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**Secondary School
Completion and Dropouts
in Texas Public Schools
2003-04**

**DEPARTMENT OF
ACCOUNTABILITY
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Abstract. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) prepares an annual report on dropouts in Texas public schools. This report includes state summaries of the annual dropout rate, longitudinal secondary school completion 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. Finally, the report summarizes reasons students were reported to have dropped out of school and outlines the state plan to reduce the dropout rate.

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

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Highlights

Longitudinal Rates

- Out of 270,911 students in the Texas public school 2000-01 Grade 9 cohort, 96.1 percent had graduated by 2004, continued in high school the following school year, or received General Educational Development (GED) certificates by 2004. Of these, 4.2 percent had received GED certificates.
- The 3.9 percent longitudinal dropout rate for the class of 2004 Grade 9 cohort was lower than the 4.5 percent longitudinal dropout rate for the class of 2003.
- The overall graduation rate was 84.6 percent. African American students had a graduation rate of 82.8 percent; Hispanic students, 78.4 percent; and White students, 89.4 percent. Each group showed an increase over the preceding year in the percentage of students graduating, except for White students, whose graduation rate decreased by 0.4 percentage points.
- Hispanic students and economically disadvantaged students had the highest longitudinal dropout rates, with Hispanic students at 6.3 percent and economically disadvantaged students at 5.9 percent. African American students had the largest percentage point decrease, down 1.4 percentage points from 6.3 percent the year before.
- Females had a higher graduation rate than males and lower rates of GED certification, continuation, and dropping out.

Longitudinal Completion Rates, Grades 9-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2004

Group	Graduated (%)	Continued (%)	Received GED ^a (%)	Dropped out (%)	Completion I ^b (%)	Completion II ^c (%)
African American	82.8	9.2	3.1	4.9	92.0	95.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	92.7	4.0	1.6	1.7	96.7	98.3
Hispanic	78.4	11.6	3.8	6.3	90.0	93.7
Native American	84.3	5.9	6.1	3.7	90.1	96.3
White	89.4	3.7	5.1	1.9	93.0	98.1
Economically disadvantaged	78.6	11.3	4.2	5.9	90.0	94.1
State	84.6	7.3	4.2	3.9	91.9	96.1

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

^aGeneral Educational Development certificate. ^bCompletion I consists of students who graduated or continued high school. ^cCompletion II consists of students who graduated, continued high school, or received GEDs.

- Patterns for the Grade 7 cohorts for the classes of 2003 and 2004 were similar to those of the Grade 9 cohorts. The graduation rate and the rate of GED certification increased, and the continuation rate decreased. The dropout rate for the class of 2004 Grade 7 cohort decreased to 4.2 percent from 4.9 percent for the class of 2003.
- For 2004, the attrition rates for Grades 9-12 and Grades 7-12 were 32.6 percent and 20.0 percent, respectively.

Annual Dropout Rates

- Out of 1,924,717 students who attended Grades 7-12 in Texas public schools during the 2003-04 school year, the same percentage were reported to have dropped out as in the previous year (0.9%).
- In 2003-04, the number of dropouts in Grades 7-12 from Texas public schools declined to 16,434, a 4.2 percent decrease from 17,151 in 2002-03.
- The gap in Grade 7-12 dropout rates between African American and White students decreased by 0.2 percentage points. The dropout rate for African American students dropped by 0.2 percentage points from 2002-03; similarly, the actual number of African American dropouts decreased from the previous year. The dropout rate for White students remained at 0.4 percent, while the dropout rate for Hispanic students decreased by 0.1 percentage points.
- Grade 7-12 dropout rates for African American and Hispanic students (1.0% and 1.3%, respectively) were more than two and three times higher than that of White students (0.4%), respectively.

Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-8, Grades 9-12 and Grades 7-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, 2003-04

Group	Dropout rate (%)		
	Grades 7-8	Grades 9-12	Grades 7-12
African American	0.2	1.4	1.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.5	0.4
Hispanic	0.3	1.9	1.3
Native American	0.2	1.2	0.8
White	0.1	0.6	0.4
Economically disadvantaged	0.2	1.3	0.9
State	0.2	1.2	0.9

- All grades showed a decrease in the number of dropouts except Grade 12, which showed an increase from the previous year, rising from 3,441 in 2002-03 to 3,542 dropouts in 2003-04, a 2.9 percent increase. Dropout rates for Grades 7, 9, and 11 decreased 0.1 percentage points from the previous year while the dropout rates for Grades 8, 10, and 12 showed no change.
- The statewide annual dropout rate for Grades 7-8 was 0.2 percent in both 2002-03 and 2003-04. The actual number of Grade 7-8 dropouts declined by 14.3 percent, from 1,486 in 2002-03 to 1,274 dropouts in 2003-04.
- The number of grade 7-8 dropouts declined for all ethnic groups from the previous year. Among African American, Hispanic, and White students, the number of Hispanic dropouts showed the greatest decrease (17.0 percent), from 1,002 dropouts in 2002-03 to 832 dropouts in 2003-04.
- The statewide annual dropout rate for Grades 9-12 was 1.2 percent. Using a grade span of 7-12, rather than 9-12, increased the number of dropouts by 1,274 and produced a dropout rate that is three tenths of a percentage point less than the Grade 9-12 rate.
- Reasons commonly cited for dropping out of school included academic performance, pursuit of a job, and age.

Leaver Reporting

- Statewide, districts and charters accounted for 99.8 percent (2,046,578) of the students who were enrolled or in attendance in Grades 7-12 in 2003-04.
- 2003-04 was the seventh year the leaver record was used, and reporting continued to improve. Only 4,572 of the students in Grades 7-12 in 2003-04 were underreported, compared to 6,858 underreported students in 2002-03. On a percentage basis, students enrolled or in attendance in Grades 7-12 who had not been accounted for dropped to 0.2 percent from 0.3 percent in 2002-03.
- In 2003-04, three districts or charters had more than 100 underreported student records and more than 5 percent underreported student records. In addition, 16 districts or charters had more than 5 percent underreported student records, although the numbers of students underreported were fewer than 100. Also, 8 districts or charters had more than 100 underreported student records, although the numbers of students underreported were equal to or less than 5 percent of the districts' student records.
- The number of districts and charters that accounted for all their students served the previous year increased from 79 in 1997-98 to 792 in 2003-04.

Introduction

Over the past several decades, major changes in economic and social circumstances have heightened public concern about educational excellence and equity. Rapid technological advances in the global marketplace have increasingly challenged young people with ample education and training, not to mention those with little education or training. At the same time, youths traditionally considered most at risk of academic failure have comprised increasingly larger proportions of the Texas school-age population.

In response to these challenges, Texas has moved from a public education system that focuses on rules and procedures to one that emphasizes student achievement and accountability for results. School districts and campuses are now held responsible for enabling all students to achieve exemplary levels of performance. Lawmakers have facilitated school improvement by reducing state regulation and giving educators the flexibility to tailor programs to meet local needs.

Sophisticated data systems allow the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to monitor school performance using a wide range of measures. Common indicators of academic excellence include attendance, advanced course completion, and standardized test results. Individually, each indicator concentrates on a unique aspect of performance; together, they present a broader picture of educational quality and effectiveness.

A fundamental measure of school success is whether students are completing their secondary education. Over time, refinements in data collection and processing have allowed TEA to provide increasingly more detailed information about high school completion. Student progress through high school can now be measured using a variety of methods and rates. Each type of rate is valid and useful for its specific purpose and can offer a reliable assessment of the educational experience it was designed to measure.

This report, published annually since 1989, takes advantage of the expanded resources available by presenting comprehensive findings about both high school completion and non-completion. The report includes state summaries of two measures that were used in district and campus accountability ratings for the first time in 2004: Grade 7-8 annual dropout rates and longitudinal high school completion rates. The longitudinal series includes four-year rates for graduates, recipients of General Educational Development (GED) certificates, and students who continue in school following their anticipated graduation dates. Four-year dropout rates make up the fourth component of the series. Together, the rates add to 100 percent. Also presented in the report are Grade 9-12 and Grade 7-12 annual dropout rates, Grade 7-12 longitudinal rates, and Grade 9-12 and Grade 7-12 attrition rates.

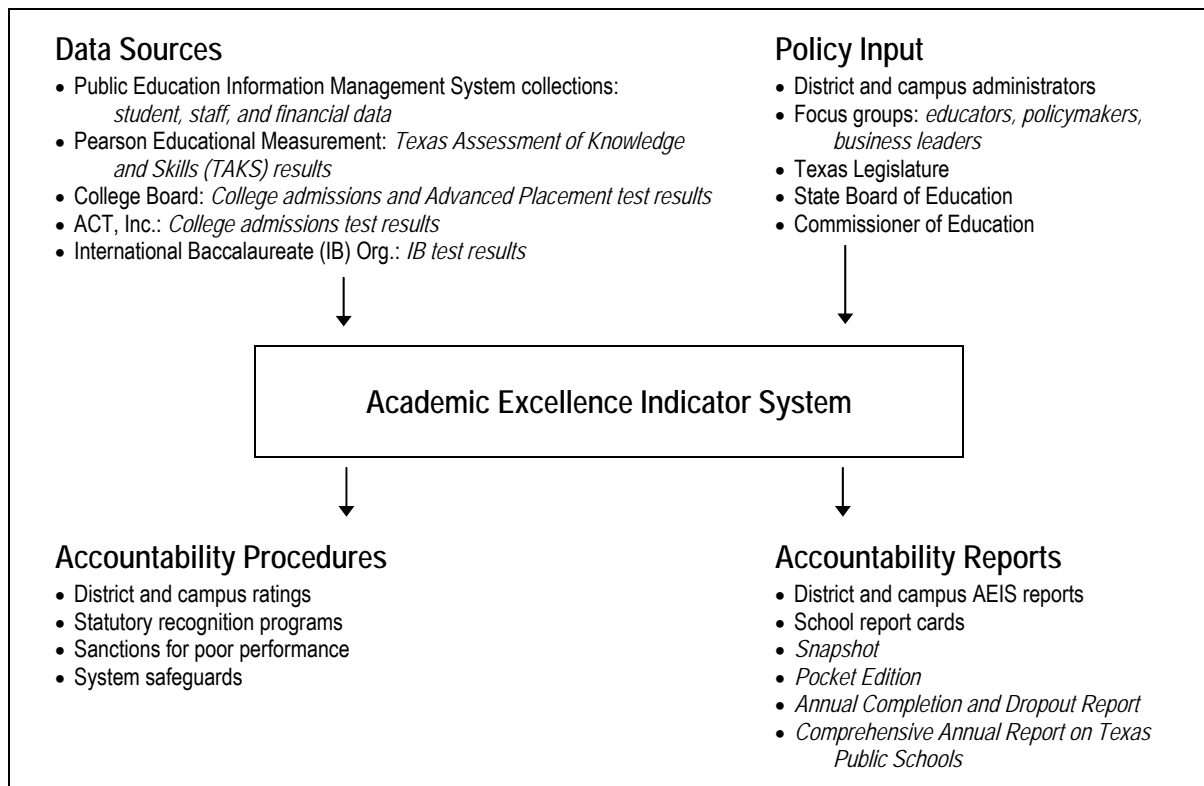
The Texas Education Agency continues to take steps to improve the accuracy of dropout reporting. In 1997-98, the separate dropout and graduate data records submitted by school districts were eliminated and replaced with leaver data records. Districts are now required to account for all students enrolled in Grades 7-12, not just dropouts and graduates. This more complete set of student withdrawal information can be better monitored at the state level. Results of TEA analyses of leaver data quality are presented in this report.

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 potential advantages and disadvantages associated with each measure. Extensive background on TEA data collection, processing, and reporting is presented, and national requirements for dropout data are described. Finally, the report summarizes reported reasons students drop out of school and outlines the state plan to reduce the dropout rate.

State Accountability System

The Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) serves as the basis of an integrated accountability system that includes a mechanism for rating campuses and school districts, as well as for reporting performance results to districts, schools, and parents. As Figure 1 illustrates, data collected from school districts through the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) or provided by test contractors are compiled for each school year. These AEIS data are the primary sources for accountability evaluations and reports.

Figure 1
Overview of Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS)



Published beginning with the 1990-91 school year, AEIS reports include performance indicators designed to measure the educational progress of campuses and districts. Since 1994, the accountability system has distinguished between three types of performance indicators: base, additional, and report-only. (For a detailed description of components of the AEIS, see the Texas Education Agency (TEA) *2005 Accountability Manual* [cf. TEA, 2005e].) From 1994 to 2000, the base indicators were defined as the attendance rate for Grades 1-12, the annual dropout rate for Grades 7-12, and performance on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS). Starting with the 2001 ratings cycle, the attendance rate was changed from a base to an additional indicator. Annual

dropout rates and TAAS performance were used to determine district and campus ratings for 2001 and 2002.

A new accountability system was implemented with the 2004 ratings cycle. Ratings are based on TAKS performance, State-Developed Alternative Assessment (SDAA) II performance, Grade 9 completion rates, and Grade 7-8 annual dropout rates. A Grade 9 completion rate reflects the percentage of students in the ninth grade class who complete high school by the cohort's anticipated graduation date four years later. Three of the indicators are evaluated for individual student groups (African American, Hispanic, White, and economically disadvantaged), as well as for all students. SDAA II results are evaluated for all students only. There are four standard ratings for districts and campuses: *Exemplary*, *Recognized*, *Academically Acceptable*, and *Academically Unacceptable*. Other labels can be applied in special circumstances outside the standard rating procedures.

Additional indicators (such as college admissions testing results, participation in the State Board of Education's recommended high school program, and attendance rates) are measured against standards but do not affect accountability ratings. Instead, districts and campuses may receive acknowledgment through the Gold Performance Acknowledgment system for high levels of performance on these indicators. Report-only indicators such as progress of prior-year TAKS failers are included in AEIS reports, but state standards for these indicators have not been established. The AEIS reports also include school district profile data, such as student and teacher demographic information, that provide a context for interpreting the performance data.

Standards for performance on the base indicators are phased in over time. For the 2005 ratings, at least 75 percent of a Grade 9 class must graduate, receive a General Educational Development (GED) certificate, or be enrolled in high school for a rating of *Academically Acceptable* (Table 1). A Grade 7-8 annual dropout rate of 1.0 percent or less is required for the *Academically Acceptable* rating.

Table 1
Completion and Annual Dropout Rate Standards in the Texas Public Education Accountability System, 2004 and 2005

Standards	<i>Exemplary</i>		<i>Recognized</i>		<i>Academically Acceptable</i>	
	Completion rate (Grade 9 cohort)	Annual dropout rate (Grades 7-8)	Completion rate (Grade 9 cohort)	Annual dropout rate (Grades 7-8)	Completion rate (Grade 9 cohort)	Annual dropout rate (Grades 7-8)
2004	>= 95%	<= 0.2%	>= 85%	<= 0.7%	>= 75%	<= 2.0%
2005	>= 95%	<= 0.2%	>= 85%	<= 0.7%	>= 75%	<= 1.0%

Monitoring Student Progress

History of Data Collection

In 1984, when education reform in Texas began to focus on accountability for student performance, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) collected a wide variety of school district information using some 200 separate paper forms. These aggregated data provided educators, policymakers, and the public with a broad sense of the direction of public education in the state. Nevertheless, because data collection and reporting procedures were not standardized, there were inconsistencies across districts in definitions, calculations, and reports. This limited the usefulness of the student data for detailed evaluation of campus and district performance trends.

With the passage of Texas House Bill (HB) 72 in the summer of 1984, it became necessary to develop a comprehensive, coordinated database of public education information. The system had to allow student performance and progress to be measured accurately, evaluated fairly, and reported publicly in a timely manner. After two years of development, the State Board of Education (SBOE) in 1986 approved implementation of the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS).

In the first PEIMS data collection in fall of 1987, districts reported organizational, financial, and staff information. The following year, dropout records became the first individual student data records submitted through PEIMS. A Person Identification Database (PID) system was implemented shortly thereafter, enabling records for an individual to be linked across collections by matching identification information. With student-level data and a system for linking student records, TEA could produce automated aggregations of campus-, district-, and state-level information. Currently, there are four data collections per school year, each with submission and resubmission deadlines.

In 1990-91, districts began submitting student-level enrollment and graduation records. This information, combined with the dropout record, enabled TEA to analyze different statuses attained by students on an annual basis. It also became possible for the first time to consider tracking student progress across multiple years. 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. Starting in 1997-98, districts were required to provide information on all students who left the district, not just students who dropped out or graduated.

Leaver Reporting System

Reporting Requirements

Before the 1997-98 school year, districts were required to report only students in Grades 7-12 who graduated or dropped out. The statuses of students who left school for other reasons were not

reported through PEIMS. Since the 1997-98 school year, school districts have had to report the statuses of all students who were enrolled or in attendance in Grades 7-12 during a school year. Each fall, returning students are reported on enrollment records; students who left during the previous year or did not return are reported on "leaver records." Districts use the leaver record to describe the circumstances of a student's departure. Prior to the submission of 2001-02 leaver data, districts could report up to 3 of 43 leaver reason codes for each school leaver. Starting with leaver data for 2001-02, districts could submit 1 of 30 leaver reason codes for each leaver.

Based on the leaver reason codes, school leavers are categorized as graduates, dropouts, or other leavers. Other leavers include students who withdraw to: (a) enroll in other public or private schools in the state; (b) enroll in schools outside the state; (c) enroll in colleges or General Educational Development (GED) preparation programs; or (d) enter home schooling. See Table A-2 in Appendix A for the number of students reported under each leaver reason code for the 1997-98 through 2003-04 school years.

Procedures for Assessing Reporting

To determine whether districts have accounted for all students enrolled or in attendance in Grades 7-12, TEA compares fall enrollment and leaver records with enrollment and attendance records submitted the previous year. Students are matched across years on student identification number (social security number or state identification number), last name, first name, and date of birth. Student identification number, plus any two of the other three criteria, must match. Based on these comparisons, student records are divided into three groups:

1. students for whom enrollment or leaver records are expected and are received;
2. "underreported" students for whom enrollment or leaver records are expected but are not received; and
3. "overreported" students for whom leaver records are received when none are expected.

School districts can obtain reports of potential underreported students in their initial fall data submissions. Districts then have the opportunity to correct errors and omissions before the resubmission deadline. The corrections remove many students who had been on the preliminary lists of underreported student records. Following resubmission, additional processing is done by TEA to finalize the list of underreported students.

Between 1997-98 and 2000-01, TEA compared the overreported and underreported leaver records within individual school districts and removed students from the two lists when there was a high degree of matching between the two sets of records. As a result, underreported and overreported student records attributable to student identification errors were eliminated. The additional processing to remove partial matches between underreported and overreported student records was discontinued in 2001-02. Leaver records are subject to an automated statewide process to exclude some reported dropouts from dropout rate computations as appropriate for accountability purposes (see **Overview of**

Overview of Leaver Data Processing

Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) data, including leaver records, are submitted by school districts to the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The regional education service centers (ESCs) are responsible for ensuring compliance with basic reporting requirements and schedules. Data checks are performed at TEA as part of initial data processing. Each district can produce a list of potential underreported students—those Grade 7-12 students served the previous year for whom the district has not submitted either enrollment records (for returning students) or leaver records (for graduates, dropouts, and other leavers). Districts have the opportunity to correct and resubmit their data before the resubmission deadline. The due date for the fall data submission that includes the leaver data is early December. The resubmission deadline is mid-January.

After TEA receives the final PEIMS data submission, an automated statewide search of other data files is conducted. The search identifies students reported to have dropped out or withdrawn who did not do so. This includes students who are found enrolled in public school somewhere else in the state, students appearing on the General Educational Development (GED) information file as having received GED certificates, students reported as having graduated, and any students who have been identified as dropouts in previous school years.

Once this process is completed, TEA calculates the annual dropout rate for each campus and district with Grade 7-12 enrollment, for all students and for each student group (African American, Hispanic, White, and economically disadvantaged). Since 2004, the Grade 7-8 annual dropout rates, together with longitudinal high school completion rates, Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) scores, and State-Developed Alternative Assessment II results, have served as academic excellence indicators and are used to determine for each district and campus an accountability rating of either *Exemplary*, *Recognized*, *Academically Acceptable*, or *Academically Unacceptable*.

Following release of the ratings each year, the commissioner of education convenes an accountability advisory group of educators, policymakers, and other stakeholders to review issues that arose during the rating cycle and changes proposed for the following year. As necessary, focus groups of educators are appointed to study issues and bring recommendations to the advisory group. Development of the accountability system for 2005 and beyond, changes to the dropout definition and calculation of the annual dropout rate, and leaver data quality issues that have emerged since the inception of the accountability system have been reviewed by the accountability advisory group.

Leaver Data Processing above). Records for other leavers are also subject to this process. TEA then determines, on a district-by-district basis, counts of returning students, overreported and underreported student records, graduates, dropouts, and other leavers. Underreported student records as percentages of students served are also calculated.

Accountability Safeguards

Before the 1997-98 school year, districts were required to report only students who graduated or dropped out. Leaver records provide more complete data on student withdrawals and can be better monitored at the state level. Leaver data includes withdrawal information on students who graduated or dropped out, as well as those who left school for other reasons. Data used to rate districts and campuses undergo routine screening before and after release of the accountability ratings to validate data integrity.

In 1997-98 and 1998-99, data inquiries initiated by the agency focused on high percentages or counts of underreported students. In 1999-00 and 2000-01, inquiries were added for a random selection of districts and for districts with high percentages or counts of selected leaver codes. For 2001-02 leaver data, comprehensive desk audits of all “other exit” leaver codes were established as part of the standard accountability system safeguards. Student exit reasons submitted by districts are

compared to those submitted by other districts and the state. TEA searches enrollment and GED records to determine if students reported as leaving a district enrolled elsewhere or received GEDs. These search capabilities enable the agency to tailor the screening criteria to the leaver code. Application of the screening criteria to 2001-02 leaver data (Table 2) resulted in the identification of 129 districts and charters for investigation in 2002-03. Under the transition plan for a new performance-based monitoring (PBM) system, developed in response to legislation passed in 2003, the selected districts and charters were required to submit to TEA the results of self-audits. Based on desk reviews of self-audit results, site visits to nine of these districts and charters were conducted in 2003-04 and 2004-05 to further examine their data. Comparative analyses of leaver codes were supplemented with the findings of independent audit reports of district 2001-02 dropout data (Texas Education Code [TEC] §39.055, 2004).

Table 2
Screening Criteria Used for Investigations of 2001-02 Leaver Data

Criterion	Description
100 percent use of a single "other exit" leaver code	A single "other exit" leaver code is used for reporting all student leavers. Leaver code 80, withdrew to enroll in another public school, is not included in this analysis because its use is evaluated independently. A minimum of six leavers is required for selection on this basis.
High use of codes	An unusually high number of two or more "other exit" leaver codes is used. Percentages are compared within categories by district size. A minimum of six leavers in one code category is required for selection on this basis.
100 percent use of "intent" codes	Only "intent" leaver codes (codes 16, 22, 24, 60, 80, 81, 82) are used to report leavers. A minimum of 100 leavers is required for selection on this basis.
High percentage of withdrawal to enroll in another Texas public school (code 80) not reconciled with agency enrollment files	A high percentage of students reported with code 80 is not found in the agency's enrollment or attendance files through the agency reconciliation process. Percentages are compared within categories by district size. A minimum of six leavers is required for selection on this basis.
Above the underreported student number or rate threshold	The underreported student count exceeds 1,000 or the underreported student rate exceeds 10 percent. A minimum of six underreported students is required for selection on this basis.

The validation of leaver data has been integrated into a data integrity component of the PBM system. Indicators for leaver data integrity have been defined and, once finalized, will resemble the screening criteria used to investigate 2001-02 leaver data (Table 2). Analyses of 2002-03 and 2003-04 leaver data were combined so that PBM leaver data integrity could be moved earlier in the year to correspond more closely with the PEIMS data submission calendar. The indicators, as well as procedures for leaver data audits, are being implemented in 2004-05 using 2002-03 and 2003-04 leaver data.

In 2001-02, a Person Identification Database (PID) error rate policy was introduced that requires the student identification information provided to TEA as part of each district's PEIMS data submissions to meet a standard for accuracy. The PID system is used by TEA to manage and store identifying information on students reported to TEA through PEIMS. The system verifies a match between the social security number or alternative identification number, last name, first name, and date of birth on every record submitted for an individual. Although the overall PID error rate for the state has declined with each data submission since student enrollment data were first collected in

1990-91, PID errors continue to complicate efforts to link data across two or more data submissions. PID errors do not affect the calculation of the annual dropout rate. In contrast, longitudinal performance measures of school completers and school leavers require correct PIDs to link many years of data. In addition, greater reliance is being placed on desk audits of district leaver data submissions. Because these audits require that student data be linked across years, the accuracy of PID information has become more critical. Moreover, inaccuracies in student identification information can cause students for whom records have been submitted to appear on district lists of underreported students.

Consequences of Inaccurate Reporting

Standards and consequences are assigned to data quality measures such as the PID error rate and the number of underreported students. According to the PID error rate policy, student data submitted in 2004-05, which are used in 2005 accountability ratings, must include 10 or fewer student records with PID errors or have a PID error rate of 2.0 percent or lower. The standards for underreported students continue to encourage districts to submit accurate data. For the 2004 ratings cycle, the thresholds were more than 500 underreported students or greater than 5 percent underreported students. For the 2005 ratings cycle, the thresholds were lowered to more than 100 underreported students or greater than 5 percent underreported students.

Districts whose submissions did not meet the PID error rate standard were required to develop improvement plans. School districts with serious and systematic data reporting problems were subject to investigation. A district with data problems was first contacted by telephone and letter. If questions remained, an investigation team visited the district to examine documentation. Districts investigated for data quality were automatically subject to examination the following year to determine whether problems persisted.

In 1999, following analysis of the first leaver data collection, consequences associated with data quality were added to the accountability system. New accountability ratings were introduced for districts and campuses with serious and systematic data reporting problems. A district rating of *Unacceptable: Data Quality* and a campus rating of *Acceptable: Data Issues* were assigned when errors in the leaver data seriously compromised the ability of TEA to calculate dropout rates and accurately evaluate performance. Accountability ratings for districts with data quality problems were handled differently beginning in 2000. For example, districts that exceeded a threshold for either the number or percentage of underreported students in Grades 7-12 could not be rated higher than *Academically Acceptable* in 2000. This feature is continued under the current accountability system. The commissioner of education also has the authority to lower a campus and/or district accountability rating or to change a rating to *Not Rated: Data Integrity Issues* for data quality problems.

Under the data integrity component of the PBM system, school districts with serious and systematic leaver data reporting problems are subject to interventions based on the level of data integrity concern. Emphasis is on a continuous improvement process, in which districts undertake

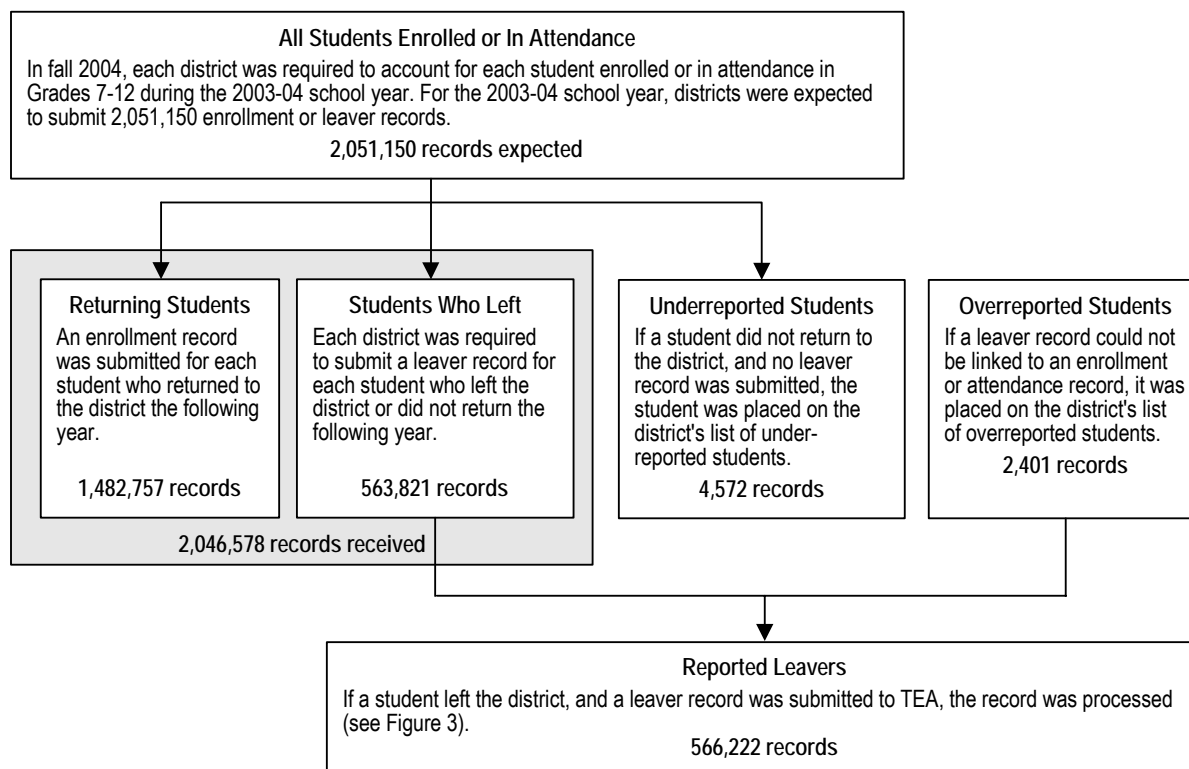
activities that promote improved data reporting and TEA monitors their progress. Nevertheless, interventions can lead to corrective actions or sanctions.

Results of Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) Leaver Collections

School Leavers Reported by Districts

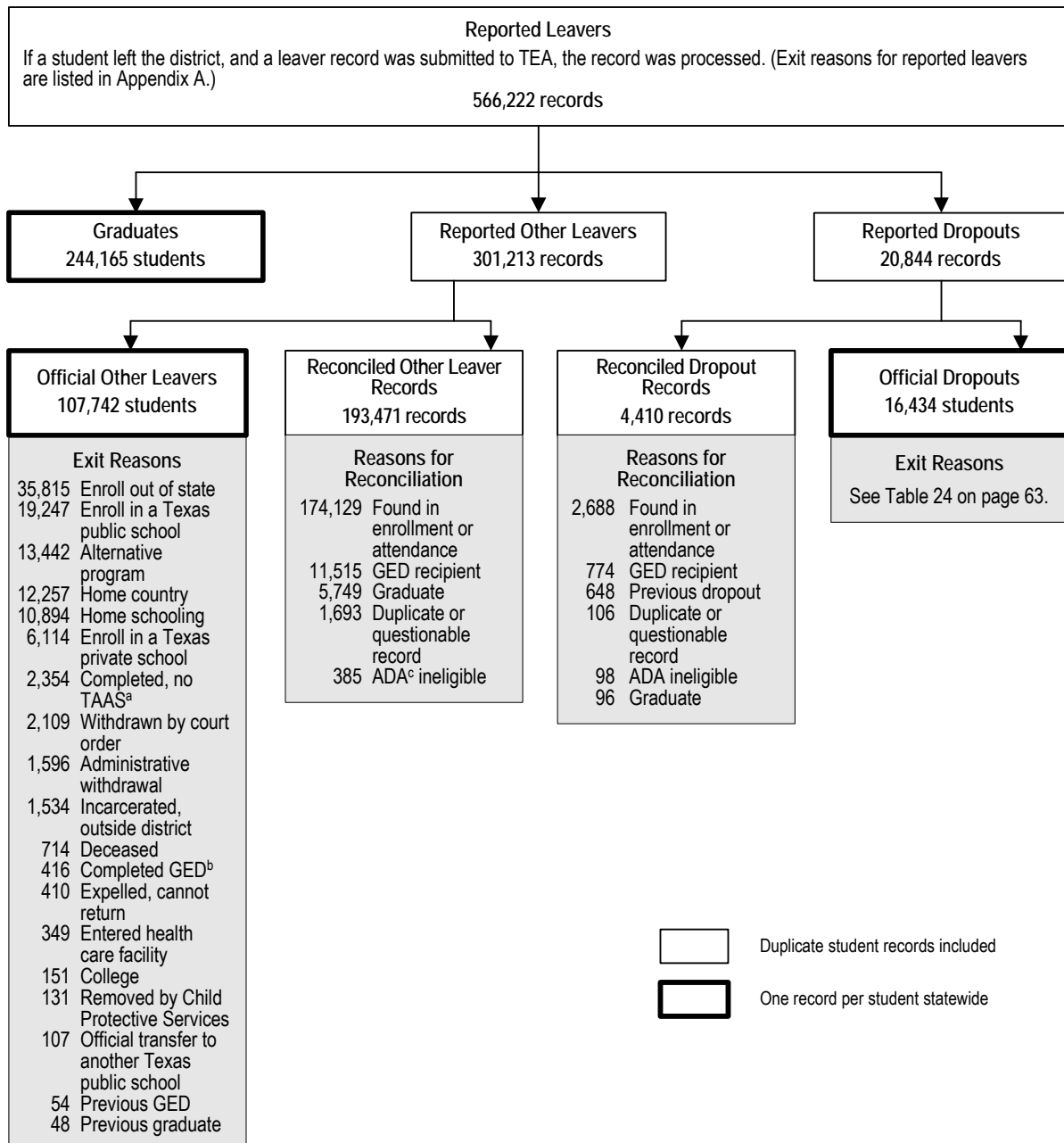
Of the 566,222 students who were reported to have left school in 2003-04, 43.1 percent (244,165) were graduates (Figure 2). Slightly over 31 percent moved to other districts in the state. A total of 16,434 (2.9%) dropped out, and 107,742 (19.0%) left the Texas public school system for other reasons (Figure 3). The percentage of leavers who dropped out (2.9%) is higher than the annual dropout rate, because the latter is based on all students in attendance (Figure 4 on page 13). See Tables B-1 and B-2 in Appendix B for a comparison of the leaver results after TEA data processing for the past seven years.

Figure 2
Initial Processing of Year-to-Year Reporting of Students in Grades 7-12, Texas Public Schools, 2003-04



TEA screens district data to ensure that districts have accounted for all students who attended Grades 7-12. There must be one record per student per district attended. A student who attends more than one district during the school year is included in the count for each district attended.

Figure 3
Final Processing of Year-to-Year Reporting of Students in Grades 7-12, Texas Public Schools, 2003-04



^aTexas Assessment of Academic Skills. ^bGeneral Educational Development certificate. ^cAverage Daily Attendance.

Leaver processing determines whether a student is a leaver, and if so, whether the student is a graduate, official dropout for accountability purposes, or an official other leaver. Each student can have only one record statewide as a graduate, an official dropout, or an official other leaver.

Withdrawals to Enroll in Other Districts

Out of 186,514 students reported to have withdrawn in 2003-04 to enroll in other public school districts in the state, 167,160 students (89.6 percent) were found in enrollment files or other public education data files (Figure B-1 in Appendix B). Some of the students who withdrew with the intent to enroll elsewhere may not have been found because their student records did not match. Other students may not have been found because they enrolled in private schools, alternative schools, or GED preparation programs, or they were being home schooled. It is also possible that some never returned to school. The percentage of students who withdrew to move to other public schools but could not be found in enrollment declined from 28.2 percent in 1997-98 to 10.4 percent in 2003-04 (Table 3).

Table 3
Withdrawals to Enroll in Other Texas Public School Districts, 1997-98 Through 2003-04

School year	Withdrawals to enroll in other Texas public school districts	Not matched to enrollment or other public education records	
		Number	Percent
1997-98	114,420	32,309	28.2
1998-99	155,884	37,256	23.9
1999-00	155,716	29,045	18.7
2000-01	164,459	26,552	16.1
2001-02	169,107	22,348	13.2
2002-03	178,138	19,842	11.1
2003-04	186,514	19,354	10.4

Underreported Students

Statewide, districts accounted for 99.8 percent (or 2,046,578) of the students who were enrolled or in attendance in Grades 7-12 in 2003-04 (Figure 2 on page 10). Only 0.2 percent of the students were underreported. African American students were overrepresented among underreported students; they constituted only 14.9 percent of the students on the roster, but 25.2 percent of the underreported student records (Table 4 on page 14).

2003-04 was the seventh year leaver records were used, and reporting improved over 2002-03. In 2003-04, there were only 4,572 underreported student records, compared to 6,858 underreported student records in 2002-03. This is a substantial decrease from the 67,281 underreported student records identified in 1997-98, the first year for which districts were required to report every student who left the district (Table 5 on page 14). On a percentage basis, students enrolled or in attendance in Grades 7-12 who had not been accounted for dropped from 0.3 percent in 2002-03 to 0.2 percent in 2003-04 (Figure 5 on page 15).

Figure 4
School Leavers Reported by Districts, Grades 7-12, Texas Public Schools, 2002-03 and 2003-04

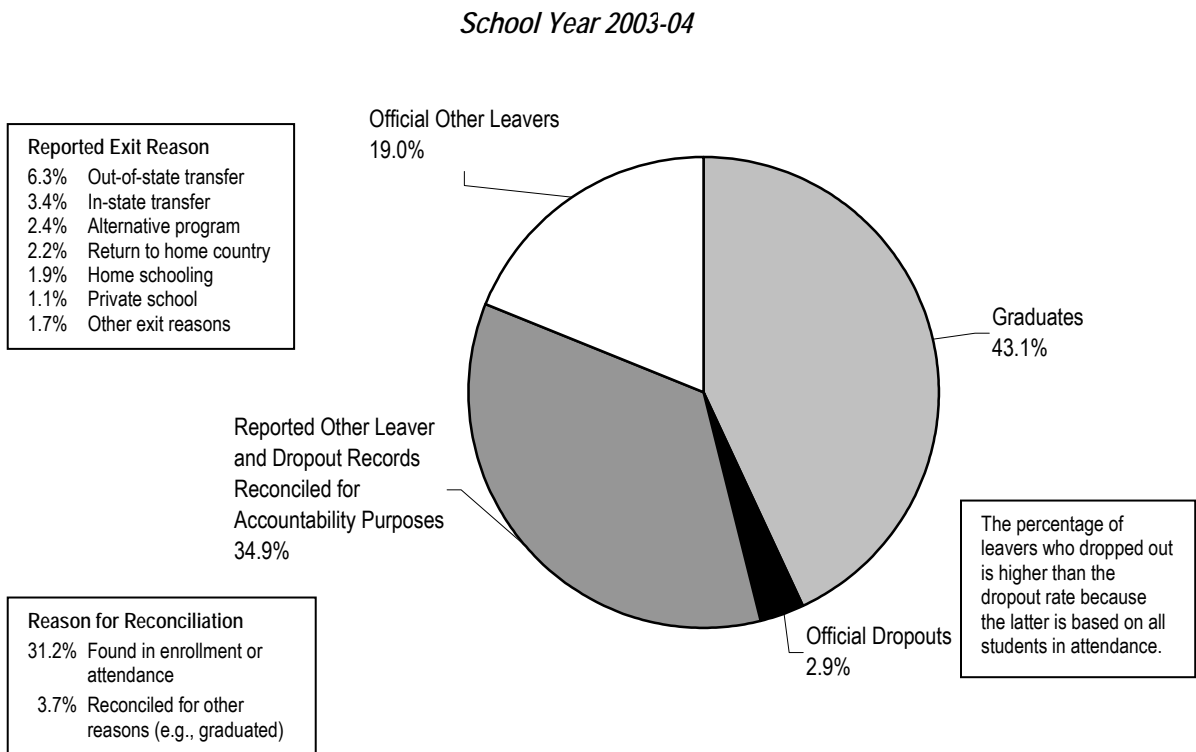
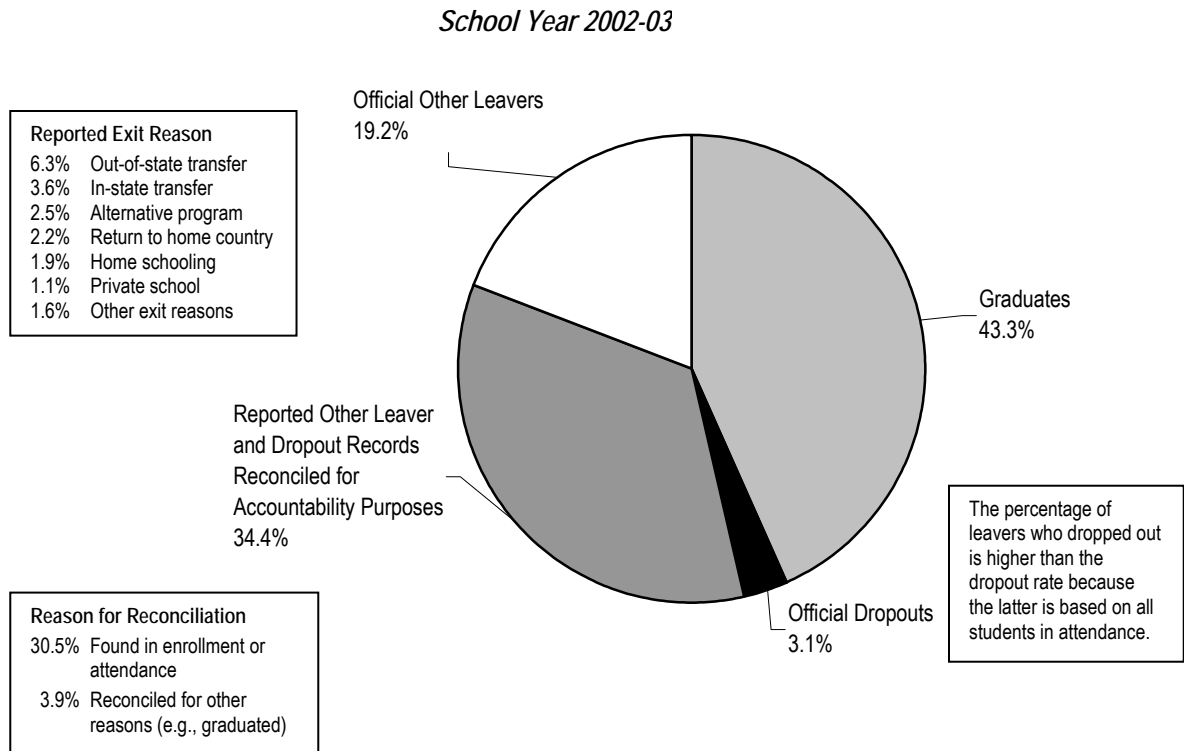


Table 4
Reported and Underreported Student Records in Grades 7-12, by Ethnicity, Texas Public Schools, 2003-04

Group	Records received ^a		Underreported records	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
African American	303,959	14.9	1,153	25.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	58,498	2.9	87	1.9
Hispanic	822,569	40.2	1,821	39.8
Native American	6,680	0.3	15	0.3
White	854,946	41.8	1,496	32.7
State	2,046,652	100	4,572	100

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

^aStudents enrolled in Grades 7-12 in 2003-04 for whom districts submitted either enrollment or leaver records the next fall.

Table 5
Year-to-Year Reporting of Students in Grades 7-12, Texas Public Schools, 1997-98 Through 2003-04

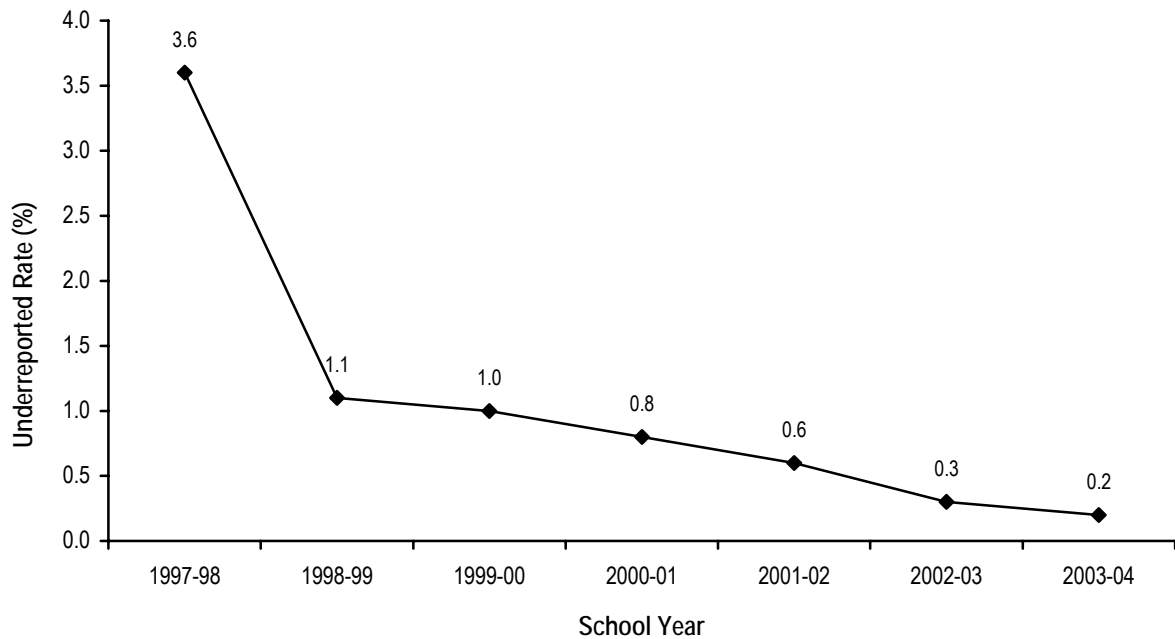
Group	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Returning students	1,325,546	1,345,536	1,364,125	1,394,487	1,426,340	1,456,708	1,482,757
Graduates	197,186	203,393	212,925	215,316	225,167	238,109	244,165
Official other leavers	114,421	118,488	116,644	112,986	108,999	105,445	107,742
Reconciled other leaver records	122,980	149,096	157,818	170,209	175,782	184,670	193,471
Official dropouts	27,550	27,592	23,457	17,563	16,622	17,151	16,434
Reconciled dropout records	10,312	9,189	7,566	5,600	5,179	4,497	4,410
Underreported students	67,281	21,432	19,718	15,752	11,385	6,858	4,572

Much of the improvement in leaver reporting in 2003-04 appears to have resulted from more accurate student identification (Table 6 on page 16) and better reporting of students moving to other Texas public school districts (Table 3 on page 12).

In 2003-04, three districts or charters had more than 100 underreported student records and more than 5 percent underreported student records. In addition, 16 districts or charters had more than 5 percent underreported student records, although the numbers of students underreported were fewer than 100. Also, 8 districts or charters had more than 100 underreported student records, although the numbers of students underreported were equal to or less than 5 percent of the districts' student records. The number of districts that accounted for every student continued to increase—from 79 in 1997-98 to 792 in 2003-04.

In 1999, when data quality criteria were introduced into the school accountability system, two districts and 32 campuses initially were assigned ratings for data quality problems. A number of ratings were changed as a result of investigations conducted following release of the ratings. When

Figure 5
Underreported Student Records, Texas Public Schools, 1997-98 Through 2003-04



1999 ratings were finalized, four districts received the *Unacceptable: Data Quality* rating due to errors in leaver data, and 36 campuses received the *Acceptable: Data Issues* rating.

In the 2001 ratings cycle, TEA staff conducted site visits to audit leaver records in 19 regular school districts and 24 open-enrollment charter schools. In addition, site visits were made to 16 randomly selected districts. Follow-up desk reviews of leaver data were carried out for 62 districts that had received site visits the year before. No districts or campuses received the *Suspended: Data Inquiry* rating in 2001. However, eight districts that otherwise would have been rated *Recognized* or *Exemplary* received *Academically Acceptable* ratings in 2001 due to large percentages of underreported students.

In the 2002 ratings cycle, site visits were conducted to audit underreported student records in 15 regular school districts and 24 open-enrollment charter schools. In addition, site visits were made to another 33 regular school districts and 16 charter schools to audit leaver records. Ratings were lowered in the 2002 cycle for two districts and 17 campuses following on-site data investigations. In addition, four districts were rated *Academically Acceptable* rather than *Recognized* because they exceeded the thresholds for underreported student records.

The 2003 ratings cycle was a time of transition for both accountability ratings and on-site investigations. During 2003-04, the accountability system for 2004 and beyond was under development, and agency policies and procedures for district monitoring and investigations were

Table 6
Student Identification Errors on Leaver Records,
Texas Public Schools, 1997-98 Through 2003-04

School year	Leaver records	Records with identification errors	
		Number	Percent
1997-98	275,263	17,031	6.2
1998-99	304,365	14,022	4.6
1999-00	305,485	11,808	3.9
2000-01	306,358	7,650	2.5
2001-02	311,824	5,789	1.9
2002-03	311,763	4,670	1.5
2003-04	322,057	3,842	1.2

being revised to comply with new state legislation. The 2002-03 AEIS reports were used by districts and campuses as previews of performance indicators that would be included in the new accountability system. Accountability ratings from 2002 were carried forward to 2003 for all districts, and so accountability consequences for underreported students in 2003 were suspended for the rating cycle. Of the 129 districts identified for investigations, a small number received visits.

In the 2004 ratings cycle, two school districts were moved from a rating of *Exemplary* to *Academically Acceptable* because of excessive percentages of underreported students. Ten districts were moved from a rating of *Recognized* to *Academically Acceptable*.

Data Quality in the Longitudinal Rates

Calculating longitudinal rates requires tracking a cohort of students over a number of years, from the time the students enter a specified starting grade until the fall following their anticipated graduation date. Using information submitted through PEIMS and other data files, most students are assigned one of four final statuses by the year after anticipated graduation. The final statuses are graduated, continued high school, received a General Educational Development (GED) certificate, or dropped out. Two groups of students from the cohort are not assigned final statuses: students who cannot be tracked from year to year because their records were submitted to TEA with identification errors and students for whom no final status record was submitted. For the cohort whose graduation year was 2004, the number of students who could not be tracked because of identification errors decreased from the previous cohort. The number of students for whom no final status record was submitted also decreased from the previous cohort (Table 7).

Table 7
Longitudinal Completion Cohort, Grades 9-12, Texas Public Schools, Classes of 2001 Through 2004

Cohort ending year	Completion status (number)				Leavers	Data errors		Total in cohort
	Graduated	Continued	Received GED ^a	Dropped out		Student identification errors	Underreported students	
2001	202,052	19,580	11,978	15,551	63,656	16,129	15,169	344,115
2002	210,381	20,415	10,525	12,719	64,648	18,432	10,992	348,112
2003	222,021	20,932	8,749	11,869	64,162	13,199	10,991	351,923
2004	229,133	19,826	11,445	10,507	60,527	7,563	9,038	348,039

^aGeneral Educational Development certificate.

PEIMS Resources

Districts have been provided with a number of tools to assist them in reducing data errors before and during data submission. Published annually by TEA, the *PEIMS Data Standards* provide detailed reporting requirements, data element definitions, and TEA contact information. Question and answer documents are produced periodically, distributed to every school district and ESC, and made available on the TEA website.

The leaver reason code table in the *1999-2000 PEIMS Data Standards* (TEA, 1999) included 41 codes to describe why students left school. Subsequently, the leaver reason code table was revised to include a definition for each code (Table C-1 in Appendix C). In addition, codes were eliminated or consolidated so that, in 2001-02, there were 30 leaver reason codes.

The *PEIMS Data Standards* require that districts have documentation to support the assigned leaver reason codes. To assist districts in meeting the requirements, specific documentation standards for each leaver reason code are included in the *Data Standards*.

PEIMS coordinators in each ESC serve as consultants to the school districts in preparing their data submissions, as well as providing training and technical assistance. At the request of ESC PEIMS coordinators, TEA staff members conduct workshops for district and ESC staff who work with the PEIMS data. A training-of-trainers format is used to assist participants in further disseminating the information. Workshops conducted through the Texas Education Telecommunications Network (TETN) videoconferencing network reach a broader audience and allow interactions between staff from the different ESC regions. Twice a year, one- or two-day PEIMS coordinator training sessions are held to review changes to the *PEIMS Data Standards*.

Software made available to districts shortly after the beginning of each school year enables them to identify data problems and correct data errors before the data submission is due. In 1999-00, TEA introduced a web-based application that gives districts more time to correct PID errors before submitting their PEIMS data to TEA.

The PEIMS web page (<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/peims/>) also provides on-line access to general information about PEIMS, the *PEIMS Data Standards*, other reporting instructions, and contact information for inquiries. Individuals can request to be notified by e-mail anytime new information related to PEIMS is posted on the TEA website.

Policy Issues Regarding Data Quality and Leaver Reporting

Overview

The credibility of the accountability system depends in part on the reliability of the data used in the performance measures. Leaver reporting is a dramatic improvement over graduate and dropout reporting in the ability to account for all students in Grades 7-12 in the Texas public education system. Since the 1997-98 school year, districts have been required to report withdrawal information on students who dropped out or graduated, as well as those who left school for other reasons. Four years of leaver data provide sufficient information to track students individually over their high school careers as they enter and leave the system for different reasons. In combination with other data sources, the leaver reporting system provides a view of student progress through high school. Leaver reporting has improved significantly since it was implemented for the 1997-98 school year. Data quality indicators are monitored continually. Data quality standards have been, and will continue to be, raised.

Withdrawals to Enroll in Other Districts

Documentation that shows intent at the time the student withdraws to enroll elsewhere is considered sufficient evidence that the student is not a dropout under both the Texas and national definitions. Typically, documentation is a withdrawal form signed by the parent or guardian, although other types of documentation are accepted (Appendix C). Documentation of intent to enroll elsewhere must be obtained within 10 days of the last day the student attended school; after this period, acceptable documentation is a records request from the educational program in which the student enrolled.

Not all students who withdraw with intent to re-enroll in Texas public school do so. The statuses of these students are not known. Nevertheless, concerns remain that students who fail to re-enroll elsewhere are not counted as dropouts. Adding students who may or may not be dropouts to the dropout rate would distort the meaning of the dropout measure and decrease its effectiveness as a performance indicator. As part of the accountability system safeguards audit process, districts with unusually high percentages of students reported to have re-enrolled who did not do so are investigated. The percentage of students who withdrew to move to other public schools but could not be found in enrollment in the public school system decreased from 28.2 percent in 1997-98 to 10.4 percent in 2003-04.

Underreported Student Records

Underreported students are those Grade 7-12 students served for whom districts fail to submit leaver or enrollment records the next year. An indeterminate fraction of underreported students are dropouts. TEA counts and reports underreported students separately from dropouts.

Counting underreported students as dropouts would change the dropout rate from a measure of dropouts to a measure of dropouts and data reporting problems combined. A combined measure would not be a meaningful indicator of educational performance. An independent data quality measure has been very effective in monitoring and improving data quality (Figure 5 on page 15).

Data Documentation and Investigations

Unlike test results, which are reported directly to TEA by the testing companies, leaver data are self-reported by districts. A 1996 audit by the State Auditor's Office (SAO, 1996) and TEA data investigations in 1999 found that districts often had not documented student withdrawals correctly. In some cases, investigators found no documentation. In other cases, documentation was incomplete or did not match reported codes.

While TEA has taken steps to clarify data reporting requirements, resources available to monitor the accuracy of district submissions continue to be limited. Some audits can be completed at the agency, but others require on-site visits. Because few agency staff members are available to conduct inquiries, data investigations must focus on the most serious problems identified. School districts must redirect financial and staff resources to the task of determining the whereabouts of students who left without notifying them.

Legislation passed in 2001 required all districts to have their 2001-02 dropout data audited by independent auditors (TEC §39.055, 2001). The scope and format of the audit were published by the Division of School Financial Audits on the TEA website (<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/school.finance/audit/resguide10/dropout/>). A report published by the SAO in May 2002, *An Audit Report on the Quality of the State's Public Education Accountability Information* (SAO, 2002), recommended that the agency report the results of the independent audits. The district reports are available at <http://hancock.tea.state.tx.us/audit/PDFviewer.asp>. Legislation passed in 2003 requires that annual electronic audits replace the independent audits beginning with the 2002-03 leaver data (TEC §39.055, 2004).

Measures of Student Progress Through Secondary School

Reporting and Use of Measures

For more than a decade, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has used data collected annually from school districts to produce various counts and rates to measure whether students are completing school. Which measures are reported and how they are used have changed over time in response to numerous factors, such as data quality and computer technology, research and evaluation needs, policy requirements, and public interest.

Statewide public reporting of student performance and progress began in 1985-86. A year before, the Texas Legislature had passed a law (Texas Education Code [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 school 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.

Responding to growing public concern about dropouts, TEA supplemented APR data with an annual report on public school dropouts (TEA, 1989b). Using student-level data from the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS), the report presented actual 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).

In 1989, the Texas Legislature required the State Board of Education to adopt a set of student performance indicators that would serve as the basis for school district accreditation (TEC §21.7531, 1990). When the Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) was established a year later, annual AEIS reports replaced the agency information previously distributed through APRs. Among the initial performance indicators adopted by the board and reported through AEIS 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.

With adoption of Chapter 35 of the Texas Education Code in 1993, the legislature directed that AEIS data form the foundation of a performance-based accountability system to rate school districts and campuses. One of the performance indicators targeted in statute for this purpose was dropout rates. In 1994, annual Grade 7-12 dropout rates from the prior year were used for *Exemplary* and *Recognized* ratings only. The next year, TEA began using annual dropout rates in the accountability system for all rating categories. 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, these reports were combined into the *Comprehensive Annual Report on Texas Public Schools* (TEA, 2001a).

Interest in reporting actual, rather than estimated, longitudinal indicators of student success or failure in school had remained high since student-level data were first collected through PEIMS in 1988. Such measures could provide valuable information about how well the public education system was serving students throughout their school careers. 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). 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. Actual Grade 7-12 longitudinal dropout rates for the class of 1998 were included in AEIS a year later.

In 2000, separate longitudinal dropout rates and completion rates were replaced with a four-year high school completion/student status series. The new series is made up of four complementary longitudinal rates: graduation, school continuation, General Educational Development (GED) certification, and 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 9-12 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.

Comparing Completion and Dropout Rates

Components of Rates

While a number of different rates are currently used to measure whether students are leaving school or completing their education, the distinctions between the rates are not always apparent. To understand how and why dropout and completion rates vary, it is important to look at some of the factors that can affect how they are calculated. These include the definition of a dropout or of school completion, the accuracy of the data, the time period covered, and the student population considered. Some rates, for example, are annual, whereas others cover multiple years. Some are based on actual student-level data, whereas others use estimated student counts. Table 8 on page 24 compares the most common methods of calculating dropout and completion rates, advantages and disadvantages of each, and the rates they produce for the 2002-03 and 2003-04 school years. Descriptions of the different methods follow.

Annual Dropout Rates

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

Why Is the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Dropout Rate Low?

A concern underlying much of the criticism of the annual dropout rate for Texas reported by TEA is that it understates the problem of dropouts in Texas. Following are some of the reasons the TEA dropout rate is low.

Dropout Definition

- **Grades covered.** By law, the TEA dropout rate includes students in Grades 7 and 8. Because these students drop out at much lower rates than high school students, including them brings down the rate. The Grade 7-12 annual dropout rate for 2003-04 was *0.9* percent, compared to *1.2* percent for Grades 9-12.
- **Data processing enhancements.** An automated data search allows TEA to remove students from the dropout count who are found to be enrolled elsewhere or to have graduated or received General Educational Development (GED) certificates. Although these students would not be considered dropouts under most definitions, a less sophisticated data processing system would not be able to identify and remove them. Had these students not been excluded, the annual dropout rate would have increased two tenths of a percentage point in 2003-04—from *0.9* percent to *1.1* percent.
- **Accountability definition.** Some categories of students who would typically be considered dropouts are removed from the dropout count to avoid unintended consequences for students or unfairly penalizing districts for dropout circumstances outside their control. The following categories of students are considered dropouts by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) but are excluded from the TEA dropout count: (1) students who were counted as dropouts in previous school years; (2) students who withdrew to enroll in approved adult education GED preparation programs; (3) seniors who met all graduation requirements but did not pass the exit-level Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) or Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS); (4) students who enrolled but were not eligible for state funding; (5) students who were reported as dropouts from more than one district and whose last districts attended cannot be determined; and (6) students who return to school by January of the following school year. Including these six categories of students in the dropout count in 2003-04 would have increased the annual dropout rate from *0.9* percent to *2.2* percent.
- **Withdrawals to enroll in other districts.** In 2003-04, there were 19,354 students reported as withdrawing to enroll in other Texas public school districts for whom subsequent enrollment records were not found. Neither TEA nor NCES requires districts to track students who withdraw with intent to enroll elsewhere to confirm they do re-enroll. It is not known how many of these students enrolled out of state or in private schools, were being home schooled, or had records that could not be matched across data collections. Including these students in the dropout count would have increased the annual dropout rate from *0.9* percent to *1.9* percent.
- **GED recipients.** GED recipients are not considered dropouts under either the TEA or NCES dropout definition or under the definitions used by most other states. Including GED recipients in the dropout count in 2003-04 would have increased the annual rate from *0.9* percent to *1.0* percent.

Dropout Rate Calculation

- **Annual rate.** The annual dropout rate is low compared to other rates because it is a "snapshot" rate, measuring how many students drop out during one school year. Longitudinal rates, on the other hand, measure how many students drop out before they finish high school, covering the four or six years from the time they enter Grade 9 or Grade 7. The Grade 7-12 annual dropout rate in 2003-04 was *0.9* percent, compared to a Grade 7 longitudinal dropout rate of *4.2* percent for the class of 2004.
- **Cumulative enrollment.** TEA uses cumulative enrollment, rather than fall enrollment, in the dropout rate denominator. Although cumulative enrollment is the preferred count for calculating dropout rates, it can reduce the dropout rate by increasing the size of the denominator. Nevertheless, the 2003-04 dropout rate was *0.9* percent using either cumulative enrollment or the fall enrollment count.

Data Quality

- **Underreported students.** In 2003-04, there were 4,572 Grade 7-12 students for whom districts failed to submit leaver or enrollment records. This undoubtedly included many students whose records could not be matched to the prior-year records due to errors in student identifying information. Adding these underreported records to the dropout count would have increased the dropout rate from *0.9* percent to *1.1* percent.

**Table 8
Common Methods of Measuring Student Progress Through School**

	Annual dropout rate	Completion rate	Longitudinal dropout rate	Attrition rate
Description	The percentage of students who drop out of school during one school year.	The percentage of students from a class of 7th or 9th graders who graduate, receive a General Educational Development (GED) certificate, or are still enrolled at the time the class graduates.	The percentage of students from a class of 7th or 9th graders who drop out before completing high school.	The percentage of students from a class of 9th graders not enrolled in Grade 12 four years later.
Calculation	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 drop out by the end of Grade 12, or the number who complete school, by the total number of students in the original 7th- or 9th-grade class. Students who transfer in over the years are added to the class; students who transfer out are subtracted.		Subtract Grade 12 enrollment from Grade 9 enrollment four years earlier, then divide by the Grade 9 enrollment. The rate may be adjusted for estimated population change over the four years.
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure of annual performance. • Requires only one year of data. • Can be calculated for any school or district with students in any of the grades covered. • Can be disaggregated by grade level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More consistent with the public's understanding of a dropout rate. • Districts have more time to encourage dropouts to return to school before being held accountable. • More stable measure over time. • The completion rate is a more positive indicator than the dropout rate, measuring school success rather than failure. 		Provides a simple measure of school leavers when aggregate enrollment numbers are the only data available.
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produces the lowest rate of any method. • May not correspond to the public's understanding of a dropout rate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires multiple years of data; one year of inaccurate student identification data can remove a student from the measure. • Program improvements may not be reflected for several years, and districts are not held accountable for some dropouts until years after they drop out. • Can only be calculated for schools that have all the grades in the calculation and 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 dropout and completion rates are often calculated for Grades 9-12. • Does not produce a dropout rate by grade. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produces the highest rate of any method. • Does not distinguish attrition that results from dropping out from attrition that results from grade-level retentions, transfers to other schools, early graduation, etc. • Does not always correctly reflect the status of dropouts; adjustments for growth can further distort the rate. • Cannot be used in accountability systems because it is an estimate.
Remarks	A Grade 7-12 annual dropout rate has been calculated by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) since 1987-88.	The method used to calculate the 1998-99 completion rate was revised so the longitudinal dropout rate and completion rate add to 100%.	TEA began calculating an actual Grade 7-12 longitudinal dropout rate with the class of 1998.	The attrition rate reported by TEA is not adjusted for growth.
TEA 2002-03	Annual dropout rate: Grades 7-12 0.9% Grades 9-12 1.3% Grades 7-8 0.2%	Completion rate: Grades 7-12 95.1% Grades 9-12 95.5%	Longitudinal dropout rate: Grades 7-12 4.9% Grades 9-12 4.5%	Unadjusted attrition rate: Grades 7-12 21.3% Grades 9-12 33.6%
TEA 2003-04	Annual dropout rate: Grades 7-12 0.9% Grades 9-12 1.2% Grades 7-8 0.2%	Completion rate: Grades 7-12 95.8% Grades 9-12 96.1%	Longitudinal dropout rate: Grades 7-12 4.2% Grades 9-12 3.9%	Unadjusted attrition rate: Grades 7-12 20.0% Grades 9-12 32.6%

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

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 can also be calculated for student groups based on demographic characteristics (ethnicity, socioeconomic status, age), special program participation (special education, bilingual/English as a second language), or other educational 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 a 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.

TEA reporting. An annual dropout rate was first calculated by TEA in 1987-88 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 H-11 in Appendix H). 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. This is the only change that has been made to the calculation during the 14 years the annual dropout rate has been reported by TEA.

In 2003-04, 0.9 percent of students in Grades 7-12 dropped out of school (Table 9). Annual dropout rates for Grades 7-8 and Grades 9-12 were also calculated for 2003-04 dropouts. The statewide Grade 7-8 and Grade 9-12 dropout rates were 0.2 percent and 1.2 percent, respectively.

Table 9
Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-8, Grades 9-12,
and Grades 7-12, by Student Group, Texas Public
Schools, 2003-04

Group	Dropout rate (%)		
	Grades 7-8	Grades 9-12	Grades 7-12
African American	0.2	1.4	1.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.5	0.4
Hispanic	0.3	1.9	1.3
Native American	0.2	1.2	0.8
White	0.1	0.6	0.4
Economically disadvantaged	0.2	1.3	0.9
State	0.2	1.2	0.9

Longitudinal Completion and Dropout Rates

Description. A completion rate is the percentage of students from a class of ninth graders or seventh graders who complete their high school education by their anticipated graduation date. Completion may be defined as those who graduate, continue in high school, and/or receive a GED. A longitudinal dropout rate is the percentage of students from the same class who drop out before completing their high school education.

Calculation. Calculating longitudinal rates requires tracking a cohort of students over five to seven years, from the time they enter Grade 9 or Grade 7 until the fall following their anticipated graduation date. Depending on the definition of a completer, the completion rate is the number of students who graduate or remain in school after the class graduates, divided by the total number of students in the cohort who had final statuses. The rate may also include students who receive GED certificates. The longitudinal dropout rate is the number of students who drop out divided by the total number of students in the class. Students who transfer in over the years are added to the original class as it progresses through the grade levels; students who transfer out are subtracted from the class.

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 school completer or dropout; (c) different definitions of a cohort or class of students; or (d) different underlying methods to calculate the rates. 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.

Advantages. One advantage of a longitudinal measure is that it is more consistent with the public’s understanding of what a school completer or dropout is—someone who enters Grade 9 or Grade 7 and, during the next five or seven years, either completes high school or a GED, remains enrolled, or drops out. Also, districts have more time to encourage dropouts to return to school before being held accountable for those students. Because the status of a student is not determined until the fall after the anticipated graduation date, districts have up to five or seven years to bring a dropout back to school. 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 completion rate is more positive than the dropout rate, measuring school success instead of failure. Like most indicators of school success, an increase in the completion rate represents improved performance. Because a separate rate can be reported for each status, such as graduating or receiving a GED certificate, completion rates can provide more information with which to evaluate districts than the dropout rate.

Disadvantages. Calculating a longitudinal rate requires linking individual student records from multiple sources across five or seven years. An error in student-identifying information can prevent a record from being linked to others for a student. The method also requires that decisions be made about the classification of students who change schools and 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 into the method.

Continuing students who drop out after their anticipated graduation date are not counted as dropouts under a longitudinal method. Tracking students for an additional year would undoubtedly result in changes in final statuses—dropouts returning to school or receiving GED certificates and continuing students dropping out before they graduate.

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, high school completion rates are calculated for classes of Grade 9 students more commonly than for classes of Grade 7 students.

A longitudinal method does not produce a dropout rate by grade. The completion rates and longitudinal dropout rates for special programs will 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 the year they drop out.

Improvements in dropout prevention programs may not be reflected in a longitudinal dropout rate immediately because the rate is based on the final status of a single class rather than all grades in the school. 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 be held accountable in one year for students who dropped out several years earlier.

TEA reporting. TEA has calculated completion rates for nine classes of ninth-grade students, the graduating classes of 1996 through 2004 (Table H-15 in Appendix H). The method used to calculate the rates was developed so that the completion rates and longitudinal dropout rate add to 100 percent. The completion rates include three components: graduates, continuing students, and GED recipients. The longitudinal dropout rate makes up a fourth component. The longitudinal rate is based on the same definition of dropouts used in the TEA annual dropout rate.

The longitudinal rates for the class of 2004 are based on the tracking of students who began Grade 9 for the first time in 2000-01. Completion and longitudinal dropout rates are reported in AEIS district reports and on the campus reports for high schools with continuous enrollment in Grades 9-12 for the preceding four years. Based on Grade 9-12 longitudinal rate calculations, about 84.6 percent of students in the class of 2004 graduated, 7.3 percent were continuing in school after the class graduated, 4.2 percent received a GED certificate, and 3.9 percent dropped out (Table 10).

Table 10
Longitudinal Completion Rates, Grades 9-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2004

Group	Graduated (%)	Continued (%)	Received GED ^a (%)	Dropped out (%)	Completion I ^b (%)	Completion II ^c (%)
African American	82.8	9.2	3.1	4.9	92.0	95.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	92.7	4.0	1.6	1.7	96.7	98.3
Hispanic	78.4	11.6	3.8	6.3	90.0	93.7
Native American	84.3	5.9	6.1	3.7	90.1	96.3
White	89.4	3.7	5.1	1.9	93.0	98.1
Economically disadvantaged	78.6	11.3	4.2	5.9	90.0	94.1
State	84.6	7.3	4.2	3.9	91.9	96.1

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

^aGeneral Educational Development certificate. ^bCompletion I consists of students who graduated or continued high school. ^cCompletion II consists of students who graduated, continued high school, or received GEDs.

TEA also calculates longitudinal rates for Grades 7-12 by ethnicity and socioeconomic status. A Grade 7-12 longitudinal dropout rate was calculated for the first time in 1997-98. The longitudinal rates for the class of 2004 are based on the tracking of students who began Grade 7 in 1998-99. Statewide, about 4.2 percent of students in the class of 2004 dropped out before completing high school (Table 11). Data associated with the other three completion statuses for the Class of 2004 are also available (Table 19 on page 56). Based on Grade 7-12 longitudinal rate calculations, about 83.2 percent of the class of 2004 graduated, 8.3 percent were continuing in school after their class graduated, and 4.3 percent received a GED certificate.

Table 11
Longitudinal Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by
Student Group, Texas Public Schools, Class of
2004

Group	Dropout rate (%)
African American	5.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.9
Hispanic	6.8
Native American	4.9
White	2.0
Economically disadvantaged	6.6
State	4.2

Attrition Rates

Description. An attrition rate is the percentage of students not enrolled in Grade 12 out of the students enrolled in Grade 9 four years earlier.

Calculation. The attrition rate is calculated by subtracting Grade 12 enrollment from Grade 9 enrollment four years earlier, and dividing by Grade 9 enrollment.

Advantages. The attrition rate provides a simple measure of school leavers when aggregate enrollment numbers are the only data available.

Disadvantages. The attrition rate does not take into account the reasons beginning and ending enrollments differ. Attrition that occurs because of dropouts cannot be distinguished from attrition that occurs because of retention, transfers, or early graduation. For this reason, the attrition rate can fluctuate because of factors that are not considered reflections 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. Figure D-1 in Appendix D compares the TEA Grade 9-12 longitudinal dropout rate and Grade 9-12 attrition rate, using the class of 1999 as an example.

Furthermore, the attrition rate does not always correctly reflect the status of dropouts. The Grade 7-12 longitudinal dropout rate (4.2%) is higher than the Grade 9-12 longitudinal dropout rate (3.9%) because the Grade 7-12 rate includes students who dropped out of Grades 7-8, as well as students who dropped out of Grades 9-12. The opposite is true of the attrition rate. An attrition rate based on Grade 7 is lower than the Grade 9 attrition rate. Also, dropouts who return to school but are behind a grade are included in the attrition rate. Table D-1 in Appendix D shows a reconciliation of attrition and longitudinal dropout counts using the class of 1999 as an example.

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.

Finally, because the attrition rate is an estimate, it should not be used as a performance indicator in a high-stakes accountability system.

TEA reporting. TEA calculated a Grade 9-12 attrition rate for 2004 by comparing 2003-04 Grade 12 enrollment to 2000-01 Grade 9 enrollment, without adjustments for growth. The Grade 9-12 attrition rate for the state was 32.6 percent (Table 12). Using the same methods, TEA also calculated a Grade 7-12 attrition rate of 20.0 percent for 2004.

Table 12
Attrition Rate, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, 2004

Group	Attrition rate (%)	
	Grades 7-12	Grades 9-12
African American	24.2	39.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	-15.2	5.0
Hispanic	24.7	41.6
Native American	16.2	31.1
White	16.7	23.0
Economically disadvantaged	43.6	47.3
State	20.0	32.6

State Dropout Policy

Current Statutory Requirements

Statute requires that the accountability system performance indicators include dropout rates (Texas Education Code [TEC] §39.051, 2004). The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has calculated an annual dropout rate for Grades 7-12 since 1987-88 (Appendix E). A longitudinal dropout rate for Grades 7-12, which requires seven years of student-level enrollment and dropout data, was first calculated for the class of 1998.

As a key element of the state's Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS), dropout rates play an important role in accountability ratings. The annual dropout rate for Grades 7-12 was a component of district and campus accountability ratings through 2002 (TEC §39.072, 2001). Grade 7-8 annual dropout rates and Grade 9 longitudinal completion rates have been used in the accountability system since 2004. AEIS data are also used to administer statutory recognition programs (TEC §39.091, 2004) and to generate district and campus performance reports (TEC §39.053, 2004), as well as school report cards for distribution to parents (TEC §39.052, 2004).

In addition to the accountability ratings, TEA is required to report dropout rates to the governor and legislature in the *Comprehensive Annual Report on Texas Public Schools* (TEC §39.182, 2004). The legislation requires that the following types of dropout information be reported: (a) annual dropout rates of students in Grades 7-12, expressed in the aggregate and by grade level; (b) completion rates of students in Grades 9-12; (c) projected cross-sectional and longitudinal dropout rates for Grades 9-12 for five years, assuming no state action is taken to reduce the rates; and (d) a description of a systematic, measurable plan for reducing the projected dropout rates to 5 percent or less.

State Dropout Definition

Who Is Counted as a Dropout?

A dropout is defined as a student who is enrolled in school at some time during the school year but either leaves school during the school year without an approved excuse or completes the school year and does not return the following year. In 2003-04, a student reported to have left school for any of the following reasons was considered a dropout for accountability purposes:

- a student who left to enroll in an alternative program and was not in compliance with compulsory attendance;
- a student who left to enroll in an alternative program and was not working toward a General Educational Development (GED) certificate or a high school diploma;
- a student who left to enroll in college but was not pursuing a degree;

- a student whose enrollment was revoked due to absences;
- a student who was expelled for criminal behavior and could return to school but had not;
- a student who was expelled for reasons other than criminal behavior;
- a student who left because of low or failing grades, poor attendance, language problems, exit-level Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) or Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) failure, or age;
- a student who left to pursue a job or join the military;
- a student who left because of pregnancy or marriage;
- a student who left because of homelessness or non-permanent residency;
- a student who left because of alcohol or other drug abuse problems;
- a student who did not return to school after completing a term in a Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program; or
- a student who left for another or an unknown reason.

Who Is Not Counted as a Dropout?

Accountability system considerations. The current TEA definition of a dropout grew out of the accountability system used to rate the performance of districts and campuses. Consequently, the definition excludes some students who might be considered dropouts under other dropout definitions (Appendix F). Some groups of school leavers are excluded from the dropout count to avoid unfairly penalizing districts for dropout circumstances outside their control. For example, because of the difficulty in tracking students who have left the country, students who withdraw from school to return to their home countries are not counted as dropouts, even if they do not indicate intent to re-enroll in school. To count these students as dropouts would inflate the dropout rates of districts that have disproportionate numbers of foreign students.

Others are excluded to avoid unintended negative consequences for students. For example, repeat dropouts (students who were counted as dropouts in previous years, returned to school, and then dropped out again) are removed from the official dropout count. Because students who drop out but return to school are more likely to drop out again, including repeat dropouts in the count could discourage districts from aggressively trying to recover these students.

Table 13 lists each group of students excluded from the dropout count under the current accountability definition and the rationale for not counting those students as dropouts.

Data processing refinements. Since the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) was first implemented in 1987, data processing refinements have helped TEA report student status information with increasing accuracy (Table F-1 in Appendix F). Dropout records were the first individual student data records submitted as part of the PEIMS collection. In 1990-91, districts

Table 13
Leavers Not Counted as Dropouts for Accountability Purposes by the Texas Education Agency

Reason for leaving	Rationale for not counting student as dropout
Completed high school program	
Students who graduate.	Students who have graduated should not be considered dropouts for accountability purposes, even if they later return to school to make up some deficiencies.
Students who earn General Educational Development (GED) certificates.	The GED testing program was originally developed as a means of objectively certifying whether an individual had educational development equivalent to that of a high school graduate. Legislation was then implemented to permit students who were still enrolled in public school, but who were seriously credit deficient, to earn GED certificates. In light of this legislative decision, it was consistent to continue not counting GED recipients as dropouts after the dropout definition was removed from statute.
Seniors who meet all graduation requirements but do not pass the exit-level Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) or TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills).	Under the definition in law before the rewrite of the Texas Education Code (TEC), students who completed all coursework requirements for a diploma yet did not pass the exit-level tests were counted as dropouts. Legislative direction given at the time the TEC was rewritten indicated that, in deleting the dropout definition from code, it was intended that these students not be counted as dropouts. They are not counted as completers or continuing students under the Texas Education Agency (TEA) completion rate definition unless they are still enrolled in school.
Moved to other educational setting	
Students who withdraw to enter college early.	Students who are actively pursuing higher education by enrolling in specific degree plans are not counted as dropouts. The <i>PEIMS Data Standards</i> are very specific in requiring a reporting district to have documentation of enrollment in pursuit of an Associate's or Bachelor's degree: simply taking a class at the community college does not permit a district to use this leaver reason code. Because the student's education has neither ceased nor been interrupted, it is inappropriate to count the student as a dropout.
Students who withdraw to enroll in other Texas public schools, in private schools in Texas, or schools outside Texas.	Students who are withdrawn by parents to enroll in other schools are not counted as dropouts, because parents maintain authority over their children's education. With the leaver data collection, audits can be conducted to determine if students who withdrew to enroll in other Texas public schools actually did so. Because transcript requests indicate that students who left the district are known to be continuing high school programs or the equivalent, these students are not counted as dropouts. The districts must have either documentation of intent to enroll elsewhere or transcript requests on file.
Students who withdraw to enroll in approved alternative programs.	Students for whom the districts have documentation of intent to attend alternative programs are considered to be in compliance with compulsory attendance laws (at least 17 years old, or 16 years old for Job Corps programs). Because the students are continuing to work toward completion of either high school diplomas or GED certificates, they are not counted as dropouts.
Students under the age of compulsory attendance withdrawn from school by court order.	Students who are ordered by courts of law to attend specific alternative programs are not counted as dropouts because the districts do not have the authority to override such court actions. The districts must have copies of the court orders on file.
Students who withdraw to begin home schooling.	Parents or legal guardians maintain authority over the childrens' education. Further, the students are identified to the school districts as continuing courses of study without interruption. Consequently, the students are not counted as dropouts.
Withdrawn by district	
Students expelled.	TEC §37.007 (2004) defines circumstances in which districts are required or permitted to expel students, and TEC §39.051 (2004) excludes the students from the dropout count. Expelled students are not counted as dropouts during the terms of expulsion. Also, students whose adjudications indicate need for supervision and students convicted and sentenced are excluded from the dropout count.
Students who were administratively withdrawn when it was discovered that they were not residents or had falsified enrollment information.	Districts are not obligated to continue enrollment for students who do not reside in the district attendance area or who falsify enrollment information. Therefore, the students' withdrawals are administrative corrections, and the districts are not held accountable for them as dropouts.

continues

Table 13 (continued)
Leavers Not Counted as Dropouts for Accountability Purposes by the Texas Education Agency

Reason for leaving	Rationale for not counting student as dropout
Withdrawn by district (cont.)	
Students withdrawn from school after failing to provide immunization records.	With few exceptions, students enrolling in Texas public schools must be immunized against specified contagious diseases. Under Texas Department of State Health Services rules, districts must provisionally admit students who have begun the required immunizations but may withdraw those who do not complete the immunizations within 30 days. The students are not voluntarily dropping out; therefore, they are not counted as such.
Other reasons	
Students who are in the protective custody of Child Protective Services (CPS) and have been forcibly removed by CPS, and the district has not been advised of the students' whereabouts.	This is an extreme situation in which an intervention was undertaken to protect a child's safety. The district does not have the authority to override such actions by CPS and cannot be held accountable for the child as a dropout.
Students who withdraw to enter health care facilities.	The assumption here is that a student's health was such that he or she was unable to remain in school. A student who enters a health care facility in Texas is provided education services by the facility or the district in which the facility is located, unless he or she is physically unable to continue secondary study. As such, the departure from school is not considered a voluntary interruption that the school could be expected to prevent or correct. Therefore, the student is not counted as a dropout for accountability purposes.
Students who have been incarcerated in facilities outside the boundaries of the school district.	Students who are incarcerated become the responsibility of the districts where the facilities are located, which are obligated to see that educational services are made available. Hence, the students are more appropriately considered as transfers out of the district and are not counted as dropouts.
Students who withdraw from school to return to their home countries.	Because of the difficulty in tracking students who have left the country, districts are not required to confirm that these students have re-enrolled in school in order not to have them counted as dropouts. Districts must have documentation that the students are leaving or have left the country.
Students who had previously been counted as official dropouts in any year going back to 1991.	Students who drop out and then return to school are far more likely than their continuously enrolled peers to drop out again. To fully support districts in their efforts to recover students who have dropped out, repeat dropouts are only counted once as official dropouts.
Students who are deceased.	Self-explanatory.

also began submitting individual student enrollment records. This allowed TEA to conduct an automated statewide search to determine if any students reported as dropouts were enrolled in other school districts in the state. In 1992-93, similar searches of attendance records, graduate records, and GED certificate records were also instituted. Although this effort is not a change in the definition of a dropout, it results in removing students from the dropout count who were incorrectly reported as dropouts by districts that were not aware the students had re-enrolled elsewhere. In 1998-99, the automated search of enrollment records was 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. (PEIMS data submitted in the fall represent a "snapshot" of the district on a selected date, usually the last Friday in October.)

Currently, a student reported to have dropped out of school is not counted as a dropout in the accountability system under the following circumstances:

- the student is found to have been enrolled in another Texas public school;
- the student is found to have graduated;
- the student is found to have received a GED;
- the student is found to have been ineligible for state Foundation School Program funding;
- the student is found to have been reported as a dropout from more than one district, and the data cannot confirm which district the student last attended; or
- the student is found to have been counted as a dropout in a previous school year.

In 2003-04, there were 4,410 students reported as dropouts whose records were excluded from the annual dropout rate computations (Table 14). This was a decline from 10,312 in 1997-98.

Table 14
Counts of Reconciled Dropout Records, Texas
Public Schools, 2003-04

Reason for exclusion	Frequency	Percent
Graduated	96	2.2
Received a General Educational Development (GED) certificate	774	17.6
Moved to another district	2,688	61.0
Not eligible for Foundation School Program funding	98	2.2
Dropped out in a previous school year	648	14.7
Duplicate/questionable reporting	106	2.4
Total excluded	4,410	100

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

National Dropout Reporting

Overview

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), "the primary federal entity for collecting, analyzing, and reporting data related to education in the United States," (NCES, 2004, p. ii) has been collecting and reporting state-by-state event dropout rates since the 1991-92 school year. NCES reports event dropout rates for states that submit data using consistent data definitions and collection procedures (NCES, 2001, p. 8). NCES requires that data definitions and collection procedures be consistent so rates can be compared across states. Dropout rates based on the NCES definition are also used in reports to the U.S. Department of Education.

Because the rates are comparable across states, participation in NCES dropout reporting provides an external measure of the performance of a state's school system. Participation in successive years provides a measure of state progress in dropout prevention. A state may find, though, that a dropout definition developed to meet state reporting needs and the data collection procedures developed to support the state definition differ from the national definition and procedures. For example, in 1998-99, 48 states and the District of Columbia submitted dropout data to NCES, but NCES found the dropout data of only 37 states and the District of Columbia to be in compliance for publication (NCES, 2001, p. 59).

Texas began collecting school district dropout data before the NCES national definition was established (TEA, 1989b). In addition, the annual dropout rate is an integral part of the Texas public school accountability system. The dropout rate has features that are directly related to its role as an indicator in a high-stakes accountability system. The accountability dropout definition was developed with the advice of educators from across the state and represents their assessment of the definition most suitable to the accountability system of a large state with a diverse student population and a diversity of district types. The dropout data collected are one part of a comprehensive state public education data collection system and are subject to the procedures that govern the data collection system as a whole. These definitional and procedural differences, taken together, were such that NCES determined that Texas would need to recalculate dropout counts for publication by NCES.

A study conducted for the 76th Texas Legislature by the Legislative Budget Board (LBB), State Auditor's Office (SAO), and TEA recommended that TEA prepare and submit data to NCES in compliance with the national dropout definition (LBB, SAO, & TEA, 2000). The report noted that, not only would the NCES rate be comparable to other state dropout rates, it also would be an independent assessment of Texas progress on dropouts. The agency developed a method of calculating NCES dropout counts based on existing PEIMS data and began submitting the results to NCES for the 1999-00 school year (TEA, 2002a). In 2003, the 78th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 186 requiring school districts to report dropout data using the NCES definition by 2005-06 (Texas Education Code [TEC] §39.051, 2004). All leaver reporting procedures are being redesigned so that PEIMS data are available to calculate state, district, and campus dropout counts and rates consistent with NCES guidelines. Districts will begin collecting dropout data consistent with the NCES definition starting in the 2005-06 school year.

TEA has prepared and published an increasing number and variety of dropout measures over the years. Two sets of annual dropout rates, each based on the state definition of a dropout, are published by TEA: one for Grades 7-12 and one for Grades 9-12. Grade 7-12 annual dropout rates are published for all districts and campuses with any grade levels between Grade 7 and Grade 12, inclusive, and for the state. The rates appear in TEA publications such as AEIS reports, School Report Cards, *Snapshot*, annual reports to the legislature, and annual high school completion and dropout reports. Grade 9-12 annual dropout rates are published for all districts with any grade levels between Grade 9 and Grade 12, inclusive, and for the state.

NCES publishes Grade 9-12 state and district annual dropout rates only, although states also report Grade 7 and Grade 8 dropouts in their data submissions to NCES. To facilitate comparisons

between the TEA Grade 9-12 annual dropout rates and the NCES annual dropout rates, the agency will continue its policy of publishing detailed descriptions of the dropout definitions, procedures, and calculations that apply to each rate.

Rate Calculations

The dropout rate published by TEA most comparable to the NCES event rate is the Grade 9-12 annual dropout rate. Because 2001-02 dropout data are the most recent released by NCES, both rates measure the percentage of students who dropped out of Grades 9-12 during the 2001-02 school year. The rates differ in their definitions of dropouts in the numerators and total students in the denominators.

Determination by TEA of the 2001-02 Grade 9-12 annual dropout rates is based on definitions and procedures outlined in the *2001-2002 Public Education Information Management System Data Standards* (TEA, 2001b), the *2002-2003 Public Education Information Management System Data Standards* (TEA, 2002c), and *Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools, 2001-02* (TEA, 2003). The number of students in the denominator is the cumulative number of students in attendance at any time during the school year.

$$\text{TEA annual dropout rate} = \frac{\text{number of dropouts during the school year}}{\text{number of students served during the school year}} \times 100$$

The event dropout rate used by NCES is also a calculation of the percentage of students who dropped out of Grades 9-12 during the 2001-02 school year. Determination by NCES of the Texas 2001-02 event dropout rates is based on definitions and procedures outlined in *Documentation to the NCES Common Core of Data Local Education Agency Universe Survey Dropout and Completion Data File: School Year 2001-02* (NCES, 2004). The total number of students in the denominator is the number of students counted as enrolled at a single point in time. Some states, including Texas, use dates other than October 1 for enrollment counts. For Texas, NCES uses the number of students enrolled on the last Friday in October as the total number of students in the denominator.

$$\text{NCES event dropout rate} = \frac{\text{number of dropouts during the school year}}{\text{number of students enrolled on October 1 of the school year}} \times 100$$

All data used in this report were collected and reported by Texas school districts and charter schools through PEIMS, which is maintained by TEA.

Dropout Counts and Procedures

The TEA and NCES dropout counts and procedures differ in several respects, including: the assignment of summer dropouts to school years and grades; the situations treated as high school completion; the situations considered continuation of high school elsewhere; the exclusion of some dropouts from the dropout count; the treatment of duplicate, erroneous, and indeterminate records; and the conditions under which students are considered re-enrolled in the fall (Table 15 on page 38).

Table 15
"Dropouts" as Defined by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

Texas Education Agency	National Center for Education Statistics
Definition	
TEA and NCES both define a dropout as a student who is enrolled in school at some time during the school year but either: leaves school during the school year without an approved excuse; or completes the school year and does not return the following year.	
Leavers not considered dropouts	
<p>A student who leaves school for one of the following reasons is not considered a dropout by TEA or NCES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • graduates; • transfers to, or withdraws with intent to transfer to, a public or private school; • is being home schooled; • enrolls in college; or • dies. <p>A student who leaves school for one of the following reasons is not considered a dropout by TEA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • receives a General Educational Development (GED) certificate by March 1 the following year; • enrolls in an approved adult education GED preparation program; or • meets all graduation requirements but does not pass the exit-level Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS). <p>A student who leaves school for one of the following reasons is not considered a dropout by NCES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • receives a GED certificate by the last Friday in October the following year. 	
Dropouts excluded from the dropout count	
<p>Dropouts excluded from TEA counts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • students who were previously counted as dropouts; • students who are not eligible for state funding; and • students who are reported as dropouts by more than one district and whose last districts of attendance cannot be determined. 	
Returning students	
Returning students are those who enroll at any time before the third week of January of the next school year.	Except for migrant students, returning students are those enrolled on the last Friday in October of the next school year.
Summer dropouts	
Summer dropouts are added to the counts of the school years and grade levels completed.	Summer dropouts are added to the counts of the school years and grade levels in which they fail to enroll.
Denominator	
Cumulative attendance is used as the denominator in dropout rate calculations.	Fall enrollment is used as the denominator in dropout rate calculations.

The definition of a dropout used by NCES (2004) includes all individuals who were enrolled in school at some time during the previous school year, were not enrolled at the beginning of the current school year, have not graduated from high school or completed a state- or district-approved education program, and do not meet any of the following exclusionary conditions:

- transferred to another public school district;
- transferred to a private school;

- transferred to and completed a state- or district-approved education program;
- were temporarily absent due to suspension or enrollment in a school-approved education program; or
- died.

An individual is considered to have graduated from high school or completed a state- or district-approved education program, including special education and district- or state-sponsored GED preparation, upon receipt of formal recognition from school authorities.

All official dropouts under the Texas accountability definition of dropouts are considered dropouts under the NCES definition. Because NCES does not release data for districts that are closed during the reporting year, two dropouts in school year 2001-02 from a charter school that closed the following school year (2002-03) were excluded by NCES. This NCES data processing practice leaves 15,115 official TEA dropouts for NCES reporting purposes (Figure 6 on page 40), while the TEA dropout count for 2001-02 was 15,117 (Table 17 on page 43).

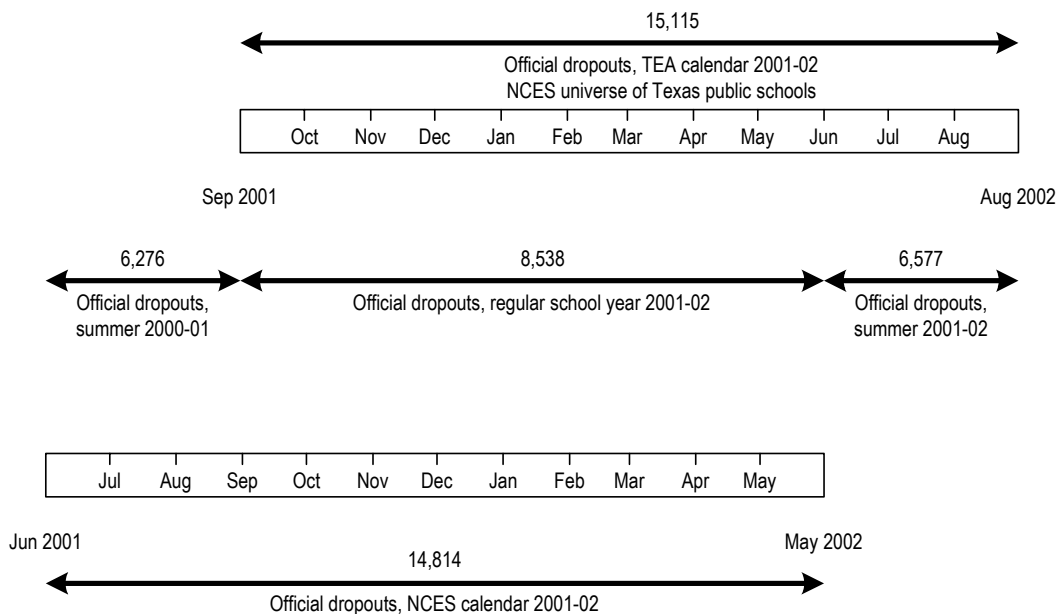
There also are differences in the ways NCES and TEA attribute students who complete a school year but do not return, or "summer dropouts." NCES attributes a summer dropout to the count of the year and grade in which he or she fails to enroll. TEA, on the other hand, adds a summer dropout to the count of the year and grade level completed. In 2001-02, for example, of the 15,115 official TEA dropouts in Grades 9-12, NCES replaced the 6,577 students who dropped out in the summer following the 2001-02 school year with the 6,276 students who dropped out in the summer before the 2001-02 school year. Thus, there were 14,814 official dropouts in the NCES dropout count. All of the calculations described in this section require adjustments like this for summer dropouts. This difference must be taken into account in each adjustment that is made to reconcile the TEA and NCES counts.

There are five groups of students counted as dropouts by NCES that are not counted as dropouts by TEA:

- a student who withdraws to enroll in an approved adult education GED preparation program;
- a senior who meets all graduation requirements but does not pass the exit-level TAAS;
- a student previously counted as a dropout;
- a student enrolled in school but not eligible for state Foundation School Program funds; and
- a dropout for whom the last district of attendance cannot be determined.

A large numerical difference is attributable to the count of students who withdraw to enroll in approved adult education GED preparation programs. TEA treats these students as continuing their high school programs and counts them as "other leavers" rather than dropouts. NCES treats them as dropouts unless they obtain their GED certificates by the first day of school the following year. Over 14,000 students were added to the NCES 2001-02 dropout count for this reason (Table 16 on page 41). A second large group of students treated as dropouts by NCES consists of 1,600 students

Figure 6
Attribution of Summer Dropouts for Grades 9-12 by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)



who had completed their course requirements but had not been awarded diplomas because they had not yet passed the exit-level TAAS. NCES considers these students to be dropouts because they have not received their diplomas. In accordance with legislative intent, TEA counts these students as "other leavers."

Three other groups of students are reported by districts to TEA as dropouts but are removed from the counts of official dropouts for accountability purposes. Students who have dropped out in the past are much more likely to drop out than are students who have not. To avoid penalizing districts in the accountability system for encouraging dropouts to return to school, repeat dropouts are excluded from the counts used for accountability. Students for whom districts had received no state funding are also excluded. Dropouts also are excluded from district counts when the district to be held accountable cannot be determined unambiguously. Together, these three groups accounted for 986 NCES dropouts in 2001-02 (Table 16).

Another large numerical difference occurs because NCES and TEA set different conditions for considering students to have re-enrolled in the fall. For purposes of the NCES event dropout count:

- the school year is the 12-month period of time from the first day of school; and
- an individual not accounted for on the first day of school is considered a dropout.

Table 16
Sources of National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Grade 9-12 Dropouts, 2001-02

Source	Summer (TEA ^a 2000-01 dropout year) ^b	Regular school year (TEA 2001-02 dropout year) ^c	Total	
			Number ^d	Percent ^e
TEA official dropouts ^f	6,276	8,538	14,814	34.5
Leavers not considered dropouts ^g				
GED ^h preparation program	2,799	11,887	14,686	34.2
Failed exit-level TAAS ⁱ	1,138	462	1,600	3.7
Dropouts excluded from the dropout count ^j				
Different definitions ^k				
Previous dropout	173	629	802	1.9
Ineligible for funding	18	69	87	0.2
Duplicate dropout record	10	87	97	0.2
Different dates for returning students ^l				
GED received after NCES return date	100	134	234	0.5
Enrolled before or after NCES return date	38	162	200	0.5
Returning students ^m	4,805	5,628	10,433	24.3
Total	15,357	27,596	42,953	100

^aTexas Education Agency.

^bSummer dropouts. Students who completed the 2000-01 school year but were not enrolled on the last Friday in October the following fall are counted as 2001-02 dropouts under the NCES definition. These dropouts would be considered 2000-01 dropouts under the Texas definition.

^cRegular school year dropouts. Students who left school before the end of the 2001-02 school year and were not enrolled on the last Friday in October the following fall are 2001-02 dropouts for both NCES and TEA.

^dTotal number. NCES totals include summer dropouts from the TEA 2000-01 dropout year plus regular school year dropouts from the TEA 2001-02 dropout year.

^eTotal percent. This is the percentage each source of dropouts represents of the total count of NCES dropouts.

^fTEA official dropouts. All students who are dropouts under the TEA definition are also dropouts under the NCES definition.

^gLeavers not considered dropouts. There are two categories of students reported to TEA as school leavers considered dropouts under the NCES definition but not under the Texas definition: (a) students who enter GED preparation programs; and (b) students who complete all graduation requirements and fail the exit-level TAAS.

^hGeneral Educational Development certificate.

ⁱTexas Assessment of Academic Skills.

^jDropouts excluded from the dropout count. After TEA receives the final Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) data submission, an automated statewide search of other data files is conducted to determine if any students reported as dropouts appear elsewhere as non-dropouts. For example, a reported dropout found to have received a GED or to have enrolled elsewhere is removed from the dropout count.

^kDifferent definitions. NCES does not accept all TEA exclusion reasons, and some students reported as dropouts but removed from the TEA count are added to the NCES dropout count: (a) repeat dropouts—students who were counted as dropouts in a previous year, returned to school, and dropped out again; (b) students not eligible for state Foundation School Program funding, such as students who were served less than two hours of instruction per day; and (c) students for whom dropout records were submitted by more than one district (under the TEA definition, a student can only be counted as a dropout once in any school year).

^lDifferent dates for returning students. Even for exclusions allowed under both the NCES and TEA definitions, counts may differ because of different return dates. Because the return date differs between the two systems, some students reported as dropouts but removed from the TEA count are added to the NCES dropout count: (a) students who receive their GED certificates after the last Friday in October; and (b) students who return to school the following fall but are not enrolled on the last Friday in October.

^mReturning students. Neither TEA nor NCES counts students who return to school in the fall as dropouts. Nevertheless, TEA and NCES have different procedures for determining who has returned to school. TEA dropout procedures treat students enrolled at any time through the end of January as having returned. Because these students have returned to school, districts are not required to report them as dropouts or other leavers. NCES considers only those students enrolled on the day designated as the beginning of the school year as having returned. This excludes: (a) students who return and leave before the end of October; and (b) students who return between the end of October and the end of January. Students not enrolled on the day designated as the beginning of the school year must be added to calculate NCES dropouts, except for those found to be enrolled elsewhere or to have graduated or completed a GED.

States are asked to report on an October through September reporting cycle. For many states on this reporting cycle, the first day of school is set operationally as October 1; but for TEA data submissions to NCES, the date is the last Friday in October. Except for migrant students, NCES considers only students enrolled effective the day established as the first day of school to have re-enrolled for the school year. TEA, on the other hand, considers all students enrolled at any time before late-January to have re-enrolled for the school year. Having a single day instead of five months for counting students as having returned to school makes a substantial difference between the two dropout counts. The NCES dropout count included 10,433 Texas students who were considered by TEA to be returning students for school year 2001-02. Differing timelines for determining student enrollment status affect two other groups, as well—each containing students who are reported initially as dropouts but are reconciled by TEA as students who either returned to school or received GEDs after the NCES-established return date. In the first group, 200 dropouts who re-enrolled in school within the allowed time by TEA were counted by NCES as dropouts. In the second group, TEA counts as GED recipients all students who receive GED certificates by March 1 of the next school year. NCES counts as GED recipients students who receive GED certificates before the last Friday in October of the next school year. As a result, 234 students who received their GED certificates between the last Friday in October 2002 and March 1, 2003, were counted by NCES as dropouts (Table 16 on page 41).

In the 2001-02 NCES Grade 9-12 dropout count for Texas, 34.5 percent of the 42,953 dropouts were also dropouts in the state system. The total counts by NCES and TEA were different largely because of students entering GED programs (14,686 students) and students not enrolled in school on the NCES-established return date (10,867 students). Both groups were included in the NCES dropout count and accounted for 34.2 percent and 25.3 percent of the NCES dropout count, respectively.

Additional Adjustments to District and Grade-Level Counts

As noted, NCES attributes a summer dropout to the count of the year and grade in which he or she fails to enroll, whereas TEA attributes a summer dropout to the count of the year and grade level completed. The NCES approach tends to "move" dropouts from Grade 11 to Grade 12 and from Grade 9 to Grade 10 (Table 17). This means that NCES dropout rates for Grade 12 are likely to be disproportionately larger than the rates for the other grades. The NCES approach also requires that a student who drops out during the summer in which he or she is moving between districts must be attributed to the district in which fall enrollment is expected.

Texas Public School State Rates

The 2001-02 Grades 9-12 annual dropout rate for Texas public schools under the national definition was 3.8 percent (Table 17). The rate under the state definition was 1.3 percent. The NCES rate was nearly 3 times the comparable TEA rate. For Grades 9-12, there were 42,953 dropouts under

Table 17
Comparison of Texas Education Agency (TEA) and National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Dropout Counts and Rates by Student Group and Grade, Texas Public Schools, 2001-02

Group	TEA			NCES			Difference in dropouts
	Dropouts	All students ^a	Rate (%)	Dropouts	All students ^b	Rate (%)	
Grade 7							
African American	96	47,717	0.2	119	n/a ^c	n/a	23
Asian/Pacific Islander	13	9,110	0.1	4	n/a	n/a	-9
Hispanic	318	129,419	0.2	346	n/a	n/a	28
Native American	4	1,025	0.4	6	n/a	n/a	2
White	83	138,533	0.1	112	n/a	n/a	29
State	514	325,804	0.2	587	311,223	0.2	73
Grade 8							
African American	166	46,057	0.4	385	n/a	n/a	219
Asian/Pacific Islander	22	9,080	0.2	21	n/a	n/a	-1
Hispanic	641	126,677	0.5	1,398	n/a	n/a	757
Native American	4	941	0.4	7	n/a	n/a	3
White	158	139,013	0.1	614	n/a	n/a	456
State	991	321,768	0.3	2,425	306,138	0.8	1,434
Grade 9							
African American	967	58,541	1.7	2,211	n/a	n/a	1,244
Asian/Pacific Islander	43	9,703	0.4	97	n/a	n/a	54
Hispanic	2,948	160,990	1.8	6,481	n/a	n/a	3,533
Native American	15	1,126	1.3	45	n/a	n/a	30
White	707	154,086	0.5	2,291	n/a	n/a	1,584
State	4,680	384,446	1.2	11,125	360,781	3.1	6,445
Grade 10							
African American	786	43,298	1.8	2,091	n/a	n/a	1,305
Asian/Pacific Islander	43	8,987	0.5	114	n/a	n/a	71
Hispanic	2,105	114,524	1.8	6,543	n/a	n/a	4,438
Native American	5	878	0.6	28	n/a	n/a	23
White	753	139,040	0.5	2,774	n/a	n/a	2,021
State	3,692	306,727	1.2	11,550	289,143	4.0	7,858
Grade 11							
African American	652	35,729	1.8	1,578	n/a	n/a	926
Asian/Pacific Islander	52	8,552	0.6	123	n/a	n/a	71
Hispanic	1,706	90,342	1.9	4,627	n/a	n/a	2,921
Native American	11	736	1.5	23	n/a	n/a	12
White	907	128,385	0.7	2,873	n/a	n/a	1,966
State	3,328	263,744	1.3	9,224	257,241	3.6	5,896

Source: NCES (2004).

^aCumulative attendance. ^bFall enrollment count. ^c"n/a" indicates data are not available from NCES.

continues

Table 17 (continued)

Comparison of Texas Education Agency (TEA) and National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Dropout Counts and Rates by Student Group and Grade, Texas Public Schools, 2001-02

Group	TEA			NCES			Difference in dropouts
	Dropouts	All students ^a	Rate (%)	Dropouts	All students ^b	Rate (%)	
Grade 12							
African American	656	33,545	2.0	2,044	n/a ^c	n/a	1,388
Asian/Pacific Islander	78	8,332	0.9	222	n/a	n/a	144
Hispanic	1,625	84,292	1.9	5,467	n/a	n/a	3,842
Native American	8	652	1.2	27	n/a	n/a	19
White	1,050	120,370	0.9	3,294	n/a	n/a	2,244
State	3,417	247,191	1.4	11,054	223,449	4.9	7,637
Grades 7-12							
African American	3,323	264,887	1.3	8,428	n/a	n/a	5,105
Asian/Pacific Islander	251	53,764	0.5	581	n/a	n/a	330
Hispanic	9,343	706,244	1.3	24,862	n/a	n/a	15,519
Native American	47	5,358	0.9	136	n/a	n/a	89
White	3,658	819,427	0.4	11,958	n/a	n/a	8,300
State	16,622	1,849,680	0.9	45,965	1,747,975	2.6	29,343
Grades 9-12							
African American	3,061	171,113	1.8	7,924	160,431	4.9	4,863
Asian/Pacific Islander	216	35,574	0.6	556	33,989	1.6	340
Hispanic	8,384	450,148	1.9	23,118	420,383	5.5	14,734
Native American	39	3,392	1.1	123	3,036	4.1	84
White	3,417	541,881	0.6	11,232	512,775	2.2	7,815
Female	6,630	584,326	1.1	18,522	551,992	3.4	11,892
Male	8,487	617,782	1.4	24,431	578,622	4.2	15,944
State	15,117	1,202,108	1.3	42,953	1,130,614	3.8	27,836

Source: NCES (2004).

^aCumulative attendance. ^bFall enrollment count. ^c"n/a" indicates data are not available from NCES.

the NCES definition, compared to 15,117 dropouts under the TEA accountability definition—a difference of 27,836 students. The ratio of NCES dropouts to TEA dropouts for Grades 9-12 was 2.8 to 1.

NCES uses fall enrollment to calculate the dropout rate rather than the cumulative attendance used by TEA. This contributes to the higher dropout rate because fall enrollment is smaller than cumulative attendance, which includes all students enrolled at any time during the school year. Fall enrollment included 1,130,614 students in Grades 9-12, while cumulative attendance included 1,202,108 students, a difference of 71,494 students.

Under the state definition, the 2001-02 Grade 9-12 annual rates for African American, Hispanic, and White students were 1.8 percent, 1.9 percent, and 0.6 percent, respectively. Under the federal definition, the annual rates for African American, Hispanic, and White students were 4.9 percent, 5.5 percent, and 2.2 percent, respectively. The differences between TEA and NCES Grade 9-12 dropout counts varied slightly by ethnic group. The difference was largest for White students, with 3.3 times as many NCES dropouts as TEA dropouts. The difference was smallest for African American and Asian/Pacific Islander students, with 2.6 times as many NCES dropouts as TEA dropouts.

The Grade 7-12 rate was 2.6 percent under the NCES dropout definition, compared to 0.9 percent under the TEA definition. Under the NCES dropout definition, 45,965 students in Grades 7-12 dropped out of Texas public schools in 2001-02, compared to 16,622 students under the TEA accountability definition—a difference of 29,343 students. The ratio of NCES dropouts to TEA dropouts for Grades 7-12 was 2.8 to 1.

Under the TEA definition, Grade 9 had the largest number of dropouts, while Grade 10 had the largest number of dropouts under the NCES definition (Table 17 on page 43). The difference between the TEA and NCES dropout counts was greatest for Grade 10, followed by Grade 12. The difference between dropout counts was large for Grade 10, in part, because the number of summer dropouts added to Grade 11 and subtracted from Grade 10 was much smaller than the number added to Grade 10 and subtracted from Grade 9. In accounting for differences in Grade 12 dropout counts, several leaver categories that are dropouts under the NCES definition include a disproportionate number of Grade 12 students:

- students who fail the exit-level TAAS but meet all other graduation requirements (all Grade 12);
- students who receive GED certificates between the last Friday in October and March 1 of the school year after they drop out;
- students who leave school to enter adult education GED preparation programs; and
- summer dropouts from Grade 11 who are added to the Grade 12 count, which also contains Grade 12 summer dropouts.

There were 14 districts with TEA dropouts but no NCES dropouts and 44 districts in which the TEA dropout count was higher than the NCES dropout count. In 856 (69%) of the 1,241 Texas school districts, the NCES dropout count was higher than the TEA count.

Statewide Dropout and Completion Rates

Annual Dropout Rates

Calculation and Methods

The annual dropout rate is the number of students in Grades 7-12 who drop out during a school year, divided by cumulative enrollment that same year and multiplied by 100. Cumulative enrollment is the number of students in attendance in Grades 7-12 at any time during the school year.

For this report, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) calculated three annual dropout rates for 2003-04: the Grade 7-8 annual rate, the Grade 9-12 annual rate, and the Grade 7-12 annual rate. In spring 2004, the Grade 7-8 annual dropout rate and the Grade 9-12 completion rate were added to the state accountability system as campus and district performance indicators. The Grade 9-12 completion rate, together with the Grade 7-8 annual dropout rate, provide measures of school leavers for campuses and districts serving grades 7-12.

Annual dropout rates for Grades 7-8 were calculated at the state, district, and campus levels. Annual dropout rates for Grades 9-12 were calculated at the state and district levels. Annual dropout rates for Grades 7-12 were calculated at the state, district, and campus levels. (See the data supplements to this report [TEA, 2005b, 2005c, 2005d] for listings of county, campus, and district rates, and the National Center for Education Statistics 2001-02 dropout rates [TEA, 2005a].)

If a student attended more than one campus during the year, he or she was counted in attendance at each campus and in each district. For example, a student who attended two schools within a district was counted as in attendance once for each campus and once for the district. When attendance and dropout data were aggregated to district, county, regional, and state levels, a student was counted only once at each level. If the student dropped out, the student was counted as a dropout once for the district last attended and once for the campus in the district held accountable for the dropout.

Grade 7-8 Annual Rate

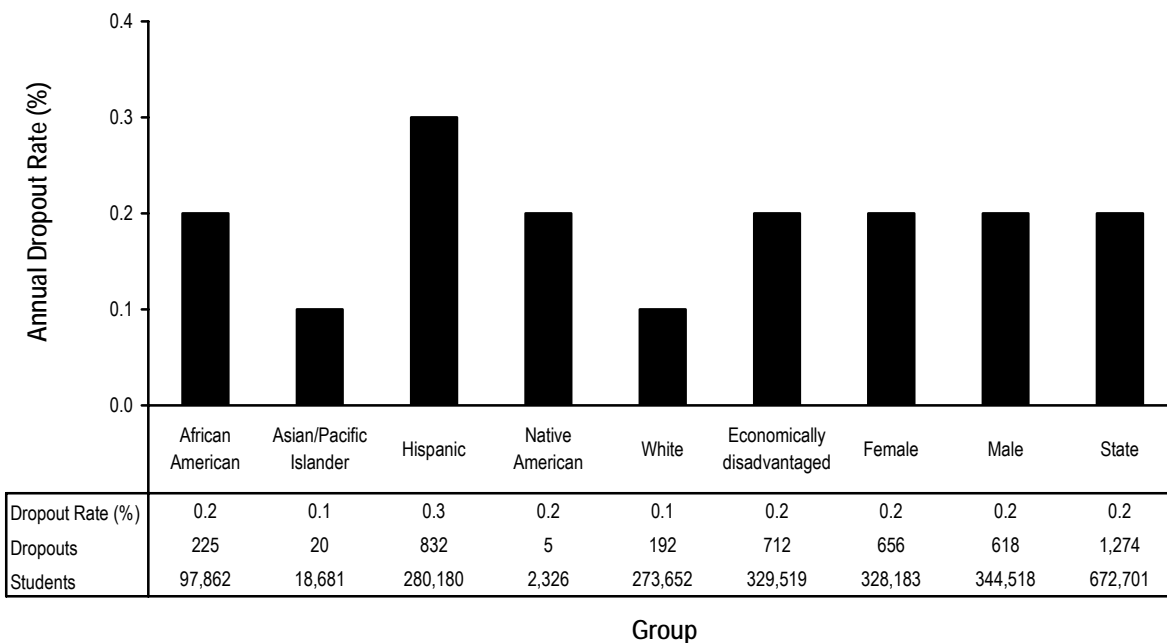
State summary. For the 2003-04 school year, the statewide annual dropout rate for Grades 7-8 was 0.2 percent (Figure 7 on page 48). This rate is considerably lower than the 1.2 percent annual dropout rate for Grades 9-12 and the rate of 0.9 percent for Grades 7-12. There were 1,274 dropouts in Grades 7-8 in 2003-04, down 14.3 percent from 1,486 in 2002-03. This was a much larger reduction than the 1.3 percent decrease from 2001-02 to 2002-03. The dropout rate was 0.2 percent in both 2002-03 and 2003-04.

Rates among student groups. In 2003-04, dropout rates for African American students in Grades 7-8 (0.2%) were two times higher than those of White students (0.1), while the rates for Hispanic students (0.3%) were three times higher (Figure 7). The number of grade 7-8 dropouts declined for all ethnic groups from the previous year. Among African American, Hispanic, and White

students, the number of Hispanic dropouts showed the greatest decrease (17.0 percent), from 1,002 dropouts in 2002-03 to 832 dropouts in 2003-04. In 2003-04, males and females dropped out at the same rate, 0.2 percent; students identified as economically disadvantaged also had a dropout rate of 0.2 percent.

Rates by student characteristics and program participation. 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 stay in school. Tables H-6 and H-7 in Appendix H present dropout information for students in Grades 7-8 by special program participation (bilingual/English as a second language, career and technology education, gifted/talented, special education, Title I), and other educational factors (at risk, immigrant, limited English proficiency, migrant, overage).

Figure 7
Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-8, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, 2003-04



Grade 9-12 Annual Rate

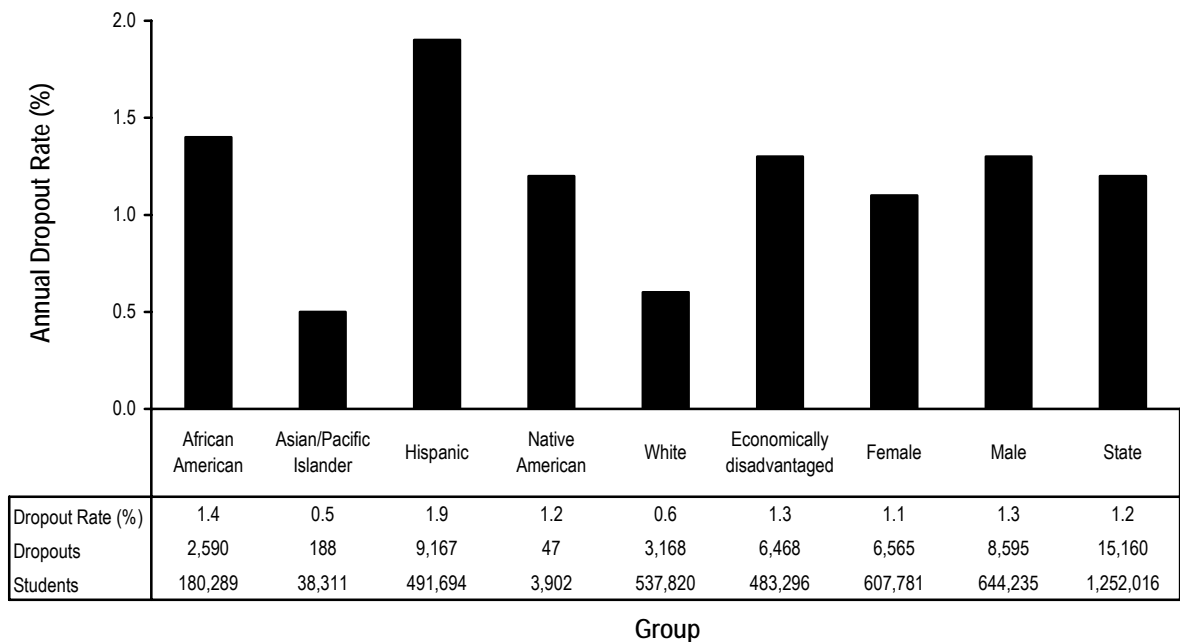
State summary. For the 2003-04 school year, the statewide annual dropout rate for Grades 9-12 was 1.2 percent (Figure 8), compared to the rate of 0.2 percent for Grades 7-8 and 0.9 percent for Grades 7-12. The Grade 9-12 annual dropout rate of 1.2 percent is a slight decrease from the 1.3 percent dropout rate in the 2002-03 school year. There were 15,160 Grade 9-12 dropouts in 2003-04, down 3.2 percent from 15,665 in 2002-03.

Rates among student groups. In 2003-04, dropout rates for African American (1.4%) and Hispanic (1.9%) students in Grades 9-12 were over two and over three times higher than that of White students (0.6%), respectively (Table H-8 in Appendix H). Males dropped out at a slightly higher rate than females. Students identified as economically disadvantaged had a dropout rate of 1.3 percent.

Rates by student characteristics and program participation. Tables H-9 and H-10 in Appendix H present dropout information for students in Grades 9-12 by special program participation (bilingual/English as a second language, career and technology education, gifted/talented, special education, Title I), and other student characteristics (at risk, immigrant, limited English proficiency, migrant, overage).

Figure 8

Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 9-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, 2003-04



Grade 7-12 Annual Rate

State summary. Out of 1,924,717 students enrolled in Grades 7-12 in Texas public schools during the 2003-04 school year, 16,434 students, or 0.9 percent, were reported to have dropped out (Table 18 on page 50). The number of students enrolled in Grades 7-12 increased by 33,356 (1.8%) over the number in 2002-03, and the number of dropouts decreased by 717 students (4.2%) (Figure 9 on page 51).

Rates among student groups. In 2003-04, dropout rates for African American (1.0%) and Hispanic (1.3%) students were over two and over three times higher than that of White students

Table 18
Dropouts, Students, and Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, 1987-88 Through 2003-04

School year	Dropouts	Students	Group					Annual dropout rate (%)
			African American	Hispanic	White	Other	Economically disadvantaged	
1987-88	91,307	1,363,198	8.4	8.8	5.1	6.1	n/a ^a	6.7
1988-89	82,325	1,360,115	7.5	8.1	4.5	4.9	n/a	6.1
1989-90	70,040	1,361,494	6.7	7.2	3.5	4.3	n/a	5.1
1990-91	53,965	1,372,738	4.8	5.6	2.7	3.1	3.7	3.9
1991-92	53,420	1,406,838	4.8	5.5	2.5	2.9	3.5	3.8
1992-93	43,402	1,533,197	3.6	4.2	1.7	2.0	2.9	2.8
1993-94	40,211	1,576,015	3.2	3.9	1.5	1.7	2.7	2.6
1994-95	29,918	1,617,522	2.3	2.7	1.2	1.1	1.9	1.8
1995-96	29,207	1,662,578	2.3	2.5	1.1	1.1	1.7	1.8
1996-97	26,901	1,705,972	2.0	2.3	1.0	0.9	1.6	1.6
1997-98	27,550	1,743,139	2.1	2.3	0.9	1.1	1.6	1.6
1998-99	27,592	1,773,117	2.3	2.3	0.8	0.9	1.5	1.6
1999-00	23,457	1,794,521	1.8	1.9	0.7	0.7	1.3	1.3
2000-01	17,563	1,818,940	1.3	1.4	0.5	0.5	1.0	1.0
2001-02	16,622	1,849,680	1.3	1.3	0.4	0.5	0.9	0.9
2002-03	17,151	1,891,361	1.2	1.4	0.4	0.4	1.0	0.9
2003-04	16,434	1,924,717	1.0	1.3	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.9

^aNot available.

(0.4%), respectively (Figure 10). As in previous years, males dropped out at a slightly higher rate than females. Students identified as economically disadvantaged had a dropout rate of 0.9 percent (Table H-11 in Appendix H).

Rates by student characteristics and program participation. Tables H-12 through H-14 in Appendix H present dropout information by student age, special program participation (bilingual/English as a second language, career and technology education, gifted/talented, special education, Title I), and other student characteristics (at risk, immigrant, limited English proficiency, migrant, overage).

Trends in annual rates. Since 1987-88, the Grade 7-12 annual dropout rate has gradually decreased (Figure 11 on page 52). Since the late 1980s, there have been refinements in dropout reporting, data processing, and calculations. Also, the dropout rate became a base indicator in the accountability system in 1993-94. From 1996-97 through 1998-99, the state rate held steady at 1.6 percent, but in 1999-00, the rate decreased to 1.3 percent. The rate decreased for the third successive year to 0.9 percent in 2001-02 and held steady at 0.9 percent in 2002-03 and 2003-04.

Figure 9
 Numbers of Students and Dropouts, Grades 7-12, Texas Public Schools, 1987-88 Through 2003-04

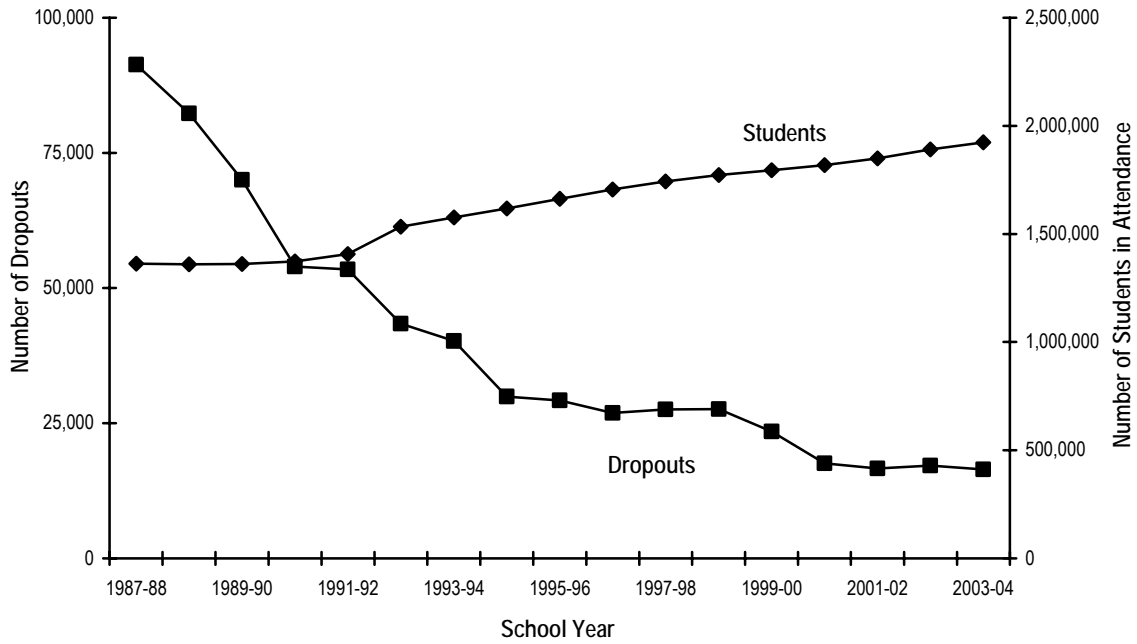


Figure 10
 Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, 1987-88 Through 2003-04

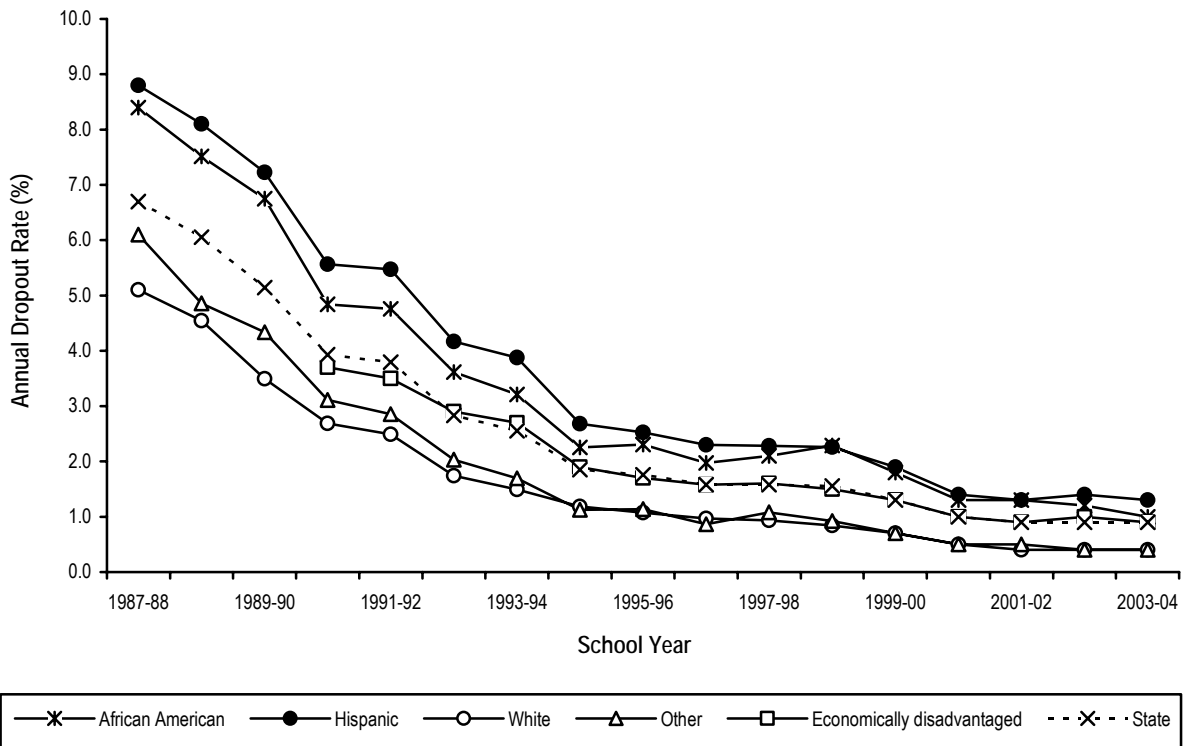
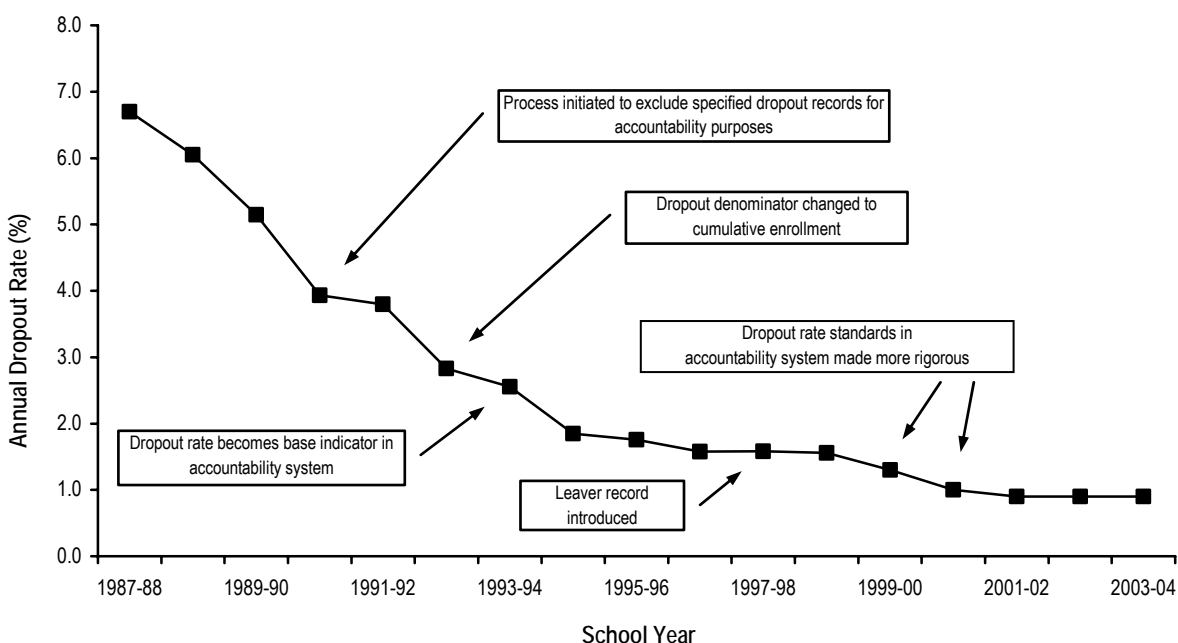


Figure 11
Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, Texas Public Schools, 1987-88 Through 2003-04



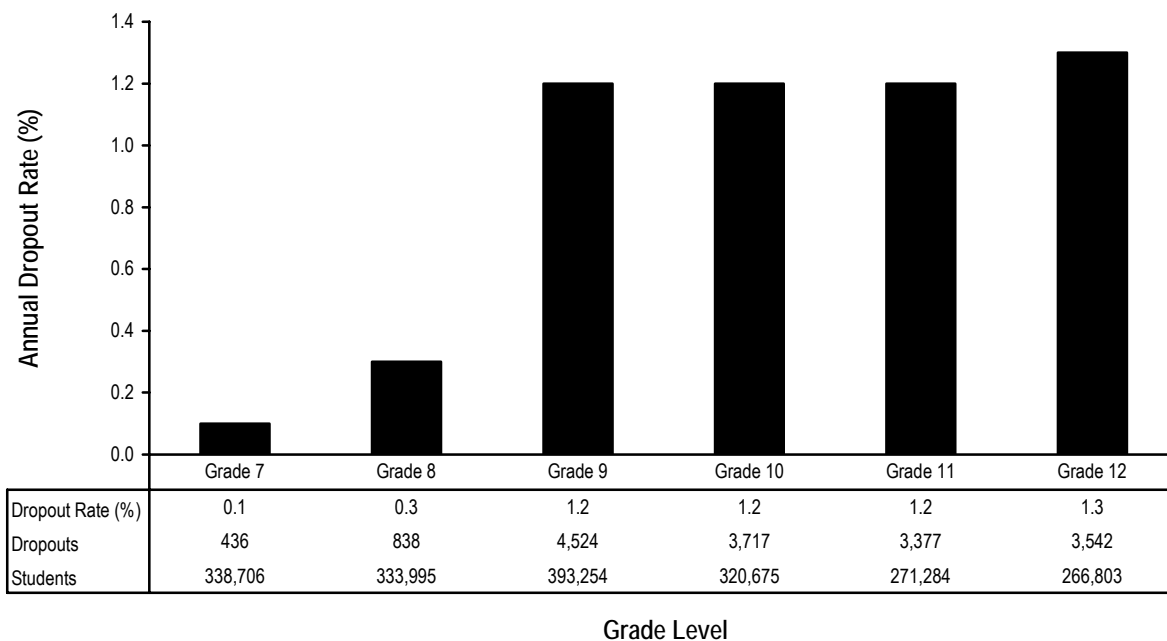
When the leaver record was introduced in 1997-98, the overall number of dropouts increased for the first time, but the rate remained constant. The number of dropouts rose only slightly in the second year of the leaver record collection. The number of dropouts decreased significantly in 1999-00 and decreased even more in 2000-01, the second year the dropout standards for ratings had been raised since a dropout indicator was introduced. Although the dropout rate remained constant from 2002-03 to 2003-04, the number of dropouts decreased by 717 students, or 4.2 percent (Table 18 on page 50).

The number of dropouts in 2003-04 declined from the previous year for all ethnicities except Native Americans. The dropout rates decreased from the previous year for African American, Hispanic, and Native American students, and were constant for Asian/Pacific Islander and White students. The gap between the dropout rate for White students and the dropout rate for African American and Hispanic students narrowed slightly (Table H-11 in Appendix H).

Comparing Rates for Different Grade Spans

In 2003-04, Grade 7 had the lowest dropout rate (0.1%) and Grade 12 had the highest dropout rate (1.3%) (Figure 12). Between 2002-03 and 2003-04, the number of dropouts in Grade 7 and Grade 8 decreased by 14.8 percent and 14.0 percent, respectively. The Grade 7 dropout rate decreased from 0.2 percent to 0.1 percent, while the Grade 8 dropout rate remained at 0.3 percent. Among the four high school grades, the number of dropouts decreased in Grade 9, Grade 10, and Grade 11, with Grade 9 showing the greatest decrease (8.2%). The number of dropouts in Grade 12 increased by 2.9 percent (Table H-1 in Appendix H).

Figure 12
Annual Dropout Rate, by Grade, Texas Public Schools, 2003-04

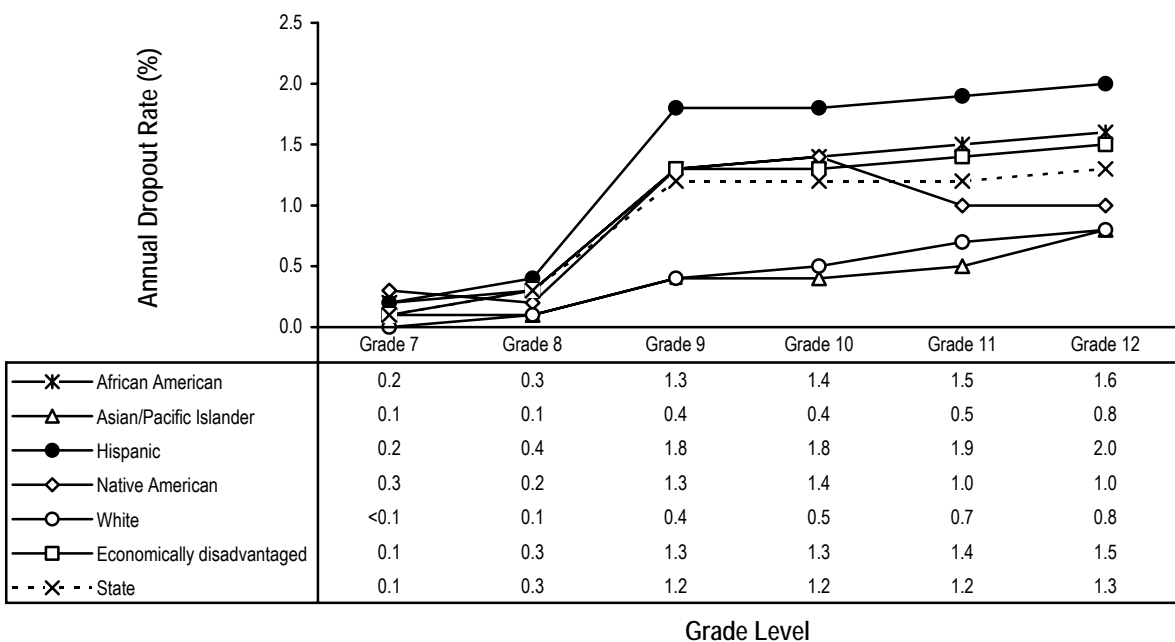


Disaggregated by student group and grade, the highest dropout rate was for Hispanic students in Grade 12 (2.0%), and the lowest rate was for White students in Grade 7 (<0.1%). The dropout rates generally were much higher in Grades 9 through 12 than in Grades 7 and 8 (Figure 13 on page 54). The highest dropout rates for most student groups appeared in Grades 11 or 12. The gaps between dropout rates for White students and those for Hispanic and African American students were greatest at Grade 9 and above. Across all grade levels, African American and Hispanic students were two to four times more likely to drop out of school than were Asian/Pacific Islander and White students (Table H-3 in Appendix H).

Just as the overall annual dropout rates in Grades 7 and 8 differ considerably from the rates in the higher grades, disaggregated dropout rates in different grade spans also differ. For example, in each of Grades 9 through 12, the dropout rate for males exceeded that for females (Table H-2 in Appendix H). In Grade 7, although the dropout rate for female and male students was the same (0.1%), 2.8 percent of all female dropouts left from this grade as compared to 2.6 percent of male dropouts. That is, female dropouts were more likely to leave school in Grade 7 than were male dropouts.

As another example, Hispanic dropouts were somewhat more likely to leave school in Grades 7 and 8 than White and African American dropouts, so Hispanic students made up a slightly smaller share of Grade 9-12 dropouts than of Grade 7-12 dropouts. Even with these variations between the annual Grade 7-12 and Grade 9-12 dropout rates, the patterns in rates among major student groups and trends for these groups were similar in recent years (Tables H-8 and H-11 in Appendix H).

Figure 13
Annual Dropout Rate, by Grade and Student Group, Texas Public Schools, 2003-04



Longitudinal Completion Rates

Calculation and Methods

Conceptual approach. The completion rate is an adaptation of the Holding Power Index (HPI) (Hartzell, McKay, & Frymier, 1992). The HPI follows a class of students, or cohort, over a period of years, and determines the status of each student after the anticipated graduation date of the cohort. In 1998-99, TEA combined the completion and dropout measures and revised the method used to produce a single completion series. The series provides complementary rates for graduates, students still enrolled, recipients of General Educational Development (GED) certificates, and dropouts, which together add to 100 percent.

The cohorts. PEIMS attendance data are used to build each cohort of students for the completion rate. Each cohort is identified by the starting grade and anticipated year of graduation. For example, members of the class of 2004 Grade 9 cohort were identified as students who attended Grade 9 for the first time in the 2000-01 school year. Cohort members were then tracked through the fall semester following their anticipated graduation date of spring 2004. This made it possible to identify those who continued in school after their class graduated. Members who transferred out of the Texas public school system during the time period covered were removed from the cohort. Students who transferred into the system on grade level were added to the cohort.

Each student can belong to one and only one Grade 7 cohort and one and only one Grade 9 cohort. That is, cohort membership does not transfer from one cohort to another over time. Students who are retained in grade or who skip grades remain members of the cohorts they first joined.

Any student for whom one of the designated outcomes could be determined was counted in the class. This included students who began Grade 7 or Grade 9 together, as well as students who transferred into Texas public schools. A student whose final status could not be determined was removed from the status counts. In the vast majority of cases, these were students who transferred out of the Texas public school system. In a small number of cases, students were excluded because of exceptions in the accountability system. The progress of the class of 2004 Grade 9 cohort through high school is illustrated on Figure I-1 in Appendix I. A summary of the final outcomes for the entire cohort can be found on Table 7 (page 17).

Student status. The completion rate focuses on selected long-term student outcomes over a period of years. Each member of the cohort is assigned a final status by the year after anticipated graduation. Neither dropping out nor leaving necessarily determines the final status of a student. The status of a student who drops out or leaves will change if he or she returns and graduates, obtains a GED, or continues in school. Dropping out becomes the status of record only if it is the final status for a student in the PEIMS database.

Graduates. A student is classified as a graduate in the year in which he or she is reported in PEIMS as a graduate.

Continuing enrollment. A student is classified as continuing if he or she is reported as enrolled in the state in the fall after his or her anticipated graduation.

GED certificate recipients. GED tests are given at over 200 centers throughout the state in school districts, colleges and universities, and education service centers. Tests are given year-round and results transmitted electronically to TEA. Receipt of a GED certificate is reported as soon as the test is scored as passing. A student in the class of 2004 was assigned a final status of GED if he or she received a certificate before March 1, 2005.

Dropouts. A student is classified as a dropout if this is the final status recorded for the student in the PEIMS database.

Calculating the rates. To determine completion rates, the number of students in each status category (graduation, school continuation, GED, and dropout) is divided by the total number of students in the class. Because the total number of students in the class is used to calculate each rate, the sum of the four rates is always 100 percent.

Completion rates in the accountability system. Building on the completion categories, two new performance measures were defined for the Texas public school accountability system and implemented, beginning with the 2004 ratings cycle. Completion I includes graduates and continuing enrollees. Completion II includes graduates, continuing enrollees, and GED recipients. In the 2004

ratings cycle, school districts and campuses were rated on Completion II for the previous year's graduating class (i.e., the class of 2003). In the 2005 ratings cycle, school districts and campuses will be rated on Completion II for the class of 2004. Starting with the 2006 ratings cycle, school districts and campuses will be rated on Completion I.

Results

State rates. Out of 270,911 students in the class of 2004 Grade 9 cohort, 91.9 percent either graduated by 2004 or continued school the following year. An additional 4.2 percent received GED certificates (Table 19). Completion I rates were highest for Asian/Pacific Islanders (96.7%). Completion I rates for African Americans (92.0%) and Whites (93.0%) also were higher than the state average (91.9%), while rates for the other two ethnic groups and for economically disadvantaged students were below the state average. Completion II rates showed similar trends except for African American students, whose rate was just under the state average of 96.1 percent, and Native American students, whose rate was just above the state average (Figure 14).

Table 19
Longitudinal Completion Rates, Grade 9 Cohort and Grade 7 Cohort, Texas Public Schools, Classes of 2003 and 2004

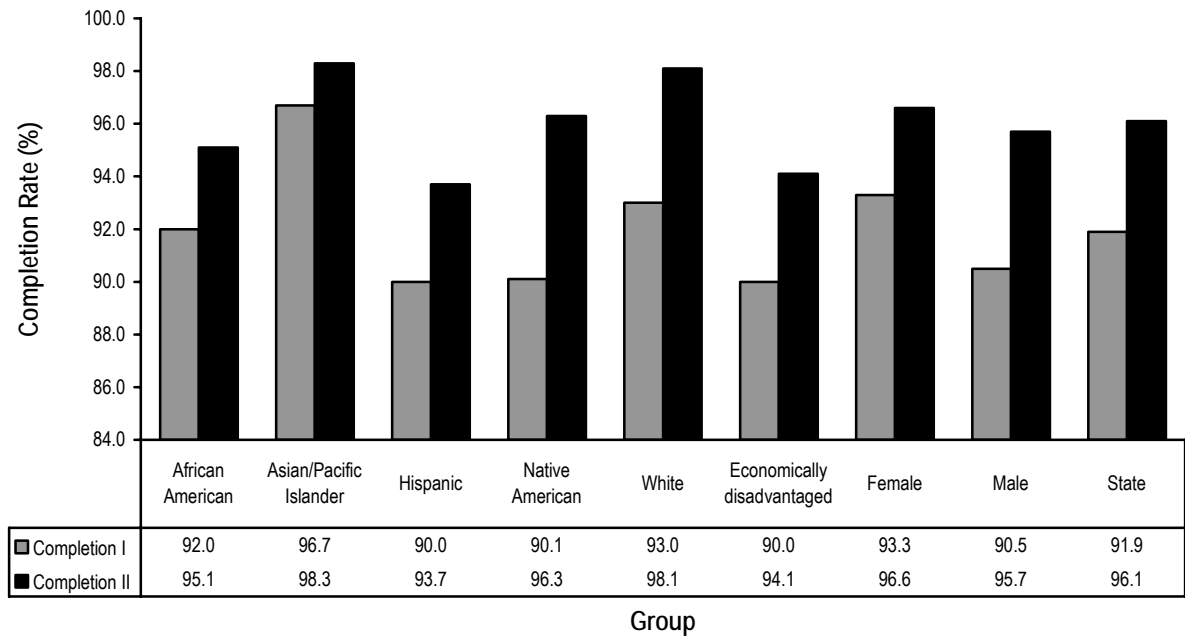
Status	Grade 9 cohort						Grade 7 cohort					
	Class of 2003			Class of 2004			Class of 2003			Class of 2004		
	Class (number)	Group (number)	Rate (%)	Class (number)	Group (number)	Rate (%)	Class (number)	Group (number)	Rate (%)	Class (number)	Group (number)	Rate (%)
Graduated	263,571	222,021	84.2	270,911	229,133	84.6	266,088	220,533	82.9	273,177	227,261	83.2
Continued	263,571	20,932	7.9	270,911	19,826	7.3	266,088	23,959	9.0	273,177	22,735	8.3
Received GED ^a	263,571	8,749	3.3	270,911	11,445	4.2	266,088	8,552	3.2	273,177	11,688	4.3
Dropped out	263,571	11,869	4.5	270,911	10,507	3.9	266,088	13,044	4.9	273,177	11,493	4.2
Completion I ^b	263,571	242,953	92.2	270,911	248,959	91.9	266,088	244,492	91.9	273,177	249,996	91.5
Completion II ^c	263,571	251,702	95.5	270,911	260,404	96.1	266,088	253,044	95.1	273,177	261,684	95.8

^aGeneral Educational Development certificate. ^bCompletion I consists of students who graduated or continued high school. ^cCompletion II consists of students who graduated, continued high school, or received GEDs.

There were 10,507 dropouts from the class of 2004 Grade 9 cohort, making up 3.9 percent of the students in the class who had final statuses. This was a 0.6 percentage point decrease from the 4.5 percent longitudinal dropout rate for the class of 2003 Grade 9 cohort. The number of dropouts declined 11.5 percent, even though the number of students in the class increased 2.8 percent.

The Grade 7 cohorts demonstrated similar patterns of change in graduation and longitudinal dropout rates. Between 2003 and 2004, the graduation rate increased (from 82.9% to 83.2%), while the rate of dropping out decreased from 4.9 percent to 4.2 percent.

Figure 14
Completion Rates, Grades 9-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2004

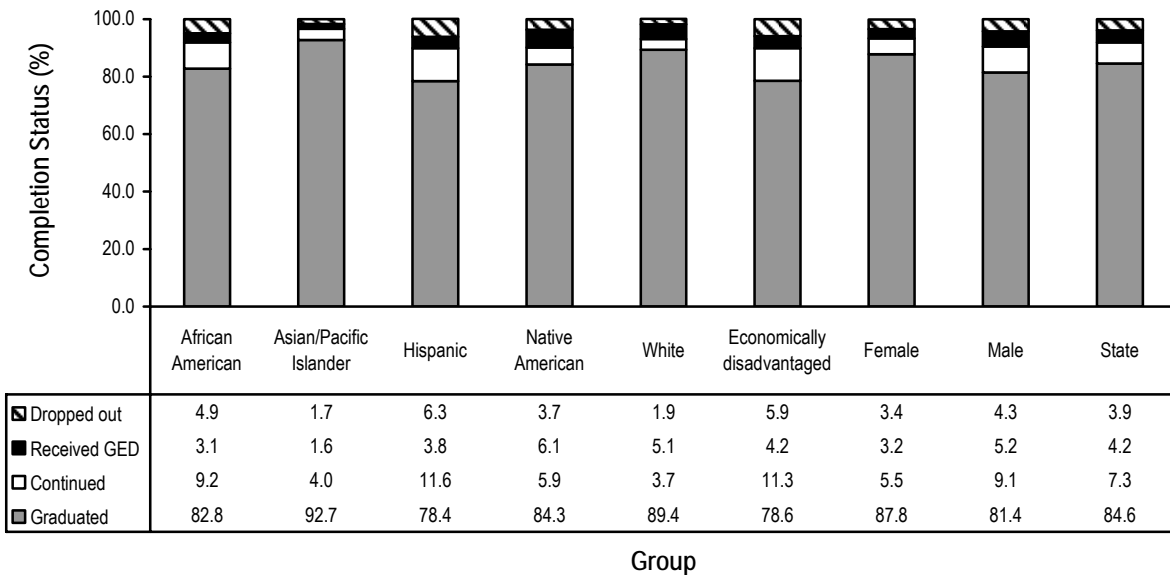


Rates among student groups. Completion rates demonstrate that secondary-school experiences varied considerably by student group. For example, in the Grade 9 cohort for the class of 2004, White students as a group had a graduation rate of 89.4 percent, whereas African American students and Hispanic students had graduation rates of 82.8 percent and 78.4 percent, respectively (Figure 15 on page 58). Hispanic students and economically disadvantaged students had the highest longitudinal dropout rates at 6.3 percent and 5.9 percent, respectively. Hispanics were most likely among the student groups to be continuing school in the fall after anticipated graduation. Native Americans had the largest percentage of students receiving GED certificates (6.1%). Females had a higher graduation rate (87.8%) than males (81.4%) and lower rates of continuation, GED certification, and dropping out.

Asian/Pacific Islander and White student groups had the highest graduation rates, whether Grade 9 (Figure 15) or Grade 7 (Figure 16 on page 58) cohorts were tracked. Hispanics had the highest continuation and dropout rates based on both Grade 9 and Grade 7 cohorts.

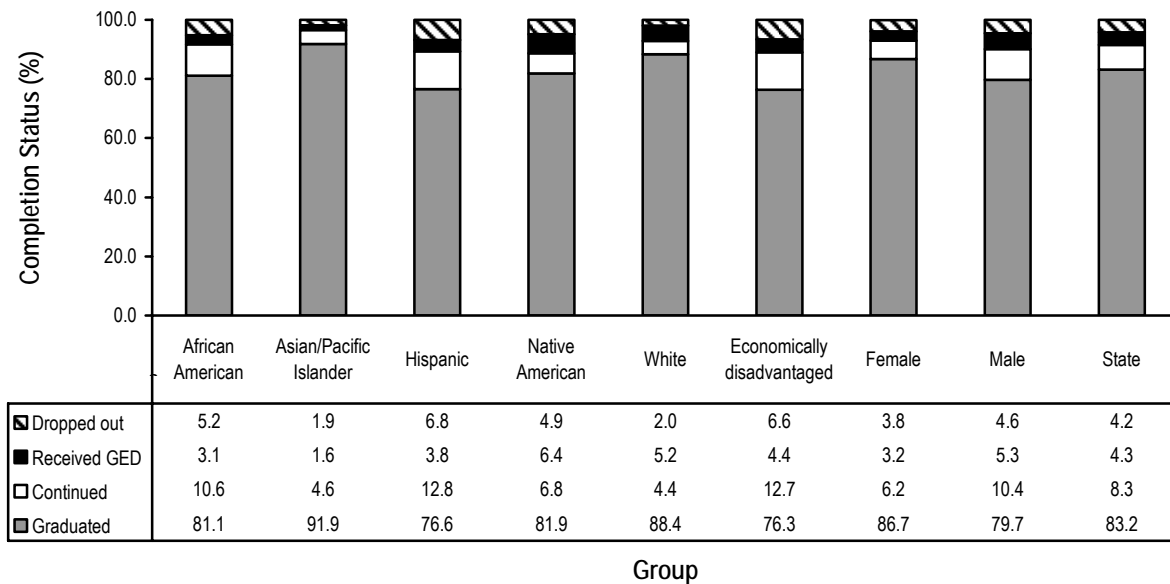
Rates by student characteristics and program participation. Table H-16 in Appendix H presents completion rates for the class of 2004 Grade 9 cohort by special program participation (bilingual/English as a second language, career and technology education, gifted/talented, special education, Title I), and other student characteristics (at risk, immigrant, limited English proficiency, migrant).

Figure 15
Longitudinal Completion Rates, Grades 9-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2004



Note. GED = General Educational Development certificate. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

Figure 16
Longitudinal Completion Rates, Grades 7-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2004



Note. GED = General Educational Development certificate. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

Comparing annual and longitudinal rates. The annual dropout rate and the longitudinal dropout rate are different measures of school system performance, because dropouts are counted over a different span of time in each case. As such, these two rates reflect change over time differently. Figure J-1 in Appendix J provides an illustration of the relationship between annual and longitudinal dropout counts. For example, the annual dropout rate for Grades 9-12 decreased from 1.3 percent in school year 2002-03 to 1.2 percent in 2003-04 (Table H-8 in Appendix H), while the longitudinal dropout rate for the class of 2004 Grade 9 cohort was 0.6 percentage points lower than the longitudinal dropout rate for the class of 2003 Grade 9 cohort (Table 19 on page 56).

The Grade 7-12 and Grade 9-12 annual dropout rates differ from one another much more than do the Grade 7 and Grade 9 longitudinal dropout rates. For example, the Grade 9-12 annual dropout rate of 1.2 percent (Figure 8 on page 49) is 33.3 percent greater than the Grade 7-12 annual dropout rate of 0.9 percent (Table 18 on page 50). The Grade 7 longitudinal dropout rate (4.2%) is only 7.7 percent larger than the Grade 9 longitudinal dropout rate (3.9%) (Figures 15 and 16). This is primarily because of differences in the total number of students taken into account in the two calculations, rather than differences in the actual number of dropouts. The Grade 7-12 annual dropout rate is based on the total number of students in six grade levels, and the Grade 9-12 annual dropout rate is based on the total number of students in four grade levels. In contrast, both of the longitudinal rates are based on the number of students in only one grade level, either Grade 7 or Grade 9; consequently, the rates are not so different from one another.

Grade 7-12 annual dropout rates tend to be notably lower than Grade 9-12 annual rates. This is because Grades 7 and 8 contribute a relatively small number of students to the dropout count, but a relatively large number of students to the overall population under consideration. Longitudinal dropout rates, on the other hand, show a different pattern—Grade 7 rates are only slightly higher than Grade 9 rates. Although a Grade 7 starting point adds a relatively small number of students to the cumulative dropout count, the difference in the sizes of the Grade 7 and Grade 9 classes is also small.

Students completing high school in more than four years. Many students took longer than four years to finish their high school education. For example, the group of students who began ninth grade for the first time in 1997-98 was followed through their anticipated graduation year in 2001. At that time, 81.1 percent of the class of 2001 had graduated, 7.9 percent were still in high school, 4.8 percent had received GED certificates, and 6.2 percent had dropped out (Table 20 on page 60).

In 2004, three years after anticipated graduation and seven years after the students began Grade 9 in 1997-98, more students in this cohort had graduated (84.4%) or received GED certificates (9.3%). Because of better tracking of students over time, the total number of students with final statuses increased from 249,161 in 2001 to 254,377 in 2004 (Table 21 on page 60).

Table 20
Longitudinal Completion Rates for Class of 2001, as of Fall 2001

Class (number)	Graduated		Continued		Received GED ^a		Dropped out	
	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
249,161	202,052	81.1	19,580	7.9	11,978	4.8	15,551	6.2

^aGeneral Educational Development certificate.

Table 21
Longitudinal Completion Rates for Students Who Began Grade 9 in 1997-98, as of Fall 2004

Class (number)	Graduated		Continued		Received GED ^a		Dropped out	
	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
254,377	214,816	84.4	382	0.2	23,617	9.3	15,562	6.1

^aGeneral Educational Development certificate.

Attrition Rates

An attrition rate is the percentage change in enrollment between two grades. It provides a simple measure of school leavers when aggregate enrollment numbers are the only data available. For Grades 9-12, the rate is calculated by subtracting Grade 12 enrollment from Grade 9 enrollment four years earlier, and dividing by the Grade 9 enrollment.

The attrition rate does not take into account any of the reasons the beginning and ending enrollments are different. Therefore, there is no way to distinguish attrition that results from dropping out of school from attrition that results from grade-level retention, students transferring to private schools, death, or early graduation. Grade 9-12 and Grade 7-12 attrition rates for 2004 are presented in Table 22 and Table 23. The rates were not adjusted for growth in student enrollment over the time period covered.

Table 22
Enrollment and Attrition Rate, Grades 9-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, 2004

Group	Enrollment			Attrition rate (%)
	Grade 9, 2000-01	Grade 12, 2003-04	Change	
African American	54,241	32,781	21,460	39.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	8,825	8,384	441	5.0
Hispanic	145,608	85,062	60,546	41.6
Native American	1,027	708	319	31.1
White	151,156	116,368	34,788	23.0
Economically disadvantaged	153,149	80,650	72,499	47.3
State	360,857	243,303	117,554	32.6

Table 23
Enrollment and Attrition Rate, Grades 7-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, 2004

Group	Enrollment			Attrition rate (%)
	Grade 7, 1998-99	Grade 12, 2003-04	Change	
African American	43,237	32,781	10,456	24.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	7,275	8,384	-1,109	-15.2
Hispanic	113,028	85,062	27,966	24.7
Native American	845	708	137	16.2
White	139,614	116,368	23,246	16.7
Economically disadvantaged	143,111	80,650	62,461	43.6
State	303,999	243,303	60,696	20.0

Reasons for Dropping Out

Districts can provide one out of nine exit reasons for a student who drops out, or districts can indicate that the reason the student left was unknown or not provided. Out of 16,434 dropouts in Grades 7-12 in 2003-04, the reason for leaving school was reported as unknown for 60.7 percent (Table 24). For 21.9 percent of dropouts, academic performance was reported as the reason for dropping out.

Table 24
Exit Reasons Reported for Official Dropouts, Grades 7-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, 2003-04

Reason	Official dropouts		Gender (%)		Group (%)					
					African Am.	Asian/Pac. Is.	Hisp.	Native Am.	White	Econ. disadv.
	Number	Percent	Female	Male						
Because of academic performance	3,590	21.8	20.9	22.6	21.4	16.8	21.0	30.8	24.8	19.6
To pursue a job	1,247	7.6	4.3	10.2	4.0	3.9	9.4	1.9	5.7	8.5
Because of age	867	5.3	4.5	5.9	5.1	6.7	5.3	0.0	5.2	4.5
To get married	305	1.9	3.5	0.6	0.2	0.5	2.7	1.9	0.9	2.4
Because of pregnancy	298	1.8	4.0	0.1	1.1	0.0	2.2	3.9	1.3	2.0
Because of homelessness	73	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.3	1.9	0.9	0.4
Expelled and had not returned	37	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.3
To join the military	27	0.2	<0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.1
Because of drug abuse	10	0.1	<0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	<0.1
No reason provided	9,980	60.7	62.1	59.6	67.1	71.6	58.8	59.6	60.4	62.2
State	16,434	100	43.9	56.1	17.1	1.3	60.8	0.3	20.4	43.7

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

The Six Statewide Goals of Dropout Prevention: 2002 Through 2014

Texas Education Code (TEC) §39.182 (2004) requires a systematic, measurable plan for reducing dropout rates. The six statewide goals of dropout prevention for 2002 through 2014 are listed below.

- Goal I: By 2013-14, all students will graduate from high school.
- Goal II: By 2002-03, the Texas Education Agency will develop a comprehensive dropout prevention action plan that will be updated on an ongoing basis, according to identified needs.
- Goal III: By 2002-2003, TEA will implement a Dropout Prevention Center, which will:
- identify effective research-based dropout prevention practices and programs;
 - coordinate statewide efforts to provide research-based prevention and reentry dropout program resources and technical assistance;
 - identify and implement state, regional, and local professional development activities in collaboration with regional education service centers (ESCs) and other dropout prevention partners; and
 - plan and implement ongoing regional forums on issues related to dropout prevention, and provide funding to each of the state's 20 ESCs to provide technical assistance and regional workshops, mini-conferences, and/or institutes on dropout prevention.
- Goal IV: By 2005-06, all students, including students in high-poverty schools, will be taught by highly qualified teachers.
- Goal V: By 2006-2007, the statewide annual dropout rate for Grades 7-8 will be reduced to below 1.0 percent, and the statewide completion rate for Grades 9-12 will be increased to 85 percent.
- Goal VI: By 2013-14, all students will reach high standards, attaining proficiency or better in reading and mathematics.

Appendix A
Availability and Reporting of Leaver Reason Codes

Table A-1
Leaver Reason Codes, Texas Public Schools, 1997-98 Through 2003-04

Code ^b	Leaver reason	Code available ^a						
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Completed high school program								
01*	Graduated	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
19*	Completed graduation requirements except passing exit-level TAAS ^c or TAKS ^d	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
31*	Completed GED ^e	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
63*	Graduated previously, returned to school, left again	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
64*	Completed GED previously, returned to school, left again	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Moved to other educational setting								
28*	Intent to enroll in a public school in Texas	•	•	•	•			
29*	Intent to enroll in a private school in Texas	•	•	•	•			
05*	No intent but documented enrollment in a public or private school in Texas	•						
73*	No intent but documented enrollment in a public school in Texas		•	•	•			
74*	No intent but documented enrollment in a private school in Texas		•	•	•			
07*	Intent to enroll in school out of state	•	•	•	•			
06*	No intent but documented enrollment in school out of state	•	•	•	•			
80*	Withdrew from/left school to enroll in other Texas public school					•	•	•
81*	Withdrew from/left school to enroll in Texas private school					•	•	•
82*	Withdrew from/left school to enroll in school outside Texas					•	•	•
21*	Official transfer to another Texas public school district	•	m	m	•	•	•	•
22*	Alternative program working toward GED or diploma	•	m	•	•	•	•	•
72*	Alternative program by court order		•	•	•	•	•	•
23	Alternative program not in compliance with compulsory attendance and not working toward GED or diploma	•						
70	Alternative program not in compliance with compulsory attendance		•	•	•			
71	Alternative program not working toward GED or diploma		•	•	•			
60*	Withdrew for home schooling	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
24*	Entered college early to pursue degree	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
25	Entered college but did not pursue degree	•	•	•	•			

^a"m" indicates that the wording of the code was modified slightly from the previous year. ^bCodes with an asterisk (*) are not included in the calculation of the dropout rate used for accountability purposes. ^cTexas Assessment of Academic Skills. ^dTexas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills. ^eGeneral Educational Development certificate. ^fJuvenile Justice Alternative Education Program.

continues

Table A-1 (continued)
Leaver Reason Codes, Texas Public Schools, 1997-98 Through 2003-04

Code ^b	Leaver reason	Code available ^a						
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Withdrawn by district								
76	Enrollment revoked due to absences			•	•			
17*	Expelled for criminal behavior	•	•					
78*	Expelled for criminal behavior and could not return			•	•	•	•	•
79	Expelled for criminal behavior and could return but had not			•	•	•	•	•
26	Expelled for reasons other than criminal behavior	•	•	•	•			
62*	Withdrawn for non-residence or falsified enrollment information	•	•	•	•			
67*	Withdrawn for failure to provide immunization records		•	•	•			
83*	Administrative withdrawal					•	•	•
Other reasons – school related								
11	Withdrew/left school because of low or failing grades	•	•	•	•			
12	Withdrew/left school because of poor attendance	•	•	m	•			
13	Withdrew/left school because of language problems	•	•	•	•			
27	Withdrew/left school because of TAAS ^c failure	•	•	•	•			
84	Withdrew from/left school for reasons related to academic performance such as low or failing grades, poor attendance, language problems, or TAAS failure					•	•	•
14	Withdrew/left school because of age	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Other reasons – job related								
02	Withdrew/left school to pursue a job	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
04	Withdrew/left school to join the military	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Other reasons – family related								
08	Withdrew/left school because of pregnancy	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
09	Withdrew/left school because of marriage	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
15	Withdrew/left school due to homelessness/non-permanent residency	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
66*	Removed from the district by Child Protective Services	•	m	•	•	•	•	•

^a"m" indicates that the wording of the code was modified slightly from the previous year. ^bCodes with an asterisk (*) are not included in the calculation of the dropout rate used for accountability purposes. ^cTexas Assessment of Academic Skills. ^dTexas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills. ^eGeneral Educational Development certificate. ^fJuvenile Justice Alternative Education Program.

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Table A-1 (continued)
 Leaver Reasons Reported, Texas Public Schools, 1997-98 Through 2003-04

Code ^b	Leaver reason	Code available ^a						
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Other reasons								
03*	Deceased	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
10	Withdrew/left school due to alcohol or other drug abuse problem	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
16*	Returned to home country	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
30*	Withdrew/left school to enter a health care facility	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
61*	Incarcerated in a facility outside the boundaries of the district	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
65	Did not return to school after completing a JJAEP ^f term	•	•	•	•			
99	Other (unknown or not listed)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

^a"m" indicates that the wording of the code was modified slightly from the previous year. ^bCodes with an asterisk (*) are not included in the calculation of the dropout rate used for accountability purposes. ^cTexas Assessment of Academic Skills. ^dTexas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills. ^eGeneral Educational Development certificate. ^fJuvenile Justice Alternative Education Program.

Table A-2
Leaver Reasons Reported, Texas Public Schools, 1997-98 Through 2003-04

Code ^b	Leaver reason	Records (number) ^a						
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Completed high school program								
01*	Graduated	197,186	203,393	212,925	215,316	225,167	238,109	244,165
19*	Completed graduation requirements except passing exit-level TAAS ^c or TAKS ^d	2,629	2,307	1,809	1,774	1,409	1,981	2,401
31*	Completed GED ^e	6,801	7,943	7,338	7,225	4,780	3,210	2,919
63*	Graduated previously, returned to school, left again	64	83	94	60	70	85	83
64*	Completed GED previously, returned to school, left again	843	572	627	348	303	220	213
Moved to other educational setting								
28*	Intent to enroll in a public school in Texas	108,658	129,902	132,596	133,843	—	—	—
29*	Intent to enroll in a private school in Texas	6,896	7,815	8,501	8,357	—	—	—
05*	No intent but documented enrollment in a public or private school in Texas	26,777	—	—	—	—	—	—
73*	No intent but documented enrollment in a public school in Texas	—	19,543	18,650	25,544	—	—	—
74*	No intent but documented enrollment in a private school in Texas	—	868	1,080	1,497	—	—	—
07*	Intent to enroll in school out of state	29,597	34,807	35,039	33,450	—	—	—
06*	No intent but documented enrollment in school out of state	6,756	6,110	7,375	5,677	—	—	—
80*	Withdrew from/left school to enroll in other Texas public school	—	—	—	—	166,621	176,244	185,148
81*	Withdrew from/left school to enroll in Texas private school	—	—	—	—	9,885	8,334	8,673
82*	Withdrew from/left school to enroll in school outside Texas	—	—	—	—	37,962	37,384	39,055
21*	Official transfer to another Texas public school district	5,812	6,471	4,643	5,161	2,486	1,894	1,366
22*	Alternative program working toward GED or diploma	17,851	19,772	21,011	21,703	20,259	19,353	18,476
72*	Alternative program by court order	—	281	1,387	2,179	2,764	3,071	3,288
23	Alternative program not in compliance with compulsory attendance and not working toward GED or diploma	3,103	—	—	—	—	—	—
70	Alternative program not in compliance with compulsory attendance	—	1,500	1,166	787	—	—	—
71	Alternative program not working toward GED or diploma	—	1,092	1,342	967	—	—	—
60*	Withdrew for home schooling	8,632	11,086	12,721	13,676	13,345	12,884	13,528
24*	Entered college early to pursue degree	332	441	297	233	261	201	181
25	Entered college but did not pursue degree	36	28	40	49	—	—	—

Note. Some records report more than one reason. All reasons reported are included in these totals.

^a(—) indicates code was not available (Table A-1 for details). ^bCodes with an asterisk (*) are not included in the calculation of the dropout rate used for accountability purposes. ^cTexas Assessment of Academic Skills. ^dTexas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills. ^eGeneral Educational Development certificate. ^fJuvenile Justice Alternative Education Program.

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Table A-2 (continued)
Leaver Reasons Reported, Texas Public Schools, 1997-98 Through 2003-04

Code ^b	Leaver reason	Records (number) ^a						
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Withdrawn by district								
76	Enrollment revoked due to absences	—	—	688	1,061	—	—	—
17*	Expelled for criminal behavior	668	520	—	—	—	—	—
78*	Expelled for criminal behavior; could not return	—	—	248	358	608	630	819
79	Expelled for criminal behavior and could return but had not	—	—	31	36	82	69	66
26	Expelled for reasons other than criminal behavior	497	395	350	271	—	—	—
62*	Withdrawn for non-residence or falsified enrollment information	683	1,553	1,699	1,488	—	—	—
67*	Withdrawn for failure to provide immunization records	—	9	87	74	—	—	—
83*	Administrative withdrawal	—	—	—	—	1,917	2,043	2,436
Other reasons – school related								
11	Withdrew/left school because of low or failing grades	515	474	377	309	—	—	—
12	Withdrew/left school because of poor attendance	9,007	8,310	7,389	4,554	—	—	—
13	Withdrew/left school because of language problems	11	14	7	10	—	—	—
27	Withdrew/left school because of TAAS ^c failure	270	350	233	181	—	—	—
84	Withdrew from/left school for reasons related to academic performance such as low or failing grades, poor attendance, language problems, or TAAS or TAKS ^d failure	—	—	—	—	4,885	4,387	4,381
14	Withdrew/left school because of age	1,124	2,222	1,193	1,076	1,235	1,106	1,039
Other reasons – job related								
02	Withdrew/left school to pursue a job	2,124	2,773	2,012	1,766	1,632	1,579	1,423
04	Withdrew/left school to join the military	79	89	70	60	56	47	44
Other reasons – family related								
08	Withdrew/left school because of pregnancy	560	615	475	415	357	379	331
09	Withdrew/left school because of marriage	799	707	496	443	467	400	325
15	Withdrew/left school due to homelessness/non-permanent residency	131	250	217	175	152	115	97
66*	Removed from the district by Child Protective Services	395	722	988	1,059	1,142	1,169	1,195

Note. Some records report more than one reason. All reasons reported are included in these totals.

^a(—) indicates code was not available (Table A-1 for details). ^bCodes with an asterisk (*) are not included in the calculation of the dropout rate used for accountability purposes. ^cTexas Assessment of Academic Skills. ^dTexas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills. ^eGeneral Educational Development certificate. ^fJuvenile Justice Alternative Education Program.

continues

Table A-2 (continued)
Leaver Reasons Reported, Texas Public Schools, 1997-98 Through 2003-04

Code ^b	Leaver reason	Records (number) ^a						
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Other reasons								
03*	Deceased	795	727	776	783	779	765	740
10	Withdrew/left school due to alcohol or other drug abuse problem	54	67	47	39	44	24	20
16*	Returned to home country	7,515	9,876	10,676	11,501	12,406	12,759	12,918
30*	Withdrew/left school to enter a health care facility	776	1,210	1,447	1,423	1,726	1,466	1,329
61*	Incarcerated in a facility outside the boundaries of the district	5,329	5,163	5,802	6,002	6,058	6,422	6,445
65	Did not return to school after completing a JJAEP ^f term	96	127	110	58	—	—	—
99	Other (unknown or not listed)	19,809	18,193	15,256	11,085	12,891	13,542	13,118

Note. Some records report more than one reason. All reasons reported are included in these totals.

^a(—) indicates code was not available (Table A-1 for details). ^bCodes with an asterisk (*) are not included in the calculation of the dropout rate used for accountability purposes. ^cTexas Assessment of Academic Skills. ^dTexas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills. ^eGeneral Educational Development certificate. ^fJuvenile Justice Alternative Education Program.

Appendix B
Record Exclusions and Exit Reasons for Reported Leavers

Table B-1
Reported Leaver Records Reconciled During Leaver Processing, Texas Public Schools, 1997-98
Through 2003-04

Reported leavers and reconciliation reasons	1997-98		1998-99		1999-00		2000-01	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Reported graduates	197,186	41.7	203,393	40.1	212,925	41.1	215,316	41.3
<i>Reason for record reconciliation</i>								
Found in enrollment or attendance	101,096	21.4	134,905	26.6	138,381	26.7	149,564	28.7
GED ^a certificate	14,140	3.0	17,062	3.4	19,511	3.8	19,066	3.7
Graduate	1,339	0.3	1,988	0.4	3,738	0.7	4,126	0.8
Previous dropout	1,954	0.4	1,608	0.3	1,333	0.3	840	0.2
ADA ^b ineligible	508	0.1	459	0.1	318	0.1	365	0.1
Duplicate or questionable record	14,050	3.0	2,263	0.4	2,103	0.4	1,848	0.4
Qualified leaver reason	205	<0.1	— ^c	—	—	—	—	—
Reconciled leaver and dropout records	133,292	28.2	158,285	31.2	165,384	31.9	175,809	33.7
Official other leavers	114,421	24.2	118,488	23.3	116,644	22.5	112,986	21.7
Official dropouts	27,550	5.8	27,592	5.4	23,457	4.5	17,563	3.4
Total	472,449	100	507,758	100	518,410	100	521,674	100

Reported leavers and reconciliation reasons	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Reported graduates	225,167	42.3	238,109	43.3	244,165	43.1
<i>Reason for record reconciliation</i>						
Found in enrollment or attendance	159,194	29.9	167,688	30.5	176,817	31.2
GED ^a certificate	14,070	2.7	12,831	2.3	12,289	2.2
Graduate	4,619	0.9	5,319	1.0	5,845	1.0
Previous dropout	880	0.2	754	0.1	648	0.1
ADA ^b ineligible	402	0.1	883	0.2	483	0.1
Duplicate or questionable record	1,796	0.3	1,692	0.3	1,799	0.3
Qualified leaver reason	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reconciled leaver and dropout records	180,961	34.0	189,167	34.4	197,881	35.0
Official other leavers	108,999	20.5	105,445	19.2	107,742	19.0
Official dropouts	16,622	3.1	17,151	3.1	16,434	2.9
Total	531,749	100	549,872	100	566,222	100

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

^aGeneral Educational Development. ^bAverage Daily Attendance. ^c(—) indicates code was not available (Table A-1 in Appendix A for details).

Table B-2
Exit Reasons for Official Leavers, Texas Public Schools, 1997-98 Through 2003-04

Exit reason	1997-98		1998-99		1999-00		2000-01	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Enroll in school out of state	— ^a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enroll in another Texas public school	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Alternative program working toward GED ^b or diploma	12,476	2.6	14,343	2.8	14,740	2.8	14,410	2.8
Returned to home country	6,878	1.5	9,392	1.9	10,114	2.0	10,783	2.1
Withdrew for home schooling	6,994	1.5	9,263	1.8	10,515	2.0	11,062	2.1
Enroll in a Texas private school	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Completed graduation requirements except passing exit-level TAAS ^c or TAKS ^d	2,519	0.5	2,238	0.4	1,748	0.3	1,712	0.3
Alternative program by court order	—	—	168	<0.1	863	0.2	1,313	0.3
Administrative withdrawal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Incarcerated in a facility outside the boundaries of the district	2,739	0.6	2,460	0.5	2,253	0.4	1,669	0.3
Deceased	727	0.2	697	0.1	733	0.1	753	0.1
Completed GED ^b	1,753	0.4	1,539	0.3	1,304	0.3	980	0.2

Exit reason	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Enroll in school out of state	34,653	6.5	34,393	6.3	35,815	6.3
Enroll in another Texas public school	22,032	4.1	19,672	3.6	19,247	3.4
Alternative program working toward GED ^b or diploma	14,774	2.8	13,939	2.5	13,442	2.4
Returned to home country	11,683	2.2	12,138	2.2	12,257	2.2
Withdrew for home schooling	10,882	2.1	10,388	1.9	10,894	1.9
Enroll in a Texas private school	6,124	1.2	5,878	1.1	6,114	1.1
Completed graduation requirements except passing exit-level TAAS ^c or TAKS ^d	1,371	0.3	1,938	0.4	2,354	0.4
Alternative program by court order	1,750	0.3	2,064	0.4	2,109	0.4
Administrative withdrawal	1,229	0.2	1,239	0.2	1,596	0.3
Incarcerated in a facility outside the boundaries of the district	1,575	0.3	1,466	0.3	1,534	0.3
Deceased	758	0.1	742	0.1	714	0.1
Completed GED ^b	636	0.1	397	0.1	416	0.1

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

^a(—) indicates code was not available (Table A-1 in Appendix A for details). ^bGeneral Educational Development certificate. ^cTexas Assessment of Academic Skills. ^dTexas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills.

continues

Table B-2 (continued)

Exit Reasons for Official Leavers, Texas Public Schools, 1997-98 Through 2003-04

Exit reason	1997-98		1998-99		1999-00		2000-01	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Expelled for criminal behavior and could not return	— ^a	—	—	—	133	<0.1	173	<0.1
Withdrew/left school to enter a health care facility	383	0.1	435	0.1	435	0.1	404	0.1
Entered college early to pursue degree	267	0.1	366	0.1	242	0.1	178	<0.1
Removed from the district by Child Protective Services	131	<0.1	153	<0.1	197	<0.1	210	<0.1
Official transfer to another Texas public school district	1,386	0.3	1,190	0.2	637	0.1	718	0.1
Completed GED ^b previously, returned to school, left again	405	0.1	118	<0.1	86	<0.1	75	<0.1
Graduated previously, returned to school, left again	58	<0.1	60	<0.1	58	<0.1	38	<0.1
Intent to enroll in school out of state	26,140	5.5	31,159	6.1	31,553	6.1	30,029	5.8
Intent to enroll in a public school in Texas	30,923	6.6	27,150	5.4	25,099	4.8	22,213	4.3

Exit reason	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Expelled for criminal behavior and could not return	278	0.1	297	0.1	410	0.1
Withdrew/left school to enter a health care facility	427	0.1	317	0.1	349	0.1
Entered college early to pursue degree	220	<0.1	169	<0.1	151	<0.1
Removed from the district by Child Protective Services	176	<0.1	148	<0.1	131	<0.1
Official transfer to another Texas public school district	316	0.1	170	<0.1	107	<0.1
Completed GED ^b previously, returned to school, left again	72	<0.1	48	<0.1	54	<0.1
Graduated previously, returned to school, left again	43	<0.1	42	<0.1	48	<0.1
Intent to enroll in school out of state	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intent to enroll in a public school in Texas	—	—	—	—	—	—

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

^a(—) indicates code was not available (Table A-1 in Appendix A for details). ^bGeneral Educational Development certificate. ^cTexas Assessment of Academic Skills. ^dTexas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills.

continues

Table B-2 (continued)
Exit Reasons for Official Leavers, Texas Public Schools, 1997-98 Through 2003-04

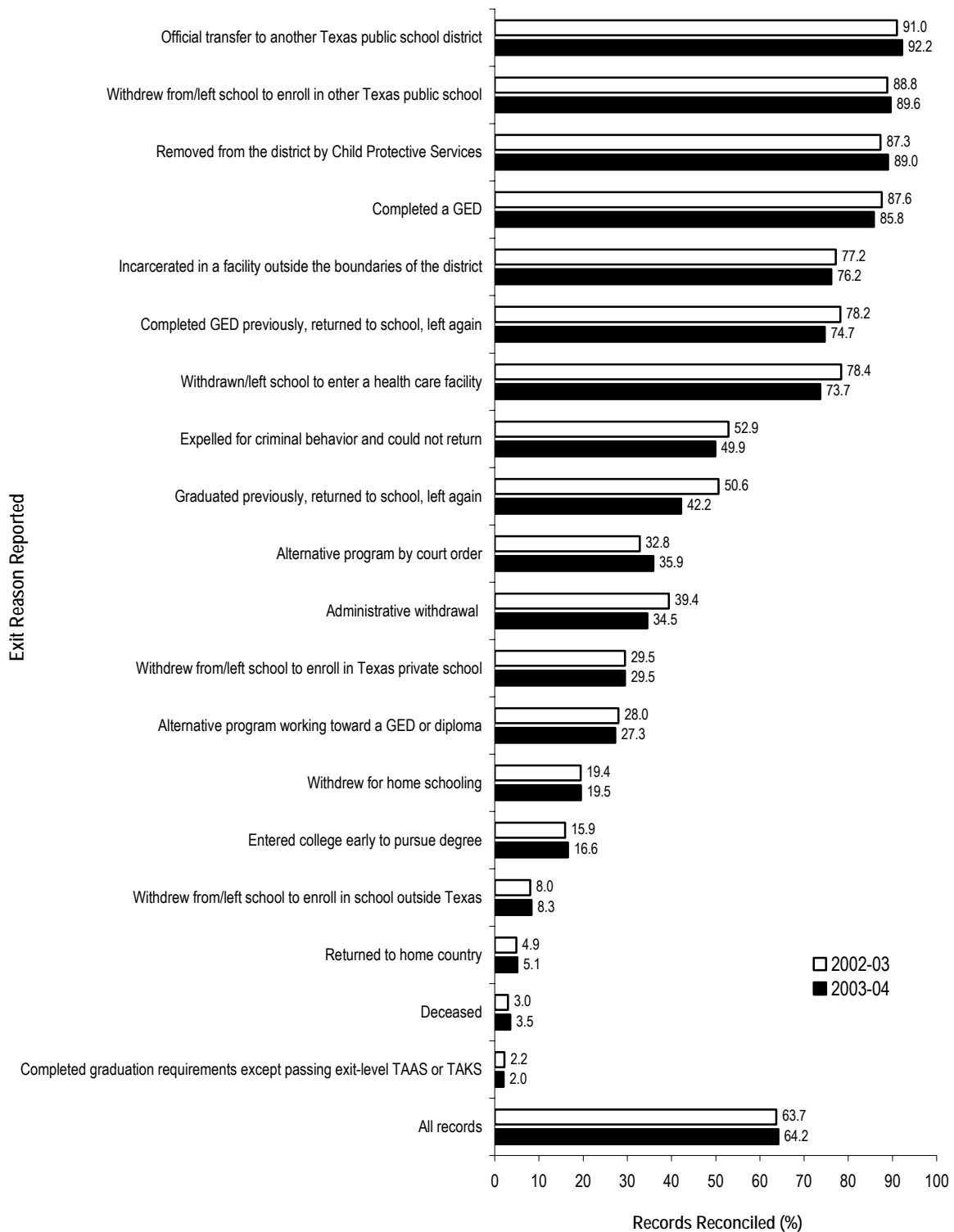
Exit reason	1997-98		1998-99		1999-00		2000-01	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No intent but documented enrollment in a public or private school in Texas	8,564	1.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intent to enroll in a private school in Texas	5,497	1.2	5,988	1.2	5,901	1.1	5,613	1.1
No intent but documented enrollment in school out of state	5,805	1.2	5,416	1.1	4,942	1.0	5,118	1.0
No intent but documented enrollment in a public school in Texas	— ^a	—	4,459	0.9	3,309	0.6	3,621	0.7
No intent but documented enrollment in a private school in Texas	—	—	715	0.1	780	0.2	1,074	0.2
Withdrawn for non-residence or falsified enrollment information	382	0.1	860	0.2	931	0.2	782	0.2
Expelled for criminal behavior	394	0.1	313	0.1	—	—	—	—
Withdrawn for failure to provide immunization records	—	—	6	<0.1	71	<0.1	58	<0.1
Total	114,421	24.2	118,488	23.3	116,644	22.5	112,986	21.7

Exit reason	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No intent but documented enrollment in a public or private school in Texas	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intent to enroll in a private school in Texas	—	—	—	—	—	—
No intent but documented enrollment in school out of state	—	—	—	—	—	—
No intent but documented enrollment in a public school in Texas	—	—	—	—	—	—
No intent but documented enrollment in a private school in Texas	—	—	—	—	—	—
Withdrawn for non-residence or falsified enrollment information	—	—	—	—	—	—
Expelled for criminal behavior	—	—	—	—	—	—
Withdrawn for failure to provide immunization records	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	108,999	20.5	105,445	19.2	107,742	19.0

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

^a(—) indicates code was not available (Table A-1 in Appendix A for details). ^bGeneral Educational Development certificate. ^cTexas Assessment of Academic Skills. ^dTexas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills.

Figure B-1
Reported Leaver Records Reconciled, by Exit Reason, Texas Public Schools, 2002-03 and 2003-04



Note. GED = General Educational Development certificate, TAAS = Texas Assessment of Academic Skills, TAKS = Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills. Reported leaver records were reconciled if matches were found in graduate, GED recipient, attendance, or enrollment files. In addition, a small number of records were excluded because of funding ineligibility or duplicate reporting.

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

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

Introduction

Table C-1 on page 84 provides an expanded definition and specific guidelines on acceptable documentation for each of the leaver reason codes listed in Code Table C162 of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) *2004-2005 Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) Addendum Version Data Standards* (TEA, 2004). The table is organized into the following broad categories of leavers:

- Completed High School Program
- Moved to Other Educational Setting
- Withdrawn by School District
- Academic Performance
- Employment
- Family
- Other

Compulsory Attendance

Several leaver reason codes make reference to the compulsory attendance law (Texas Education Code [TEC] §§25.085-25.086, 2004). The compulsory attendance law requires students to attend school until they are 18 years old. There are two exceptions to this basic law that are relevant to leaver reporting. The exceptions are:

1. The student is at least 17 years old, is attending a General Educational Development (GED) preparation program, and one of the following four conditions have been met:
 - the student has the permission of their parent or guardian to attend the program,
 - the student is required by court order to attend the program,
 - the student has established a residence separate from their parent or guardian, or
 - the student is homeless.
2. The student is at least 16 years old, is attending a GED preparation program, and one of the following two conditions have been met:
 - the student is recommended to take the course by a public agency that has supervision or custody of the student under court order, or
 - the student is attending a Job Corps program.

Acceptable Documentation

General Guidelines

Acceptable documentation consists of either a documented request for transcript or a written signed statement from 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:
 - 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.

Acceptable documentation also includes verification by the superintendent or authorized representative that the child has been enrolled in a nonpublic school or another program or institution leading to the completion of a high school diploma or GED certificate, has returned to their home country, is being home schooled, has enrolled in college in a program leading to an Associate's or Bachelor's degree, or has other similar circumstances. Acceptable documentation of this type of verification (i.e., first-hand knowledge) includes, for example, appropriately documented in-person or telephone conversations between the superintendent or authorized representative and the parent, guardian, or qualified student.

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 forms completed by the parent/guardian or qualified student should be signed by the parent/guardian or qualified student as well as the district representative.

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 by the parent/guardian or qualified student (in person or by telephone) is acceptable documentation in some situations if it is signed and dated by the district representative.

A statement by an adult neighbor or other adult (other than the parent/guardian or qualified student) is allowed only to document a student returning to her or his home country. In all other cases,

the documentation must be provided by the parent/guardian or qualified student, or an educational or other institution.

Withdrawal documentation may be considered incomplete without a date, signature(s), or listing of the student's intended destination.

Documentation is required for dropout reason codes as well as other leaver reason codes.

Documentation supporting use of a leaver reason code must exist in the district at the time the leaver data are submitted (no later than the mid-January PEIMS Submission 1 resubmission date).

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.

Intent to Enroll in Another School District or Program

Intent to enroll elsewhere must be documented at the time the student withdraws or quits attending school—generally within 10 days of the last day the student attended school. If intent is not documented at that time, the district must acquire documentation that the student is enrolled elsewhere. For students who do not return to school in the fall after completing the prior school year, intent must be documented at the end of the prior school year.

Acceptable documentation of intent to enroll in another school district or program is a copy of the withdrawal form (or similar form), completed at the time the student quits attending school in the district, and signed and dated by the parent/guardian or qualified student (both signatures are not required) and an authorized representative of the school district (typically the withdrawing agent). The withdrawal form should indicate either where the family is moving, the name of the school district the student will be attending, or that the student will be home schooled. 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 written at the time the student quits attending school in the district, stating that the student will enroll elsewhere or will be home schooled, is also acceptable documentation. Other acceptable documentation is written documentation of an oral statement by the parent/guardian or qualified student made at the time the student quits attending school in the district, signed and dated by an authorized representative of the district.

Enrollment in Another School or Program

Acceptable documentation of enrollment in another school or educational program is a records request from the school or educational program in which the student is enrolled. Telephone requests 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.

A signed letter from the receiving school or education program verifying enrollment is also acceptable documentation. The letter must state the name and location of the school or program in which the student is enrolled. Other acceptable documentation is written documentation of an oral statement by a representative of the receiving school or program providing the name and location of the school or program and verifying that the student is enrolled, signed and dated by an authorized representative of the district.

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

Leaver code and translation	Explanation/clarification and documentation requirements
Completed high school program	
01* Student graduated	<p>Use for students who meet all graduation requirements (which includes passing the exit-level TAAS or TAKS) at any time during the prior school year, including the summer 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.</p> <p>Students who complete all graduation requirements in one school year, but do <u>not</u> pass the exit-level TAAS or TAKS until a later year, are reported as graduates in the year in which the TAAS or TAKS test is passed.</p> <p><i>Documentation Requirement:</i> Transcript showing sufficient credits, successful completion of TAAS or TAKS, and a graduation seal.</p>
19* Student failed exit-level TAAS or TAKS but met all other graduation requirements	<p>Use for students who completed all other graduation requirements but did not pass the exit-level TAAS or TAKS before the end of the school year, and did not enroll in school the next year. If the student does enroll the next year, a leaver record is not submitted.</p> <p><i>Documentation Requirement:</i> Transcript showing sufficient credits.</p>
31* Student completed the GED, and district has acceptable documentation and student has not returned to school	<p><i>Documentation Requirement:</i> Acceptable documentation is a copy of the GED certificate or some other written document provided by the testing company showing completion of the GED.</p>
63* Student graduated in a previous school year, returned to school, and left again	<p>This code may be used for students who graduated in the reporting district or from another district, state, or country. Students who graduate mid-year should be reported as graduates even if they return to school later in the same year.</p> <p><i>Documentation Requirement:</i> Transcript showing sufficient credits, successful completion of TAAS or TAKS, and a graduation seal.</p>
64* Student had received a GED in a previous school year, returned to school to work toward the completion of a high school diploma, and then left	<p><i>Documentation Requirement:</i> Acceptable documentation is a copy of the GED certificate or some other written document provided by the testing company showing completion of the GED.</p>

Source: Texas Education Agency (2004).

*School leavers coded with this leaver reason code are not included in the calculation of the dropout rate used for accountability purposes.

continues

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

Leaver code and translation	Explanation/clarification and documentation requirements
Moved to other educational setting	
<p>80* Student withdrew from/left school to enroll in another Texas public school district</p> <p>81* Student withdrew from/left school to enroll in a private school in Texas</p> <p>82* Student withdrew from/left school to enroll in a public or private school outside Texas</p>	<p>Student withdrawn from school and parent/ guardian or qualified student indicated at time of withdrawal that the student would be enrolling in another Texas public school district, <i>including charter schools</i> (code 80), a private school in Texas (code 81), or a public or private school outside Texas (code 82). The district may or may not receive a records request from the other school, and is not required to follow up with the school the parent/guardian or qualified student indicated the student would be attending.</p> <p>These codes should be used when the parent/ guardian or qualified student indicates at the time the student quits attending school that the intent is for the student to enroll elsewhere.</p> <p>If the student intends to enroll in another school in the district, a leaver record is not submitted.</p> <p>(1) The parent/guardian or qualified student withdraws the student but does not indicate at that time that the student will be enrolling elsewhere. They may indicate some other reason for the student to be leaving school or not indicate any reason. However, the district receives a records request or communication from the parent/guardian or qualified student that the student is enrolling in another public school district in Texas, <i>including charter schools</i> (code 80); private school in Texas (code 81); or public or private school outside Texas (code 82).</p> <p>(2) The student quits attending school without withdrawing but the district receives a records request or communication from the parent/guardian or qualified student.</p> <p>(3) Student moves during the summer without withdrawing but the district receives a records request or communication from the parent/guardian or qualified student.</p> <p>The district would change the original code assigned to the student when the records request or communication from the parent/guardian or qualified 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>Documentation Requirement: See requirements for documentation of intent to enroll in another school or program or requirements for documentation of enrollment in another school or program.</p>
<p>21* Student who still resides in the district officially transferred to another Texas public school district through the Student Transfer System (STS).</p>	<p>The Student Transfer System (STS) is the official transfer system used when a student who lives in one school district transfers to a school in a neighboring school district. These transfers are entered into the system by the receiving districts.</p> <p>This leaver code should be used by districts that do not serve all grade levels for students in grades 7 or higher who have completed all grades offered in the home district and are being transferred to a neighboring district.</p> <p>Information on the Student Transfer System (STS) can be accessed at the following website address: www.tea.state.tx.us/pmi/eeo</p> <p>Note: Students who transfer under the STS are coded with an ADA eligibility code of 3 or 6 in the districts to which they transfer.</p> <p>Documentation Requirement: A current student record appears in the STS.</p>

Source: Texas Education Agency (2004).

*School leavers coded with this leaver reason code are not included in the calculation of the dropout rate used for accountability purposes.

continues

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

Leaver code and translation	Explanation/clarification and documentation requirements
Moved to other educational setting (cont.)	
<p>22* Student withdrew from/left school to attend an alternative program (GED, JTPA, trade school, drug rehabilitation program, etc.), is in compliance with compulsory attendance laws (TEC Sections 25.085-25.086), and district has acceptable documentation that the student is working toward the completion of high school (diploma or GED certificate)</p>	<p>Use for students who are at least 17 years old and leave the district to enroll in state Adult Education and Family Literacy programs (http://www.tea.state.tx.us/adult/).</p> <p>Also use for migrant students who are at least 17 years old and leave the district to enroll in U.S. Department of Labor High School Equivalency Programs (HEP). If the student enrolls in a HEP, the district does <u>not</u> need to determine compliance with compulsory attendance laws and does <u>not</u> need to confirm that the student is working toward completion of the GED.</p> <p>Also use for students who are at least 16 years old and leave the district to enroll in Job Corps training programs. Job Corps is the only program in which 16 year olds can voluntarily enroll and still be in compliance with compulsory attendance laws. If the student enrolls in a Job Corps program, the district does <u>not</u> need to determine compliance with compulsory attendance laws and does <u>not</u> need to confirm that the student is working toward completion of the GED.</p> <p>Also use for students who are at least 17 years old and leave the district to enroll in programs other than state Adult Education and Family Literacy, HEP, or Job Corps programs to work toward completion of a high school diploma or GED certificate. For alternative programs other than state-approved Adult Education and Family Literacy, HEP, or Job Corps programs, the district must determine that the student is working toward a high school diploma or GED certificate because these programs may offer students other options, such as job training. For 17-year-old students, the district must also determine that the student meets one of three additional conditions of the compulsory attendance law: student has parent/ guardian permission to attend the program, student has established a residence separate from the parent/ guardian, or student is homeless.</p> <p>The district is not required to track the student's attendance or progress in the alternative program or to ascertain that the student actually obtains a high school diploma or GED certificate.</p> <p>Do not use for students 17 or younger who are court-ordered into an alternative program—use code 72.</p> <p><i>Documentation Requirement:</i> See requirements for documentation of intent to enroll in another school or program or requirements for documentation of enrollment in another school or program.</p> <p>If the program is not a state Adult Education and Family Literacy, HEP, or Job Corps program, the documentation must indicate that the student is in compliance with the compulsory attendance law and is pursuing a high school diploma or GED certificate. Written documentation of an oral statement by a representative of the alternative program, signed and dated by an authorized representative of the school district, is acceptable.</p>
<p>72* Student was court ordered to attend an alternative education program</p>	<p>Use for students 17 and younger who are court-ordered into an alternative program. The district is not required to confirm enrollment or attendance in the court-ordered program.</p> <p><i>Documentation Requirement:</i> Copy of the court order.</p>

Source: Texas Education Agency (2004).

*School leavers coded with this leaver reason code are not included in the calculation of the dropout rate used for accountability purposes.

continues

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

Leaver code and translation	Explanation/clarification and documentation requirements
Moved to other educational setting (cont.)	
60* Student withdrew from/left school for home schooling	<p>Student withdrawn from or left school and parent/guardian or qualified student indicates at time of withdrawal that the student will be home schooled or when contacted by district that the student is being home schooled. The district is not required to obtain evidence that the program being provided meets educational standards.</p> <p><i>Documentation Requirement:</i> See requirements for documentation of intent to enroll in another school or program or requirements for documentation of enrollment in another school or program. A signed letter from the parent/guardian or qualified student stating that the student is being home schooled is also acceptable documentation. Other acceptable documentation is written documentation of an oral statement by the parent/guardian or qualified student stating that the student is being home schooled, signed and dated by an authorized representative of the district.</p>
24* Student withdrew from/left school to enter college and is working towards an Associate's or Bachelor's degree	<p>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).</p> <p><i>Documentation Requirement:</i> See requirements for documentation of intent to enroll in another school or program or requirements for documentation of enrollment in another school or program.</p> <p>Documentation of enrollment in a college or university must indicate that the student is enrolled full-time in an academic program.</p>
Withdrawn by school district	
78* Student was expelled under the provisions of TEC §37.007 and cannot return to school	<p>This code is used for situations in which:</p> <p>the student was expelled under the provisions of TEC §37.007, <u>and</u> the term of expulsion has not expired <u>or</u> the student's failure to attend school is due to court action.</p> <p><i>Documentation Requirement:</i> Due process documentation supporting the expulsion.</p>
79 Student was expelled under the provisions of TEC §37.007 but can now return to school and has not done so	<p>This code is used for situations in which:</p> <p>the student was expelled under the provisions of TEC §37.007, <u>and</u> the term of expulsion has expired, <u>and</u> the student's failure to attend school is <u>not</u> due to court action.</p> <p><i>Documentation Requirement:</i> Due process documentation supporting the expulsion.</p>
83* Student was withdrawn from school by the district when the district discovered that the student was not a resident at the time of enrollment or had falsified enrollment information, proof of identification was not provided, or immunization records were not provided	<p>This code is used for situations in which the district discovers when verifying enrollment information that the student is not a resident of the district. These are rare situations in which enrollment information was falsified or there was a misunderstanding about which school district the student's residence was located in at the time of enrollment.</p> <p>With few exceptions, students enrolling in Texas public schools must be immunized against specified contagious diseases. Under Texas Department of Health rules districts must provisionally admit students who have begun the required immunizations but may withdraw those who do not complete the immunizations within 30 days.</p> <p><i>Documentation Requirement:</i> Due process documentation supporting the withdrawal.</p>

Source: Texas Education Agency (2004).

*School leavers coded with this leaver reason code are not included in the calculation of the dropout rate used for accountability purposes.

continues

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

Leaver code and translation	Explanation/clarification and documentation requirements
Academic performance	
84 Student withdrew from/left school for reasons related to academic performance such as low or failing grades, poor attendance, language problems, or TAAS or TAKS failure	These codes should be used if the parent/guardian or student indicates verbally or in writing that the reason the student is leaving school or has left school is because of low or failing grades, poor attendance, limited English proficiency, age, or TAAS or TAKS failure. Whether the parent/guardian or student completes withdrawal papers or the student just stops coming to school is not relevant to assigning these codes.
14 Student withdrew from/left school because of age	These codes may also be assigned based on district review of the student's history of attendance and academic performance before leaving school. <i>Documentation Requirement:</i> Acceptable documentation is any written documentation (including documentation of oral statements by the parent/guardian or student) indicating that the student is leaving school or has left school because of low or failing grades, poor attendance, limited English proficiency, age, or TAAS or TAKS failure.
Employment	
02 Student withdrew from/left school to pursue a job or job training 04 Student withdrew from/left school to join the military	These codes should be used if the parent/guardian or student indicates verbally or in writing that the reason the student is leaving school or has left school is to pursue a job or job training (code 02) or join the military (code 04). Whether the parent/guardian or qualified student completes withdrawal papers or the student just stops coming to school is not relevant to assigning these codes. <i>Documentation Requirement:</i> Acceptable documentation is any written documentation (including documentation of oral statements by the parent/guardian or student) indicating that the student is leaving school or left school to pursue a job (code 02) or join the military (code 04).
Family	
08 Student withdrew from/left school because of pregnancy	This code should be used only if the parent/guardian or student indicates verbally or in writing that the student is leaving school or left school because of pregnancy. This code should not be assigned based only on the fact that the student is pregnant at the time she leaves school. This code can be used for male or female students. <i>Documentation Requirement:</i> Acceptable documentation is any written documentation (including documentation of oral statements by the parent/guardian or student) indicating that the student is leaving school or left school because of pregnancy.
09 Student withdrew from/left school because of marriage	This code should be used only if the parent/guardian or student indicates verbally or in writing that the student is leaving school or left school because of marriage. The district is not required to confirm that the student is married. <i>Documentation Requirement:</i> Acceptable documentation is any written documentation (including documentation of oral statements by the parent/guardian or student) indicating that the student is leaving school or left school because of marriage.
15 Student withdrew from/left school because of homelessness or non-permanent residency	<i>Documentation Requirement:</i> Acceptable documentation is any written documentation (including documentation of oral statements by the parent/guardian or student) indicating that the student is leaving school or left school because of homelessness or non-permanent residency.
66* Student was removed by Child Protective Services (CPS) and the district has not been informed of the student's current status or enrollment	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. <i>Documentation Requirement:</i> Due process documentation supporting this withdrawal.

Source: Texas Education Agency (2004).

*School leavers coded with this leaver reason code are not included in the calculation of the dropout rate used for accountability purposes.

continues

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

Leaver code and translation	Explanation/clarification and documentation requirements
Other reasons	
03* Student died while enrolled in school or during the summer break after completing the prior school year	<i>Documentation Requirement:</i> Acceptable documentation is a copy of the death certificate or obituary.
10 Student withdrew from/left school because of alcohol or other drug abuse problems	This code should be used only if the parent/guardian or student indicates verbally or in writing that the student is leaving school or left school due to alcohol or other drug abuse problems. Student does not have to be admitted into a treatment program. <i>Documentation Requirement:</i> Any written documentation (including documentation of oral statements by the parent/guardian or qualified student) indicating that the student is leaving school or left school due to alcohol or other drug abuse problems.
16* Student withdrew from/left school to return to family's home country	Use for students whose families are leaving the United States. The citizenship of the student is not relevant in assigning this code. This code can also be used for foreign exchange students. <i>Documentation Requirement:</i> 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 representative of the school district. Acceptable documentation is also a copy of the withdrawal form (or similar form) signed and dated by the parent/guardian or qualified student (both signatures are not required) and an authorized representative of the school district (typically the withdrawing agent). The withdrawal form should indicate that the student is leaving school because the family 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 family is returning to the home county is also acceptable documentation. Other acceptable documentation is written documentation of an oral statement by the parent/guardian, qualified student, or other adult with knowledge of the family's whereabouts, signed and dated by an authorized representative of the school district.
30* Student withdrew from/left school to enter a health care facility	Health care facilities provide medical and/or rehabilitation services. They include hospitals, nursing homes, cancer treatment centers, burn centers, drug and rehabilitation facilities, and mental health treatment facilities. In Texas, school districts are required to serve students in health care facilities located within the boundaries of the district. If the student is being served by the district, a leaver record is not submitted. Use this code for private health care facilities that provide their own educational programs. Also use for students who are entering a health care facility outside the district if the district does not know which school district will be providing educational services to the student. Use for students who are entering health care facilities outside Texas. <i>Documentation Requirement:</i> See requirements for documentation of intent to enroll in another school or program or requirements for documentation of enrollment in another school or program. These requirements also apply to students withdrawing from/leaving school to enter a health-care facility. A signed letter from the parent/guardian or qualified student stating that the student is enrolled in a health care facility is also acceptable documentation. The letter must state the name and location of the facility. Other acceptable documentation is written documentation of an oral statement by the parent/guardian or qualified student providing the name and location of the facility, signed and dated by an authorized representative of the district.

Source: Texas Education Agency (2004).

*School leavers coded with this leaver reason code are not included in the calculation of the dropout rate used for accountability purposes.

continues

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

Leaver code and translation	Explanation/clarification and documentation requirements
<i>Other reasons (cont.)</i>	
61* Student was incarcerated in a facility outside the boundaries of the district	<p>This code applies to juveniles as well as qualified students incarcerated in facilities such as juvenile detention centers or jails outside the boundaries of the district. In Texas, school districts are required to serve students incarcerated in facilities located within the boundaries of the district. If the student is being served by the district, a leaver record is not submitted.</p> <p>Do not use this code for students who are placed in a JJAEP. If the student is enrolled in a JJAEP, a leaver record is not submitted.</p> <p><i>Documentation Requirement:</i> Acceptable documentation is written documentation from the facility in which the student is incarcerated.</p> <p>A signed statement from the parent providing the name and location of the facility in which the student is incarcerated is also acceptable documentation.</p> <p>Other acceptable documentation is written documentation of an oral statement by the parent/guardian or the qualified student providing the name and location of the facility in which the student is incarcerated, signed and dated by an authorized representative of the district.</p>
99 Other (reason unknown or not listed above)	<p>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.</p> <p>It is also used for students who withdrew from/left school for reasons not listed above.</p>

Source. Texas Education Agency (2004).

*School leavers coded with this leaver reason code are not included in the calculation of the dropout rate used for accountability purposes.

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

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 1998-99.

GED.^a The attrition rate includes students who received a GED certificate rather than a high school diploma.

Continuing Students. The attrition rate includes continuing students if they were not in Grade 12 in 1998-99. The most common reason for students to fall behind a grade level is retention in Grade 9.

Transfers Out. The attrition rate includes all students who transferred out of Texas public schools or left for any reason. The longitudinal rate excludes transfers and students who left Texas public schools for reasons other than dropping out. Reasons for exclusion from the longitudinal rate include the following.

- Enrolled in another educational setting (public school, private school, alternative school leading to a diploma or GED certificate, home schooling, or entered college early in Texas or out of state)
- Withdrew with intent to enroll elsewhere
- Returned to home country
- Removed by district (expelled for criminal behavior, falsified enrollment information, no immunization, etc.)
- Entered health care facility or incarcerated outside district
- Removed by Child Protective Services
- Died
- Destination not reported to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) by school districts (before 1997-98)

Transfers-In and Growth. Some attrition rates include a growth adjustment that is an estimate of the number of students transferring into Texas public schools. The attrition rate calculated by TEA is not adjusted for growth. The longitudinal rate assigns all transfers-in to the appropriate cohort and determines outcomes in the same way that outcomes for starting Grade 9 students are determined.

Students Previously Counted. The 1999 attrition rate includes students from the class of 1998 who were repeating Grade 9 in 1995-96. These students were also included in the 1998 attrition rate.

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

Grade 9-12 Attrition Rate

Students from the class of 1999 who for any reason were not enrolled in Grade 12 in a Texas public school in the fall of the 1998-99 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 1999 who left school before graduation for the following reasons.

- Academic performance (poor attendance, low grades, failing TAAS,^b etc.)
- Employment (pursue job or join military)
- Family (marriage or pregnancy)
- Alternative education (not leading to a diploma or GED certificate)
- Discipline (failure to return following expulsion or JJAEP^c term)
- Alcohol or other drug abuse problems
- Whereabouts unknown

Grade 9-12 Longitudinal Dropout Rate

Students from the class of 1999 who dropped out under the accountability dropout definition

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 1998-99 but drop out before graduating.
- Military District and Charter School Dropouts. The attrition rate does not include students who drop out from districts located on military bases or charter schools.

^aGeneral Educational Development. ^bTexas Assessment of Academic Skills. ^cJuvenile Justice Alternative Education Program.

Table D-1

Example: Reconciliation of the Texas Education Agency Attrition and Longitudinal Dropout Counts, Grades 9-12, Texas Public Schools, 1999

Attrition count ^a			123,375
Longitudinal dropout count			20,231
Difference in counts			103,144
Sources of differences in counts. The longitudinal dropout and attrition counts differ in three primary ways: (1) in determining the final status of students; (2) in defining the initial cohorts; and (3) in counting transfers in and out of the public school system.			
	Plus	Minus	Difference
Graduates before 1999 not enrolled in Grade 12 in the fall of 1998	6,849		
1998-99 graduates not enrolled in Grade 12 in the fall of 1998	9,897		
General Educational Development certificate recipients not enrolled in Grade 12 in the fall of 1998	8,491		
Students continuing school, but not in Grade 12 by the fall of 1998	13,694		
1998-99 dropouts who were enrolled in Grade 12 in the fall of 1998		2,437	
All differences in final statuses			36,494
The attrition count begins with all students enrolled in Grade 9, including those repeating Grade 9. The longitudinal count assigns each student to one and only one cohort, so only first-time Grade 9 students are counted.	51,939		
The attrition count ends with all students in Grade 12, regardless of when they began Grade 9. The longitudinal count includes only those Grade 12 students who began Grade 9 with the cohort.		17,578	
All differences in cohorts			34,361
An attrition rate may include a growth factor; that is, an estimate of students transferring into the Texas public school system. Students transferring out are included in the attrition count itself.	0 ^b		
The longitudinal cohort counts and adds transfers-in on grade level.		59,728	
Students leaving the public school system for any reason other than dropping out are subtracted from the longitudinal dropout count.	92,462		
All differences in transfers and growth			32,734
To track students from year to year in the longitudinal rate requires that students have valid identification records. Student records with errors that prevent tracking have to be excluded from the cohort. The attrition rate uses aggregate counts and so includes records of Grade 9 students who cannot be tracked.	5,607		
Grade 12 enrollment for the attrition count includes students with identification errors. The longitudinal count excludes them.		5,367	
It is not possible to place all student records in one or the other count, or both, because the decision rules and counts are based on different types of student data records.		685	
All differences in errors in student records and data anomalies			- 445
Total			103,144

^aEnrollment in Grade 9 in the fall of the 1995-96 school year minus enrollment in Grade 12 in the fall of the 1998-99 school year. ^bThe Texas Education Agency does not include a growth factor in the attrition calculation.

Appendix E
History of the Dropout Policy in Texas

History of the Dropout Policy in Texas

Current concerns over at-risk behavior and dropping out of school can be traced to the education reform movement of the early 1980s (Roderick, 1993). In 1983, *A Nation at Risk* deplored the condition of education in the United States (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 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 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, known as the Texas School Dropout Survey Project, and presented a report 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 Americans and Hispanics 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.

Alarmed by the magnitude of the dropout problem in Texas and questioning the effectiveness of existing reform efforts to help students at risk of dropping out, 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). TEA was required to establish a statewide dropout information clearinghouse and to form, along with eight other state agencies, an interagency council to coordinate policies and resources for dropouts and at-risk students. A definition of a dropout was added to statute. In addition, the agency 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 students at risk of dropping out of school.

In conjunction with these legislative initiatives, the State Board of Education (SBOE) took action in 1987 to increase the "holding power" of Texas schools. The board amended the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) to require that districts adopt policies outlining academic options available to students at risk of dropping out (19 TAC §75.195, 1988). Under the rule, each school district was directed to have in place, by September 1, 1988, a plan designed to identify potential dropouts and help them stay in school. A student in Grades 7-12 was identified as "at risk" if he or she met one or more of the following conditions (19 TAC §75.195, 1988):

- the student had been retained one or more times in Grades 1-6 based on academic achievement and remained unable to master the Essential Elements at the current grade level;
- the student was two or more years below grade level in reading or mathematics;
- the student had failed at least two courses in one or more semesters and was not expected to graduate within four years of entering ninth grade; or
- the student had failed one or more of the reading, writing, or mathematics sections of the Texas Educational Assessment of Minimum Skills (TEAMS), beginning with the seventh grade.

In addition to these criteria, specified in statute, the board rules permitted school districts to consider any environmental, familial, economic, social, developmental, or other psychosocial factors that may have contributed to a student's inability to progress academically.

Also in 1987, the SBOE adopted the first long-range plan for Texas public school education (SBOE, 1987). Calling at-risk students one of the focal points of the four-year plan, the board affirmed its commitment to help close the achievement gap between disadvantaged and other students. The plan called for programs to reduce the dropout rate and encourage higher attendance. Dropout reduction has been a component of each subsequent long-range plan adopted by the SBOE (1991, 1995, and 2000).

In 1989, the 71st Legislature passed a number of bills focused on dropouts and at-risk students. Under HB 850, known as the driver's license law, an individual under the age of 18, who had neither graduated from high school nor obtained a General Educational Development (GED) certificate, could not receive a license to drive unless he or she: (a) was enrolled in school and had attended at least 80 days the previous semester; or (b) had been enrolled for at least 45 days in a high school equivalency program (Act approved June 16, 1989).

Senate Bill (SB) 152 directed the SBOE to set an annual dropout rate target for Texas that would reduce the statewide longitudinal dropout rate to 5 percent by 1997-98. Districts in which 100 or more students dropped out and those in which 5 percent or more of the students were identified as being at risk were required to prepare a dropout reduction plan. Each year, districts exceeding the state dropout rate target were required to allocate a percentage of their compensatory education funds to remedial and support programs for at-risk students (TEC §11.205, 1990).

Senate Bill 1668 expanded the criteria for identifying at-risk students to include prekindergarten through Grade 6 (TEC §21.557, 1990). It also authorized the SBOE to adopt rules under which school districts could use community-based dropout recovery education programs to provide alternative education for at-risk youths (TEC §21.557, 1990). In addition, the bill directed school districts to notify the parents of eligible children about prekindergarten programs offered (TEC §21.136, 1990). Finally, SB 1668 required TEA and the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse to assist regional education service centers in establishing substance abuse prevention and intervention programs in the public schools (TEC §11.208, 1990).

SB 417 contained several provisions related to dropout prevention and reduction. The age at which a student must begin school was lowered from seven to six, and the compulsory attendance age was raised from 16 to 17 (TEC §21.032, 1990). The five-day absence rule enacted in HB 72 was replaced with a requirement that a student attend class at least 80 days per semester to receive course credit (TEC §21.041, 1990). SB 417 also added to the criteria for school district accreditation a measure of the effectiveness of district dropout prevention and recovery programs (TEC §21.753, 1990).

For dropouts under the age of 19 who returned to school, a "second chance" program was created through the Office of the Governor (TEC §34.032, 1990). The program offered rewards for graduating, ranging from tuition credits for higher education to various employment opportunities. Finally, SB 417 established a number of pilot programs for at-risk students, including: programs aimed at early intervention for students in prekindergarten through the elementary grade levels (TEC §11.2052, 1990); school-age parenting and pregnancy programs (TEC §21.114, 1990); education and involvement programs for parents of at-risk youths (TEC §21.929, 1990); and a program to prepare at-risk students to earn high school equivalency certificates (TEC §11.351, 1990).

In 1993, the legislature again expanded the list of at-risk criteria, this time to address student pregnancy and parenthood (TEC §21.557, 1994). When the Texas Education Code was readopted in 1995, the definition of a dropout was eliminated. SBOE authority to promulgate rules regarding at-risk classification and dropouts was also repealed. The definition of a dropout in the TAC and provisions that allowed school districts to consider risk factors other than those identified in statute were subsequently repealed by the SBOE. Thereafter, school districts were restricted to statutory criteria when reporting numbers of students identified as at risk through the state's Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS). The *PEIMS Data Standards* (cf. TEA, 2002c) provided the operational definition of a dropout.

The legislature also removed the requirement that districts prepare separate dropout reduction plans. Local dropout reduction efforts were included in district and campus improvement plans (TEC §§11.252-11.253, 1996). Districts were still obligated to provide compensatory and accelerated instruction to students who were at risk of dropping out of school (TEC §29.081, 1996).

At the state level, the goals of reducing the cross-sectional and longitudinal dropout rates to 5 percent were readopted, as were the requirements that TEA report dropout data collected from school districts and publish a state plan to reduce the dropout rate (TEC §§39.181-39.185, 1996).

Annual dropout statistics had to be reported in the comprehensive biennial and interim reports to the legislature (TEC §39.182-39.185, 1996). Language referring to a state dropout information clearinghouse and interagency task force was not included in the revised code.

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). A number of bills passed in 1999 by the 76th Legislature focused on dropout prevention. Standards were adopted for community-based dropout recovery education programs (TEC §29.081, 1999). Also, money was made available to school districts to create special programs for Grade 9 students who were not expected to meet the academic requirements to advance to Grade 10 (TEC §29.086, 1999) and for after-school programs for middle-school-age students. Other programs targeted preschool and the early elementary grades (TEC §28.006, 1999).

In 2001, the Texas Legislature signaled a subtle but important shift in focus when HB 1144 added district Grade 9-12 completion rates to the list of performance indicators in statute (TEC §39.051, 2001). This measure, as a complement to the dropout rate, provides an indicator of student and school success rather than failure. HB 1144 also required an annual independent audit of school district dropout data submissions. The audits began with dropout records for students who dropped out during the 2001-02 school year (TEC §39.055, 2001). The reports on 2001-02 leavers were submitted to the agency in April 2003.

Under SB 702, TEA's comprehensive report to the legislature on the status of public education in Texas was changed from a biennial to an annual publication. New dropout information required in the *Comprehensive Annual Report on Texas Public Schools* (TEA, 2002b) included: projected cross-sectional and longitudinal dropout rates for Grades 9-12; dropout rates of students placed in alternative education programs; and completion rates for students in Grades 9-12. In addition, the report includes a comparison of the performance of open-enrollment charter schools predominantly serving students at risk of dropping out of school with the performance of regular school districts.

In 2003, the legislature passed HB 3459, which replaced independent audits of district dropout submissions with annual electronic audits. The legislature also passed SB 976. SB 976 introduced a requirement that district- and campus-level decision-making committees analyze information related to dropout prevention (TEC §11.255, 2004). Information that must be analyzed includes results of the dropout audit; campus graduation, dropout, and high school equivalency rates, and percentages of students who remain in high school more than four years after entering Grade 9; retention rates; academic credit hours earned; and alternative education program placements and expulsions. In addition, TEC §39.131 (2004) was amended to add specific sanctions for districts rated *Academically Unacceptable* for two or more years because of high dropout rates. Sanctions include the requirements to develop a dropout prevention plan and reduce student-to-counselor ratios.

Appendix F
History of Texas Education Agency Dropout Definition

History of Texas Education Agency Dropout Definition

A dropout was defined in law in 1987 as a student in Grades 7-12 who does not hold a high school diploma or the equivalent and who is absent from school for 30 or more consecutive days with no evidence of being enrolled in another public or private school (Texas Education Code [TEC] §11.205, 1988). As implemented by the State Board of Education, students with an approved excuse were excluded from the dropout definition, as were students who returned to school the following semester or school year (19 Texas Administrative Code [TAC] §61.64, 1988). This definition is operationalized in the *Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) Addendum Version Data Standards* (cf. TEA, 2004). The first PEIMS dropout records were submitted for students dropping out during the 1987-88 school year.

The original dropout definition in the *1988-89 PEIMS Data Standards* (Texas Education Agency [TEA], 1989a) did not count as dropouts students who received General Educational Development (GED) certificates because the GED testing program was developed as a means of objectively certifying whether an individual had educational development equivalent to that of a high school graduate. Students who transferred to other educational settings leading to high school diplomas, GED certificates, or college degrees were also excluded. Students who withdrew to enter health care facilities and those incarcerated in correctional facilities were also not included in the dropout definition.

Beginning with the 1992-93 dropout rate, TEA searched dropout data for prior years to identify previously reported dropouts. Repeat dropouts were removed from the dropout count. 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 1999, Senate Bill (SB) 103 amended the accountability statute to exclude all expelled students from the dropout count during the terms of expulsion (TEC §39.051, 1999.)

Legislative direction given at the time the revised Texas Education Code was adopted in 1995 indicated that, in deleting the dropout definition from code, it was intended that students who meet all graduation requirements but do not pass the exit-level Texas Assessment of Academic Skills not 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 re-enrolled in school.

When the age of compulsory attendance was raised from 16 to 17 in 1989, an exemption was added for students who are at least 17 years old and enrolled in GED preparation programs (TEC §§21.032-33, 1990). In 1999, SB 1472 added an exemption for students who are at least 16 and enrolled in Job Corps programs (TEC §25.086, 1999).

In 2001, the legislature revisited the exemption of students attending school while in correctional facilities or residential treatment centers. Under House Bill 457, a student who fails to enroll in school after release from one of these facilities will no longer be counted as a dropout for the district in which the facility is located if that district is not the student's home district (TEC §39.073, 2001).

In 2003, the 78th Legislature passed legislation affecting the dropout rate calculated by TEA. SB 186 (TEC §39.051, 2004) required dropout rates to be computed according to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and graduation rates to be computed according to standards in No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (2002). The first school year for which dropout data will be collected based on the NCES definition and procedures is 2005-06. In addition, HB 2683 (TEC §39.072, 2004) required that the performance of students served in Texas Youth Commission facilities not be attributed to the districts serving these facilities for the Academic Excellence Indicator System measures and accountability ratings. Table F-1 on page 104 shows the evolution of the TEA dropout definition.

**Table F-1
Chronology of Texas Education Agency (TEA) Dropout Definition and Data Processing
Enhancements**

Dropout definition	Data processing
1987-88	
<p>A dropout is defined in the Texas Education Code, 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 transfer are excluded from the dropout definition, as are students who return to school the following semester or year.</p>	<p>TEA begins collecting individual student-level records for students who drop out of school.</p>
1990-91	
	<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>
1992-93	
<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 are removed from the dropout count.</p>
1994-95	
<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 Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) 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 re-enrolled in school.</p>	
1995-96	
<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 General Educational Development (GED) certificates are removed from the dropout count.</p>	
1997-98	
	<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 F-1 (continued)
Chronology of Texas Education Agency (TEA) 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 will not be 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 from 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 the regular campuses through campus of accountability procedures.</p>

Appendix G
History of Texas Education Agency Completion Definition

History of Texas Education Agency Completion Definition

From 1992-93 through 1996-97, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) published grade 7-12 estimated longitudinal dropout rates based on aggregate numbers of dropouts and students. In 1996, TEA investigated using a high school completion rate based on student-level data as an alternative or supplement to an annual dropout rate in the accountability system (TEA, 1996). Four-year completion rates for the classes of 1996 and 1997 were published as report-only indicators in the 1998 Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) reports. By 1998, the agency had sufficient years of Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) data to follow the progress of the members of a seventh-grade class through high school to determine their final statuses. Actual Grade 7-12 longitudinal dropout rates for the class of 1998 were included in AEIS a year later.

In 2000, separate longitudinal dropout rates and completion rates were replaced with a four-year high school completion series. The series is made up of four complementary longitudinal rates: graduation, continuation in high school, General Educational Development (GED) certification, and dropout. The four rates add to 100 percent. Completion rates appeared for the first time as report-only indicators in the 2000 AEIS reports. In 2001, the Texas Legislature added the Grade 9-12 completion rate to the list of performance indicators in statute (TEC §39.051, 2001). The completion rate became a base indicator in the 2004 accountability system.

The dropout definition for the longitudinal rates reflects the prevailing dropout definition in the year the student dropped out. Students can drop out in any of the four years of the cohort period. A dropout definition is in place for each of the four years of the cohort. Dropouts are counted according to the dropout definition in place for the year in which they drop out. For example, with the class of 2004, students can drop out in 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, or 2003-04. The circumstances of students leaving in 2001-02, for example, are evaluated against the dropout definition in place for 2001-02. Circumstances matching the dropout definition in that year are assigned a status of dropout for the completion rate.

Through the classes of 2004 and 2005, dropouts are defined and counted according to the current state accountability dropout definition. Starting with students who leave the public schools in 2005-06, the dropout definition will reflect National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) guidelines. The change in dropout definition will first affect the class of 2006 longitudinal rates (Table G-1). For example, students who leave in 2002-03, 2003-04, and 2004-05 during the cohort period will be assigned a dropout status if the reason for leaving matches the current state accountability definition. Students who leave in 2005-06 will be considered dropouts if their reasons for leaving match the NCES definition.

Assignment of the GED recipient final status is made by matching the cohort to a GED database. Through the class of 2003, GED recipient status was assigned when a student's record in the GED file matches a student's record in the cohort file on both student identification information and year of GED receipt. Starting with the class of 2004, GED final status is assigned when a student's record in the GED file matches a student's record in the cohort file on student identification information alone.

**Table G-1
Chronology of Texas Education Agency (TEA) Longitudinal 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) 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 identified based on students' first appearance in the cohort.
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 identified based on students' final record in the cohort.
Class of 2003	
<p>The dropout definition is the prevailing state definition in the dropout year for each of the four years of the cohort.</p> <p>The completion definition is added when completion rates become a base indicator in the accountability system. Class of 2003 completion rates are used for 2004 accountability ratings. The completion definition for 2004 accountability ratings using standard accountability procedures includes graduates, continuers, and GED recipients.</p>	
Class of 2004	
<p>The dropout definition is the prevailing state definition in the dropout year for each of the four years of the cohort.</p> <p>Class of 2004 completion rates are used for 2005 accountability ratings. The completion definition for 2005 accountability ratings using standard accountability procedures includes graduates, continuers, and GED recipients.</p>	<p>Students who earn GEDs are matched to the longitudinal cohort without regard to the date the GED is earned.</p> <p>Completion rates for districts serving Texas Youth Commission facilities do not include students from the facilities unless the students have been attributed to the regular campuses through campus of accountability procedures.</p>

Appendix H Supplemental Tables

Table H-1
Attendance and Dropouts, by Grade, Texas Public Schools, 2002-03 and 2003-04

Grade level	Students				Dropouts			
	2002-03		2003-04		2002-03		2003-04	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Grade 7	334,299	17.7	338,706	17.6	512	3.0	436	2.7
Grade 8	326,579	17.3	333,995	17.4	974	5.7	838	5.1
Grade 9	390,378	20.6	393,254	20.4	4,926	28.7	4,524	27.5
Grade 10	312,454	16.5	320,675	16.7	3,838	22.4	3,717	22.6
Grade 11	266,881	14.1	271,284	14.1	3,460	20.2	3,377	20.6
Grade 12	260,770	13.8	266,803	13.9	3,441	20.1	3,542	21.6
Grades 7-12	1,891,361	100	1,924,717	100	17,151	100	16,434	100

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

Table H-2
Annual Dropout Rate, by Grade and Gender, Texas Public Schools, 2003-04

Grade level	Female		Male	
	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
Grade 7	201	0.1	235	0.1
Grade 8	455	0.3	383	0.2
Grade 9	2,004	1.1	2,520	1.2
Grade 10	1,570	1.0	2,147	1.3
Grade 11	1,457	1.1	1,920	1.4
Grade 12	1,534	1.2	2,008	1.5
Grades 7-12	7,221	0.8	9,213	0.9

**Table H-3
Students, Dropouts, and Annual Dropout Rate, by Student Group and Grade, Texas Public
Schools, 2003-04**

Group	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Grade 7					
African American	49,616	14.6	88	20.2	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	9,313	2.7	6	1.4	0.1
Hispanic	143,133	42.3	273	62.6	0.2
Native American	1,155	0.3	3	0.7	0.3
White	135,489	40.0	66	15.1	<0.1
Economically disadvantaged	170,733	50.4	239	54.8	0.1
State	338,706	100	436	100	0.1
Grade 8					
African American	48,246	14.4	137	16.3	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	9,368	2.8	14	1.7	0.1
Hispanic	137,047	41.0	559	66.7	0.4
Native American	1,171	0.4	2	0.2	0.2
White	138,163	41.4	126	15.0	0.1
Economically disadvantaged	158,786	47.5	473	56.4	0.3
State	333,995	100	838	100	0.3
Grade 9					
African American	59,019	15.0	739	16.3	1.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	10,595	2.7	38	0.8	0.4
Hispanic	170,009	43.2	3,054	67.5	1.8
Native American	1,286	0.3	17	0.4	1.3
White	152,345	38.7	676	14.9	0.4
Economically disadvantaged	174,634	44.4	2,191	48.4	1.3
State	393,254	100	4,524	100	1.2
Grade 10					
African American	46,551	14.5	671	18.1	1.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	10,034	3.1	38	1.0	0.4
Hispanic	126,522	39.5	2,272	61.1	1.8
Native American	987	0.3	14	0.4	1.4
White	136,581	42.6	722	19.4	0.5
Economically disadvantaged	126,526	39.5	1,659	44.6	1.3
State	320,675	100	3,717	100	1.2

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

continues

Table H-3 (continued)
 Students, Dropouts, and Annual Dropout Rate, by Student Group and Grade, Texas Public
 Schools, 2003-04

Group	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Grade 11					
African American	37,817	13.9	584	17.3	1.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	8,810	3.2	40	1.2	0.5
Hispanic	99,094	36.5	1,913	56.6	1.9
Native American	818	0.3	8	0.2	1.0
White	124,745	46.0	832	24.6	0.7
Economically disadvantaged	95,023	35.0	1,329	39.4	1.4
State	271,284	100	3,377	100	1.2
Grade 12					
African American	36,902	13.8	596	16.8	1.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	8,872	3.3	72	2.0	0.8
Hispanic	96,069	36.0	1,928	54.4	2.0
Native American	811	0.3	8	0.2	1.0
White	124,149	46.5	938	26.5	0.8
Economically disadvantaged	87,113	32.7	1,289	36.4	1.5
State	266,803	100	3,542	100	1.3

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

**Table H-4
Students, Dropouts, and Annual Dropout Rate, by Gender, Grade, and Ethnicity, Texas Public Schools, 2003-04**

Group	Students				Dropouts				Annual dropout rate (%)	
	Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	Male
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Grade 7										
African American	24,292	14.8	25,324	14.5	33	16.4	55	23.4	0.1	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	4,426	2.7	4,887	2.8	5	2.5	1	0.4	0.1	<0.1
Hispanic	69,846	42.5	73,287	42.1	135	67.2	138	58.7	0.2	0.2
Native American	561	0.3	594	0.3	3	1.5	0	0.0	0.5	0.0
White	65,406	39.8	70,083	40.2	25	12.4	41	17.4	<0.1	0.1
State	164,531	100	174,175	100	201	100	235	100	0.1	0.1
Grade 8										
African American	23,797	14.5	24,449	14.4	67	14.7	70	18.3	0.3	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	4,537	2.8	4,831	2.8	9	2.0	5	1.3	0.2	0.1
Hispanic	67,331	41.1	69,716	40.9	316	69.5	243	63.4	0.5	0.3
Native American	579	0.4	592	0.3	2	0.4	0	0.0	0.3	0.0
White	67,408	41.2	70,755	41.5	61	13.4	65	17.0	0.1	0.1
State	163,652	100	170,343	100	455	100	383	100	0.3	0.2
Grade 9										
African American	27,773	14.9	31,246	15.1	295	14.7	444	17.6	1.1	1.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	4,979	2.7	5,616	2.7	18	0.9	20	0.8	0.4	0.4
Hispanic	79,710	42.9	90,299	43.6	1,367	68.2	1,687	66.9	1.7	1.9
Native American	615	0.3	671	0.3	7	0.3	10	0.4	1.1	1.5
White	72,837	39.2	79,508	38.3	317	15.8	359	14.2	0.4	0.5
State	185,914	100	207,340	100	2,004	100	2,520	100	1.1	1.2
Grade 10										
African American	22,464	14.5	24,087	14.5	261	16.6	410	19.1	1.2	1.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	4,823	3.1	5,211	3.1	16	1.0	22	1.0	0.3	0.4
Hispanic	61,222	39.5	65,300	39.4	980	62.4	1,292	60.2	1.6	2.0
Native American	491	0.3	496	0.3	5	0.3	9	0.4	1.0	1.8
White	65,994	42.6	70,587	42.6	308	19.6	414	19.3	0.5	0.6
State	154,994	100	165,681	100	1,570	100	2,147	100	1.0	1.3

continues

Table H-4 (continued)
 Students, Dropouts, and Annual Dropout Rate, by Gender, Grade, and Ethnicity, Texas Public Schools, 2003-04

Group	Students				Dropouts				Annual dropout rate (%)	
	Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	Male
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Grade 11										
African American	19,167	14.3	18,650	13.6	231	15.9	353	18.4	1.2	1.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	4,249	3.2	4,561	3.3	14	1.0	26	1.4	0.3	0.6
Hispanic	48,928	36.6	50,166	36.5	840	57.7	1,073	55.9	1.7	2.1
Native American	394	0.3	424	0.3	5	0.3	3	0.2	1.3	0.7
White	60,937	45.6	63,808	46.4	367	25.2	465	24.2	0.6	0.7
State	133,675	100	137,609	100	1457	100	1,920	100	1.1	1.4
Grade 12										
African American	18,989	14.3	17,913	13.4	264	17.2	332	16.5	1.4	1.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	4,304	3.2	4,568	3.4	29	1.9	43	2.1	0.7	0.9
Hispanic	48,236	36.2	47,833	35.8	817	53.3	1,111	55.3	1.7	2.3
Native American	418	0.3	393	0.3	6	0.4	2	0.1	1.4	0.5
White	61,251	46.0	62,898	47.1	418	27.2	520	25.9	0.7	0.8
State	133,198	100	133,605	100	1,534	100	2,008	100	1.2	1.5

Table H-5
Students, Dropouts, and Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-8, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, 2001-02 Through 2003-04

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
African American					
2001-02	93,774	14.5	262	17.4	0.3
2002-03	96,053	14.5	227	15.3	0.2
2003-04	97,862	14.5	225	17.7	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander					
2001-02	18,190	2.8	35	2.3	0.2
2002-03	18,479	2.8	29	2.0	0.2
2003-04	18,681	2.8	20	1.6	0.1
Hispanic					
2001-02	256,096	39.5	959	63.7	0.4
2002-03	267,339	40.5	1,002	67.4	0.4
2003-04	280,180	41.7	832	65.3	0.3
Native American					
2001-02	1,966	0.3	8	0.5	0.4
2002-03	2,187	0.3	8	0.5	0.4
2003-04	2,326	0.3	5	0.4	0.2
White					
2001-02	277,546	42.9	241	16.0	0.1
2003-03	276,820	41.9	220	14.8	0.1
2003-04	273,652	40.7	192	15.1	0.1
Economically disadvantaged					
2001-02	298,040	46.0	847	56.3	0.3
2002-03	315,147	47.7	859	57.8	0.3
2003-04	329,519	49.0	712	55.9	0.2
Female					
2001-02	314,646	48.6	770	51.2	0.2
2002-03	322,629	48.8	765	51.5	0.2
2003-04	328,183	48.8	656	51.5	0.2
Male					
2001-02	332,926	51.4	735	48.8	0.2
2002-03	338,249	51.2	721	48.5	0.2
2003-04	344,518	51.2	618	48.5	0.2
State					
2001-02	647,572	100	1,505	100	0.2
2002-03	660,878	100	1,486	100	0.2
2003-04	672,701	100	1,274	100	0.2

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

Table H-6
Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-8, by Program Participation, Texas Public Schools, 2003-04

Group	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Bilingual or English as a second language	42,492	6.3	202	15.9	0.5
Career and Technology (C/T) ^a	5,135	0.8	11	0.9	0.2
Gifted and talented	70,390	10.5	21	1.6	<0.1
Special education	91,807	13.6	211	16.6	0.2
Title I	306,697	45.6	561	44.0	0.2
State	672,701	100	1,274	100	0.2

^aStudents participating in a C/T program, excluding those enrolled in a C/T course only.

Table H-7
Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-8, by Student Characteristic, Texas Public Schools, 2003-04

Group	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
At risk	235,590	35.0	548	43.0	0.2
Immigrant	13,825	2.1	69	5.4	0.5
Limited English proficient	59,371	8.8	323	25.4	0.5
Migrant	14,993	2.2	64	5.0	0.4
Overage	131,293	19.5	765	60.0	0.6
State	672,701	100	1,274	100	0.2

Table H-8
Students, Dropouts, and Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 9-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, 1995-96 Through 2003-04

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
African American					
1995-96	149,921	14.2	4,936	18.6	3.3
1996-97	155,156	14.2	4,368	17.8	2.8
1997-98	158,745	14.1	4,616	18.9	2.9
1998-99	160,460	14.0	5,225	21.0	3.3
1999-00	163,910	14.1	4,341	20.2	2.6
2000-01	167,322	14.2	3,022	18.9	1.8
2001-02	171,113	14.2	3,061	20.2	1.8
2002-03	175,932	14.3	2,967	18.9	1.7
2003-04	180,289	14.4	2,590	17.1	1.4
Asian/Pacific Islander					
1995-96	27,477	2.6	366	1.4	1.3
1996-97	28,624	2.6	309	1.3	1.1
1997-98	30,157	2.7	367	1.5	1.2
1998-99	32,359	2.8	376	1.5	1.2
1999-00	33,184	2.9	298	1.4	0.9
2000-01	34,179	2.9	231	1.4	0.7
2001-02	35,574	3.0	216	1.4	0.6
2002-03	36,991	3.0	189	1.2	0.5
2003-04	38,311	3.1	188	1.2	0.5
Hispanic					
1995-96	362,040	34.2	12,994	49.0	3.6
1996-97	380,955	34.8	12,377	50.4	3.2
1997-98	394,619	35.1	12,368	50.7	3.1
1998-99	406,533	35.5	12,793	51.4	3.1
1999-00	419,161	36.0	11,320	52.8	2.7
2000-01	431,221	36.5	8,517	53.2	2.0
2001-02	450,148	37.4	8,384	55.5	1.9
2002-03	471,976	38.4	9,083	58.0	1.9
2003-04	491,694	39.3	9,167	60.5	1.9

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

continues

Table H-8 (continued)
 Students, Dropouts, and Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 9-12, by Student Group, Texas Public
 Schools, 1995-96 Through 2003-04

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Native American					
1995-96	2,664	0.3	80	0.3	3.0
1996-97	2,689	0.2	65	0.3	2.4
1997-98	2,840	0.3	99	0.4	3.5
1998-99	3,508	0.3	60	0.2	1.7
1999-00	3,079	0.3	55	0.3	1.8
2000-01	3,268	0.3	39	0.2	1.2
2001-02	3,392	0.3	39	0.3	1.1
2002-03	3,591	0.3	42	0.3	1.2
2003-04	3,902	0.3	47	0.3	1.2
White					
1995-96	516,089	48.8	8,123	30.7	1.6
1996-97	528,435	48.2	7,455	30.3	1.4
1997-98	538,630	47.9	6,964	28.5	1.3
1998-99	543,050	47.4	6,432	25.8	1.2
1999-00	544,549	46.8	5,425	25.3	1.0
2000-01	544,262	46.1	4,194	26.2	0.8
2001-02	541,881	45.1	3,417	22.6	0.6
2002-03	541,993	44.0	3,384	21.6	0.6
2003-04	537,820	43.0	3,168	20.9	0.6
Economically disadvantaged					
1995-96	306,184	28.9	8,240	31.1	2.7
1996-97	334,617	30.5	8,150	33.2	2.4
1997-98	357,724	31.8	8,313	34.1	2.3
1998-99	353,724	30.9	8,086	32.5	2.3
1999-00	372,577	32.0	7,263	33.9	1.9
2000-01	390,846	33.1	5,729	35.8	1.5
2001-02	422,073	35.1	5,671	37.5	1.3
2002-03	456,519	37.1	6,626	42.3	1.5
2003-04	483,296	38.6	6,468	42.7	1.3

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

continues

Table H-8 (continued)
 Students, Dropouts, and Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 9-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, 1995-96 Through 2003-04

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Female					
1995-96	514,546	48.6	11,889	44.9	2.3
1996-97	532,420	48.6	11,038	44.9	2.1
1997-98	546,238	48.6	11,175	45.8	2.0
1998-99	555,830	48.5	11,150	44.8	2.0
1999-00	565,268	48.6	9,325	43.5	1.6
2000-01	574,028	48.6	7,012	43.8	1.2
2001-02	584,326	48.6	6,630	43.9	1.1
2002-03	597,170	48.5	6,743	43.0	1.1
2003-04	607,781	48.5	6,565	43.3	1.1
Male					
1995-96	543,645	51.4	14,610	55.1	2.7
1996-97	563,439	51.4	13,536	55.1	2.4
1997-98	578,753	51.4	13,239	54.2	2.3
1998-99	590,080	51.5	13,736	55.2	2.3
1999-00	598,615	51.4	12,114	56.5	2.0
2000-01	606,224	51.4	8,991	56.2	1.5
2001-02	617,782	51.4	8,487	56.1	1.4
2002-03	633,313	51.5	8,922	57.0	1.4
2003-04	644,235	51.5	8,595	56.7	1.3
State					
1995-96	1,058,191	100	26,499	100	2.5
1996-97	1,095,859	100	24,574	100	2.2
1997-98	1,124,991	100	24,414	100	2.2
1998-99	1,145,910	100	24,886	100	2.2
1999-00	1,163,883	100	21,439	100	1.8
2000-01	1,180,252	100	16,003	100	1.4
2001-02	1,202,108	100	15,117	100	1.3
2002-03	1,230,483	100	15,665	100	1.3
2003-04	1,252,016	100	15,160	100	1.2

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

Table H-9
Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 9-12, by Program Participation, Texas Public Schools, 2003-04

Group	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Bilingual or English as a second language	64,580	5.2	1,712	11.3	2.7
Career and Technology (C/T) ^a	408,613	32.6	2,824	18.6	0.7
Gifted and talented	116,006	9.3	100	0.7	0.1
Special education	162,395	13.0	2,833	18.7	1.7
Title I	401,844	32.1	5,160	34.0	1.3
State	1,252,016	100	15,160	100	1.2

^aStudents participating in a C/T program, excluding those enrolled in a C/T course only.

Table H-10
Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 9-12, by Student Characteristic, Texas Public Schools, 2003-04

Group	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
At risk	518,445	41.4	7,958	52.5	1.5
Immigrant	24,336	1.9	514	3.4	2.1
Limited English proficient	86,490	6.9	2,526	16.7	2.9
Migrant	24,994	2.0	622	4.1	2.5
Overage	343,687	27.5	12,465	82.2	3.6
State	1,252,016	100	15,160	100	1.2

Table H-11
Students, Dropouts, and Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, 1987-88 Through 2003-04

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
African American					
1987-88	194,373	14.3	16,364	17.9	8.4
1988-89	193,299	14.2	14,525	17.6	7.5
1989-90	192,802	14.2	13,012	18.6	6.7
1990-91	192,504	14.0	9,318	17.3	4.8
1991-92	196,915	14.0	9,370	17.5	4.8
1992-93	216,741	14.1	7,840	18.1	3.6
1993-94	221,013	14.0	7,090	17.6	3.2
1994-95	227,684	14.1	5,130	17.1	2.3
1995-96	234,175	14.1	5,397	18.5	2.3
1996-97	240,142	14.1	4,737	17.6	2.0
1997-98	244,987	14.1	5,152	18.7	2.1
1998-99	248,748	14.0	5,682	20.6	2.3
1999-00	253,986	14.2	4,675	19.9	1.8
2000-01	259,665	14.3	3,288	18.7	1.3
2001-02	264,887	14.3	3,323	20.0	1.3
2002-03	271,985	14.4	3,194	18.6	1.2
2003-04	278,151	14.5	2,815	17.1	1.0
Asian/Pacific Islander					
1987-88	n/a ^a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1988-89	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1989-90	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1990-91	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1991-92	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1992-93	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1993-94	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1994-95	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1995-96	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1996-97	43,314	2.5	330	1.2	0.8
1997-98	45,169	2.6	420	1.5	0.9
1998-99	47,762	2.7	424	1.5	0.9
1999-00	49,086	2.7	325	1.4	0.7
2000-01	51,125	2.8	255	1.5	0.5
2001-02	53,764	2.9	251	1.5	0.5
2002-03	55,470	2.9	218	1.3	0.4
2003-04	56,992	3.0	208	1.3	0.4

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

^aNot available. ^bEthnicity other than African American, Hispanic, or White. Dropout rates for Asian/Pacific Islander and Native American student groups have been reported since 1996-97.

continues

Table H-11 (continued)
 Students, Dropouts, and Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, 1987-88 Through 2003-04

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Hispanic					
1987-88	396,411	29.1	34,911	38.2	8.8
1988-89	412,904	30.4	33,456	40.6	8.1
1989-90	427,032	31.4	30,857	44.1	7.2
1990-91	444,246	32.4	24,728	45.8	5.6
1991-92	462,587	32.9	25,320	47.4	5.5
1992-93	516,212	33.7	21,512	49.6	4.2
1993-94	537,594	34.1	20,851	51.9	3.9
1994-95	556,684	34.4	14,928	49.9	2.7
1995-96	580,041	34.9	14,649	50.2	2.5
1996-97	603,067	35.4	13,859	51.5	2.3
1997-98	619,855	35.6	14,127	51.3	2.3
1998-99	638,041	36.0	14,413	52.2	2.3
1999-00	658,869	36.7	12,540	53.5	1.9
2000-01	679,412	37.4	9,489	54.0	1.4
2001-02	706,244	38.2	9,343	56.2	1.3
2002-03	739,315	39.1	10,085	58.8	1.4
2003-04	771,874	40.1	9,999	60.8	1.3
Native American					
1987-88	n/a ^a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1988-89	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1989-90	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1990-91	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1991-92	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1992-93	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1993-94	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1994-95	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1995-96	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1996-97	4,274	0.3	81	0.3	1.9
1997-98	4,468	0.3	117	0.4	2.6
1998-99	5,292	0.3	67	0.2	1.3
1999-00	4,923	0.3	65	0.3	1.3
2000-01	5,174	0.3	49	0.3	0.9
2001-02	5,358	0.3	47	0.3	0.9
2002-03	5,778	0.3	50	0.3	0.9
2003-04	6,228	0.3	52	0.3	0.8

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

^aNot available. ^bEthnicity other than African American, Hispanic, or White. Dropout rates for Asian/Pacific Islander and Native American student groups have been reported since 1996-97.

continues

Table H-11 (continued)
 Students, Dropouts, and Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, 1987-88 Through 2003-04

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
White					
1987-88	744,254	54.6	38,305	42.0	5.1
1988-89	724,622	53.3	32,921	40.0	4.5
1989-90	711,264	52.2	24,854	35.5	3.5
1990-91	703,813	51.3	18,922	35.1	2.7
1991-92	712,858	50.7	17,745	33.2	2.5
1992-93	760,143	49.6	13,236	30.5	1.7
1993-94	775,361	49.2	11,558	28.7	1.5
1994-95	789,481	48.8	9,367	31.3	1.2
1995-96	802,509	48.3	8,639	29.6	1.1
1996-97	815,175	47.8	7,894	29.3	1.0
1997-98	828,660	47.5	7,734	28.1	0.9
1998-99	833,274	47.0	7,006	25.4	0.8
1999-00	827,657	46.1	5,852	24.9	0.7
2000-01	823,564	45.3	4,482	25.5	0.5
2001-02	819,427	44.3	3,658	22.0	0.4
2002-03	818,813	43.3	3,604	21.0	0.4
2003-04	811,472	42.2	3,360	20.4	0.4
Other ethnicity^b					
1987-88	28,160	2.1	1,727	1.9	6.1
1988-89	29,290	2.2	1,423	1.7	4.9
1989-90	30,396	2.2	1,317	1.9	4.3
1990-91	32,075	2.3	997	1.8	3.1
1991-92	34,478	2.5	985	1.8	2.9
1992-93	40,101	2.6	814	1.9	2.0
1993-94	42,047	2.7	712	1.8	1.7
1994-95	43,673	2.7	493	1.6	1.1
1995-96	45,853	2.8	522	1.8	1.1
1996-97	n/a ^a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1997-98	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1998-99	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1999-00	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2000-01	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001-02	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002-03	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003-04	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

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

^aNot available. ^bEthnicity other than African American, Hispanic, or White. Dropout rates for Asian/Pacific Islander and Native American student groups have been reported since 1996-97.

continues

Table H-11 (continued)
 Students, Dropouts, and Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, 1987-88 Through 2003-04

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Economically disadvantaged					
1987-88	n/a ^a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1988-89	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1989-90	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1990-91	399,025	29.1	14,755	27.3	3.7
1991-92	442,139	31.4	15,614	29.2	3.5
1992-93	463,452	30.2	13,515	31.1	2.9
1993-94	502,494	31.9	13,537	33.7	2.7
1994-95	535,480	33.1	10,176	34.0	1.9
1995-96	555,318	33.4	9,608	32.9	1.7
1996-97	595,036	34.9	9,393	34.9	1.6
1997-98	626,080	35.9	9,911	36.0	1.6
1998-99	616,720	34.8	9,391	34.0	1.5
1999-00	646,760	36.0	8,303	35.4	1.3
2000-01	673,821	37.0	6,534	37.2	1.0
2001-02	720,113	38.9	6,518	39.2	0.9
2002-03	771,666	40.8	7,485	43.6	1.0
2003-04	812,815	42.2	7,180	43.7	0.9
Female					
1987-88	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1988-89	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1989-90	661,639	48.6	31,791	45.4	4.8
1990-91	669,929	48.8	24,480	45.4	3.7
1991-92	685,901	48.8	24,379	45.6	3.6
1992-93	744,251	48.5	20,221	46.6	2.7
1993-94	764,859	48.5	18,730	46.6	2.4
1994-95	785,553	48.6	13,572	45.4	1.7
1995-96	807,010	48.5	13,299	45.5	1.6
1996-97	827,658	48.5	12,283	45.7	1.5
1997-98	845,916	48.5	12,820	46.5	1.5
1998-99	860,094	48.5	12,545	45.5	1.5
1999-00	870,977	48.5	10,377	44.2	1.2
2000-01	883,036	48.5	7,829	44.6	0.9
2001-02	898,972	48.6	7,400	44.5	0.8
2002-03	919,799	48.6	7,508	43.8	0.8
2003-04	935,964	48.6	7,221	43.9	0.8

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

^aNot available. ^bEthnicity other than African American, Hispanic, or White. Dropout rates for Asian/Pacific Islander and Native American student groups have been reported since 1996-97.

continues

Table H-11 (continued)
 Students, Dropouts, and Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Student Group, Texas Public
 Schools, 1987-88 Through 2003-04

School year	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Male					
1987-88	n/a ^a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1988-89	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1989-90	699,855	51.4	38,249	54.6	5.5
1990-91	702,809	51.2	29,485	54.6	4.2
1991-92	720,937	51.2	29,041	54.4	4.0
1992-93	788,946	51.5	23,181	53.4	2.9
1993-94	811,156	51.5	21,481	53.4	2.6
1994-95	831,969	51.4	16,346	54.6	2.0
1995-96	855,568	51.5	15,908	54.5	1.9
1996-97	878,314	51.5	14,618	54.3	1.7
1997-98	897,223	51.5	14,730	53.5	1.6
1998-99	913,023	51.5	15,047	54.5	1.6
1999-00	923,544	51.5	13,080	55.8	1.4
2000-01	935,904	51.5	9,734	55.4	1.0
2001-02	950,708	51.4	9,222	55.5	1.0
2002-03	971,562	51.4	9,643	56.2	1.0
2003-04	988,753	51.4	9,213	56.1	0.9
State					
1987-88	1,363,198	100	91,307	100	6.7
1988-89	1,360,115	100	82,325	100	6.1
1989-90	1,361,494	100	70,040	100	5.1
1990-91	1,372,738	100	53,965	100	3.9
1991-92	1,406,838	100	53,420	100	3.8
1992-93	1,533,197	100	43,402	100	2.8
1993-94	1,576,015	100	40,211	100	2.6
1994-95	1,617,522	100	29,918	100	1.8
1995-96	1,662,578	100	29,207	100	1.8
1996-97	1,705,972	100	26,901	100	1.6
1997-98	1,743,139	100	27,550	100	1.6
1998-99	1,773,117	100	27,592	100	1.6
1999-00	1,794,521	100	23,457	100	1.3
2000-01	1,818,940	100	17,563	100	1.0
2001-02	1,849,680	100	16,622	100	0.9
2002-03	1,891,361	100	17,151	100	0.9
2003-04	1,924,717	100	16,434	100	0.9

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

^aNot available. ^bEthnicity other than African American, Hispanic, or White. Dropout rates for Asian/Pacific Islander and Native American student groups have been reported since 1996-97.

Table H-12
Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Student Age, Texas Public Schools, 2003-04

September 1 age	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
10	37	<0.1	1	<0.1	2.7
11	6,267	0.3	18	0.1	0.3
12	272,959	14.2	168	1.0	0.1
13	329,031	17.1	487	3.0	0.1
14	327,517	17.0	782	4.8	0.2
15	323,799	16.8	1,616	9.8	0.5
16	309,510	16.1	3,099	18.9	1.0
17	271,013	14.1	5,043	30.7	1.9
18	64,270	3.3	3,463	21.1	5.4
19	14,257	0.7	1,295	7.9	9.1
20	4,537	0.2	403	2.5	8.9
21	1,384	0.1	54	0.3	3.9

Table H-13
Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Program Participation, Texas Public Schools, 2003-04

Group	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Bilingual or English as a second language	107,072	5.6	1,914	11.6	1.8
Career and Technology (C/T) ^a	413,748	21.5	2,835	17.3	0.7
Gifted and talented	186,396	9.7	121	0.7	0.1
Special education	254,202	13.2	3,044	18.5	1.2
Title I	708,541	36.8	5,721	34.8	0.8
State	1,924,717	100	16,434	100	0.9

^aStudents participating in a C/T program, excluding those enrolled in a C/T course only.

Table H-14
Annual Dropout Rate, Grades 7-12, by Student Characteristic, Texas Public Schools, 2003-04

Group	Students		Dropouts		Annual dropout rate (%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
At risk	754,035	39.2	8,506	51.8	1.1
Immigrant	38,161	2.0	583	3.5	1.5
Limited English proficient	145,861	7.6	2,849	17.3	2.0
Migrant	39,987	2.1	686	4.2	1.7
Overage	474,980	24.7	13,230	80.5	2.8
State	1,924,717	100	16,434	100	0.9

Table H-15
Longitudinal Completion Rates, Grades 9-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, Classes
1996 Through 2004

Class	Class (number)	Graduated		Continued		Received GED ^a		Dropped out		Completion I ^b		Completion II ^c	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
African American													
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
Asian/Pacific Islander													
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
Hispanic													
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
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

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

^aGeneral Educational Development certificate. ^bCompletion I consists of students who graduated or continued high school. ^cCompletion II consists of students who graduated, continued high school, or received GEDs. ^dNumbers in class for ethnicity will not sum to the state total because some student records lacked information on ethnicity.

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Table H-15 (continued)
Longitudinal Completion Rates, Grades 9-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, Classes 1996 Through 2004

Class	Class (number)	Graduated		Continued		Received GED ^a		Dropped out		Completion I ^b		Completion II ^c	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
Native American													
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
White													
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
Economically disadvantaged													
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

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

^aGeneral Educational Development certificate. ^bCompletion I consists of students who graduated or continued high school. ^cCompletion II consists of students who graduated, continued high school, or received GEDs. ^dNumbers in class for ethnicity will not sum to the state total because some student records lacked information on ethnicity.

continues

Table H-15 (continued)
Longitudinal Completion Rates, Grades 9-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, Classes 1996 Through 2004

Class	Class (number)	Graduated		Continued		Received GED ^a		Dropped out		Completion I ^b		Completion II ^c	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
Female													
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
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
Male													
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
State													
Class of 1996 ^d	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

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

^aGeneral Educational Development certificate. ^bCompletion I consists of students who graduated or continued high school. ^cCompletion II consists of students who graduated, continued high school, or received GEDs. ^dNumbers in class for ethnicity will not sum to the state total because some student records lacked information on ethnicity.

Table H-16
Longitudinal Completion Rates, Grades 9-12, by Student Characteristic and Program Participation, Texas Public Schools, Class of 2004

Group	Class (number)	Graduated		Continued		Received GED ^a		Dropped out	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
At-Risk	131,055	99,047	75.6	16,717	12.8	7,439	5.7	7,852	6.0
Bilingual or English as a second language	8,777	4,985	56.8	2,081	23.7	154	1.8	1,557	17.7
Career and Technology (C/T) ^b	129,717	116,470	89.8	7,116	5.5	3,336	2.6	2,795	2.2
Gifted and talented	26,736	26,303	98.4	117	0.4	233	0.9	83	0.3
Immigrant	3,086	2,067	67.0	441	14.3	62	2.0	516	16.7
Limited English proficient	10,843	6,305	58.1	2,571	23.7	203	1.9	1,764	16.3
Migrant	4,800	3,753	78.2	449	9.4	172	3.6	426	8.9
Special education	31,491	23,750	75.4	4,748	15.1	1,015	3.2	1,978	6.3
Title I	93,605	75,757	80.9	10,542	11.3	3,065	3.3	4,241	4.5
State	270,911	229,133	84.6	19,826	7.3	11,445	4.2	10,507	3.9

Note. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Student characteristics and program participation were assigned based on the year of a student's final status in the cohort.

^aGeneral Educational Development certificate. ^bStudents participating in a C/T program, excluding those enrolled in a C/T course only.

Table H-17
Longitudinal Completion Rates, Grades 7-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, Classes 1998 Through 2004

Class	Class (number)	Graduated		Continued		Received GED ^a		Dropped out		Completion I ^b		Completion II ^c	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
African American													
Class of 1998	31,047	22,255	71.7	3,990	12.9	996	3.2	3,806	12.3	26,245	84.5	27,241	87.7
Class of 1999	31,651	23,178	73.2	3,812	12.0	966	3.1	3,695	11.7	26,990	85.3	27,956	88.3
Class of 2000	32,536	24,504	75.3	3,589	11.0	1,088	3.3	3,355	10.3	28,093	86.3	29,181	89.7
Class of 2001	33,941	25,814	76.1	3,989	11.8	1,055	3.1	3,083	9.1	29,803	87.8	30,858	90.9
Class of 2002	35,047	27,367	78.1	4,305	12.3	862	2.5	2,513	7.2	31,672	90.4	32,534	92.8
Class of 2003	36,569	29,027	79.4	4,390	12.0	740	2.0	2,412	6.6	33,417	91.4	34,157	93.4
Class of 2004	37,509	30,414	81.1	3,986	10.6	1,163	3.1	1,946	5.2	34,400	91.7	35,563	94.8
Asian/Pacific Islander													
Class of 1998	6,599	5,598	84.8	585	8.9	120	1.8	296	4.5	6,183	93.7	6,303	95.5
Class of 1999	7,027	6,105	86.9	448	6.4	151	2.1	323	4.6	6,553	93.3	6,704	95.4
Class of 2000	7,248	6,376	88.0	414	5.7	173	2.4	285	3.9	6,790	93.7	6,963	96.1
Class of 2001	7,680	6,868	89.4	402	5.2	143	1.9	267	3.5	7,270	94.7	7,413	96.5
Class of 2002	8,101	7,310	90.2	412	5.1	145	1.8	234	2.9	7,722	95.3	7,867	97.1
Class of 2003	8,448	7,682	90.9	464	5.5	122	1.4	180	2.1	8,146	96.4	8,268	97.9
Class of 2004	8,668	7,968	91.9	395	4.6	139	1.6	166	1.9	8,363	96.5	8,502	98.1
Hispanic													
Class of 1998	76,792	51,622	67.2	10,756	14.0	2,892	3.8	11,522	15.0	62,378	81.2	65,270	85.0
Class of 1999	81,425	55,632	68.3	11,371	14.0	2,788	3.4	11,634	14.3	67,003	82.3	69,791	85.7
Class of 2000	84,058	59,793	71.1	10,722	12.8	3,368	4.0	10,175	12.1	70,515	83.9	73,883	87.9
Class of 2001	86,739	62,189	71.7	11,803	13.6	3,594	4.1	9,153	10.6	73,992	85.3	77,586	89.4
Class of 2002	89,433	66,078	73.9	12,370	13.8	3,202	3.6	7,783	8.7	78,448	87.7	81,650	91.3
Class of 2003	94,482	71,307	75.5	13,146	13.9	2,648	2.8	7,381	7.8	84,453	89.4	87,101	92.2
Class of 2004	99,759	76,414	76.6	12,773	12.8	3,772	3.8	6,800	6.8	89,187	89.4	92,959	93.2
Native American													
Class of 1998	765	427	55.8	238	31.1	29	3.8	71	9.3	665	86.9	694	90.7
Class of 1999	733	581	79.3	59	8.0	32	4.4	61	8.3	640	87.3	672	91.7
Class of 2000	617	470	76.2	48	7.8	39	6.3	60	9.7	518	84.0	557	90.3
Class of 2001	692	522	75.4	63	9.1	52	7.5	55	7.9	585	84.5	637	92.1
Class of 2002	654	540	82.6	46	7.0	34	5.2	34	5.2	586	89.6	620	94.8
Class of 2003	754	633	84.0	54	7.2	32	4.2	35	4.6	687	91.1	719	95.4
Class of 2004	840	688	81.9	57	6.8	54	6.4	41	4.9	745	88.7	799	95.1

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

^aGeneral Educational Development certificate. ^bCompletion I consists of students who graduated or continued high school. ^cCompletion II consists of students who graduated, continued high school, or received GEDs. ^dNumbers in cohort for ethnicity will not sum to the state total because some student records lacked information on ethnicity.

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Table H-17 (continued)
Longitudinal Completion Rates, Grades 7-12, by Student Group, Texas Public Schools, Classes 1998 Through 2004

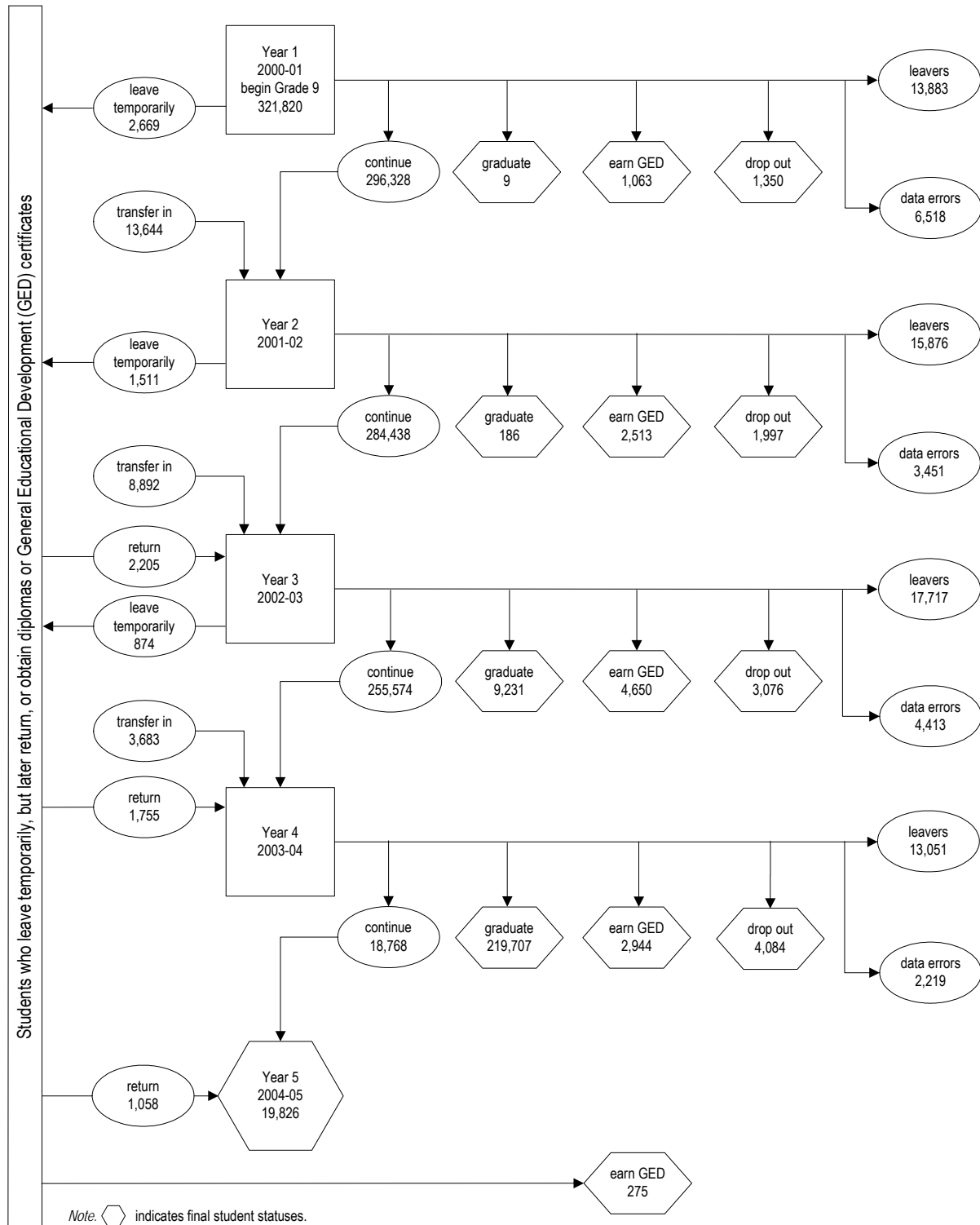
Class	Class (number)	Graduated		Continued		Received GED ^a		Dropped out		Completion I ^b		Completion II ^c	
		Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
White													
Class of 1998	116,579	98,155	84.2	5,989	5.1	5,581	4.8	6,854	5.9	104,144	89.3	109,725	94.1
Class of 1999	120,029	102,589	85.5	5,853	4.9	5,521	4.6	6,066	5.1	108,442	90.3	113,963	94.9
Class of 2000	121,460	104,447	86.0	5,107	4.2	6,777	5.6	5,129	4.2	109,554	90.2	116,331	95.8
Class of 2001	122,356	105,323	86.1	5,540	4.5	6,964	5.7	4,529	3.7	110,863	90.6	117,827	96.3
Class of 2002	123,528	107,894	87.3	5,730	4.6	6,197	5.0	3,707	3.0	113,624	92.0	119,821	97.0
Class of 2003	125,835	111,884	88.9	5,905	4.7	5,010	4.0	3,036	2.4	117,789	93.6	122,799	97.6
Class of 2004	126,401	111,777	88.4	5,524	4.4	6,560	5.2	2,540	2.0	117,301	92.8	123,861	98.0
Economically disadvantaged													
Class of 1998	66,078	44,319	67.1	8,613	13.0	2,578	3.9	10,568	16.0	52,932	80.1	55,510	84.0
Class of 1999	69,848	47,745	68.4	9,120	13.1	2,648	3.8	10,335	14.8	56,865	81.4	59,513	85.2
Class of 2000	72,768	51,078	70.2	8,889	12.2	3,363	4.6	9,438	13.0	59,967	82.4	63,330	87.0
Class of 2001	76,000	53,860	70.9	10,119	13.3	3,514	4.6	8,507	11.2	63,979	84.2	67,493	88.8
Class of 2002	80,607	59,023	73.2	11,076	13.7	3,172	3.9	7,336	9.1	70,099	87.0	73,271	90.9
Class of 2003	87,757	66,230	75.5	12,098	13.8	2,737	3.1	6,692	7.6	78,328	89.3	81,065	92.4
Class of 2004	95,395	72,784	76.3	12,104	12.7	4,211	4.4	6,296	6.6	84,888	89.0	89,099	93.4
State													
Class of 1998 ^d	231,976	178,057	76.8	21,558	9.3	9,623	4.1	22,738	9.8	199,615	86.0	209,238	90.2
Class of 1999	240,865	188,085	78.1	21,543	8.9	9,458	3.9	21,779	9.0	209,628	87.0	219,086	91.0
Class of 2000	245,919	195,590	79.5	19,880	8.1	11,445	4.7	19,004	7.7	215,470	87.6	226,915	92.3
Class of 2001	251,408	200,716	79.8	21,797	8.7	11,808	4.7	17,087	6.8	222,513	88.5	234,321	93.2
Class of 2002	256,763	209,189	81.5	22,863	8.9	10,440	4.1	14,271	5.6	232,052	90.4	242,492	94.4
Class of 2003	266,088	220,533	82.9	23,959	9.0	8,552	3.2	13,044	4.9	244,492	91.9	253,044	95.1
Class of 2004	273,177	227,261	83.2	22,735	8.3	11,688	4.3	11,493	4.2	249,996	91.5	261,684	95.8

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

^aGeneral Educational Development certificate. ^bCompletion I consists of students who graduated or continued high school. ^cCompletion II consists of students who graduated, continued high school, or received GEDs. ^dNumbers in cohort for ethnicity will not sum to the state total because some student records lacked information on ethnicity.

Appendix I
Synopsis of Student Progress
Through High School, Class of 2004

Figure I-1.
Synopsis of Student Progress Through High School, Class of 2004



Appendix J
Comparing Annual and Longitudinal
Dropout Counts at the State Level

Figure J-1
Comparing Annual and Longitudinal Dropout Counts at the State Level (continues)

This chart demonstrates how annual counts of official dropouts are related to the number of dropouts in the longitudinal rate at the state level. See the facing page for a detailed explanation of each element in the chart.

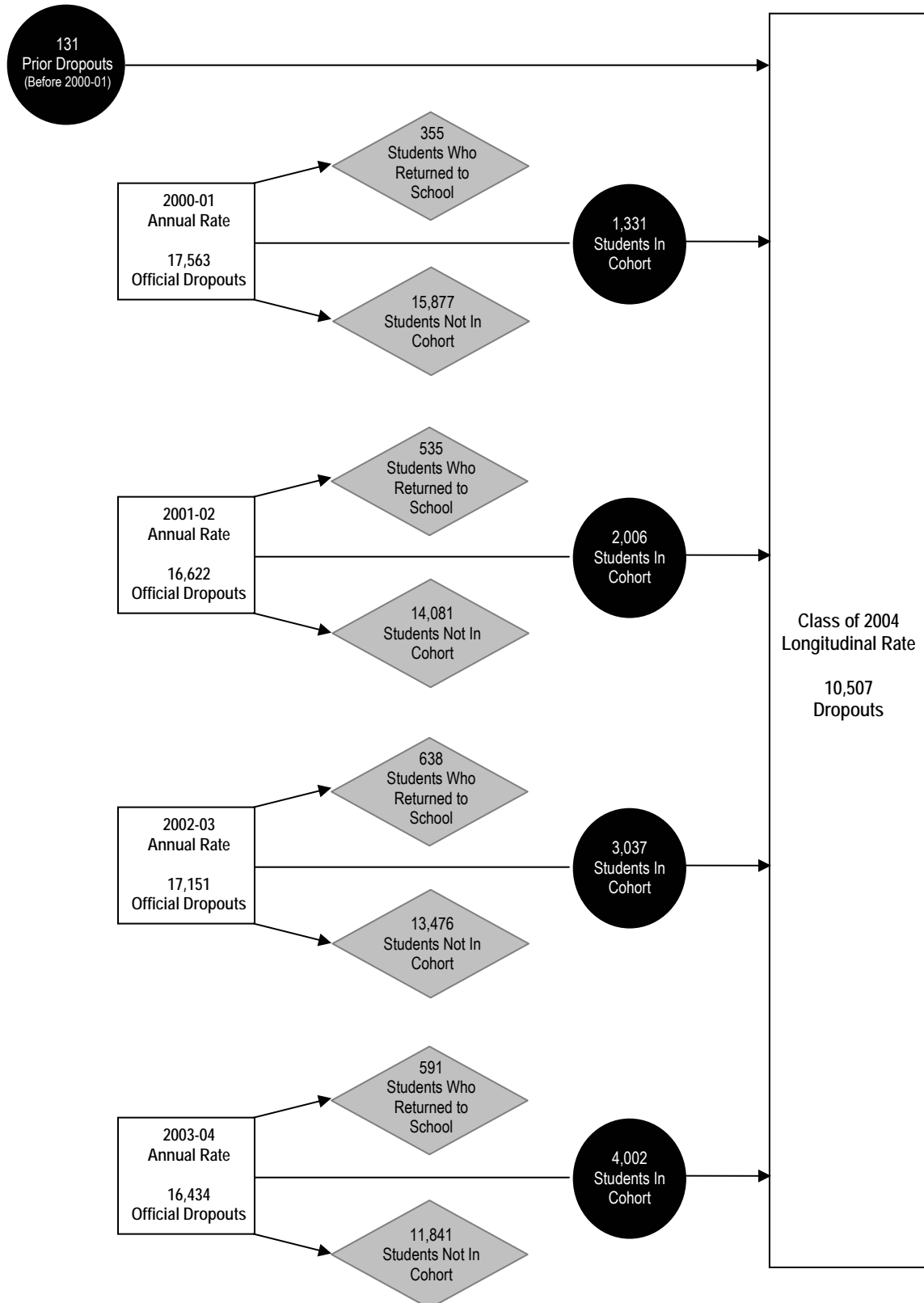
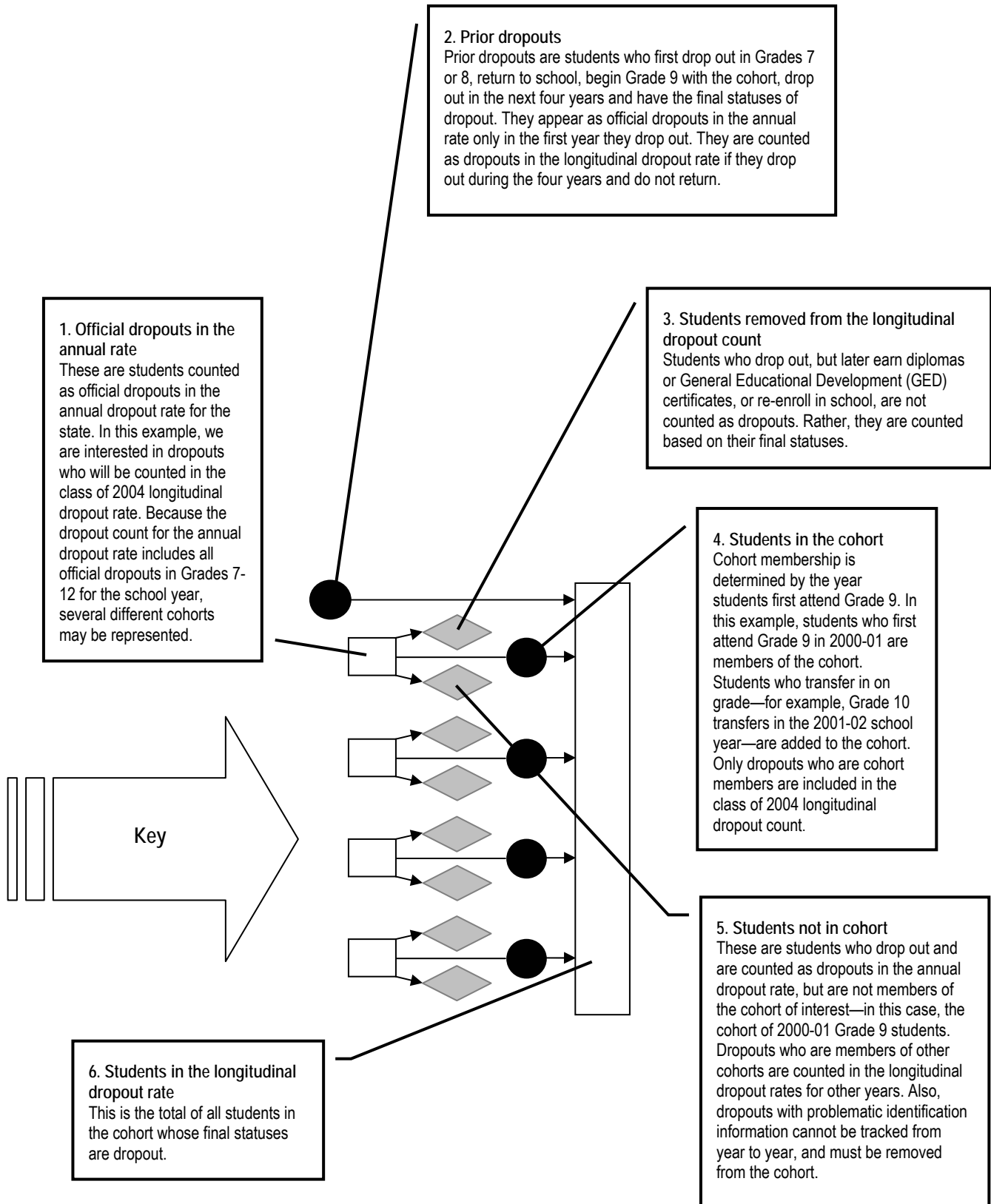


Figure J-1 (continued)
 Comparing Annual and Longitudinal Dropout Counts at the State Level



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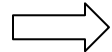
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<i>GE03 601 06</i> Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools, 2001-02: District and Campus Listings	Yes	_____	\$49.00	_____	\$46.00	_____
<i>GE03 601 07</i> Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools, 2001-02: County Listings	Yes	_____	\$12.00	_____	\$11.00	_____
<i>GE05 601 05</i> Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools, 2001-02: National Center for Education Statistics State and District Dropout Counts and Rates	Yes	_____	\$14.00	_____	\$13.00	_____
<i>GE02 601 05</i> Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools, 2000-01	Yes	_____	\$16.00	_____	\$15.00	_____
<i>GE02 601 06</i> Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools, 2000-01: Supplemental District Data	Yes	_____	\$32.00	_____	\$30.00	_____
<i>GE02 601 07</i> Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools, 2000-01: District and Campus Listings	Yes	_____	\$49.00	_____	\$46.00	_____

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Publication number and title	Available in PDF*	Quantity	Price per copy	Tax exempt only		Cost
				Quantity	Price per copy	
Completion and dropouts (continued)						
<i>GE02 601 08</i> Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools, 2000-01: County Listings	Yes	_____	\$12.00	_____	\$11.00	_____
<i>GE03 601 04</i> Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools, 2000-01: National Center for Education Statistics State and District Dropout Counts and Rates	Yes	_____	\$14.00	_____	\$13.00	_____
<i>GE01 601 09</i> Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools, 1999-00	Yes	_____	\$14.50	_____	\$13.00	_____
<i>GE01 601 10</i> Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools, 1999-00: Supplemental District Data	Yes	_____	\$30.00	_____	\$28.00	_____
<i>GE01 601 11</i> Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools, 1999-00: District and Campus Listings	Yes	_____	\$47.50	_____	\$44.00	_____
<i>GE01 601 12</i> Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools, 1999-00: County Listings	Yes	_____	\$22.50	_____	\$21.00	_____
<i>GE03 601 02</i> Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools, 1999-00: National Center for Education Statistics State and District Dropout Counts and Rates	Yes	_____	\$14.00	_____	\$13.00	_____
<i>GE01 601 02</i> Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools, 1998-99	Yes	_____	\$12.50	_____	\$11.50	_____
<i>GE01 601 03</i> Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools, 1998-99: Supplemental District Data	Yes	_____	\$26.50	_____	\$24.50	_____
<i>GE01 601 04</i> Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools, 1998-99: District and Campus Listings	Yes	_____	\$34.00	_____	\$31.00	_____
<i>GE01 601 05</i> Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools, 1998-99: County, District and Campus Listings	Yes	_____	\$43.50	_____	\$40.00	_____
<i>GE01 600 02</i> Dropout Study: A Report to the 77th Texas Legislature	Yes	_____	No charge, limited quantity	_____	No charge, limited quantity	_____

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Completion and dropouts (continued)						
<i>GE9 601 03</i> 1997-98 Report on Public School Dropouts	Yes	_____	\$10.75	_____	\$10.00	_____
<i>GE8 601 05</i> 1996-97 Report on Public School Dropouts	Yes	_____	\$9.50	_____	\$8.50	_____
<i>GE7 601 08</i> 1995-96 Report on Public School Dropouts	No	_____	\$9.00	_____	\$8.00	_____
<i>GE6 601 08</i> 1994-95 Report on Public School Dropouts	No	_____	\$6.00	_____	\$6.00	_____
<i>GE6 601 01</i> 1993-94 Report on Public School Dropouts	No	_____	\$2.00	_____	\$2.00	_____
<i>GE5 601 09</i> 1992-93 Report on Public School Dropouts	No	_____	\$1.00	_____	\$1.00	_____
Retention						
<i>GE05 601 01</i> Grade-Level Retention in Texas Public Schools, 2002-03	Yes	_____	\$20.00	_____	\$19.00	_____
<i>GE04 601 03</i> Grade-Level Retention in Texas Public Schools, 2001-02	Yes	_____	\$20.00	_____	\$19.00	_____
<i>GE02 601 09</i> Grade-Level Retention in Texas Public Schools, 2000-01	Yes	_____	\$19.00	_____	\$18.00	_____
<i>GE02 601 03</i> Grade Level Retention in Texas Public Schools, 1999-00	Yes	_____	\$19.00	_____	\$18.00	_____
<i>GE01 601 07</i> Grade Level Retention in Texas Public Schools, 1998-99	Yes	_____	\$17.00	_____	\$16.00	_____
<i>GE9 601 02</i> 1997-98 Report on Grade Level Retention of Texas Students	Yes	_____	\$9.50	_____	\$8.75	_____
<i>GE8 601 07</i> 1996-97 Report on Grade Level Retention of Texas Students	Yes	_____	\$10.00	_____	\$9.25	_____
<i>GE8 601 01</i> 1995-96 Report on Grade Level Retention of Texas Students	No	_____	\$11.00	_____	\$10.00	_____
<i>GE7 601 01</i> 1994-95 Report on Grade Level Retention of Texas Students	No	_____	\$6.00	_____	\$6.00	_____
<i>GE5 601 12</i> Report on Grade Level Retention of Texas Students, 1992-93 and 1993-94	No	_____	\$1.00	_____	\$1.00	_____
Subtotal						_____

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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.

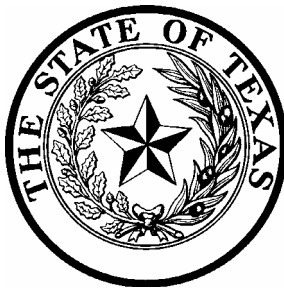
In addition to conducting reviews, the Texas Education Agency staff representatives check complaints of discrimination made by a citizen or citizens residing in a school district where it is alleged discriminatory practices have occurred or are occurring.

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.

Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964 as Amended by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972; Executive Orders 11246 and 11375; Equal Pay Act of 1964; Title IX, Education Amendments; Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as Amended; 1974 Amendments to the Wage-Hour Law Expanding the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967; Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1972 as Amended; Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986; Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990; and the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

The Texas Education Agency shall comply fully with the nondiscrimination provisions of all federal and state laws, rules, and regulations by assuring that no person shall be excluded from consideration for recruitment, selection, appointment, training, promotion, retention, or any other personnel action, or be denied any benefits or participation in any educational programs or activities which it operates on the grounds of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or veteran status (except where age, sex, or disability constitutes a bona fide occupational qualification necessary to proper and efficient administration). The Texas Education Agency is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer.



**Texas Education Agency
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701-1494**

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