



**“Great things are happening
in Texas Public Schools.”**

Friends of Texas

Public Schools

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Nine of every 10 high school students in Texas earns diploma

Eighty-eight percent of 300,488 Texas students in the Class of 2008 who began 9th grade together graduated from high school and an additional 1.5% of the same class earned their GED. Nearly 85% of the economically disadvantaged population completed high school. The percentage of African-Americans graduating was 82.8%; percentage of Hispanics graduating was 84.1%; and the percentage of white students graduating was 93%.

SOURCE: http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/research/pdfs/dropcomp_2007-08.pdf (p.56)

Texas ACT scores reach all-time high in 2009

The Texas ACT composite score reached an all-time high in 2009 as did the number of students tested. Scores have increased every year since 2005. ACT English, mathematics and science subtest scores also reached record highs for Texas students. SOURCE: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=5605>

Percentage of Texas schools rated exemplary skyrockets

The percentage of school campuses rated exemplary rose 115% from 1,000 in 2008 to 2,151 in 2009. That represents more than one-fourth of all Texas school campuses. Additionally, the percentage of exemplary school districts in Texas rose 172%, from 43 in 2008 to 117 in 2009.

SOURCE: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=5280>

Texas schools measure up to NCLB requirements

More than 90% of Texas school campuses meet standards required by No Child Left Behind. Additionally, more than 98% of Texas teachers are considered Highly Qualified by NCLB standards. SOURCE: <http://www.ed.gov/nclb/accountability/results/progress/tx.html>

Public schools outperform private schools in math instruction

Recent analyses challenge common wisdom regarding the superiority of private schools relative to public schools. Researchers have found that public-school students outperform their private-school classmates on standardized math tests, based on fourth- and eighth-grade test results on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/02/090226093423.htm>

Nine of every 10 eighth graders pass TAKS reading

In eighth-grade, 319,292 students took the TAKS reading test. This class posted the highest passing rate with 93% passing the test. Forty-eight percent reached the Commended Performance designation.

SOURCE: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=4115>

Evidence shows achievement gaps narrowing

Texas was one of four states that narrowed the black-white achievement gap in eighth-grade math performance between 1990 and 2007, and one of 15 states since 1992 to narrow the math achievement gap between these student groups at fourth grade.¹ Nationally, the eighth-grade white-Hispanic math gap narrowed by 15 points, or 20%, since 1995. The fourth grade white-black math gap narrowed by 20 points and the eighth grade white-black math gap narrowed by 21 points.²

¹SOURCE: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies/gaps/>

²SOURCE: <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2008/12/12092008.html>

Texas scores high marks for college readiness and early childhood education

In Education Week's Quality Counts 2009, Texas scores an 80 in college readiness, compared to the U.S. average of 59.8. Additionally, Texas scores a 90 in early childhood education, compared to the U.S. average of 81.8.

SOURCE: <http://www.fofps.org/QualityCounts09>

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