



We are EdTrust

FIERCE ADVOCATES

for education equity and justice for students
of color and students from low-income families

Equity-Driven • Data-Centered • Student-Focused



The Education Trust

TX State Time



Objective: Provide the latest real-time information on key bills as we enter the homestretch of the 87th Texas Legislative session

Agenda: Key bills related to ...

- Safe and supportive school climate w/ Texas Appleseed and Texas Criminal Justice Coalition
- College readiness and access w/ The Commit Partnership and Texas 2036

Key bills to address safe and supportive school climate:



- HB 1194 / HB 3485 (The MEASURE Bill): Requires disaggregated school discipline data
- School Safety Allotment rider: Expanding allowable uses for evidence-based strategies
- HB 2975: Prevents restraint of students 10 years of age or younger unless they pose a serious risk of harm
- HB 62: Establishes a Restorative Justice Coordinating Council and a state database of programs and best practices

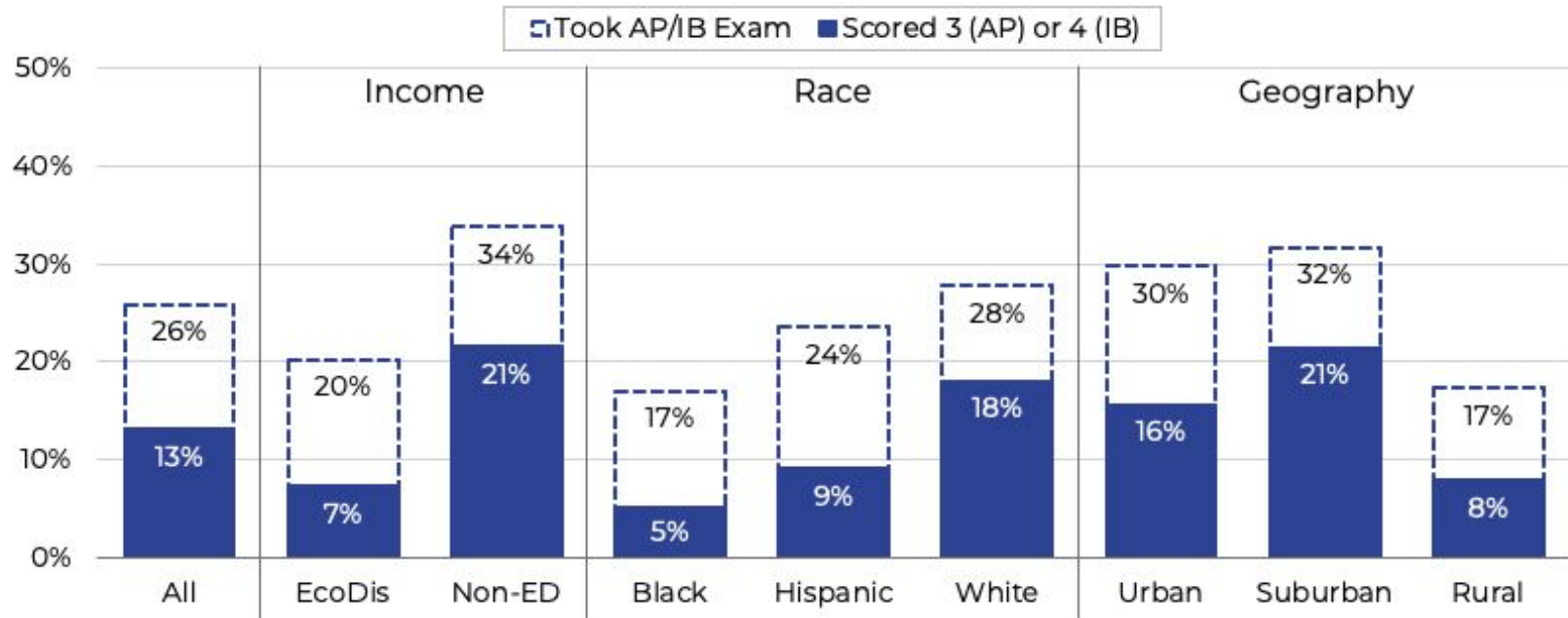
Key bills to address college readiness and access:



- SB 2061: Requires school districts to make Algebra 1 available to every 8th grader and TEA to post disaggregated advanced coursework participation data
- HB 4403 / SB 1277: Requires dual credit programs to provide individualized advising

Advanced Course Participation and Success Rates in Texas Vary Widely by Student Background

Percent of 11th and 12th Graders in Texas Who Took an AP or IB Exam and Percent Who Scored at Least a 3 on AP or 4 on IB, by Student Group, 2017-2018



Source: Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Progress Report, 2019.

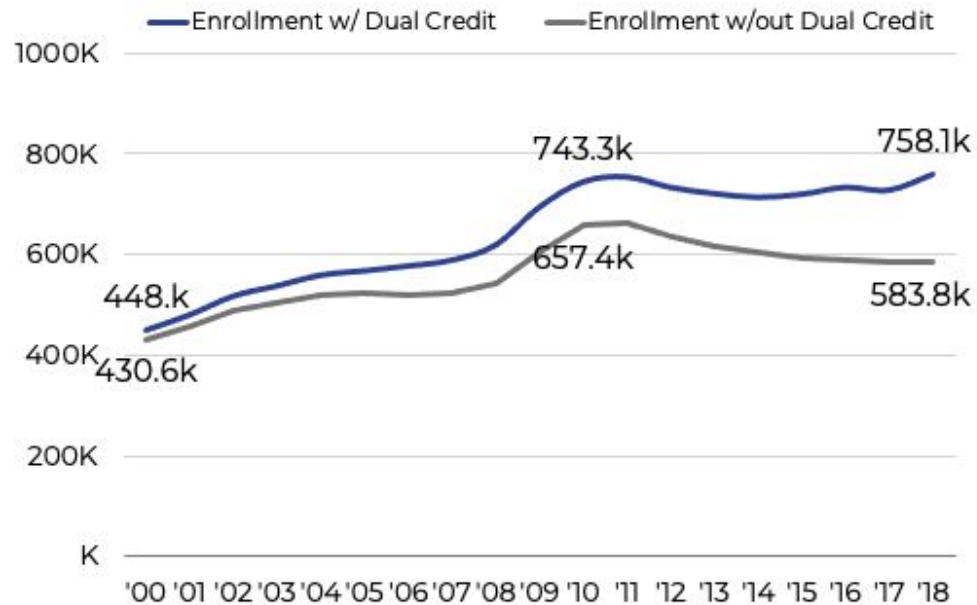
*Note: NCES District Labels used to classify districts (all Rural and Towns are Rural; all Suburbs are Suburban; all Cities are Urban).

SB 2061 (Menéndez) Expands Access to Rigorous Coursework for All Texas Students, Regardless of Background

- **Requires that every Texas district offers Algebra I to 8th graders** who are academically prepared and interested (in-person, remote, or through partnerships)
- **Requires that districts provide information to students and parents** about the course pathways available to them and high-level information on careers
- **Waives ADA funding restrictions** on virtual school participation for students in small districts
- **Expands data reporting** on disaggregated student participation and success rates in rigorous courses such as AP, dual credit, Algebra I in 8th grade, and college-level math

Texas Community Colleges Have Come to Rely Heavily on Dual Credit to Supplement Falling Enrollment Numbers

Community and Technical College (CTC) Student Enrollment in Texas, Fall Semesters of 2000-2018



The share of dual credit students enrolled in career and technical college (CTC) campuses **grew from 4% of all students in 2000 to 23% in 2018**

But dual credit has been found to **only marginally reduce student debt and time to degree**

Dual credit participation is also **deeply inequitable** by student race, income, and ZIP code

HB 4403 (J. Turner)/SB 1277 (West) Will Ensure That More Texas Students Benefit From Dual Credit

HB 4403/SB 1277 requires that colleges and school districts designate advisors to students before they enroll in dual credit.

Advisors can help students make more informed decisions about dual credit by:

- Helping them **identify courses** that are aligned with their long-term plans
- Working with them to determine whether they are **academically and emotionally ready** for college-level coursework
- Talking to them about the **negative consequences** of failing or withdrawing from dual credit coursework
- Helping them with **course registration and other processes**

Key bills to address college readiness and access:

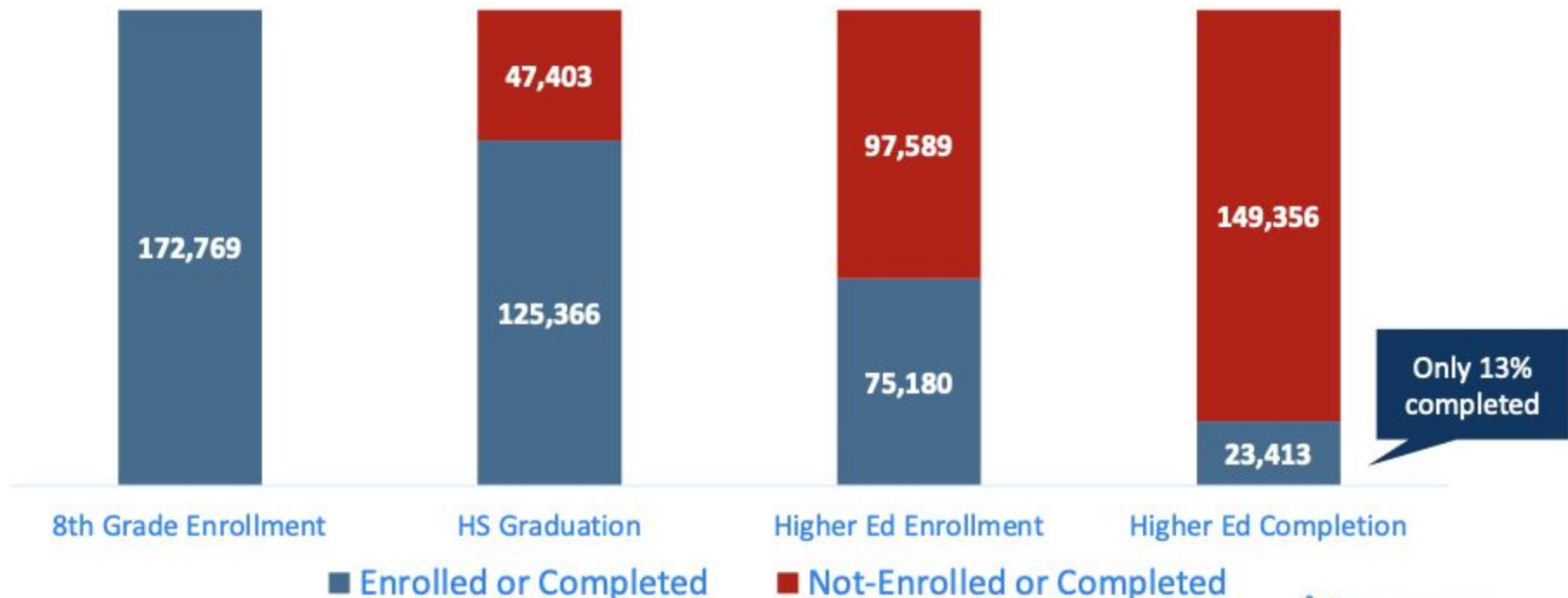


- HB 2030 / SB 2111: Competitive grant to incentivize local partnerships that facilitate strong handoffs between PK-12 and higher ed
- HB 3351 / SB 1230: Establishes a Texas Commission on Community College Finance

Our State's Major Challenge – Low-Income Postsecondary Completion

Only 13% of Texas' Eco-Dis 8th Grade Cohort Earned a TX PS Degree by Age of 24, Resulting in \$150Bn in Foregone Lifetime Earnings for that Cohort Alone

THECB 8th Grade Econ. Disadvantaged Cohort Pipeline to a Degree or Certificate, 2008 8th Graders thru 2018



Source: THECB 2008 8th Grade Cohort information for Class of 2008 Outcomes for this cohort were tracked for 11 years, including the last year of middle school, four years of high school, and six years for higher education.

The pandemic disproportionately affected enrollment for students experiencing poverty

National Changes in Immediate College Enrollments by Institution Type and Income Level of High Schools



Source: National Student Clearinghouse, 2020 HS Benchmarks Report: https://nscresearchcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020_HS BenchmarksReport.pdf

Note: For-profit four-year and private two-year colleges are not shown due to small numbers

Address COVID decline in community college enrollment: Incentivize Local Talent Pipelines to support students with postsecondary enrollment and entry into workforce through HB 2030/ SB 2111



A **competitive talent grant** can incentivize the formation and continuation of data-driven postsecondary collaboratives that focus on increasing enrollment, persistence and completion of high-needs students. *Dallas County Promise increased postsecondary enrollment 7% in 2019 vs. decline in enrollment in the state.*



The grant funding covers 2 cohorts of **high school students** who historically don't enroll or drop out before completing a degree/credential. Funding would be distributed as a \$1,000 payment for each eligible student who enrolls, followed by up to \$2K/student who persists and completes



Texas can see a roughly **\$4,000 match in federal Pell money** for every \$1,000 invested.

HB 3351/SB 1230 – Establishing a Texas Commission on Community College Finance

- Leverages the Texas legislature's interim session to study community college funding, which has not been meaningfully updated in decades.
- The commission is charged with:
 - Examining relationship between junior college funding and student outcomes
 - Aiming to improve student outcomes aligned with state postsecondary goals
 - Examining trend and forecast data
 - Seeking stakeholder input
 - Accounting for equity in student outcomes, with a particular focus on students who are underrepresented in higher education, including from families in bottom quintiles of the economic spectrum, and make recommendations on funding methods
- Builds upon work in 2018 Texas School Finance Commission, which paved the way for major PreK-12 school finance reform in the 2019 legislative session through House Bill 3.

TX State Time: Next Steps



Look for a follow-up email to learn more and get connected with coordinated advocacy efforts in the final weeks of the legislative session!