



Board Monitoring System: College and Career Readiness

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 following results inform the progress of the district as it relates to rigorous education, specifically the percentage of students enrolling in higher education within one year of high-school graduation.

Board Monitoring Scorecard				
Rigorous Education	Student Achievement: College and Career Readiness	2012–2013	2013–2014	2014–2015
		Percentage of Students Enrolling in Higher Education Within 1 Year of High School Graduation	58.5*	57.8*

**Reflects updated results*

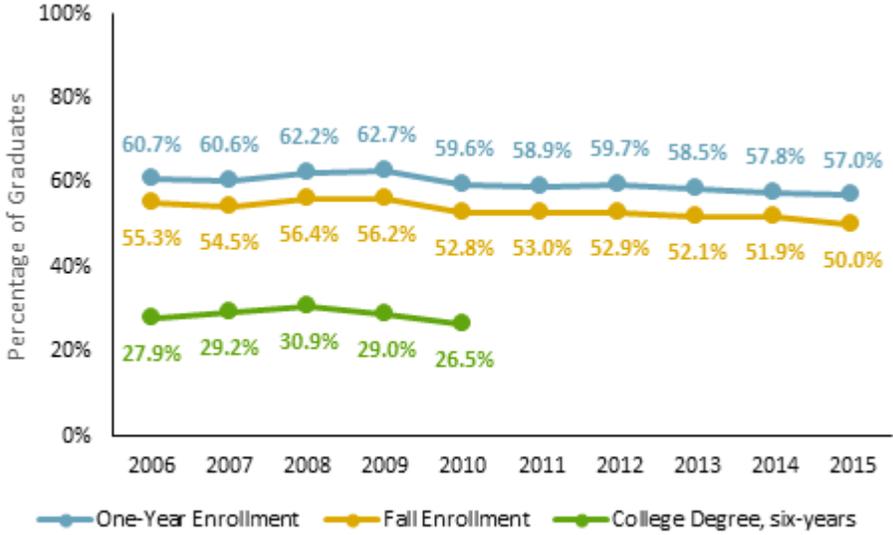
Findings

The percentage of students enrolling in higher education within one year of high-school graduation decreased by approximately 1 percentage point from 57.8 percent in 2014 to 57.0 percent in 2015.

Figure 1 shows the college-enrollment data as the percentage of graduates.

- The one-year enrollment in college decreased from 57.8 percent in 2014 to 57.0 in 2015 but has varied across time. Notably, the one-year enrollment peaked at 62.7 percent in 2009 and has trended downward since then.
- The data from 2006 to 2015 indicates that the college enrollment increases by an average of 6.3 percent from the fall semester to the following spring and summer semesters.
- The rate of college degrees earned within six years after high-school graduation decreased from 27.9 percent for the class of 2006 to 26.5 percent for the class of 2010.

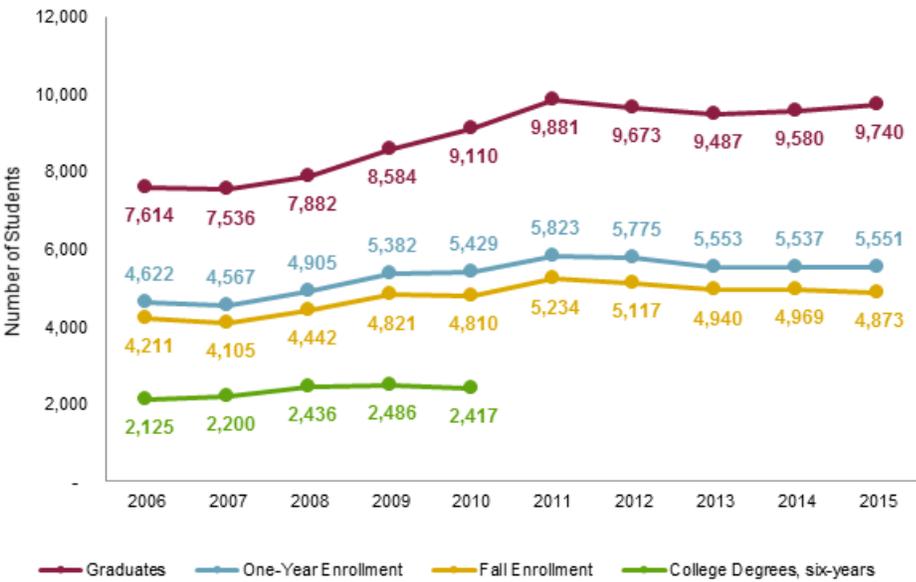
Figure 1. Percentage of Graduates Enrolled in College in Fall and within One Year after Graduation, and College Degrees within Six Years after HS Graduation: 2006–2015



Source: National Student Clearinghouse; August 15, 2016 snapshot

Figure 2 shows the total number of HISD graduates and the number enrolled in college in the fall and within one year after graduation for the period 2006–2015. The number of high-school graduates increased by 2,126 (27.9 percent) in 2015 compared to 2006 while the number of high-school graduates enrolled in college the fall after graduation increased by 662 (15.7 percent), and the number enrolled within one year of graduation increased by 929 (20.0 percent). The number of college degrees awarded within six years of graduation from high school increased from 2,125 (27.9 percent) for the class of 2006 to 2,417 (26.5 percent) for the class of 2010.

Figure 2. Number of Graduates, College Enrollment in Fall and Within One Year After Graduation, and College Degrees Within Six Years After Graduation



Source: National Student Clearinghouse; August 15, 2016 snapshot

Table 1 indicates that the number of graduates enrolled in college within one year of graduation increased by 20.0 percent while the number of high-school graduates increased by 27.9 percent between 2006 and 2015.

Table 1: The Number of HISD Graduates and the Number of Graduates Enrolled in College within One Year of Graduation: Class of 2006 and 2015

Number	2006	2015	Percent Increase
Graduates	7,614	9,740	27.9
Grad. in College within 1 Year	4,622	5,551	20.0

Administrative Response

In 2015–2016, the district launched a college advising initiative across all high schools that significantly increased college application and Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion rates. The district is hopeful that this will translate to an increase in postsecondary enrollment for HISD graduates, as will be reflected in NSC data for the class of 2016 when it is available. Through the expansion of programs such as Futures, early colleges, and dual credit, the district also expects to see an increase in the number of students who graduate from high school already possessing a postsecondary degree or certificate. Often these students are not captured in National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) data, and therefore NSC enrollment data may underestimate levels of post-secondary attainment. The district is looking into ways that it may be able to capture data to reflect students who receive a degree or certificate while in high school.