

Decline in Direct from  
High School  
Enrollment Rates,  
2014 to 2016



Texas Higher Education  
Coordinating Board

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The **60x30TX** completion goal includes a target of increasing the percentage of Texas public high school graduates enrolling directly into Texas colleges.

Percentage of all Texas public high school graduates enrolling in Texas institutions of higher education by the first fall semester after their high school graduation	Plan Year	Recent Trend Years		Target
	2014	2015	2016	2030
	54%	53%	52%	65%

This is one of two targets in which performance has declined.

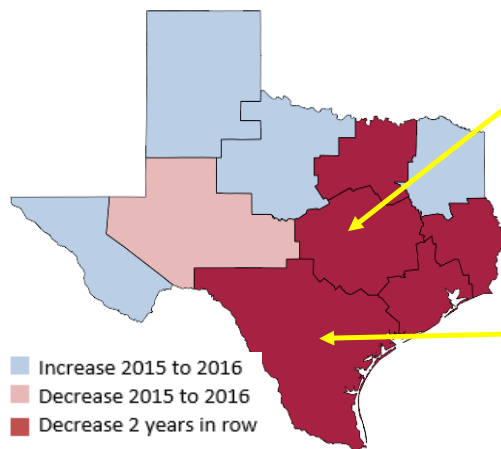


## Two primary factors appear to be driving the decrease

- Growing population of high school graduates
  - Texas population growth
  - Changes to high school graduation policies
- Lower college-going rates among the growing segments of that population



Five regions, including the 4 most populated, declined 2 years in a row.



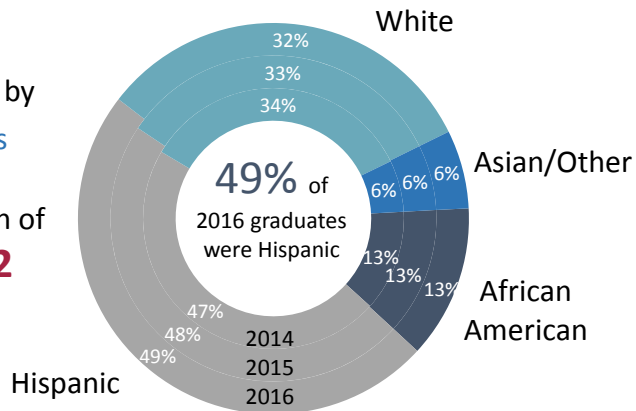
Central Texas had the fastest growth in the *number* high school graduates (11%), but the enrollment *rate* decreased (-2 percentage points) because enrollments did not keep pace.

South Texas had the largest decline in direct-from-high school college enrollment *rate* from 2014 to 2016 (-3 percentage-points).

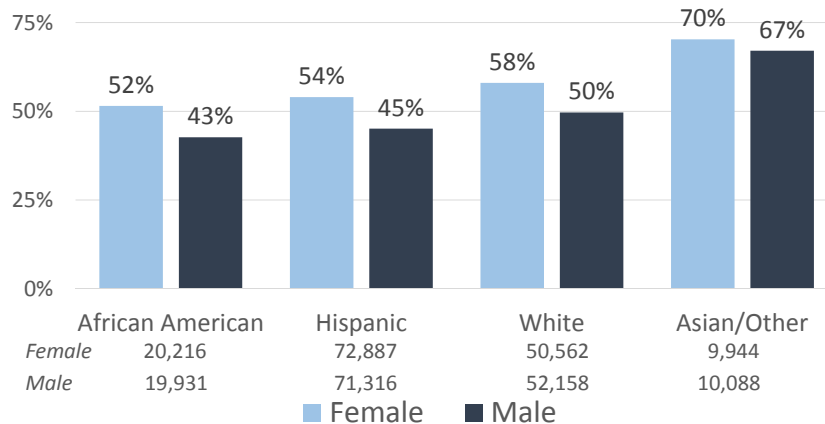


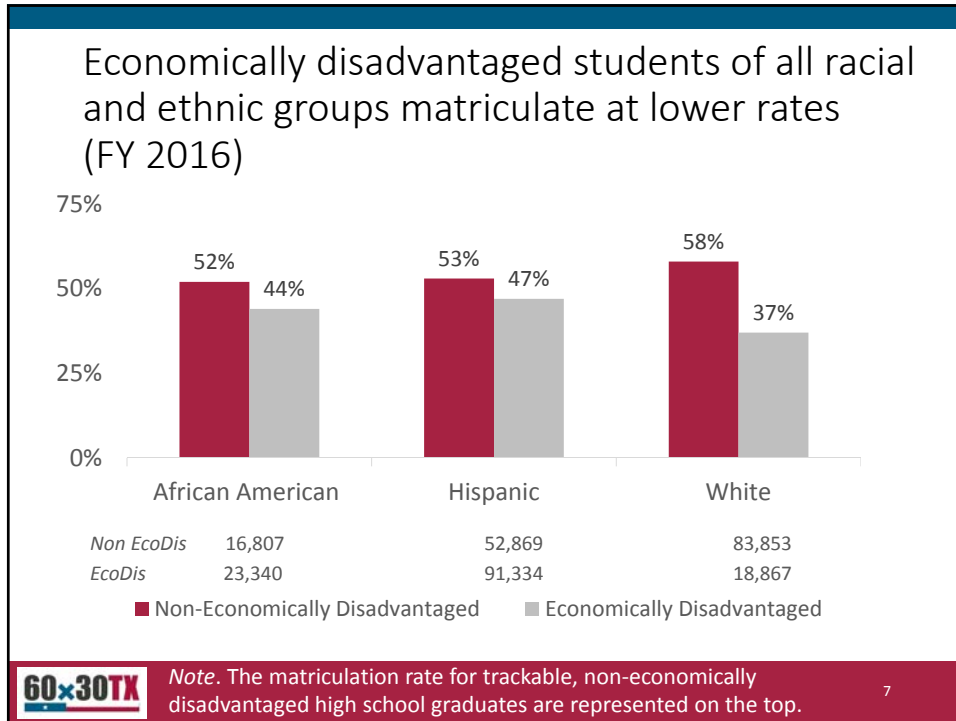
Hispanics were the fastest growing demographic among Texas public high school graduates.

The proportion of Hispanics increased by 2 percentage points from 2014 to 2016, while the proportion of whites declined by 2 percentage points.



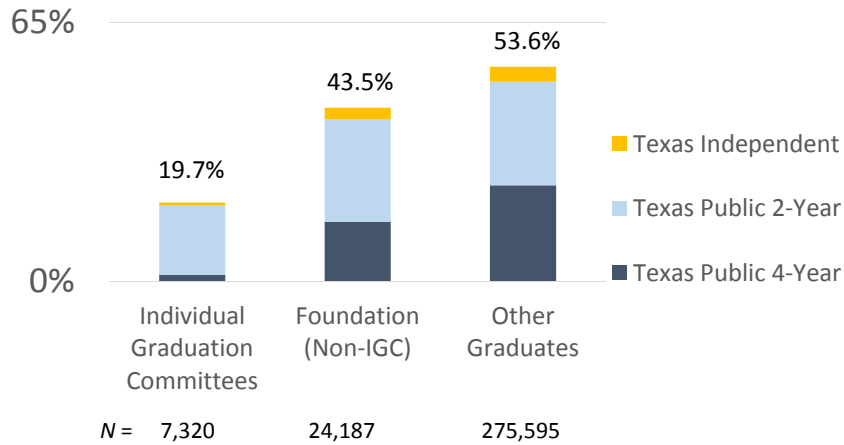
Hispanics and African Americans continued to have the lowest enrollment rates (FY 2016).



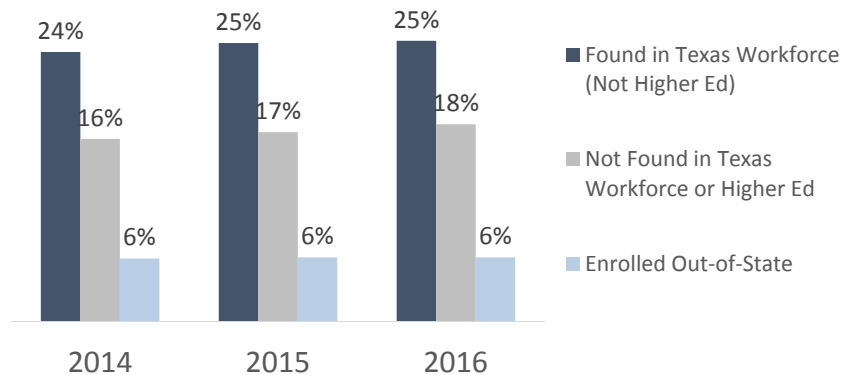


- ### Two major policy changes affected the classes of 2015 and 2016
- **H.B. 5 (83rd Legislature, 2013)** Foundation Program Optional
    - 2015 and 2016 grads could opt in to the Foundation Program
      - Fewer years of math, science, and social studies required
      - Required default for 2017-2018 graduates
  
  - **S.B. 149 (84th Legislature, 2015)** Individual Graduation Committees
    - Determine graduation for students who did not meet end of course requirements
- 60x30TX** 8

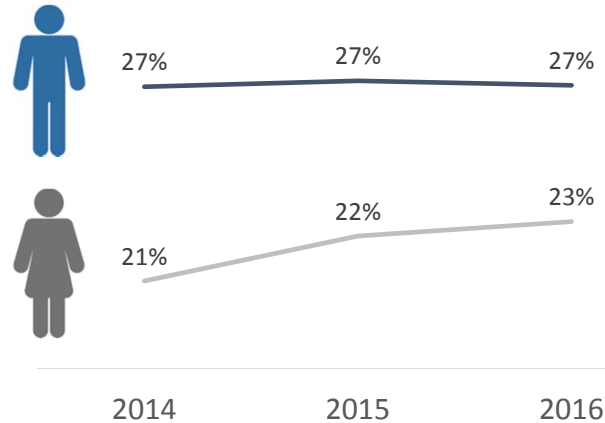
2016 graduates under the optional foundation plan and individual graduation committees had *lower* matriculation rates than those who did not.



More high school grads are working or not found in either the workforce or higher ed



More women are entering the workforce and not college after high school.



## Key Takeaways

- Policy changes at the secondary level have affected the college transition rate among Texas high school graduates
- Economically disadvantaged students and males students continue to have the lowest enrollment rates
- More women are entering the workforce and not enrolling in college directly after high school
- Higher education and K-12 will need to work together to prepare and support students if Texas is to reach the 65% target for direct high school to college enrollment by 2030

