



HIGH SCHOOL ATTRITION RATES ACROSS TEXAS EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER REGIONS

By Roy Johnson

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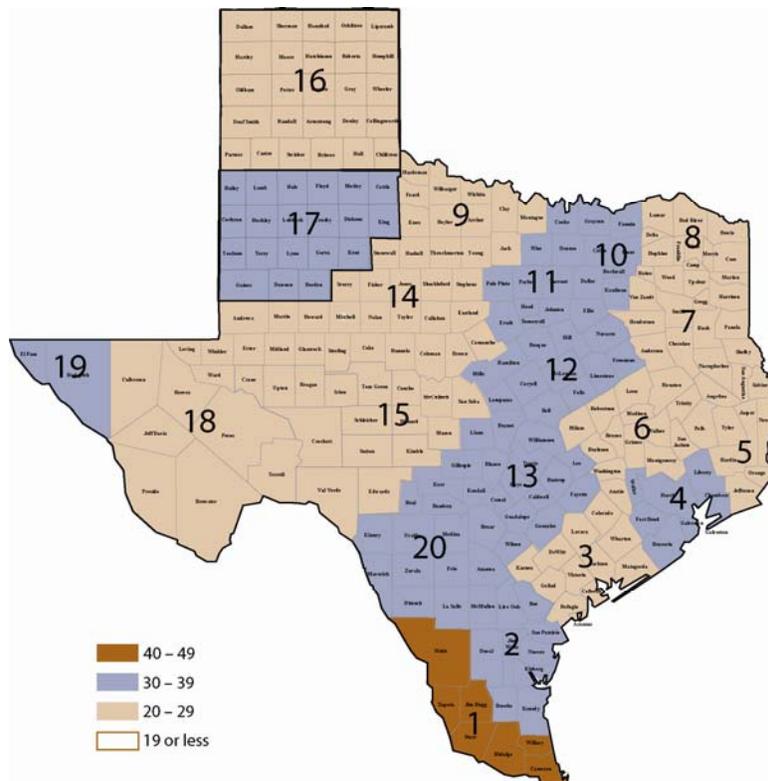
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This study examines regional trends in Texas on the number and percent of students lost from public high school enrollment prior to graduation with a high school diploma. A comparative analysis of 1985-86, 2005-06 and 2006-07 attrition rates in Texas' 20 education service center* (ESC) regions shows that eight Texas regions have persistently higher rates of losing students from public school enrollment.

In general, the rate of students lost from high school enrollment prior to graduation with a diploma has not improved significantly, and the number of students lost has increased. Eight education service center regions had higher attrition rates in 2006-07 than they did in 1985-86, and 15 had a higher number of students lost to attrition in 2006-07 than they did in 1985-86. Data in this study help to answer questions on regional trends on attrition rates and provides geographical comparisons among ESC regions (see Exhibit 1).

IDRA releases its annual attrition study in the October issue of its newsletter. Attrition rates are an indicator of a school's holding power, or ability to keep students enrolled in school and learning until they graduate. IDRA has used the same methodology since its inaugural statewide study in 1986. IDRA conducted Texas' first-ever comprehensive statewide study of high school dropouts using a high school attrition formula to estimate the number and percent of students who leave school prior to graduation. The study in 1986 was the state's first major effort to assess the school holding power of Texas public schools. The annual attrition studies since then include county-level data by race and ethnicity. Trend graphs of high school attrition in each Texas county are available online

Exhibit 1: Attrition Rates by Education Service Center Region, 2006-07



* The 20 Texas regional education service centers were set up to help school districts improve student performance in their region, to enable school districts to operate more efficiently and economically; and to implement initiatives assigned by the legislature or the commissioner.

In its inaugural comprehensive study of school dropouts in Texas public schools completed in 1986, the Intercultural Development Research Association in its *Texas School Dropout Survey Project* found that attrition rates ranged from a low of 21 percent in ESC Region 5 (Beaumont) to a high of 43 percent in ESC Region 1 (Edinburg), compared to the state average of 33 percent (see Exhibit 2).

Exhibit 2: 1982-83 and 1985-86 Enrollment, 1985-86 Attrition in Texas Education Service Center Regions

ESC Region	1982-83 9th Grade Enrollment	1985-86 12th Grade Enrollment	1982-83 9-12th Grade Enrollment	1985-86 9-12th Grade Enrollment	Students Lost to Attrition	Attrition Rate (%)
Region 1 (Edinburg)	15,251	9,891	45,208	51,619	7,523	43
Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	7,893	5,708	28,302	28,682	2,291	29
Region 3 (Victoria)	4,227	3,195	15,659	15,289	932	23
Region 4 (Houston)	52,203	34,461	168,587	176,898	20,315	37
Region 5 (Beaumont)	7,285	5,597	26,836	26,038	1,471	21
Region 6 (Huntsville)	8,104	5,651	27,026	28,372	2,857	34
Region 7 (Kilgore)	11,269	8,724	39,876	42,187	3,198	27
Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	3,970	3,035	14,687	14,830	974	24
Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	3,058	2,321	11,161	11,407	804	26
Region 10 (Richardson)	33,285	23,306	111,883	119,395	12,214	34
Region 11 (Fort Worth)	19,737	15,468	69,968	78,058	6,551	30
Region 12 (Waco)	7,158	5,632	26,443	28,026	1,955	26
Region 13 (Austin)	12,967	9,697	43,381	49,662	5,147	35
Region 14 (Abilene)	3,621	2,674	12,580	12,921	1,045	28
Region 15 (San Angelo)	4,033	2,798	13,146	13,460	1,331	32
Region 16 (Amarillo)	5,590	4,323	20,155	20,704	1,419	25
Region 17 (Lubbock)	6,180	4,375	21,933	21,267	1,617	27
Region 18 (Midland)	5,784	3,956	19,691	20,134	1,958	33
Region 19 (El Paso)	10,330	7,024	3,2147	35,105	4,257	38
Region 20 (San Antonio)	21,174	14,451	69,373	74,209	8,199	36
State of Texas	243,119	172,287	818,042	868,263	86,276	33

Figures calculated by IDRA from the Texas Education Agency Fall Membership Survey data. IDRA's 1985-86 attrition study involved the analysis of enrollment figures for public high school students in the ninth grade during 1982-83 school year and enrollment figures for 12th grade students in 1985-86. This period represents the time span when ninth grade students would be enrolled in school prior to graduation. The enrollment data for special school districts (military schools, state schools, and charter schools) were excluded from the analyses since they are likely to have unstable enrollments and/or lack a tax base to support school programs.

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2008

In 2005-06, attrition rates ranged from a low of 18 percent in ESC Region 17 (Lubbock) to a high of 46 percent in ESC Region 1 (Edinburg), compared to the state average of 35 percent (see Exhibit 3).

Exhibit 3: 2002-03 and 2005-06 Enrollment, 2005-06 Attrition in Texas Education Service Center Regions						
ESC Region	2002-03 9th Grade Enrollment	2005-06 12th Grade Enrollment	2002-03 9-12th Grade Enrollment	2005-06 9-12th Grade Enrollment	Students Lost to Attrition	Attrition Rate (%)
Region 1 (Edinburg)	28,266	17,239	81,111	91,334	14,634	46
Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	9,407	6,373	30,480	30,078	2,936	31
Region 3 (Victoria)	5,125	3,398	16,611	15,871	1,529	31
Region 4 (Houston)	78,914	54,726	243,174	267,688	32,902	37
Region 5 (Beaumont)	7,309	5,042	24,036	23,173	2,023	28
Region 6 (Huntsville)	12,710	9,259	40,648	43,856	4,534	32
Region 7 (Kilgore)	13,919	10,114	45,888	46,819	4,289	29
Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	4,606	3,546	15,845	16,330	1,230	25
Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	3,410	2,652	11,844	11,749	741	22
Region 10 (Richardson)	54,288	36,901	166,440	180,475	22,694	37
Region 11 (Fort Worth)	39,176	27,537	122,290	134,297	16,013	36
Region 12 (Waco)	11,546	8,150	38,223	39,240	3,749	31
Region 13 (Austin)	24,828	18,296	81,220	87,262	8,515	31
Region 14 (Abilene)	3,895	2,749	13,563	12,843	959	25
Region 15 (San Angelo)	4,242	3,124	14,753	14,457	1,041	25
Region 16 (Amarillo)	6,360	4,675	21,955	21,912	1,728	26
Region 17 (Lubbock)	6,109	4,785	22,517	21,603	1,104	18
Region 18 (Midland)	6,436	4,463	22,331	21,510	1,790	28
Region 19 (El Paso)	14,362	9,798	45,690	49,169	5,703	37
Region 20 (San Antonio)	28,757	19,563	93,508	96,660	10,211	34
State of Texas	363,665	252,390	1,152,127	1,226,326	137,162	35

Figures calculated by IDRA from the Texas Education Agency Fall Membership Survey data. IDRA's 2005-06 attrition study involved the analysis of enrollment figures for public high school students in the ninth grade during 2002-03 school year and enrollment figures for 12th grade students in 2005-06. This period represents the time span when ninth grade students would be enrolled in school prior to graduation. The enrollment data for special school districts (military schools, state schools, and charter schools) were excluded from the analyses since they are likely to have unstable enrollments and/or lack a tax base to support school programs.

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2008

In 2006-07, attrition rates ranged from a low of 20 percent in ESC Region 17 (Lubbock) to a high of 46 percent in ESC Region 1 (Edinburg), compared to the state average of 34 percent (see Exhibits 1 and 4).

Exhibit 4: 2003-04 and 2006-07 Enrollment, 2006-07 Attrition in Texas Education Service Center Regions						
ESC Region	2003-04 9th Grade Enrollment	2006-07 12th Grade Enrollment	2003-04 9-12th Grade Enrollment	2006-07 9-12th Grade Enrollment	Students Lost to Attrition	Attrition Rate (%)
Region 1 (Edinburg)	29,196	18,015	84,077	95,262	15,098	46
Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	9,243	6,387	30,255	29,965	2,796	30
Region 3 (Victoria)	4,860	3,441	16,472	15,636	1,187	25
Region 4 (Houston)	80,896	56,073	249,109	272,097	33,034	37
Region 5 (Beaumont)	7,098	4,929	23,858	23,164	1,981	28
Region 6 (Huntsville)	12,394	9,464	41,307	44,483	3,940	29
Region 7 (Kilgore)	13,703	9,973	45,981	46,363	3,916	28
Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	4,533	3,533	15,468	15,953	1,176	24
Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	3,374	2,582	11,662	11,414	730	22
Region 10 (Richardson)	53,933	37,579	170,747	182,781	20,695	35
Region 11 (Fort Worth)	39,926	28,884	125,449	137,433	15,305	34
Region 12 (Waco)	11,879	8,374	38,664	39,691	3,875	31
Region 13 (Austin)	24,794	18,843	82,281	90,303	8,528	31
Region 14 (Abilene)	3,901	2,829	13,255	12,975	1,006	26
Region 15 (San Angelo)	4,251	3,213	14,731	14,443	967	23
Region 16 (Amarillo)	6,454	4,883	21,765	22,100	1,712	25
Region 17 (Lubbock)	6,004	4,754	21,879	21,530	1,176	20
Region 18 (Midland)	6,467	4,587	22,156	21,378	1,699	26
Region 19 (El Paso)	14,429	10,105	46,229	50,052	5,549	35
Region 20 (San Antonio)	28,522	19,202	93,384	98,875	11,065	36
State of Texas	365,857	257,650	1,168,729	1,245,898	134,676	34

Figures calculated by IDRA from the Texas Education Agency Fall Membership Survey data. IDRA's 2006-07 attrition study involved the analysis of enrollment figures for public high school students in the ninth grade during 2003-04 school year and enrollment figures for 12th grade students in 2006-07. This period represents the time span when ninth grade students would be enrolled in school prior to graduation. The enrollment data for special school districts (military schools, state schools, and charter schools) were excluded from the analyses since they are likely to have unstable enrollments and/or lack a tax base to support school programs.

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2008

Eight of the 20 education service center regions (40 percent) had lower attrition rates in 2006-07 than in 1985-86, eight (40 percent) had higher rates, and four (20 percent) had rates that remained unchanged (see Exhibit 5).

Exhibit 5: Attrition Rates in Texas Public Schools By Education Service Center Region: 1985-86, 2005-06 and 2006-07					
ESC Region	Attrition Rate (%)			Point Change 85-86 to 06-07	Percent Change 85-86 to 06-07
	1985-86	2005-06	2006-07		
Region 1 (Edinburg)	43	46	46	3	6.98%
Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	29	31	30	1	3.45%
Region 3 (Victoria)	23	31	25	2	8.70%
Region 4 (Houston)	37	37	37	0	0.00%
Region 5 (Beaumont)	21	28	28	7	33.33%
Region 6 (Huntsville)	34	32	29	-5	-14.71%
Region 7 (Kilgore)	27	29	28	1	3.70%
Region 8 (Mount Pleasant)	24	25	24	0	0.00%
Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	26	22	22	-4	-15.38%
Region 10 (Richardson)	34	37	35	1	2.94%
Region 11 (Fort Worth)	30	36	34	4	13.33%
Region 12 (Waco)	26	31	31	5	19.23%
Region 13 (Austin)	35	31	31	-4	-11.43%
Region 14 (Abilene)	28	25	26	-2	-7.14%
Region 15 (San Angelo)	32	25	23	-9	-28.13%
Region 16 (Amarillo)	25	26	25	0	0.00%
Region 17 (Lubbock)	27	18	20	-7	-25.93%
Region 18 (Midland)	33	28	26	-7	-21.21%
Region 19 (El Paso)	38	37	35	-3	-7.89%
Region 20 (San Antonio)	36	34	36	0	0.00%
State of Texas	33	35	34	1	3.03%

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2008

The total number of students lost from public high school public enrollment has increased from 86,272 in 1985-86 to 134,646 in 2006-07 (see Exhibit 6).

- The total number of students lost from enrollment by education service center region in 1985-86 ranged from a low of 804 students in ESC Region 9 (Wichita Falls) to a high of 20,315 in ESC Region 4 (Houston).
- In 2005-06, the total number of students lost from enrollment by education service center region ranged from a low of 741 students in ESC Region 9 (Wichita Falls) to a high of 32,902 in ESC Region 4 (Houston).
- In 2006-07, the total number of students lost from enrollment by education service center region ranged from a low of 730 students in ESC Region 9 (Wichita Falls) to a high of 33,034 in ESC Region 4 (Houston).

**Exhibit 6: Attrition in Texas Public Schools
By Education Service Center Region: 1985-86, 2005-06, & 2006-07**

ESC Region	Attrition Number			Number Change 85-86 to 06-07	Percent Change 85-86 to 06-07
	1985-86	2005-06	2006-07		
Region 1 (Edinburg)	7,523	14,634	15,098	7,575	100.69%
Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	2,291	2,936	2,796	505	22.04%
Region 3 (Victoria)	932	1,529	1,187	255	27.36%
Region 4 (Houston)	20,315	32,902	33,034	12,719	62.61%
Region 5 (Beaumont)	1,471	2,023	1,981	510	34.67%
Region 6 (Huntsville)	2,857	4,534	3,940	1,083	37.91%
Region 7 (Kilgore)	3,198	4,289	3,916	718	22.45%
Region 8 (Mount Pleasant)	974	1,230	1,176	202	20.74%
Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	804	741	730	-74	-9.20%
Region 10 (Richardson)	12,214	22,694	20,695	8,481	69.44%
Region 11 (Fort Worth)	6,551	16,013	15,305	8,754	133.63%
Region 12 (Waco)	1,955	3,749	3,875	1,920	98.21%
Region 13 (Austin)	5,147	8,515	8,528	3,381	65.69%
Region 14 (Abilene)	1,045	959	1,006	-39	-3.73%
Region 15 (San Angelo)	1,331	1,041	967	-364	-27.35%
Region 16 (Amarillo)	1,419	1,728	1,712	293	20.65%
Region 17 (Lubbock)	1,617	1,104	1,176	-441	-27.27%
Region 18 (Midland)	1,958	1,790	1,699	-259	-13.23%
Region 19 (El Paso)	4,257	5,703	5,549	1,292	30.35%
Region 20 (San Antonio)	8,199	10,211	11,065	2,866	34.96%
State of Texas	86,276	137,162	134,676	48,400	56.10%

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2008

In 1985-86, attrition rates ranged from a low of 21 percent in Region 5 (Beaumont) to a high of 43 percent in Region 1 (Edinburg). Twelve of the education service center regions had rates lower than the state average of 33 percent, seven had rates higher than the state average, and one service center had a rate equal to the state average.

The education service center regions with attrition rates lower than the state average included: ESC Region 5 (21 percent), ESC Region 3 (23 percent), ESC Region 16 (25 percent), ESC Region 9 (26 percent), ESC Region 12 (26 percent), ESC Region 7 (27 percent), ESC Region 17 (27 percent), ESC Region 14 (28 percent), ESC Region 2 (29 percent), ESC Region 11 (30 percent), and ESC Region 15 (32 percent). Seven education service center regions had attrition rates higher than 33 percent including ESC Region 6 (34 percent), ESC Region 10 (34 percent), ESC Region 13 (35 percent), ESC Region 20 (36 percent), ESC Region 4 (37 percent), ESC Region 19 (38 percent), and ESC Region 1 (43 percent). The attrition rate for ESC Region 18 matched the state average.

In 2005-06, attrition rates ranged from a low of 18 percent in Region 17 (Lubbock) to a high of 46 percent in Region 1 (Edinburg). Fifteen of the education service center regions had rates lower than the state average of 35 percent and five had rates higher than the state average.

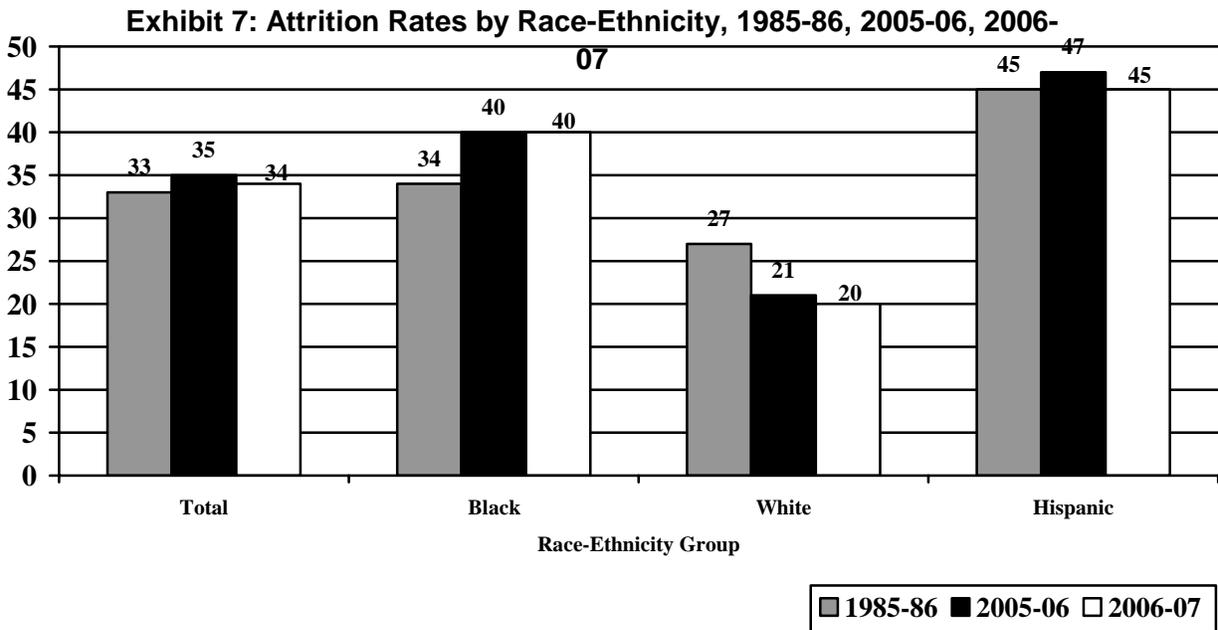
The education service center regions with attrition rates lower than the state average included: ESC Region 17 (18 percent), ESC Region 9 (22 percent), ESC Region 8 (25 percent), ESC Region 14 (25 percent), ESC Region 15 (25 percent), ESC Region 16 (26 percent), ESC Region 5 (28 percent), ESC Region 18 (28 percent), ESC Region 7 (29 percent), ESC Region 2 (31 percent), ESC Region 3 (31 percent), ESC Region 12 (31 percent), ESC Region 13 (31 percent), ESC Region 6 (32 percent), and ESC Region 20 (34 percent). Five education service center regions had attrition rates higher than 35 percent including ESC Region 11 (36 percent), ESC Region 4 (37 percent), ESC Region 10 (37 percent), ESC Region 19 (37 percent), and ESC Region 1 (46 percent).

In 2006-07, attrition rates ranged from a low of 20 percent in Region 17 (Lubbock) to a high of 46 percent in Region 1 (Edinburg). Fourteen of the education service center regions had rates lower than the state average of 34 percent, five had rates higher than the state average, and one region had a rate equal to the state average.

The education service center regions with attrition rates lower than the state average included: ESC Region 17 (20 percent), ESC Region 9 (22 percent), ESC Region 15 (23 percent), ESC Region 8 (24 percent), ESC Region 3 (25 percent), ESC Region 16 (25 percent), ESC Region 14 (26 percent), ESC Region 18 (26 percent), ESC Region 5 (28 percent), ESC Region 7 (28 percent), ESC Region 6 (29 percent), ESC Region 2 (30 percent), ESC Region 12 (31 percent), and ESC Region 13 (31 percent). Five education service center regions had attrition rates higher than 34 percent including ESC Region 10 (35 percent), ESC Region 19 (35 percent), ESC Region 20 (36 percent), ESC Region 4 (37 percent), and ESC Region 1 (46 percent). The attrition rate for ESC Region 11 matched the state average.

Statewide, the attrition rates of Hispanic students and Black students have either remained unchanged or have worsened since 1985-86 (see Exhibit 7). The gaps between the attrition rates of Whites students and Hispanic and Black students have increased.

- The attrition rate for White students was 27 percent in 1985-86, 21 percent in 2005-06, and 20 percent in 2006-07.
- The attrition rate for Hispanic students was 45 percent in 1985-86, 47 percent in 2005-06, and 45 percent in 2006-07.
- The attrition rate for Black students was 34 percent in 1985-86, 40 percent in 2005-06, and 40 percent in 2006-07.



Graphs of attrition by race and ethnicity for each service center region are available online at: www.idra.org.

Exhibit 8: Attrition Rates in Texas Public Schools By Education Service Center Region and Race-Ethnicity, 2006-07

ESC Region	Attrition Rates ¹				Number Lost ²			
	Black	White	Hispanic	Total	Black	White	Hispanic	Total
Region 1 (Edinburg)	44	23	46	46	34	226	14,805	15,098
Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	26	18	36	30	82	426	2,285	2,796
Region 3 (Victoria)	27	10	40	25	123	196	853	1,187
Region 4 (Houston)	42	20	50	37	8,720	5,526	18,239	33,034
Region 5 (Beaumont)	38	22	40	28	846	854	253	1,981
Region 6 (Huntsville)	33	23	45	29	559	1,972	1,336	3,940
Region 7 (Kilgore)	32	21	48	28	942	1,722	1,206	3,916
Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	27	20	45	24	318	570	277	1,176
Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	35	16	38	22	106	376	232	730
Region 10 (Richardson)	41	18	52	35	5,446	3,859	10,974	20,695
Region 11 (Fort Worth)	42	24	52	34	2,849	5,572	6,473	15,305
Region 12 (Waco)	41	22	43	31	1,205	1,326	1,275	3,875
Region 13 (Austin)	40	18	46	31	1,188	2,350	4,792	8,528
Region 14 (Abilene)	44	17	42	26	127	400	468	1,006
Region 15 (San Angelo)	35	11	32	23	55	203	692	967
Region 16 (Amarillo)	43	15	37	25	173	520	991	1,712
Region 17 (Lubbock)	19	8	30	20	90	179	903	1,176
Region 18 (Midland)	37	10	36	26	132	229	1,319	1,699
Region 19 (El Paso)	35	20	37	35	159	247	5,104	5,549
Region 20 (San Antonio)	37	22	42	36	799	1,665	8,516	11,065
Statewide	40	20	45	34	23,845	28,339	80,445	134,676

¹Calculated by: (1) dividing the high school enrollment in the end year by the high school enrollment in the base year; (2) multiplying the results from Calculation 1 by the ninth grade enrollment in the base year; (3) subtracting the results from Calculation 2 from the 12th grade enrollment in the end year; and (4) dividing the results of Calculation 3 by the result of Calculation 2. The attrition rate results (percentages) were rounded to the nearest whole number.

²The aggregate sum of individual regions may not equal the statewide sum due to rounding.

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, February 2008

**Exhibit 9: Attrition Rates in Texas Public Schools
by Education Service Center Region, 2006-07
Rank Order and Rate for All Students**

Rank	ESC Region	Attrition Rate
1	Region 17 (Lubbock)	20
2	Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	22
3	Region 15 (San Angelo)	23
4	Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	24
5	Region 3 (Victoria)	25
5	Region 16 (Amarillo)	25
7	Region 14 (Abilene)	26
7	Region 18 (Midland)	26
9	Region 5 (Beaumont)	28
9	Region 7 (Kilgore)	28
11	Region 6 (Huntsville)	29
12	Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	30
13	Region 12 (Waco)	31
13	Region 13 (Austin)	31
15	Region 11 (Fort Worth)	34
16	Region 10 (Richardson)	35
16	Region 19 (El Paso)	35
18	Region 20 (San Antonio)	36
19	Region 4 (Houston)	37
20	Region 1 (Edinburg)	46

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2008

In 2006-07, the attrition rates for Black students across the education service center regions ranged from a low of 19 percent in ESC Region 17 (Lubbock) to a high of 44 percent in ESC Region 14 (Abilene) and ESC Region 1 (Edinburg). Based on the number of Black students lost to attrition, the number ranged from a low of 34 in ESC Region 1 (Edinburg) to a high of 8,720 in ESC Region 4 (Houston).

**Exhibit 10: Attrition Rates in Texas Public Schools
By Education Service Center Region, 2006-07
Rank Order and Rate for Black Students**

Rank	ESC Region	Attrition Rate
1	Region 17 (Lubbock)	19
2	Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	26
3	Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	27
3	Region 3 (Victoria)	27
5	Region 7 (Kilgore)	32
6	Region 6 (Huntsville)	33
7	Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	35
7	Region 15 (San Angelo)	35
7	Region 19 (El Paso)	35
10	Region 18 (Midland)	37
10	Region 20 (San Antonio)	37
12	Region 5 (Beaumont)	38
13	Region 13 (Austin)	40
14	Region 12 (Waco)	41
14	Region 10 (Richardson)	41
16	Region 11 (Fort Worth)	42
16	Region 4 (Houston)	42
18	Region 16 (Amarillo)	43
19	Region 14 (Abilene)	44
19	Region 1 (Edinburg)	44

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2008

Attrition rates ranged for White students across education service center regions ranged from a low of 8 percent in ESC Region 17 (Lubbock) to a high of 24 percent in Region 11 (Fort Worth) in 2006-07.

**Exhibit 11: Attrition Rates in Texas Public Schools
By Education Service Center Region, 2006-07
Rank Order and Rate for White Students**

Rank	ESC Region	Attrition Rate
1	Region 17 (Lubbock)	8
2	Region 3 (Victoria)	10
2	Region 18 (Midland)	10
4	Region 15 (San Angelo)	11
5	Region 16 (Amarillo)	15
6	Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	16
7	Region 14 (Abilene)	17
8	Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	18
8	Region 13 (Austin)	18
8	Region 10 (Richardson)	18
11	Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	20
11	Region 19 (El Paso)	20
11	Region 4 (Houston)	20
14	Region 7 (Kilgore)	21
15	Region 20 (San Antonio)	22
15	Region 5 (Beaumont)	22
15	Region 12 (Waco)	22
18	Region 6 (Huntsville)	23
18	Region 1 (Edinburg)	23
20	Region 11 (Fort Worth)	24

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2008

In 2006-07, attrition rates ranged for Hispanic students across education service center regions ranged from a low of 30 percent in ESC Region 17 (Lubbock) to a high of 52 percent in both ESC Region 10 (Richardson) and ESC Region 11 (Fort Worth).

**Exhibit 12: Attrition Rates in Texas Public Schools
By Education Service Center Region, 2006-07
Rank Order and Rate for Hispanic Students**

Rank	ESC Region	Attrition Rate
1	Region 17 (Lubbock)	30
2	Region 15 (San Angelo)	32
3	Region 18 (Midland)	36
3	Region 2 (Corpus Christi)	36
5	Region 16 (Amarillo)	37
5	Region 19 (El Paso)	37
6	Region 9 (Wichita Falls)	38
7	Region 3 (Victoria)	40
7	Region 5 (Beaumont)	40
10	Region 14 (Abilene)	42
10	Region 20 (San Antonio)	42
12	Region 12 (Waco)	43
13	Region 8 (Mt. Pleasant)	45
13	Region 6 (Huntsville)	45
15	Region 13 (Austin)	46
15	Region 1 (Edinburg)	46
17	Region 7 (Kilgore)	48
18	Region 4 (Houston)	50
19	Region 10 (Richardson)	52
19	Region 11 (Fort Worth)	52

Source: Intercultural Development Research Association, 2008

Conclusions

The examination of historical trend data on the number and percent of students lost from public school enrollment prior to graduation from high school is becoming increasingly important since distinct trends are emerging on a regional basis. Education service center regions with traditionally high attrition rates include: ESC Region 1 (Edinburg), ESC Region 4 (Houston), ESC Region 10 (Richardson), ESC Region 13 (Austin), ESC Region 19 (El Paso), and ESC Region 20 (San Antonio).

For the most part, the highest attrition rates are concentrated in regions with the largest student enrollment counts, particularly those in urban areas and those with the largest low-income and minority populations.

The state education agency, schools and communities must work collaboratively to strengthen public schools' capacities to improve school holding power. Considering the persistently high attrition rates in some ESC regions, targeted resources and support services to schools and communities in these regions would be both feasible and appropriate.

For the period of 2006 to 2008 as part of high school improvement efforts to improve graduation and college readiness rates, 10 regional education service centers have been charged by the Texas Education Agency to provide assistance to school districts with the highest dropout rates. These 10 regional ESCs include: ESC Region 1 (Edinburg), ESC Region 4 (Houston), ESC Region 7 (Kilgore), ESC Region 10 (Richardson), ESC Region 11 (Fort Worth), ESC Region 13 (Austin), ESC Region 18 (Midland), ESC Region 19 (El Paso), and ESC Region 20 (San Antonio).

In order to guarantee that all students graduate from high school and be college-ready, schools and communities in Texas and around the country must work together to improve school holding power and student success.