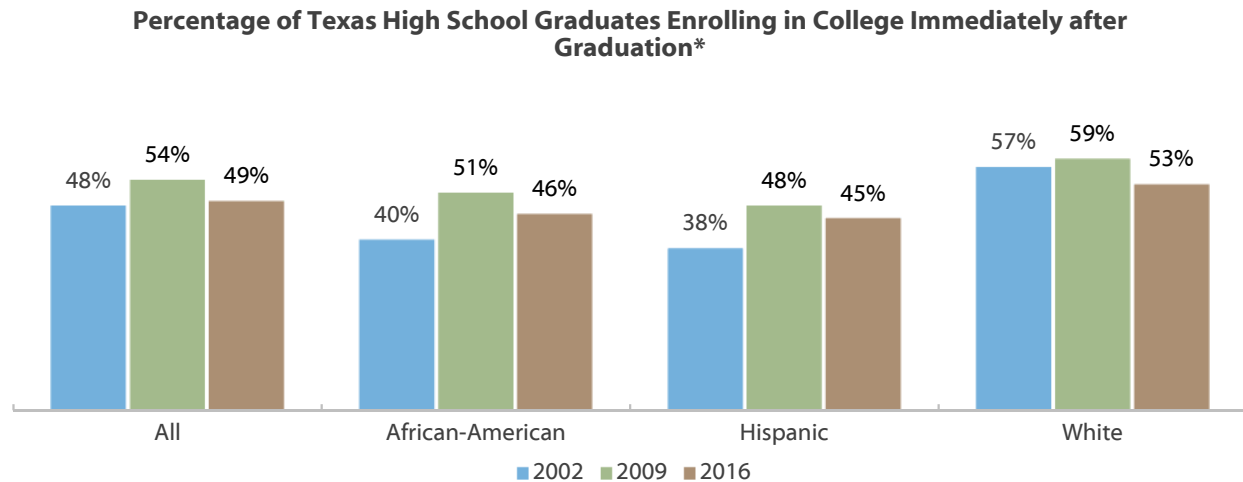


About Half of Texas High School Graduates Enroll in College Immediately after High School



In 2000, Texas set the goal of “Closing the Gaps” in participation and success in higher education by 2015 by increasing the number of students enrolled and the number of degrees awarded. The new 15-year plan, 60x30TX, began in 2015, building on the goals and results of the “Closing the Gaps” plan.

In 2002, 48 percent of all Texas high school graduates entered college in the summer or fall immediately after high school graduation. This increased to 54 percent in 2009, but has been steadily declining slightly each year since to 49 percent in 2016. This overall trend holds for the individual racial/ethnic groups – the rates reach a high point in 2009 and then fall slightly each year after until 2016.

The percentage of White students who enroll still exceeds the percentage of non-Whites; however, this gap is closing. There was a 19-percentage point gap between White students and Hispanic students in 2002 which shrank to 8 percentage points by 2016, due both to rising college enrollment rates among Hispanic students and dropping rates among White students. A similar trend is seen comparing African-American students to White students. Keeping track of college enrollment immediately following high school graduation is important because delaying postsecondary enrollment after high school graduation is a risk factor for eventually dropping out of college or never enrolling.

* Includes only Texas high school graduates who enrolled in a Texas public or private, nonprofit college or university. Data on students who enrolled at proprietary institutions or enrolled in out-of-state schools are not available. In AY 2007–2008, about 93 percent of Texas students who enrolled in college immediately after high school graduation were attending school in their state of residence.

Sources: “Closing the Gaps” goals: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) *Closing the Gaps*, October 2000 (<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/0379.PDF?CFID=11742258&CFTOKEN=38987795>); Texas high school students enrolling in college immediately after graduation: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) High School to College Linkages, 2016, “High School Graduates Enrolled in Higher Education the Following Fall: State Summary by Ethnicity and Higher Education Sector, Fall 2000 to Fall 2016” (<http://www.txhighereddata.org/index.cfm?objectid=2783AAA6-ADCB-E35A-5BFC8F501DC1D65A>).

