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## Texas High School Attrition Reaches All-Time Low of 29% for Hispanic Students

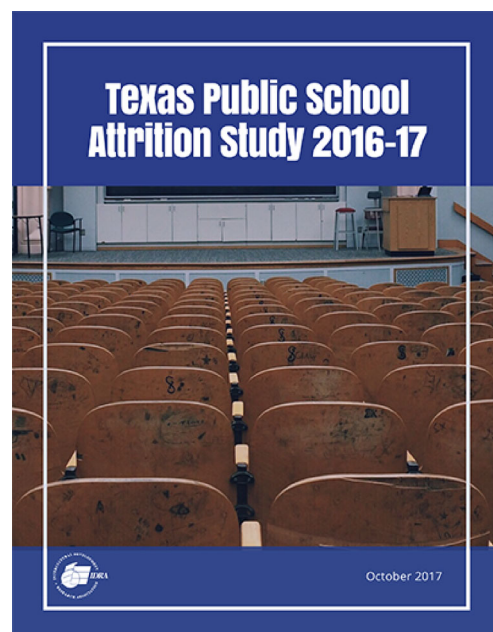
32nd Annual Texas Public School Attrition Study  
Released by IDRA

### Statewide Rate Returns to 24% After One Year Bump

San Antonio (October 31, 2017) - The Pew Research Center reported earlier this month that the high school dropout rate among Hispanic students has shrunk to a new low, continuing a downward trend over the last two decades. Similarly, IDRA's analyses found that the Texas attrition rate of 29 percent for Hispanic students is below 30 percent for the first time in three decades. In 1985-86, when IDRA's attrition studies began, the rate for Hispanic students was 45 percent going as high as 54 percent after that year.

"At 24 percent statewide for all student groups, our high schools are losing one-fourth of their students. It isn't the fact that Texas attrition went down to 24 this year that's important; it's the fact that the number never goes below 24 percent," said Dr.

María "Cuca" Robledo Montecel, IDRA president and CEO. "Also, 29 percent is high for any



student group, but especially for the largest group in the state - Hispanic students. We need to do more than try harder or tweak. Texas has to be serious about investing and being strategic. Since this problem is systemic, the solutions must be as well.

The Intercultural Development Research Association [released detailed findings today](#) from its latest study - which examines time series data. Key findings show:

- Texas is failing to graduate **one out of every four students** - which translates to losing 11 students per hour. The statewide attrition rate is 24 percent (down from 25 percent last year).
- Texas high schools **lost 99,960 students** in 2016-17.
- At this rate, Texas will not reach universal high school education for **another two decades** in 2037.
- Black students and Hispanic students are about **two times more likely to leave** school without graduating with a diploma than White students.
- In the last 32 years, Texas schools have lost a **cumulative total of more than 3.7 million students** from public high school enrollment prior to graduation.

IDRA's [Quality School Action Framework](#) guides communities and schools in identifying weak areas and strengthening public schools' capacities to graduate and prepare all students for success. IDRA's book, *Courage to Connect: A Quality Schools Action Framework™* shows how communities and schools can work together to be successful with all of their students.

IDRA released a report, [College Bound and Determined](#), in February 2014 showing how one south Texas school district transformed itself from low achievement and low expectations to planning for all students to graduate from high school and college. The result was a school district that doubled its number of high school graduates, cut dropout rates in half and increased college-going rates. Half of the district's students are earning college credit while still in high school.

Each fall, IDRA releases its attrition study. The latest study became [available today online](#). Attrition rates are an indicator of a school's holding power, or the ability to keep students enrolled in school and learning until they graduate. IDRA was commissioned to conduct 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. That study in 1986 was the state's first major effort to assess the school holding power of Texas public schools and resulted in state-level policy reforms for the state education agency to count and report dropout data. IDRA is the only organization that has examined Texas attrition rates consistently, with the same methodology, for 32 years.

The annual attrition studies released by IDRA include county-level data by race and ethnicity. [Trend graphs of high school attrition in each Texas county are available online](#). The study includes detailed findings, a supplemental analysis for reaching a rate of zero and graphics showing different types of dropout data.

## **IDRA Attrition Study & Resources Online**

[2017 Study - Texas Public School Attrition Study, 2016-17 \(PDF\)](#)

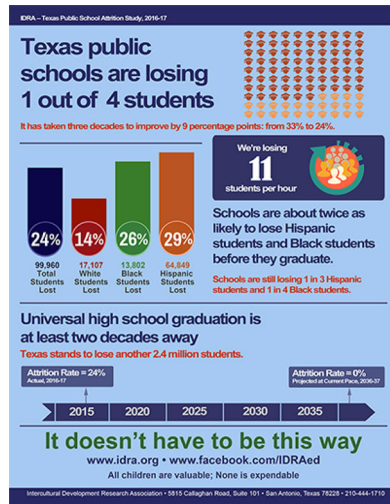
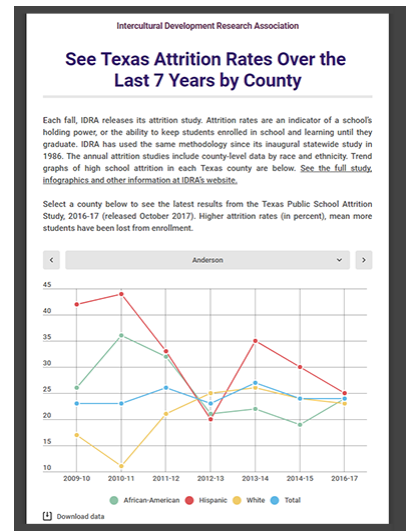
[Look Up Your County](#) - See attrition rates and numbers over the last eight years

[eBook - Types of Dropout Data Defined](#)

[Ideas and Strategies for Action](#)

[Classnotes Podcast: "Counting Dropouts"](#)

[Overview of the Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program](#) , which keeps 98 percent of students in school



**Changes in High School Attrition Rates in Texas Counties**

**127 Counties Where High School Attrition Rates Improved Since Last Year**

Anderson	Colton	East	Hidalgo	Lau	Ochiltree	Stellier
Abernethy	Colman	Floyd	HEP	Liberty	O'Donoghue	Tarrant
Ackerly	Collin	Franklin	Haskell	Limestone	Palo Pinto	Tarrant
Albino	Comanche	Gaines	Houston	Lynn	Palmer	Tarrant
Alford	Concho	Gardner	Hughes	Mason	Parmer	Tarrant
Alford	Concho	Gilbert	Hunt	Martinez	Permian	Tarrant
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Alford	Concho	Gilbert	Hunt	Martinez	Permian	Tarrant
Alford	Concho	Gilbert	Hunt	Martinez	Permian	Tarrant

**87 Counties Where High School Attrition Rates Worsened Since Last Year**

Angelina	Castro	Dimmit	Hemphill	Lampson	Fall	Starr
Anderson	Comanche	Ellis	Henderson	Larson	Franklin	Stephens
Anderson	Comanche	Ellis	Henderson	Larson	Franklin	Stephens
Anderson	Comanche	Ellis	Henderson	Larson	Franklin	Stephens
Anderson	Comanche	Ellis	Henderson	Larson	Franklin	Stephens

**18 Counties Where High School Attrition Rates Are the Same as Last Year**

Austin	Jack	Lamar	McLennan	Shelby	Tarrant	Washington
Comal	Johnson	Levell	Navarro	Tarrant	Waller	Winkler
Comal	Johnson	Levell	Navarro	Tarrant	Waller	Winkler

**21 Counties Where High School Attrition Rates Cannot be Compared with Last Year\***

Collingsworth	Glenn	McMullen	Sevier
Collingsworth	Glenn	McMullen	Sevier

Look up your county to see 10-year trends: [https://texas.idra.org/IDRA\\_Atrition\\_17](#)

\* District lines changed in 2011 and 2013, so we do not show attrition rates for counties that have been newly created, merged or high school or the amount has not been available to calculate for multiple years.

**IDRA RESOURCE**

**Quality School Holding Power Checklist**

IDRA's Quality School Holding Power Checklist provides a set of criteria for assessing and enhancing school holding power. It is designed to help schools and districts identify areas for improvement and to track progress over time.

The Quality School Holding Power Checklist is based on a research synthesis of peer-reviewed research. For more information, evidence and publications, please contact IDRA at [info@idra.org](mailto:info@idra.org).

Since 1973, IDRA has worked to change the way we think about education and the lives of our children. IDRA has led the paradigm shift from "school holding power" to "school holding power" - the idea that schools must hold on to students because of their inherent value, their contributions and their potential significance to their communities and beyond. This shift changed a cultural view of schools from "holding power" and "holding students who are" to "holding a quality school culture that seeks to build on the strengths and develop a partnership with each and every student. To get more information on how to improve holding power, visit [idra.org/IDRAHQ](http://idra.org/IDRAHQ).

The checklist is based on 100 research-based and evidence-based practices for holding power and retention in schools. IDRA and others believe that an increase in holding power for schools is essential to a high-quality education. The checklist is designed to be used as a tool to assess and improve holding power in schools.

What does your score mean?

Score	Level
100-120	High
80-100	Medium
60-80	Low

**Key Characteristics**

- 1. Have clear and aligned mission, goals and objectives.
- 2. Be research- and evidence-based.
- 3. Have evidence that students may be at risk.
- 4. Have evidence that students' academic progress, achievement and overall progress.
- 5. Be engaged in school culture and culture change programs.
- 6. Implement rigorous academic and cultural change programs.

**Student Quality**

- 7. Teachers expect all students will succeed.
- 8. Effective professional development is provided for all teachers.
- 9. Teachers collaborate across grade levels and content areas.
- 10. Teachers are visible and engaged.
- 11. Teachers advocate for their students.
- 12. Teachers have access to all the students' records.
- 13. Teachers have access to all the students' records to enhance student achievement.

**Teacher Engagement**

- 14. Teachers are supported emotionally in education work.
- 15. Teachers are recognized for their contributions to their schools and the profession.
- 16. Teachers are supported in their careers and that demonstrate their leadership and expertise.
- 17. Teachers have an expanded view of their roles.
- 18. Teachers have an expanded view of their roles.
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- 29. Teachers have an expanded view of their roles.
- 30. Teachers have an expanded view of their roles.

**Family and Community Involvement**

- 31. Families are valued partners in their child's education.
- 32. Families and communities partner with schools in ongoing and meaningful ways.

**Instructional Quality and Access**

- 33. Culturally and linguistically appropriate curriculum programs all students receive, participate, and engage with.
- 34. Individualized learning and support is provided when needed.

**Accountable Leadership**

- 35. School leaders are committed to all of their students' success.
- 36. School leaders support all of their teachers and staff in program implementation.
- 37. School environments are safe, supportive, predictable and equitable.

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## Infographic

Texas public schools are losing one out of four students

See Infographic

## County List

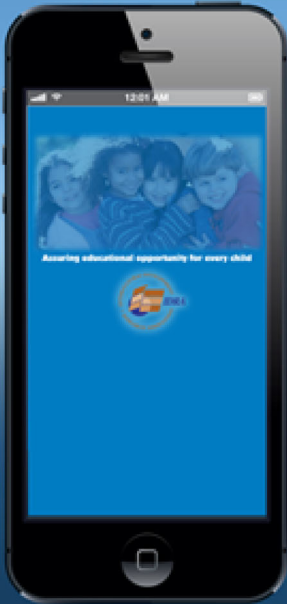
See which counties had attrition rates go up or down

See List

## Checklist

Quality School Holding Power Checklist

See Checklist




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The Intercultural Development Research Association is an independent, non-profit organization. Our mission is to achieve equal educational opportunity for every child through strong public schools that prepare all students to access and succeed in college. IDRA strengthens and transforms public education by providing dynamic training; useful research, evaluation, and frameworks for action; timely policy analyses; and innovative materials and programs.

IDRA works hand-in-hand with hundreds of thousands of educators and families each year in communities and classrooms around the country. All our work rests on an unwavering commitment to creating self-renewing schools that value and promote the success of students of all backgrounds.