

# REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Office of Superintendent of Schools  
Board of Education Meeting of September 13, 2012

**SUBJECT: BOARD MONITORING SYSTEM—GOAL 1, SECTION B: IMPROVE DROPOUT RATE AND COMPLETION RATE**

At the February 11, 2010, meeting, the Board of Education approved on first reading a revised Board Monitoring System in order to efficiently maintain and measure Houston Independent School District's (HISD) goals and core values. The monitoring system was designed to give district administrators clear direction on how to meet the board's expectations in these crucial areas.

Board Policy AE(LOCAL) requires that *"[T]he administration shall report to the Board on each goal and core value using the specific method and timing set out."*

In reference to the district's **Goal 1: Increase Student Achievement**, the attached report provides information regarding section **B: Improve Dropout and Completion Rates**. The policy states that *"the administration shall provide the Board of Education with a report on the progress being made to decrease dropout rates and increase graduation rates. The report shall include data depicting the District's dropout rate and graduation rates as compared to the state averages. In addition, the report shall include analysis of these data by all students and various student groups."*

The attached report provides the annual dropout rates, graduation rates, and Completion Rate I for the district and state for all students and student groups. The district's targets have been included for each measure in the graphs.



## Board Monitoring System: Indicator B

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### Purpose

The Houston Independent School District (HISD) exists to strengthen the social and economic foundation of Houston by assuring its youth the highest-quality elementary and secondary education available anywhere. In fulfilling this goal, HISD's Board of Education has designed a program to systematically monitor the district's goals and core values. The Board Monitoring System will report on each goal and core value on a routine basis. The goal currently under review is to improve the dropout and completion rates among students as measured by the Texas Education Agency (Goal 1, Section B).

#### Findings

##### *Annual Dropout Rate*

- The annual dropout rate (grades 7 and 8) decreased from 0.5 percent in the 2009–2010 school year to 0.3 percent in 2010–2011 (**Figure 1**). HISD continues to decrease the dropout rate as a district and has achieved the lowest dropout rate that the district has ever had.
- HISD's dropout rate of 0.3 percent exceeded the state's dropout rate of 0.2 percent but continues to close the gap with State outcomes (**Table 1**).

##### *Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation Rates*

- HISD graduated the highest percentage of students (78.5 percent) under the state's accountability standards set in 2007 and is increasing annually (**Figure 3**).

##### *Four-Year Longitudinal Completion Status*

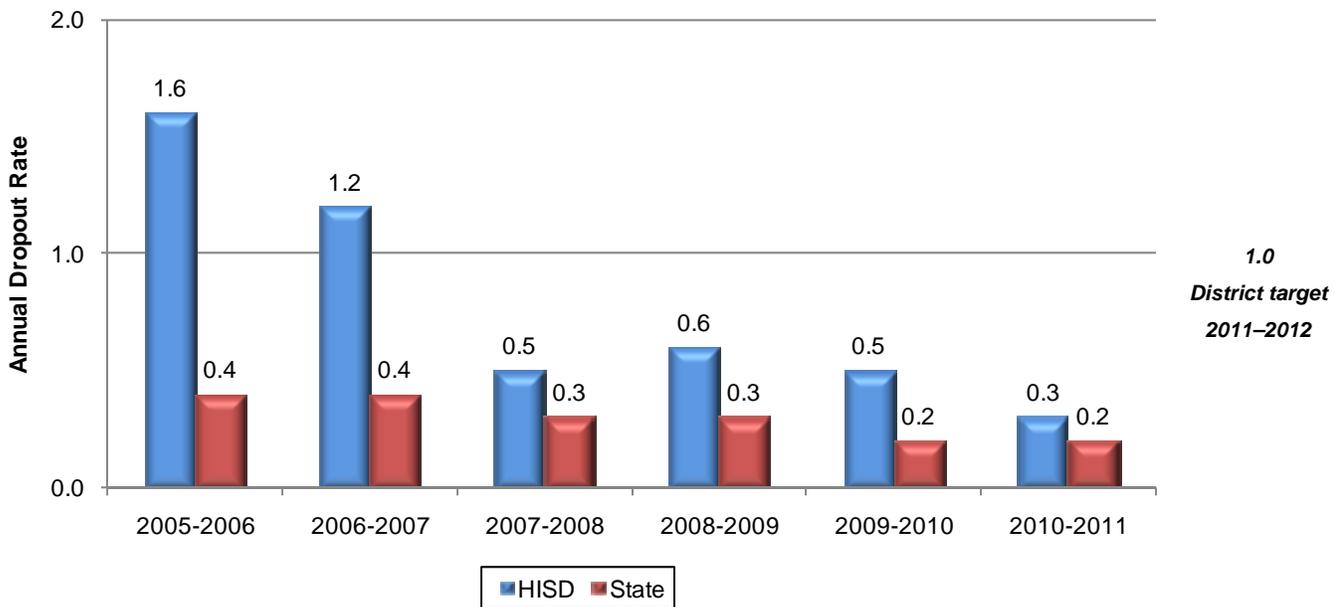
- The percentage of students in the ninth grade cohort who dropped out of school by the end of four years decreased from 12.6 percent for the class of 2010 to 11.8 percent for the class of 2011 (**Table 2**). This is the lowest rate the district has seen since Texas adopted federal dropout definitions.
- The graduation rate for the class of 2011 was 78.5 percent, which is 4.2 percentage points higher than 2010's graduation rate of 74.3 percent.
- HISD's completion rate of 87.6 is the highest percentage of students completing in the district since adopting the federal standards in 2006. The district continues to work towards the goal of 95 percent by increasing completion rates over the last five years (**Figure 4**).
- The district goal of an annual 3 percentage-point increase for the four-year completion rate for all students and for each student group (All, African American, Hispanic, White,

and Economically Disadvantaged) was not met (**Figure 5**). All student groups increased in completion rate from 2010 to 2011, with the exception of the African American group, which decreased 0.1 percentage points.

*Five-Year Graduation Rates*

- HISD’s five-year graduation rates for all students and each student group are lower than the state’s five-year graduation rates for the class of 2010 (**Table 3**).
- The largest graduation gap between HISD (80.6) and the state (88.0) is the All Students group, with a 7.4 percentage-point difference.

**Figure 1: HISD's Annual Dropout Rate for All Students in Grades 7–8  
2005–2006 to 2010–2011**



Source: Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools 2010–2011

**Table 1: Annual Dropout Rate for Grades 7 and 8 for HISD and the State by Student Demographics, 2007–2008 to 2010–2011**

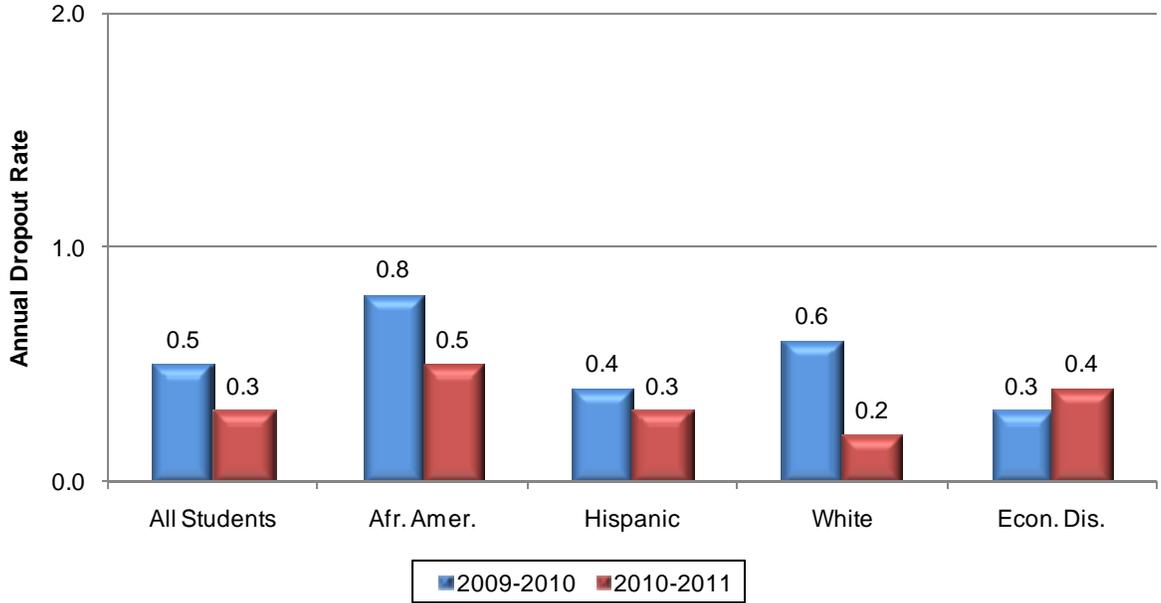
	2007–2008		2008–2009		2009–2010		2010–2011	
	<u>HISD</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>HISD</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>HISD</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>HISD</u>	<u>State</u>
<b>All Students</b>	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.2
<b>African Am.</b>	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.5	0.3
<b>Hispanic</b>	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2
<b>White</b>	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.1
<b>Eco. Disad.</b>	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2

Note:

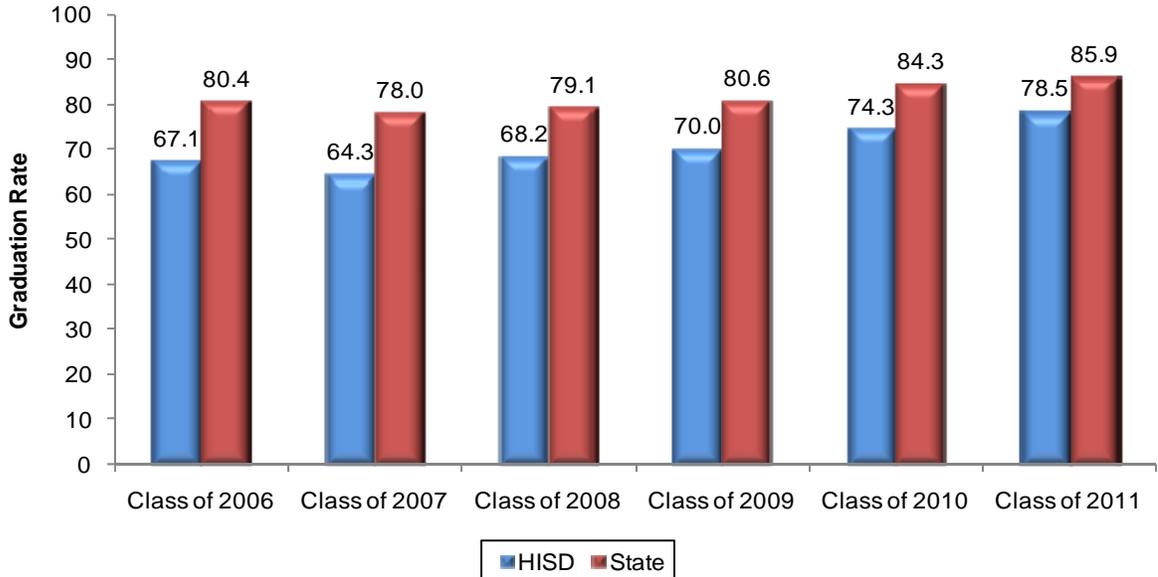
$$\text{Annual Dropout Rate Grades 7 and 8} = \frac{\text{Number of seventh- and eighth-grade students who dropped out at any time during the school year}}{\text{Number of seventh- and eighth-grade students who were in attendance at any time during the school year}} \times 100$$

Source: *Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools 2010–2011*

**Figure 2: Annual Dropout Rate (Gr. 7-8) for All Students and Student Groups in HISD, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011**



**Figure 3: Four-Year Longitudinal Graduation Rate for All Students in HISD and the State, Class of 2006-2011**



Graduation Rate: Based on the ninth grade cohort, this shows the percentage who received their high-school diploma on time or earlier by the end of their twelfth-grade year.

Source: Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools 2010-2011

**Table 2: Four-Year Longitudinal Completion Status for HISD by Student Demographics, Class of 2009–2011**

		2009				2010				2011			
		Grad	GED	Cont	Drop	Grad	GED	Cont	Drop	Grad	GED	Cont	Drop
All Students	HISD	70.0	0.9	13.2	15.8	74.3	0.7	12.3	12.6	78.5	0.6	9.1	11.8
	STATE	80.6	1.4	8.6	9.4	84.3	1.3	7.2	7.3	85.9	1.1	6.2	6.8
African Am.	HISD	68.4	1.0	12.8	17.8	73.7	0.7	11.1	14.4	77.1	0.6	7.5	14.7
	STATE	73.8	1.1	10.3	14.8	78.8	1.0	8.4	11.8	80.9	0.8	7.4	10.9
Hispanic	HISD	65.9	0.8	15.9	17.4	70.7	0.6	14.9	13.8	76.2	0.6	11.3	12.0
	STATE	73.5	1.4	12.7	12.4	78.8	1.3	10.3	9.6	81.8	1.1	8.4	8.7
White	HISD	87.4	1.4	5.2	6.0	87.9	1.8	5.1	5.2	90.1	1.4	4.1	4.5
	STATE	89.7	1.7	4.1	4.5	91.6	1.4	3.5	3.5	92.0	1.2	3.3	3.4
Asian	HISD	87.9	0.6	4.3	7.2	90.5	0.2	6.0	3.2	91.7	0.2	5.1	2.9
	STATE	92.4	0.3	4.3	3.0	93.8	0.3	3.5	2.3	95.0	0.1	3.5	1.4
Eco. Disadv.	HISD	74.6	0.6	11.2	13.6	76.0	0.4	12.7	10.9	80.5	0.5	8.6	10.4
	STATE	78.3	1.2	9.7	10.9	81.9	1.0	9.2	7.8	83.7	1.0	7.6	7.7

Note:

Grad = High School Graduate

GED = Received General Educational Development Certificate

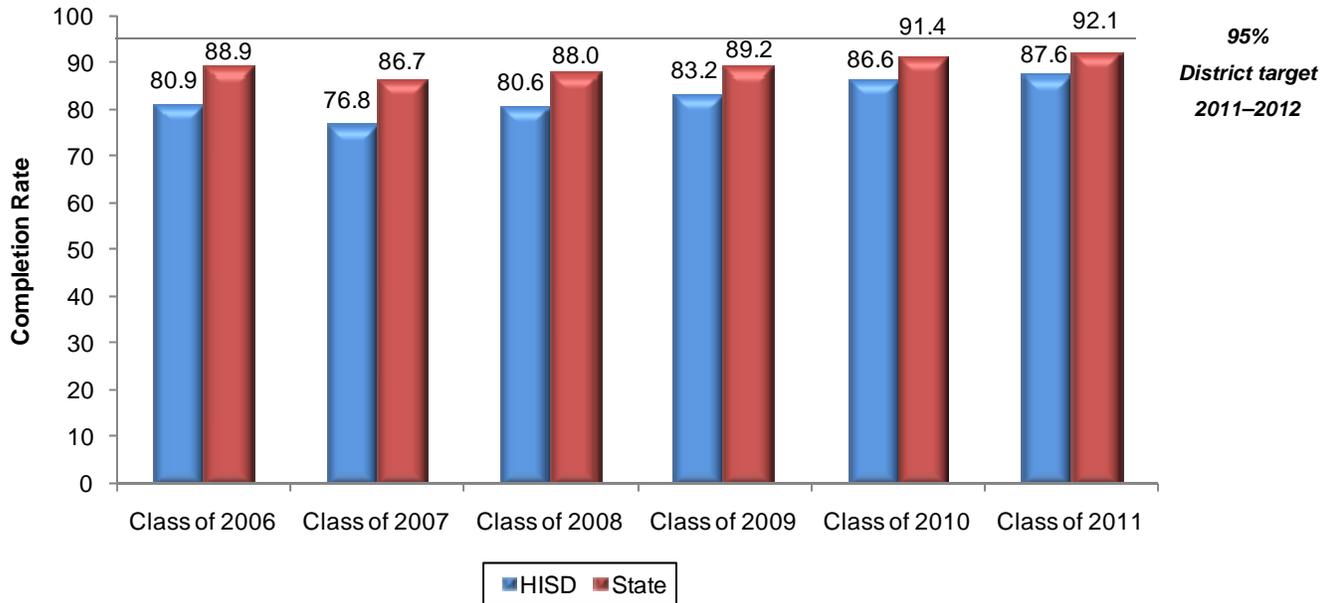
Cont = Still in school after four years

Drop = Dropout

$$\text{Longitudinal Dropout Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of students from the ninth grade cohort who dropped out before the end of twelfth grade}}{\text{Number of students in the 2007–2008 cohort}} \times 100$$

Source: *Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools 2010–2011*

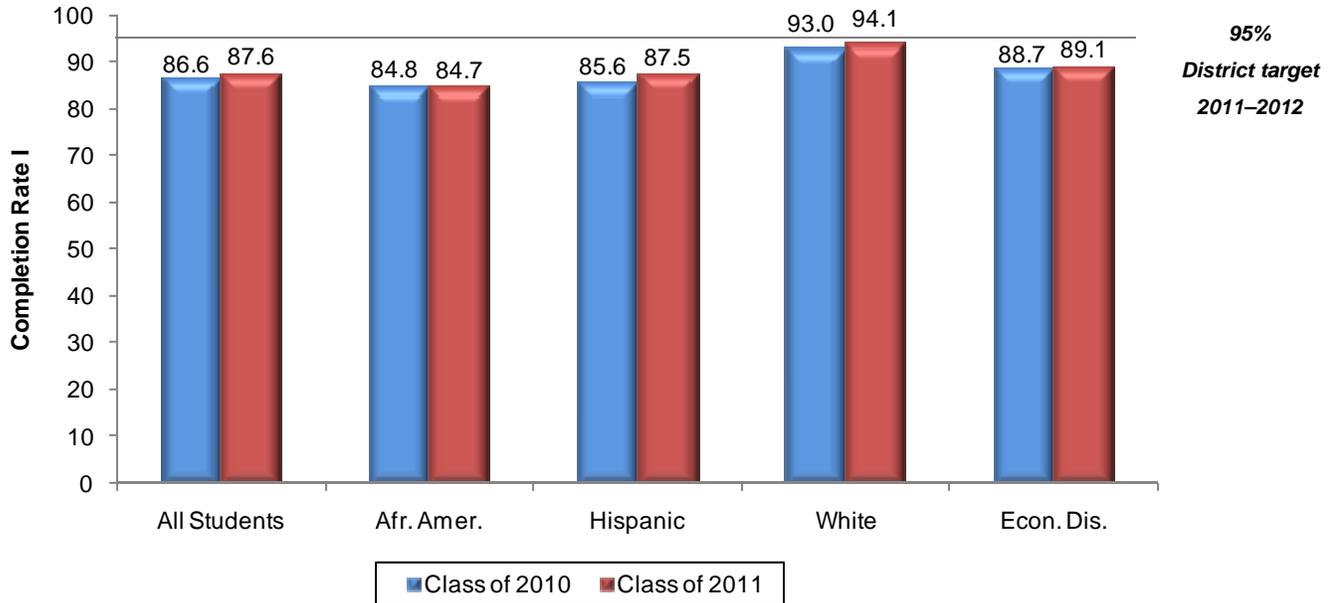
**Figure 4: Longitudinal Completion Rate I\* for All Students in HISD and the State, Class of 2006-2011**



\* Note: Completion Rate I includes graduates and continuers.

Source: Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools 2010-2011

**Figure 5 : Four-Year Completion Rate for All Students and Student Groups in HISD, Class of 2010 and 2011**



Note: Two completion-rate measures have been defined for Texas public-school accountability beginning in 2004. Completion Rate I includes graduates and continuing enrollment and is used in determining campus and district accountability ratings. Completion Rate II includes students who received a GED and is used for rating alternative education campuses.

Completion Rate I formula:

$$\frac{\text{graduates} + \text{continuers}}{\text{graduates} + \text{continuers} + \text{GED recipients} + \text{dropouts}}$$

Source: Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools 2010–2011

**Table 3: Five-Year Graduation Rates for All Students and Student Groups in HISD and the State: Class of 2009 and 2010**

Student Group	2009		2010	
	HISD	State	HISD	State
All Students	76.4%	85.1%	80.6%	88.0%
African American	73.9%	78.8%	78.9%	82.9%
Hispanic	73.9%	80.0%	78.6%	84.0%
White	90.2%	92.1%	90.4%	93.6%
Asian	90.1%	94.7%	94.6%	95.9%
Economic. Disad.	80.5%	83.7%	83.2%	87.0%

Source: Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools 2010–2011