A New Measure of Educational Success in Texas

Tracking the Success of 8th Graders into and through College

National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)

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TG

Texas Institute for Education Reform

Purpose of the Study

Attempt to replicate THECB's 7th grade cohort study, with confidence

Our study started with 8th grade to achieve alignment with other states

Source data (longitudinal unit record data) was supplied by THECB

Analysis was conducted by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)

The "Number" 21.9%

The percentage of Texas 8th grade students who earn any sort of postsecondary certificate or degree within six years of their expected high school graduation date

Every Texas public school 8th grader from 2006-08 was counted (883,260 students) and followed for 11 academic years

The "Number" 21.9%

How was it calculated?

Public school 8th graders in 1996-98 = 883,260

Unduplicated certificates or degrees earned in Texas = 175,489

175,489 ÷ 883,260 = 19.9%

…then apply a 10.4% adjustment* for out-of-state completions

.199 x 1.104 = 21.9%

*Reliable NSC data is not available for the 1996-98 cohorts. This adjustment will no longer be needed once NSC data can be reliably used, probably starting with the 1999 8th grade cohort.

The "Number" 21.9%

This indicator is:

- **A straightforward measure of Texas' success in producing well-educated young people**
- **A joint production index of the K-12 / higher education pipeline**
- **Easy to understand**
- **Accurate**
- **Robust and unambiguous**
- **Incorruptible**

The “Number” 21.9%

Just counting certificates & degrees hides the effects of population growth

Longitudinal cohort tracking is a far more robust measure of success across the public and higher education sectors

Texas is one of the few states with a mature, quality longitudinal unit record data system

Truth in Advertising!!

The "Number" is not subject to manipulation…

…the numerator and denominator can be determined with real precision from Texas unit record data systems

The great statistician, Mark Twain, could figure this one out!

"Figures often beguile me, particularly when I have the arranging of them myself; in which case the remark attributed to Disraeli would often apply with justice and force: 'There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics.'"

Combined 1996-98 Grade Cohorts Tracked through 11 Academic Years

Ethnicity	8th Grade	HE Enrollee	HE Enrollee /not HS graduate	HE Credential Earned in TX	HE Credential incl. out-of-state est.
Native Am.	2,208	958	128	312	344
Asian/PI	21,710	15,780	1,585	8,960	9,892
Afr. Amer.	122,642	57,855	6,498	13,962	15,414
Hispanic	318,739	130,314	14,434	37,027	40,878
White	417,961	258,114	26,210	115,228	127,212
Total	*883,260*	*463,021*	*48,855*	*175,489*	*193,740*

Ethnicity	8th Grade	HE Enrollee	HE Enrollee /not HS graduate	HE Credential Earned in TX	HE Credential incl. out-of-state est.
Native Am.	100%	43.4%	5.8%	14.1%	15.6%
Asian/PI	100%	72.7%	7.3%	41.3%	45.6%
Afr. Amer.	100%	47.2%	5.3%	11.4%	12.3%
Hispanic	100%	40.9%	4.5%	11.6%	12.8%
White	100%	61.8%	6.3%	27.6%	30.5%
Total	*100%*	*52.4%*	*5.5%*	*19.9%*	*21.9%*

What if results have not improved….1996-98 vs. 2010 ?

Hispanics represented 36% of 1996-98 8th graders, and 49% of 2010 8th graders

	2010 8th grade headcount	1996-98 HE completion rates (three annual cohorts)	1996-98 HE completion rates incl. 10.4% adjustment for out-of-state completions	2010 cohort HE completions using 1996-98 rate incl. 10.4% adjustment for out-of-state completions
White	115,775	27.60%	30.47%	35,277
Black	46,228	11.40%	12.59%	5,818
Am. Indian	1,806	14.10%	15.57%	281
Asian	12,269	41.30%	45.60%	5,594
Pacif. Islander	444	41.30%	45.60%	202
Hispanic	172,273	11.60%	12.81%	22,062
Multi-racial	5,389	19.90%	21.97%	1,184
Total	354,184			70,419
1996-98 completion rate w/10.4% adjustment for out-of-state completions:				21.90%
2010 completion rate using a no-improvement scenario				19.88%
Overall change in completion rates between 1996-98 and 2010 cohorts				**-2.02%**

A Special Challenge for Texas: Boys of Color

226,487 black and Hispanic boys started 8th grade in Texas during 1996-98

19,375, or 8.5% achieved a certificate or degree from a Texas institution 11 academic years later

~21,400, or 9.4% if adjusted (10.4%) for out-of-state completions

What is happening in the lives of those 200,000+ young men of color who did not complete a certificate or degree?

In Need of a Plan

Bifurcated K-12 and Higher Education plans are not working for Texas—just look at the result "21.9%"

We would argue Texas needs an "Education Plan"…

The "Number" can be the unifying index for a Texas-sized student success agenda

The “Number”

It can…

be “the” educational performance index for Texas…

Because the “Number” represents…

the joint effect of public and higher education in Texas

And it is…

simple to calculate, accurate, easy to understand, and not subject to manipulation.

Future Plans

- **Houston Endowment will produce the "Number" each year for the foreseeable future**
- **Additional states added as data becomes available**
- **NSC can reliably be used as early as next year**
- **Subsequent reports will include additional disaggregations:**
  - **By region of the state**
  - **Income (using free & reduced lunch as an income proxy)**
- **An interactive website is being developed**