



Texas Public Education Facts

Updated: February 2006

Elementary & Middle School Performance – NAEP 2005

- 25 States outscored Texas on 4th grade reading & 7 states outscored Texas on 4th grade math
- 34 States outscored Texas on 8th grade reading & 19 states outscored Texas on 8th grade math

High School Dropout Rate for 2001-02 (Grades 9-12)

- 1.3 % Texas Education Agency & 3.8 % National Center for Education Statistics
- 39 % Intercultural Development Research Association & 32 % Manhattan Institute

High School Graduation Rate (Grades 9-12)

- Class of 2001: 81.1 % (Texas Education Agency); 65 % (Urban Institute)
- Class of 2002: 81.1 % (Texas Education Agency); 73.5 % (National Center for Education Statistics)

Proficiency of High School Graduates

- 3rd Lowest SAT scores in nation (higher participation rate by 20 states)
- 1 Point increase in SAT scores between 1995 & 2005 - 12 % fewer students taking SAT since 1993
- 8th Lowest ACT scores in nation (higher participation rate by 31 states)—17 % test-takers are college ready

Achievement Gaps between Student Groups

- Hispanic & African American students score 2-3 years behind Anglo peers on NAEP
- No significant change in gaps according to SAT and ACT

Standards for Public Schools & Students

- To achieve public school accreditation & an acceptable rating, schools must have 25 % of students pass science, 35 % pass math & 50 % pass reading, writing & social studies
- Only 4 states have lower standards for 4th & 8th grade reading & math assessments, when state proficiency standards are compared with standards set by the National Assessment of Educational Progress

Higher Education

- 63 % Of students transition from high school to college—9th Lowest rate in nation
- 52 % students graduate from universities in 6 years (55 % national average) and 5th lowest all degree completion rate in nation
- No increase in percentage of students bridging from high school to college since 2000
- 52 % Fulltime college freshman require remedial courses

Public Education Dollars

- Public education is the second largest function funded by state government, accounting for 27 % of budget
- Public schools spent \$38.4 billion during the 2003-04 school year—\$8,914 per pupil
- Inflation-adjusted average per-pupil expenditures more than tripled from 1960 to 2001
- 63 % comes from property taxes—27 % increase from 2001-2005 (5th highest rate in nation)
- School districts spend only 57 cents of each education dollar on classroom instruction

Texas Public Education Facts – Sources

Elementary & Middle School Performance – NAEP 2005

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Proficiency of High School Graduates

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- Same
- ACT, *2005 ACT National and State Scores: Average Scores by State*, ACT Newsroom; and *2005 State Report: The State of College Readiness and Success in Texas*, ACT, Austin, TX, 2005

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Higher Education

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- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, *Closing the Gaps by 2015: 2005 Progress Report*, pg. 5 and Dallas Morning News, "UT regents approve graduation rate resolution," 2/9/2006; and National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, *Measuring Up 2004, The National Report Card on Higher Education*, and State Comparison Results: Index Scores Participation
- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, *Closing the Gaps by 2015: 2005 Progress Report*, pg. 5
- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, *Texas Public Community and Technical Colleges 2004 Statewide Fact Book*, 2005, pg IV-I (72)

Public Education Funding

- Legislative Budget Board, *Fiscal Size-up 2006-07*, pg. 2
- Texas Education Agency, *Pocket Edition 2004-05*
- Average per pupil expenditures reported by the National Center for Education Statistics adjusted by the Consumer Price Index by Byron Schломach, economist, Texas Public Policy Foundation
- Legislative Budget Board, *Fiscal Size-up 2006-07*, pg.177; and Texas Public Policy Foundation, *An Examination of Texas Economic State*, 2005, pgs. 22 & 24
- Texas Education Agency, *Pocket Edition 2004-05*

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