

# Major Policy Discussion

Initiatives to support direct-to-college enrollment  
for high-achieving high school graduates

April 28, 2022

1

## Presenters

**Lori Fey**

*Deputy Commissioner, Data Analytics and Innovation*

**Jerel Booker**

*Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Academic Affairs and Workforce Education*

**Suzanne Morales-Vale**

*Senior Director, Student Success*

**Matt Parson**

*Assistant Commissioner, Workforce Innovation*

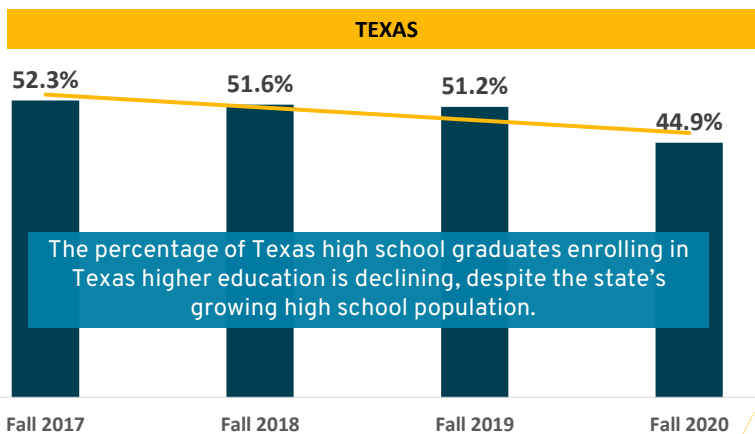
2

# Data Insights

Lori Fey

3

## High school to higher education enrollment is declining



The percentage of Texas high school graduates enrolling in Texas higher education is declining, despite the state's growing high school population.

### TEXAS & OUT-OF-STATE

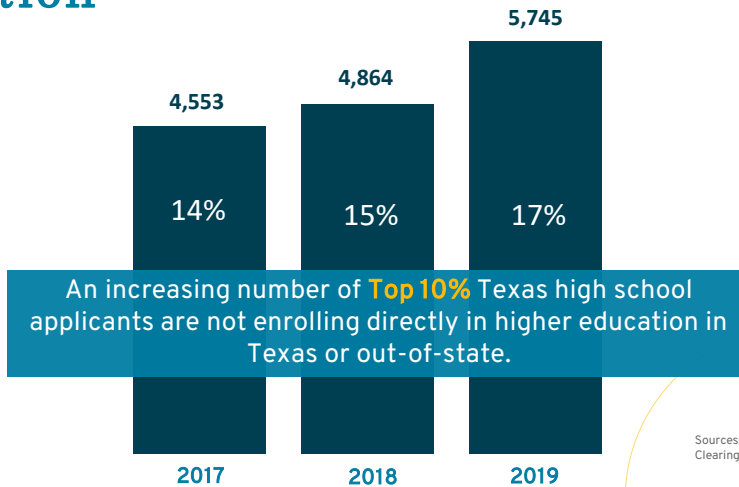
The percentage of Texas high school graduates enrolling directly in higher education in **Texas and out-of-state** is declining.

- Fall 2017: 60.4%
- Fall 2018: 59.2%
- Fall 2019: 57.7%

Sources: HS Graduates Enrolled in Higher Education report, National Student Clearinghouse, TEA graduate file

4

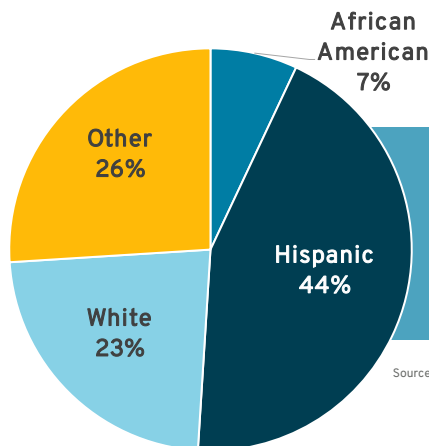
## Increasing number of Top 10% high school graduates are not enrolling in higher education



Sources: TEA graduates file, National Student Clearinghouse, CBM001, CBM00B

5

## In 2019, 3 of 4 non-enrolled Top 10% students were from underrepresented populations



Of the 17% of these Top 10% applicants who do not directly enroll anywhere in Texas or the U.S., **3 out of 4** students were from underrepresented populations

Sources: TEA graduates file, National Student Clearinghouse, CBM001, CBM00B

6

# Advancing Equity for the Benefit of All Texans

In raw numbers, Texas grew more than any other state over the past decade, and more than 95% of that growth was in communities of color. Data for *Talent Strong Texas* indicators will be disaggregated and reported by race, gender, income level, and geographic area to monitor that all goals are being advanced equitably and all Texans have opportunities to succeed.

# Texas First Early High School Completion Program and Scholarship

Jerel Booker & Suzanne Morales-Vale

## Overview and Purpose

Nearly 6,000 Texas students graduating in the Top 10% are missing from our higher education enrollments

- Texas is losing academically talented students, including African-American, Hispanic, and other underrepresented populations
- Keeping these students in Texas will contribute to our commitment to equity in *Building a Talent Strong Texas*

## Why the Texas First Program?

Promote efficiency in the state public education system and incentivize the enrollment of high performing students at eligible institutions

- Allows public high school students who demonstrate early readiness for college to **graduate early** from high school
- Eligible students **receive a scholarship** credit equivalent up to one year of the TEXAS Grant

## Eligible Institutions

University of Texas at Austin	Texas A&M University
University of Texas at Arlington	Texas State University
Texas Tech University	University of Texas at Dallas
University of Houston	University of Texas at El Paso
University of North Texas	University of Texas at San Antonio

\*Research and Emerging Research universities, as required by the Texas First statute (TEC 28.0253)

11

## Collaborative Approach

Agency staff collaborated with enrollment and admissions leadership at **eligible institutions as well as TEA staff** to craft proposed rules that established student eligibility

- Overall academic knowledge and skills and by specific subject areas
- Designed to also consider **social/emotional maturity** for early admissions

12

## Program Design

Students work with their high school counselor to **determine best options** to demonstrate early academic readiness and eligibility requirements

**School district issues diploma** to students who meet eligibility requirements, equivalent to distinguished level of achievement

Students are **not guaranteed admission** to the institution based solely on the completion of the Texas First Diploma; **students must still complete the admissions process**

**THECB issues a scholarship credit** to graduates for use at eligible institutions

13

## Next Steps for Implementation

Proposed rules published in <i>Texas Register</i>	April 20, 2022
30-day Public Comment Period	April 29-May 29, 2022
Board Consideration for Approval	July 28, 2022
Effective Date*	August 17, 2022
Texas First High School Graduate	December 2022
Texas First Enrollment at Eligible Institution	January 2023 (Spring)

14

## Outreach Campaign

- Texas OnCourse counselor/advisor modules
- Statewide webinars
- Informational brochures
- Downloadable documents on TEA and THECB websites

15

# Texas Leadership Scholars Program

Matt Parson

16



# Texas Leadership Scholars Program

...will serve as the state's **premier merit-based scholarship and leadership development** opportunity for high-achieving, emerging leaders who are low-income.

Scholars will have 100% of their board designated tuition and fees covered, through a combination of federal, state, and institutional aid, plus a room and board stipend.

## Goals of the Program

- Create a **premier leadership program** in Texas with multiple participating institutions across the state
- Increase the number of high-achieving, low-income Texans to stay in Texas for their post-secondary education
- Roll out the first cohort in fall 2022

## Student Eligibility

- Evidence of leadership and service within their high school and community
- Scholastic record and ability
- Demonstrated financial need, as evidenced by the completion of FAFSA or TASFA
- TEXAS Grant eligible
- Graduation from an accredited Texas High School
- Accepted to a participating public 4-year institution

19

## Student Experience

- Cohort design
- Access and opportunity
- Mentorship
- Internship (*stipends available*)
- Scholar's conference
- Study abroad

20

# Career-Building Opportunities

- Strengths and leadership assessment
- Resume writing
- Group service projects
- Networking events to enhance communication skills and relationship-building
- Developing an “elevator speech”
- LinkedIn and other social media branding
- Value of diversity of opinions and life experience in teams and businesses
- Preparation for graduate or professional education

21

# Questions?

22