-06	n/a <sup>b</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006-07	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007-08	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008-09	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009-10	11,057	1.5	24	1.4	0.2
2010-11	11,338	1.6	21	1.4	0.2
<b>Economically disadvantaged</b>					
2005-06	361,820	51.8	1,665	54.8	0.5
2006-07	358,256	51.9	1,647	57.0	0.5
2007-08	356,732	51.6	1,054	53.0	0.3
2008-09	348,812	49.5	874	39.7	0.3
2009-10	368,495	51.6	685	41.0	0.2
2010-11	417,182	57.3	1,006	65.8	0.2
<b>Female</b>					
2005-06	339,840	48.7	1,464	48.2	0.4
2006-07	335,173	48.6	1,338	46.3	0.4
2007-08	335,686	48.6	881	44.3	0.3
2008-09	342,418	48.6	995	45.2	0.3
2009-10	347,452	48.7	735	44.0	0.2
2010-11	353,919	48.6	756	49.4	0.2
<b>Male</b>					
2005-06	358,637	51.3	1,574	51.8	0.4
2006-07	354,560	51.4	1,550	53.7	0.4
2007-08	355,596	51.4	1,107	55.7	0.3
2008-09	362,034	51.4	1,208	54.8	0.3
2009-10	366,608	51.3	937	56.0	0.3
2010-11	373,972	51.4	774	50.6	0.2

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>A dash (-) indicates data are masked. When the number of dropouts is not reported, the total number of students is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the group. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information. <sup>b</sup>Not available.

**continues**

**Table C-1 (continued)**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-8, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status,**  
**and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2005-06 Through 2010-11**

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>State</b>					
2005-06	698,477	100	3,038	100	0.4
2006-07	689,733	100	2,888	100	0.4
2007-08	691,282	100	1,988	100	0.3
2008-09	704,452	100	2,203	100	0.3
2009-10	714,060	100	1,672	100	0.2
2010-11	727,891	100	1,530	100	0.2

*Note.* Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>A dash (-) indicates data are masked. When the number of dropouts is not reported, the total number of students is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the group. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information. <sup>b</sup>Not available.

**Table C-2**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 9-12, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status,**  
**and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2005-06 Through 2010-11**

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>African American</b>					
2005-06	202,072	15.3	10,863	22.3	5.4
2006-07	199,825	15.0	11,550	22.0	5.8
2007-08	201,866	14.9	10,017	22.9	5.0
2008-09	201,176	14.8	8,876	22.9	4.4
2009-10	191,211	13.9	7,392	22.2	3.9
2010-11	189,474	13.6	6,807	20.7	3.6
<b>American Indian</b>					
2005-06	4,590	0.3	133	0.3	2.9
2006-07	4,771	0.4	133	0.3	2.8
2007-08	4,995	0.4	129	0.3	2.6
2008-09	4,997	0.4	111	0.3	2.2
2009-10	<7,530	0.5	- <sup>a</sup>	-	2.6
2010-11	<7,190	0.5	-	-	2.8
<b>Asian</b>					
2005-06	n/a <sup>b</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006-07	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007-08	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008-09	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009-10	45,870	3.3	385	1.2	0.8
2010-11	48,616	3.5	374	1.1	0.8
<b>Hispanic</b>					
2005-06	534,570	40.6	27,633	56.6	5.2
2006-07	558,007	41.8	30,200	57.6	5.4
2007-08	580,114	42.9	25,332	57.8	4.4
2008-09	595,252	43.9	22,493	58.1	3.8
2009-10	631,184	45.8	19,597	59.0	3.1
2010-11	652,154	46.8	19,866	60.5	3.0
<b>Pacific Islander</b>					
2005-06	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006-07	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007-08	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008-09	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009-10	<1,860	0.1	-	-	2.5
2010-11	<1,870	0.1	-	-	2.3

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>A dash (-) indicates data are masked. When the number of dropouts is not reported, the total number of students is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the group. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information. <sup>b</sup>Not available.

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**Table C-2 (continued)**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 9-12, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status,**  
**and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2005-06 Through 2010-11**

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>White</b>					
2005-06	534,204	40.5	9,592	19.7	1.8
2006-07	527,469	39.5	9,922	18.9	1.9
2007-08	518,202	38.4	7,831	17.9	1.5
2008-09	506,473	37.3	6,767	17.5	1.3
2009-10	480,028	34.9	5,377	16.2	1.1
2010-11	474,110	34.0	5,280	16.1	1.1
<b>Multiracial</b>					
2005-06	n/a <sup>b</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006-07	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007-08	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008-09	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009-10	19,670	1.4	246	0.7	1.3
2010-11	21,130	1.5	266	0.8	1.3
<b>Economically disadvantaged</b>					
2005-06	555,270	42.1	23,359	47.9	4.2
2006-07	567,425	42.5	24,330	46.4	4.3
2007-08	581,948	43.1	20,354	46.5	3.5
2008-09	569,299	42.0	15,181	39.2	2.7
2009-10	612,655	44.5	13,099	39.4	2.1
2010-11	712,439	51.1	19,232	58.6	2.7
<b>Female</b>					
2005-06	642,469	48.7	21,588	44.2	3.4
2006-07	651,518	48.8	23,923	45.6	3.7
2007-08	659,584	48.8	19,737	45.1	3.0
2008-09	661,106	48.7	17,650	45.6	2.7
2009-10	670,319	48.7	14,914	44.9	2.2
2010-11	679,085	48.7	14,406	43.9	2.1
<b>Male</b>					
2005-06	675,524	51.3	27,215	55.8	4.0
2006-07	682,319	51.2	28,495	54.4	4.2
2007-08	691,337	51.2	24,071	54.9	3.5
2008-09	695,143	51.3	21,070	54.4	3.0
2009-10	707,011	51.3	18,321	55.1	2.6
2010-11	715,438	51.3	18,427	56.1	2.6

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>A dash (-) indicates data are masked. When the number of dropouts is not reported, the total number of students is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the group. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information. <sup>b</sup>Not available.

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**Table C-2 (continued)**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 9-12, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status,**  
**and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2005-06 Through 2010-11**

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
State					
2005-06	1,317,993	100	48,803	100	3.7
2006-07	1,333,837	100	52,418	100	3.9
2007-08	1,350,921	100	43,808	100	3.2
2008-09	1,356,249	100	38,720	100	2.9
2009-10	1,377,330	100	33,235	100	2.4
2010-11	1,394,523	100	32,833	100	2.4

*Note.* Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>A dash (–) indicates data are masked. When the number of dropouts is not reported, the total number of students is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the group. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information. <sup>b</sup>Not available.

**Table C-3  
Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status,  
and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2005-06 Through 2010-11**

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>African American</b>					
2005-06	310,113	15.4	11,692	22.6	3.8
2006-07	302,792	15.0	12,290	22.2	4.1
2007-08	302,494	14.8	10,492	22.9	3.5
2008-09	301,994	14.7	9,381	22.9	3.1
2009-10	284,938	13.6	7,748	22.2	2.7
2010-11	284,834	13.4	7,128	20.7	2.5
<b>American Indian</b>					
2005-06	7,018	0.3	144	0.3	2.1
2006-07	7,225	0.4	143	0.3	2.0
2007-08	7,513	0.4	135	0.3	1.8
2008-09	7,600	0.4	124	0.3	1.6
2009-10	11,183	0.5	200	0.6	1.8
2010-11	<10,800	0.5	- <sup>a</sup>	-	1.9
<b>Asian</b>					
2005-06	n/a <sup>b</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006-07	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007-08	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008-09	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009-10	70,077	3.4	411	1.2	0.6
2010-11	73,610	3.5	389	1.1	0.5
<b>Hispanic</b>					
2005-06	837,598	41.5	29,313	56.5	3.5
2006-07	865,447	42.8	31,826	57.5	3.7
2007-08	895,159	43.8	26,458	57.8	3.0
2008-09	922,846	44.8	23,782	58.1	2.6
2009-10	976,183	46.7	20,596	59.0	2.1
2010-11	1,008,211	47.5	20,736	60.3	2.1
<b>Pacific Islander</b>					
2005-06	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006-07	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007-08	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008-09	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009-10	2,717	0.1	47	0.1	1.7
2010-11	<2,755	0.1	-	-	1.6

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>A dash (-) indicates data are masked. When the number of dropouts is not reported, the total number of students is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the group. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information. <sup>b</sup>Not available.

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**Table C-3 (continued)**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status,**  
**and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2005-06 Through 2010-11**

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>White</b>					
2005-06	798,113	39.6	10,068	19.4	1.3
2006-07	782,330	38.7	10,393	18.8	1.3
2007-08	768,051	37.6	8,174	17.8	1.1
2008-09	754,895	36.6	7,124	17.4	0.9
2009-10	715,565	34.2	5,635	16.1	0.8
2010-11	709,752	33.4	5,569	16.2	0.8
<b>Multiracial</b>					
2005-06	n/a <sup>b</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006-07	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007-08	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008-09	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2009-10	30,727	1.5	270	0.8	0.9
2010-11	32,468	1.5	287	0.8	0.9
<b>Economically disadvantaged</b>					
2005-06	917,090	45.5	25,024	48.3	2.7
2006-07	925,681	45.7	25,977	47.0	2.8
2007-08	938,680	46.0	21,408	46.7	2.3
2008-09	918,111	44.6	16,055	39.2	1.7
2009-10	981,150	46.9	13,784	39.5	1.4
2010-11	1,129,621	53.2	20,238	58.9	1.8
<b>Female</b>					
2005-06	982,309	48.7	23,052	44.5	2.3
2006-07	986,691	48.8	25,261	45.7	2.6
2007-08	995,270	48.7	20,618	45.0	2.1
2008-09	1,003,524	48.7	18,645	45.6	1.9
2009-10	1,017,771	48.7	15,649	44.8	1.5
2010-11	1,033,004	48.7	15,162	44.1	1.5
<b>Male</b>					
2005-06	1,034,161	51.3	28,789	55.5	2.8
2006-07	1,036,879	51.2	30,045	54.3	2.9
2007-08	1,046,933	51.3	25,178	55.0	2.4
2008-09	1,057,177	51.3	22,278	54.4	2.1
2009-10	1,073,619	51.3	19,258	55.2	1.8
2010-11	1,089,410	51.3	19,201	55.9	1.8

*Note.* Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>A dash (-) indicates data are masked. When the number of dropouts is not reported, the total number of students is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the group. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information. <sup>b</sup>Not available.

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**Table C-3 (continued)**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status,**  
**and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2005-06 Through 2010-11**

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>State</b>					
2005-06	2,016,470	100	51,841	100	2.6
2006-07	2,023,570	100	55,306	100	2.7
2007-08	2,042,203	100	45,796	100	2.2
2008-09	2,060,701	100	40,923	100	2.0
2009-10	2,091,390	100	34,907	100	1.7
2010-11	2,122,414	100	34,363	100	1.6

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>A dash (-) indicates data are masked. When the number of dropouts is not reported, the total number of students is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the group. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information. <sup>b</sup>Not available.

**Table C-4**  
**Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 9-12, Charters and Traditional Districts,**  
**Texas Public Schools, 2015-16**

Group	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Charters	81,256	5.0	4,654	15.2	5.7
Traditional districts	1,531,718	95.0	26,045	84.8	1.7
<b>State</b>	<b>1,537,216</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>30,683</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.0</b>

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Counts for charters and traditional districts will not add to state counts because students who attend more than one district are counted only once in state totals.



Table C-5

**Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Classes of 1996 Through 2005**

Class year	Class	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out		Graduated or continued		Graduated, continued, or received GED	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
<b>African American</b>													
Class of 1996	27,200	18,849	69.3	2,738	10.1	1,443	5.3	4,170	15.3	21,587	79.4	23,030	84.7
Class of 1997	28,913	20,787	71.9	2,873	9.9	1,471	5.1	3,782	13.1	23,660	81.8	25,131	86.9
Class of 1998	30,464	22,597	74.2	3,356	11.0	989	3.2	3,522	11.6	25,953	85.2	26,942	88.4
Class of 1999	31,436	23,475	74.7	3,331	10.6	988	3.1	3,642	11.6	26,806	85.3	27,794	88.4
Class of 2000	32,338	24,863	76.9	3,133	9.7	1,132	3.5	3,210	9.9	27,996	86.6	29,128	90.1
Class of 2001	33,586	26,094	77.7	3,561	10.6	1,096	3.3	2,835	8.4	29,655	88.3	30,751	91.6
Class of 2002	34,597	27,614	79.8	3,817	11.0	879	2.5	2,287	6.6	31,431	90.8	32,310	93.4
Class of 2003	36,082	29,260	81.1	3,816	10.6	745	2.1	2,261	6.3	33,076	91.7	33,821	93.7
Class of 2004	37,281	30,860	82.8	3,438	9.2	1,139	3.1	1,844	4.9	34,298	92.0	35,437	95.1
Class of 2005	37,777	30,858	81.7	3,862	10.2	994	2.6	2,063	5.5	34,720	91.9	35,714	94.5
<b>American Indian</b>													
Class of 1996	506	360	71.1	36	7.1	41	8.1	69	13.6	396	78.3	437	86.4
Class of 1997	500	374	74.8	42	8.4	35	7.0	49	9.8	416	83.2	451	90.2
Class of 1998	755	432	57.2	222	29.4	30	4.0	71	9.4	654	86.6	684	90.6
Class of 1999	724	589	81.4	49	6.8	38	5.2	48	6.6	638	88.1	676	93.4
Class of 2000	605	477	78.8	42	6.9	38	6.3	48	7.9	519	85.8	557	92.1
Class of 2001	681	520	76.4	53	7.8	51	7.5	57	8.4	573	84.1	624	91.6
Class of 2002	650	550	84.6	43	6.6	34	5.2	23	3.5	593	91.2	627	96.5
Class of 2003	746	632	84.7	46	6.2	34	4.6	34	4.6	678	90.9	712	95.4
Class of 2004	832	701	84.3	49	5.9	51	6.1	31	3.7	750	90.1	801	96.3
Class of 2005	871	734	84.3	49	5.6	45	5.2	43	4.9	783	89.9	828	95.1
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>													
Class of 1996	5,836	5,014	85.9	294	5.0	139	2.4	389	6.7	5,308	91.0	5,447	93.3
Class of 1997	6,009	5,262	87.6	330	5.5	142	2.4	275	4.6	5,592	93.1	5,734	95.4
Class of 1998	6,526	5,598	85.8	539	8.3	121	1.9	268	4.1	6,137	94.0	6,258	95.9
Class of 1999	6,992	6,110	87.4	437	6.3	153	2.2	292	4.2	6,547	93.6	6,700	95.8
Class of 2000	7,207	6,398	88.8	393	5.5	165	2.3	251	3.5	6,791	94.2	6,956	96.5
Class of 2001	7,665	6,901	90.0	379	4.9	150	2.0	235	3.1	7,280	95.0	7,430	96.9
Class of 2002	8,070	7,310	90.6	404	5.0	146	1.8	210	2.6	7,714	95.6	7,860	97.4
Class of 2003	8,418	7,703	91.5	431	5.1	123	1.5	161	1.9	8,134	96.6	8,257	98.1
Class of 2004	8,613	7,983	92.7	348	4.0	138	1.6	144	1.7	8,331	96.7	8,469	98.3
Class of 2005	8,795	8,149	92.7	380	4.3	105	1.2	161	1.8	8,529	97.0	8,634	98.2
<b>Hispanic</b>													
Class of 1996	68,532	43,926	64.1	8,242	12.0	4,165	6.1	12,199	17.8	52,168	76.1	56,333	82.2
Class of 1997	70,793	47,623	67.3	8,373	11.8	3,987	5.6	10,810	15.3	55,996	79.1	59,983	84.7

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Dropouts are counted according to the dropout definition in place the year they drop out. The definition changed in 2005-06. Longitudinal rates for classes in which the national dropout definition was phased in (i.e., classes of 2006, 2007, and 2008) are not comparable to rates for prior or later classes. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, and White) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>Numbers in class for race/ethnicity will not sum to the state total because some student records lacked information on race/ethnicity.

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**Table C-5 (continued)**  
**Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Classes of 1996 Through 2005**

Class year	Class	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out		Graduated or continued		Graduated, continued, or received GED	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
Class of 1998	74,507	52,014	69.8	9,557	12.8	2,926	3.9	10,010	13.4	61,571	82.6	64,497	86.6
Class of 1999	79,538	56,126	70.6	10,187	12.8	2,789	3.5	10,436	13.1	66,313	83.4	69,102	86.9
Class of 2000	83,360	60,683	72.8	9,846	11.8	3,507	4.2	9,324	11.2	70,529	84.6	74,036	88.8
Class of 2001	85,391	62,732	73.5	10,797	12.6	3,657	4.3	8,205	9.6	73,529	86.1	77,186	90.4
Class of 2002	87,984	66,637	75.7	11,270	12.8	3,222	3.7	6,855	7.8	77,907	88.5	81,129	92.2
Class of 2003	93,063	71,966	77.3	11,769	12.6	2,732	2.9	6,596	7.1	83,735	90.0	86,467	92.9
Class of 2004	98,337	77,094	78.4	11,386	11.6	3,701	3.8	6,156	6.3	88,480	90.0	92,181	93.7
Class of 2005	100,781	77,985	77.4	12,377	12.3	3,452	3.4	6,967	6.9	90,362	89.7	93,814	93.1
<b>White</b>													
Class of 1996	108,807	90,275	83.0	4,020	3.7	7,093	6.5	7,419	6.8	94,295	86.7	101,388	93.2
Class of 1997	112,078	94,258	84.1	4,030	3.6	7,128	6.4	6,662	5.9	98,288	87.7	105,416	94.1
Class of 1998	115,797	98,738	85.3	5,071	4.4	5,633	4.9	6,355	5.5	103,809	89.6	109,442	94.5
Class of 1999	119,590	103,141	86.2	5,080	4.2	5,556	4.6	5,813	4.9	108,221	90.5	113,777	95.1
Class of 2000	121,267	105,158	86.7	4,407	3.6	6,806	5.6	4,896	4.0	109,565	90.4	116,371	96.0
Class of 2001	121,838	105,805	86.8	4,790	3.9	7,024	5.8	4,219	3.5	110,595	90.8	117,619	96.5
Class of 2002	122,739	108,270	88.2	4,881	4.0	6,244	5.1	3,344	2.7	113,151	92.2	119,395	97.3
Class of 2003	125,262	112,460	89.8	4,870	3.9	5,115	4.1	2,817	2.2	117,330	93.7	122,445	97.8
Class of 2004	125,848	112,495	89.4	4,605	3.7	6,416	5.1	2,332	1.9	117,100	93.0	123,516	98.1
Class of 2005	122,994	110,029	89.5	4,766	3.9	5,783	4.7	2,416	2.0	114,795	93.3	120,578	98.0
<b>Economically disadvantaged</b>													
Class of 1996	55,302	35,463	64.1	5,978	10.8	3,351	6.1	10,510	19.0	41,441	74.9	44,792	81.0
Class of 1997	58,481	39,801	68.1	6,219	10.6	3,459	5.9	9,002	15.4	46,020	78.7	49,479	84.6
Class of 1998	63,372	44,723	70.6	7,441	11.7	2,491	3.9	8,717	13.8	52,164	82.3	54,655	86.2
Class of 1999	67,639	48,204	71.3	7,991	11.8	2,562	3.8	8,882	13.1	56,195	83.1	58,757	86.9
Class of 2000	71,486	51,896	72.6	7,988	11.2	3,345	4.7	8,257	11.6	59,884	83.8	63,229	88.4
Class of 2001	74,246	54,352	73.2	9,125	12.3	3,450	4.6	7,319	9.9	63,477	85.5	66,927	90.1
Class of 2002	78,567	59,564	75.8	9,857	12.5	3,073	3.9	6,073	7.7	69,421	88.4	72,494	92.3
Class of 2003	85,880	66,843	77.8	10,638	12.4	2,719	3.2	5,680	6.6	77,481	90.2	80,200	93.4
Class of 2004	93,528	73,556	78.6	10,573	11.3	3,888	4.2	5,511	5.9	84,129	90.0	88,017	94.1
Class of 2005	99,637	77,131	77.4	11,955	12.0	3,902	3.9	6,649	6.7	89,086	89.4	92,988	93.3
<b>Female</b>													
Class of 1996	103,835	81,641	78.6	5,878	5.7	5,394	5.2	10,922	10.5	87,519	84.3	92,913	89.5
Class of 1997	108,034	86,884	80.4	6,152	5.7	5,270	4.9	9,728	9.0	93,036	86.1	98,306	91.0
Class of 1998	113,056	92,933	82.2	7,156	6.3	3,871	3.4	9,096	8.0	100,089	88.5	103,960	92.0
Class of 1999	118,170	98,058	83.0	7,170	6.1	3,670	3.1	9,272	7.8	105,228	89.0	108,898	92.2
Class of 2000	121,614	102,455	84.2	6,938	5.7	4,268	3.5	7,953	6.5	109,393	90.0	113,661	93.5
Class of 2001	123,452	104,608	84.7	7,416	6.0	4,394	3.6	7,034	5.7	112,024	90.7	116,418	94.3

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Dropouts are counted according to the dropout definition in place the year they drop out. The definition changed in 2005-06. Longitudinal rates for classes in which the national dropout definition was phased in (i.e., classes of 2006, 2007, and 2008) are not comparable to rates for prior or later classes. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, and White) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>Numbers in class for race/ethnicity will not sum to the state total because some student records lacked information on race/ethnicity.

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**Table C-5 (continued)**  
**Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Classes of 1996 Through 2005**

Class year	Class	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out		Graduated or continued		Graduated, continued, or received GED	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
Class of 2002	126,336	109,215	86.4	7,603	6.0	3,810	3.0	5,708	4.5	116,818	92.5	120,628	95.5
Class of 2003	130,964	114,795	87.7	7,742	5.9	3,022	2.3	5,405	4.1	122,537	93.6	125,559	95.9
Class of 2004	134,484	118,122	87.8	7,397	5.5	4,330	3.2	4,635	3.4	125,519	93.3	129,849	96.6
Class of 2005	133,707	116,660	87.3	8,049	6.0	3,844	2.9	5,154	3.9	124,709	93.3	128,553	96.1
<b>Male</b>													
Class of 1996	108,688	76,785	70.6	9,452	8.7	7,665	7.1	14,786	13.6	86,237	79.3	93,902	86.4
Class of 1997	110,259	81,420	73.8	9,496	8.6	7,493	6.8	11,850	10.7	90,916	82.5	98,409	89.3
Class of 1998	114,993	86,446	75.2	11,589	10.1	5,828	5.1	11,130	9.7	98,035	85.3	103,863	90.3
Class of 1999	120,110	91,383	76.1	11,914	9.9	5,854	4.9	10,959	9.1	103,297	86.0	109,151	90.9
Class of 2000	123,163	95,124	77.2	10,883	8.8	7,380	6.0	9,776	7.9	106,007	86.1	113,387	92.1
Class of 2001	125,709	97,444	77.5	12,164	9.7	7,584	6.0	8,517	6.8	109,608	87.2	117,192	93.2
Class of 2002	127,704	101,166	79.2	12,812	10.0	6,715	5.3	7,011	5.5	113,978	89.3	120,693	94.5
Class of 2003	132,607	107,226	80.9	13,190	9.9	5,727	4.3	6,464	4.9	120,416	90.8	126,143	95.1
Class of 2004	136,427	111,011	81.4	12,429	9.1	7,115	5.2	5,872	4.3	123,440	90.5	130,555	95.7
Class of 2005	137,511	111,095	80.8	13,385	9.7	6,535	4.8	6,496	4.7	124,480	90.5	131,015	95.3
<b>State</b>													
Class of 1996 <sup>b</sup>	212,523	158,426	74.5	15,330	7.2	13,059	6.1	25,708	12.1	173,756	81.8	186,815	87.9
Class of 1997	218,293	168,304	77.1	15,648	7.2	12,763	5.8	21,578	9.9	183,952	84.3	196,715	90.1
Class of 1998	228,049	179,379	78.7	18,745	8.2	9,699	4.3	20,226	8.9	198,124	86.9	207,823	91.1
Class of 1999	238,280	189,441	79.5	19,084	8.0	9,524	4.0	20,231	8.5	208,525	87.5	218,049	91.5
Class of 2000	244,777	197,579	80.7	17,821	7.3	11,648	4.8	17,729	7.2	215,400	88.0	227,048	92.8
Class of 2001	249,161	202,052	81.1	19,580	7.9	11,978	4.8	15,551	6.2	221,632	89.0	233,610	93.8
Class of 2002	254,040	210,381	82.8	20,415	8.0	10,525	4.1	12,719	5.0	230,796	90.9	241,321	95.0
Class of 2003	263,571	222,021	84.2	20,932	7.9	8,749	3.3	11,869	4.5	242,953	92.2	251,702	95.5
Class of 2004	270,911	229,133	84.6	19,826	7.3	11,445	4.2	10,507	3.9	248,959	91.9	260,404	96.1
Class of 2005	271,218	227,755	84.0	21,434	7.9	10,379	3.8	11,650	4.3	249,189	91.9	259,568	95.7

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Dropouts are counted according to the dropout definition in place the year they drop out. The definition changed in 2005-06. Longitudinal rates for classes in which the national dropout definition was phased in (i.e., classes of 2006, 2007, and 2008) are not comparable to rates for prior or later classes. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, and White) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>Numbers in class for race/ethnicity will not sum to the state total because some student records lacked information on race/ethnicity.

**Table C-6**  
**Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Classes of 2006 Through 2011**

Class year	Class	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out		Graduated, continued, or received GED	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
<b>African American</b>											
Class of 2006	40,726	30,357	74.5	4,269	10.5	698	1.7	5,402	13.3	35,324	86.7
Class of 2007	42,177	29,827	70.7	4,437	10.5	671	1.6	7,242	17.2	34,935	82.8
Class of 2008	44,146	31,707	71.8	4,839	11.0	495	1.1	7,105	16.1	37,041	83.9
Class of 2009	45,710	33,750	73.8	4,705	10.3	506	1.1	6,749	14.8	38,961	85.2
Class of 2010	46,189	36,395	78.8	3,874	8.4	465	1.0	5,455	11.8	40,734	88.2
Class of 2011	45,199	36,544	80.9	3,334	7.4	379	0.8	4,942	10.9	40,257	89.1
<b>American Indian</b>											
Class of 2006	924	775	83.9	57	6.2	37	4.0	55	6.0	869	94.0
Class of 2007	1,031	839	81.4	64	6.2	29	2.8	99	9.6	932	90.4
Class of 2008	1,130	923	81.7	87	7.7	25	2.2	95	8.4	1,035	91.6
Class of 2009	1,119	899	80.3	91	8.1	25	2.2	104	9.3	1,015	90.7
Class of 2010	1,248	1,051	84.2	114	9.1	19	1.5	64	5.1	1,184	94.9
Class of 2011	1,587	1,374	86.6	83	5.2	28	1.8	102	6.4	1,485	93.6
<b>Asian</b>											
Class of 2006	n/a <sup>b</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Class of 2007	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Class of 2008	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Class of 2009	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Class of 2010	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Class of 2011	10,709	10,170	95.0	372	3.5	16	0.1	151	1.4	10,558	98.6
<b>Hispanic</b>											
Class of 2006	109,414	78,476	71.7	14,397	13.2	2,173	2.0	14,368	13.1	95,046	86.9
Class of 2007	114,590	78,506	68.5	15,286	13.3	2,039	1.8	18,759	16.4	95,831	83.6
Class of 2008	121,889	86,313	70.8	16,229	13.3	1,793	1.5	17,554	14.4	104,335	85.6
Class of 2009	130,086	95,609	73.5	16,461	12.7	1,827	1.4	16,189	12.4	113,897	87.6
Class of 2010	135,212	106,514	78.8	13,981	10.3	1,708	1.3	13,009	9.6	122,203	90.4
Class of 2011	143,712	117,624	81.8	12,008	8.4	1,600	1.1	12,480	8.7	131,232	91.3

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Dropouts are counted according to the dropout definition in place the year they drop out. The definition changed in 2005-06. Longitudinal rates for the class of 2009 and later classes are comparable to one another. Rates for classes in which the national dropout definition was phased in (i.e., classes of 2006, 2007, and 2008) are not comparable from one class to another, as indicated by the gray lines in the table, nor are they comparable to rates for prior or later classes. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>Not available. <sup>c</sup>A dash (–) indicates data are masked. When the number of students represented by a final status is not reported, the corresponding class size is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the class. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information. <sup>d</sup>Numbers in class for race/ethnicity may not sum to the state total because some student records did not correspond to any single new racial/ethnic category.

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**Table C-6 (continued)**  
**Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Classes of 2006 Through 2011**

Class year	Class	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out		Graduated, continued, or received GED	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
<b>Pacific Islander</b>											
Class of 2006	n/a <sup>b</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Class of 2007	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Class of 2008	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Class of 2009	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Class of 2010	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Class of 2011	<450	- <sup>c</sup>	88.0	-	6.1	-	0.9	-	5.0	-	95.0
<b>White</b>											
Class of 2006	123,046	109,550	89.0	5,165	4.2	3,484	2.8	4,847	3.9	118,199	96.1
Class of 2007	122,784	108,313	88.2	5,048	4.1	2,896	2.4	6,527	5.3	116,257	94.7
Class of 2008	122,901	109,130	88.8	5,206	4.2	2,262	1.8	6,303	5.1	116,598	94.9
Class of 2009	120,629	108,190	89.7	4,943	4.1	2,011	1.7	5,485	4.5	115,144	95.5
Class of 2010	119,938	109,887	91.6	4,156	3.5	1,705	1.4	4,190	3.5	115,748	96.5
Class of 2011	113,472	104,448	92.0	3,768	3.3	1,380	1.2	3,876	3.4	109,596	96.6
<b>Multiracial</b>											
Class of 2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Class of 2007	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Class of 2008	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Class of 2009	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Class of 2010	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Class of 2011	4,338	3,996	92.1	165	3.8	42	1.0	135	3.1	4,203	96.9
<b>Economically disadvantaged</b>											
Class of 2006	109,204	78,611	72.0	12,960	11.9	2,624	2.4	15,009	13.7	94,195	86.3
Class of 2007	112,939	77,704	68.8	13,256	11.7	2,418	2.1	19,561	17.3	93,378	82.7
Class of 2008	119,328	84,049	70.4	14,587	12.2	1,982	1.7	18,710	15.7	100,618	84.3
Class of 2009	120,083	93,981	78.3	11,654	9.7	1,417	1.2	13,031	10.9	107,052	89.1
Class of 2010	132,842	108,861	81.9	12,199	9.2	1,394	1.0	10,388	7.8	122,454	92.2
Class of 2011	148,492	124,234	83.7	11,295	7.6	1,468	1.0	11,495	7.7	136,997	92.3

*Note.* Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Dropouts are counted according to the dropout definition in place the year they drop out. The definition changed in 2005-06. Longitudinal rates for the class of 2009 and later classes are comparable to one another. Rates for classes in which the national dropout definition was phased in (i.e., classes of 2006, 2007, and 2008) are not comparable from one class to another, as indicated by the gray lines in the table, nor are they comparable to rates for prior or later classes. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>Not available. <sup>c</sup>A dash (-) indicates data are masked. When the number of students represented by a final status is not reported, the corresponding class size is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the class. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information. <sup>d</sup>Numbers in class for race/ethnicity may not sum to the state total because some student records did not correspond to any single new racial/ethnic category.

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**Table C-6 (continued)**

**Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, Economic Status, and Gender, Texas Public Schools, Classes of 2006 Through 2011**

Class year	Class	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out		Graduated, continued, or received GED	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
<b>Female</b>											
Class of 2006	139,674	115,672	82.8	10,142	7.3	2,270	1.6	11,590	8.3	128,084	91.7
Class of 2007	143,071	114,823	80.3	10,808	7.6	1,937	1.4	15,503	10.8	127,568	89.2
Class of 2008	148,737	121,074	81.4	11,857	8.0	1,707	1.1	14,099	9.5	134,638	90.5
Class of 2009	151,756	125,806	82.9	11,605	7.6	1,579	1.0	12,766	8.4	138,990	91.6
Class of 2010	154,177	133,378	86.5	9,485	6.2	1,396	0.9	9,918	6.4	144,259	93.6
Class of 2011	156,848	138,317	88.2	8,058	5.1	1,249	0.8	9,224	5.9	147,624	94.1
<b>Male</b>											
Class of 2006	144,024	112,303	78.0	14,150	9.8	4,186	2.9	13,385	9.3	130,639	90.7
Class of 2007	147,591	111,889	75.8	14,449	9.8	3,751	2.5	17,502	11.9	130,089	88.1
Class of 2008	151,751	116,502	76.8	15,008	9.9	2,903	1.9	17,338	11.4	134,413	88.6
Class of 2009	156,671	122,694	78.3	15,062	9.6	2,825	1.8	16,090	10.3	140,581	89.7
Class of 2010	159,902	131,254	82.1	13,047	8.2	2,531	1.6	13,070	8.2	146,832	91.8
Class of 2011	162,740	136,245	83.7	11,699	7.2	2,207	1.4	12,589	7.7	150,151	92.3
<b>State</b>											
Class of 2006	283,698	227,975	80.4	24,292	8.6	6,456	2.3	24,975	8.8	258,723	91.2
Class of 2007	290,662	226,712	78.0	25,257	8.7	5,688	2.0	33,005	11.4	257,657	88.6
Class of 2008	300,488	237,576	79.1	26,865	8.9	4,610	1.5	31,437	10.5	269,051	89.5
Class of 2009	308,427	248,500	80.6	26,667	8.6	4,404	1.4	28,856	9.4	279,571	90.6
Class of 2010	314,079	264,632	84.3	22,532	7.2	3,927	1.3	22,988	7.3	291,091	92.7
Class of 2011 <sup>d</sup>	319,588	274,562	85.9	19,757	6.2	3,456	1.1	21,813	6.8	297,775	93.2

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Dropouts are counted according to the dropout definition in place the year they drop out. The definition changed in 2005-06. Longitudinal rates for the class of 2009 and later classes are comparable to one another. Rates for classes in which the national dropout definition was phased in (i.e., classes of 2006, 2007, and 2008) are not comparable from one class to another, as indicated by the gray lines in the table, nor are they comparable to rates for prior or later classes. Racial groups (African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, White, and multiracial) do not include students of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate. <sup>b</sup>Not available. <sup>c</sup>A dash (-) indicates data are masked. When the number of students represented by a final status is not reported, the corresponding class size is presented in such a manner as to provide a general idea of the number of students in the class. See the section "Data Masking" on page 39 for additional information. <sup>d</sup>Numbers in class for race/ethnicity may not sum to the state total because some student records did not correspond to any single new racial/ethnic category.

**Table C-7**

**Grade 9 Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation and Dropout Rates, Charters and Traditional Districts, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2016**

Group	Class	Graduated		Continued		Received GED <sup>a</sup>		Dropped out	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
Charters	15,741	9,733	61.8	2,662	16.9	295	1.9	3,051	19.4
Traditional districts	334,943	302,872	90.4	12,100	3.6	1,412	0.4	18,559	5.5
State	350,684	312,605	89.1	14,762	4.2	1,707	0.5	21,610	6.2

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development certificate.

**Appendix D**  
**Comparison of a Grade 9-12**  
**Longitudinal Dropout Rate**  
**and a Grade 9-12 Attrition Rate**

Figure D-1  
Example: Comparison of  
a Grade 9-12 Longitudinal Dropout Rate  
and a Grade 9-12 Attrition Rate

**Figure D-1**  
**Example: Comparison of a Grade 9-12 Longitudinal Dropout Rate and a Grade 9-12 Attrition Rate**

**Students in Attrition Rate Who Are Not Counted as Dropouts in Longitudinal Rate**

**Graduates.** The attrition rate includes early graduates and any on-time graduates who were not enrolled in Grade 12 in the fall of 2015-16.

**GED.<sup>a</sup>** The attrition rate includes students who received GED certificates rather than high school diplomas.

**Continuing Students.** The attrition rate includes continuing students if they were not in Grade 12 in 2015-16. The most common reason for students to fall behind a grade level is retention in Grade 9.

**Students who Left the Texas Public School System.** The attrition rate includes all students who left Texas public schools for any reason. The longitudinal rate excludes students who left Texas public schools for reasons other than dropping out. Reasons for exclusion from the longitudinal rate include the following.

- Enrolled in or withdrew with intent to enroll in another educational setting (private school in Texas, public or private school out of state, home schooling, or entered college early)
- Returned to home country
- Removed by district (expelled for criminal behavior; falsified enrollment information; no immunization; etc.)
- Removed by Child Protective Services
- Died

**Students Entering the Texas Public School System and Enrollment Growth.** Some attrition rates include a growth adjustment that is an estimate of the number of students entering Texas public schools. The attrition rate calculated by the Texas Education Agency is not adjusted for growth. The longitudinal rate assigns all students who enter the Texas public school system to the appropriate cohort and determines outcomes in the same way that outcomes for starting Grade 9 students are determined.

**Students Previously Counted.** The 2015-16 attrition rate includes students from the class of 2015 who were repeating Grade 9 in 2012-13. These students were also included in the 2014-15 attrition rate.

**Data Errors.** The attrition rate includes students removed from the longitudinal calculation because their statuses cannot be determined because of data errors.

Grade 9-12 Attrition Rate

Students from the class of 2016 who for any reason were not enrolled in Grade 12 in a Texas public school in the fall of the 2015-16 school year

**Students Included in Both Longitudinal Dropout Rate and Attrition Rate**

Both the longitudinal dropout rate and the attrition rate include students in the class of 2016 who left school before graduation for the following reasons.

- Academic performance (poor attendance, low grades, failing the exit-level assessment, etc.)
- Employment (pursue job or join military)
- Family (marriage or pregnancy)
- Alternative education
- Discipline (failure to return following expulsion or JJAEP<sup>b</sup> term)
- Alcohol or other drug abuse problems
- Whereabouts unknown

Grade 9-12 Longitudinal Dropout Rate

Students from the class of 2016 who dropped out

**Dropouts in Longitudinal Rate Who Are Not Included in Attrition Rate**

The longitudinal dropout rate includes the following students who are excluded from the attrition rate.

- Grade 12 Dropouts. The attrition rate does not include students who enroll in Grade 12 in 2015-16 but drop out before graduating.

<sup>a</sup>General Educational Development. <sup>b</sup>Juvenile justice alternative education program.



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# Compliance Statement

## **Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Modified Court Order, Civil Action 5281, Federal District Court, Eastern District of Texas, Tyler Division.**

Reviews of local education agencies pertaining to compliance with Title VI Civil Rights Act of 1964 and with specific requirements of the Modified Court Order, Civil Action No. 5281, Federal District Court, Eastern District of Texas, Tyler Division are conducted periodically by staff representatives of the Texas Education Agency. These reviews cover at least the following policies and practices:

1. acceptance policies on student transfers from other school districts;
2. operation of school bus routes or runs on a nonsegregated basis;
3. nondiscrimination in extracurricular activities and the use of school facilities;
4. nondiscriminatory practices in the hiring, assigning, promoting, paying, demoting, reassigning, or dismissing of faculty and staff members who work with children;
5. enrollment and assignment of students without discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin;
6. nondiscriminatory practices relating to the use of a student's first language; and
7. evidence of published procedures for hearing complaints and grievances.

In addition to conducting reviews, the Texas Education Agency staff representatives check complaints of discrimination made by a citizen or citizens residing in a school district where it is alleged discriminatory practices have occurred or are occurring.

Where a violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act is found, the findings are reported to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education.

If there is a direct violation of the Court Order in Civil Action No. 5281 that cannot be cleared through negotiation, the sanctions required by the Court Order are applied.

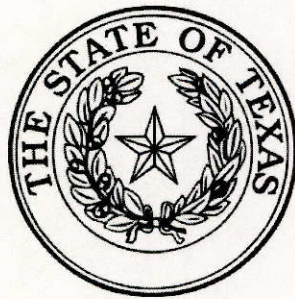
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