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

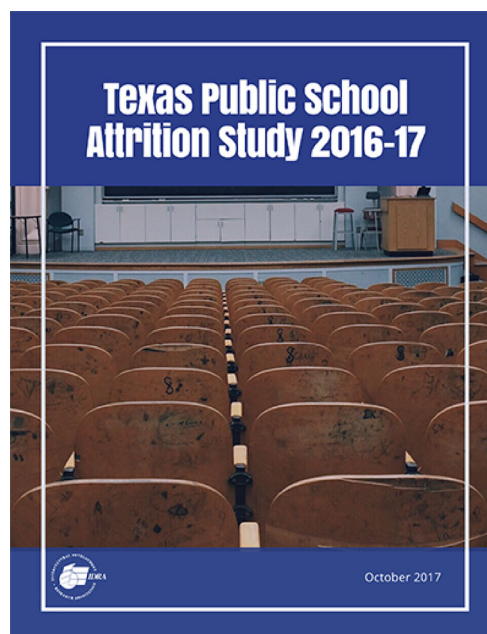
32nd Annual Texas Public School Attrition Study
Released by IDRA

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 \(PDF\)](#)

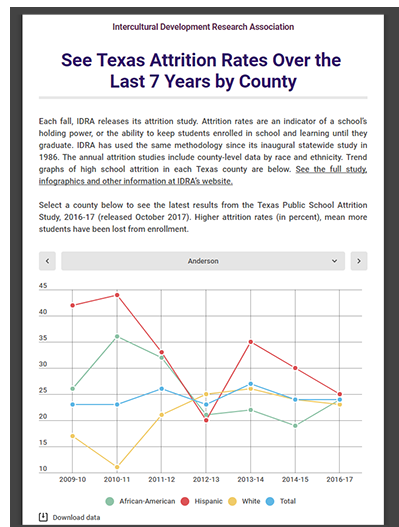
[Look Up Your County](#) - See attrition rates and numbers over the last eight years

[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



Texas public schools are losing 1 out of 4 students

It has taken three decades to improve by 9 percentage points, from 33% to 24%.

Year	Total Students Lost	White Students Lost	Black Students Lost	Hispanic Students Lost	
2015	99,850	24%	14%	28%	29%

We're losing 11 students per hour

Schools are about twice as likely to lose Hispanic students and Black students before they graduate.

Schools are still losing 1 in 3 Hispanic students and 1 in 4 Black students.

Universal high school graduation is at least two decades away

Texas stands to lose another 2.4 million students.

Attrition Rate = 24% (Actual 2015) | Attrition Rate = 0% (Projected at Current Rates 2030-2037)

It doesn't have to be this way

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All children are valuable; None is expendable

Changes in High School Attrition Rates in Texas Counties										
127 Counties Where High School Attrition Rates Improved Since Last Year										
Anderson	Call	Faith	Hidalgo	Lavaca	Oldham	Saunder				
Austin	Callahan	Flint	Hill	Liberty	Oldham	Tarrant				
Delton	Collin	Ford	Hockley	Limestone	Palo Pinto	Tarrant				
Armstrong	Comanche	Fresno	Hood	Lynn	Parker	Texas				
Baylor	Combel	Gaines	Houston	Madison	Pelham	Texas				
Brewster	Cook	Garland	Haskell	Marshall	Philo	Texas				
Brewster	Cooper	Gillespie	Hart	Martinez	Polk	Texas				
Brewster	DeWitt	Goff	Hill	Maricopa	Preuss	Texas				
Beck	Donnan	Gonzales	Hoffman	McCallum	Rubens	Texas				
Beck	Dolan	Grady	Holmes	McCombs	Rockwall	Texas				
Beck	Dumas	Harris	Hood	Mitchell	Rockwall	Texas				
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8 Counties Where High School Attrition Rates Worsened Since Last Year										
Anglin	Comal	Dwight	Hemphill	Lampasas	Palm	Starr				
Anson	Comanche	Elliott	Henderson	Lavaca	Parmer	Stephens				
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8 Counties Where High School Attrition Rates are the Same as Last Year										
Amn	Irish	Lamar	McLennan	Shelby	Tarrant	Washington				
Carr	Johnson	Larson	Nolan	Tarrant	Tarrant	Wichita				
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21 Counties Where High School Attrition Rates Cannot be Compared with Last Year										
Calhoun	Gilmer	McMullen	Spivey							
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IDRA Quality School Holding Power Checklist

Since 1975, IDRA has worked to change the way we think about education for all children. IDRA has led the way in developing the concept of "Quality Schooling". One of the most significant things that IDRA has done is to develop this concept of "Quality Schooling".

Key Characteristics

1. It is realistic and evidence-based.
2. It recognizes that students are the center of the school.
3. It is based on a different paradigm for learning.
4. It is a long-term process that requires sustained effort.
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Infographic

Texas public schools are losing one out of four students

See Infographic

County List

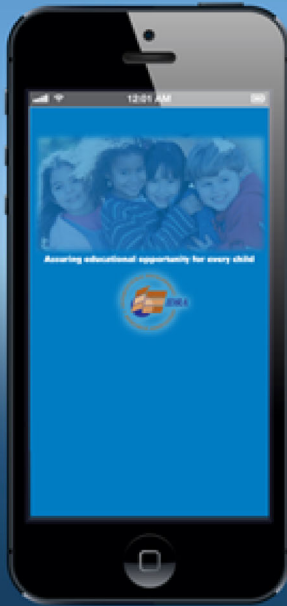
See which counties had attrition rates go up or down

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.