



POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT SUMMARY REPORT: CLASSES OF 2002-2004

INTRODUCTION

This report describes the rate of postsecondary enrollment by Austin ISD high school graduates from the classes of 2002-2004. Aggregate data collected from three separate sources indicate little overall change in the percentages of Austin ISD graduates from the classes of 2002-2004 who enrolled in postsecondary institutions in either the fall or spring semester following their high school graduation. Results are displayed according to data source, enrollment semester, and whether the institution was in Texas. Disaggregated results by school, gender, and race/ethnicity are presented only for the fall semester following graduation. The results presented here may serve as a baseline for evaluating ongoing efforts to increase the percentage of Austin ISD graduates who enter college or other postsecondary institutions.

BACKGROUND

In recent years the leadership for the Austin Independent School District has intensified its commitment to prepare the district's high school students for college. AISD's Board of Trustees and superintendent believe that beyond serving as a means to a diploma, high schools have a duty to encourage and to enable their students to obtain postsecondary education. As stated in the Board Governance Results Policy regarding College and Career (R-3), students should "demonstrate and understand the skills and knowledge to successfully enroll in postsecondary education..." Programs such as the College Readiness Initiative, GEAR UP, and the Austin ISD-ACC College Connection reflect this commitment. These programs emphasize the benefits of attending college, teach advanced study habits, and guide students through the various steps of the application and enrollment process (e.g., taking necessary tests, earning Advanced Placement credit, making college visits, obtaining financial aid). This report does not seek to evaluate the direct effects of these or any other individual programs, but rather to provide a baseline from which to evaluate the overall success of AISD's ongoing efforts to help students advance to postsecondary educational institutions. While previous Board policy monitoring reports have included information regarding the district's progress on certain indicators such as college acceptance rates, final transcript requests, and student self-reported postsecondary intentions, this report serves to supplement those data with information concerning verifiable records of postsecondary enrollment of AISD graduates.

Specifically, the

spring semester after their high school graduation. For this report, postsecondary institutions include all public and private colleges and universities, as well as trade and technical schools. The report also presents enrollment of AISD graduates at Austin Community College and postsecondary enrollment rates in fall semesters for each graduating class by school, gender, and race/ethnicity.

METHODOLOGY

The data used to calculate postsecondary enrollment rates came from three sources: the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC), and the National Center for Educational Accountability (NCEA). The THECB provided the most comprehensive data regarding fall college enrollment in Texas schools. These data included aggregate counts of students who graduated from Texas public high schools and enrolled in Texas colleges (public or private) in the fall semester after their high school graduation. THECB also provided fall enrollment counts in Texas schools by gender and race/ethnicity for each AISD high school. The in-state enrollees captured by THECB data represented a majority of all AISD graduates who enrolled within a year of graduation.

While THECB data were used to obtain in-state postsecondary enrollment counts for each fall semester, other data were used to supplement these figures with information regarding in-state trade and technical schools, in-state spring enrollment

The determination of postsecondary enrollment rates for Austin ISD students involved two steps. First, students were classified based on whether and where (“within Texas” or “out-of-state”) they were enrolled in the fall semester following their high school graduation using NSC and THECB data. Next, NCEA data for Texas public schools and NSC data for out-of-state and Texas private schools were used to determine the additional students who were enrolled for the first time in the following spring semester. Thus, the enrollment counts indicated below represent the sum of each student who has a record of attending a postsecondary institution in either the fall or spring semester after graduating from high school.

Enrollment rates by high school, gender, and race/ethnicity are presented only for the fall semesters because disaggregated data for spring semesters were not available from the NCEA at the time of the report. Thus, the overall AISD enrollment rates by gender and race/ethnicity for each graduating class are slightly lower than those reported for both fall and spring semesters, combined.

TABLES & RESULTS

Overall counts of fall and spring enrollment in postsecondary institutions as determined by each data source are shown in Table 1.

**I. In-State and Out-of-State Postsecondary Enrollment
By Semester and Data Source**

National Student Clearinghouse	Texas Higher Educ. Coord. Board	Natl. Center for Educational Accountability	Total Enrollment
9	1,609	-	1,618
9	-	196	205
209	-	-	209
7	-	-	7
			2,039
24	1,696	-	1,720
12	-	169	181
			0
234	-	-	234
12	-	-	12

number of Austin ISD graduates for each school year to calculate the postsecondary enrollment

**5. Number and Percent of AISD Graduates Enrolled at ACC vs. Other
Postsecondary Institutions (Spring or Fall semester)**

67% as of fall 2004. Asian/Pacific Islander enrollment rates have fluctuated more than have the rates for other groups from year to year, which is likely a reflection of the relatively smaller Asian/Pacific Islander graduating class sizes (from 97 to 116 students).

Finally, Austin ISD graduates enrolled most commonly in Austin Community College. The rate of student enrollment at ACC, like that of postsecondary enrollment overall, changed little from 2002 to 2004. The percentage of AISD graduates enrolled in ACC was 20.3% for the classes of 2002 and 2003, and 19.6% for the class of 2004. Expressed as a percentage of all AISD postsecondary enrollees from each class, the enrollment rate at ACC decreased slightly from 36.9% for the class of 2002 to 36.5% for the class of 2003, and then to 35.1% for the class of 2004.

SUMMARY

Aggregate data collected from three separate sources show small, yet positive, overall changes in the percentages of Austin ISD graduates from the classes of 2002-2004 who enrolled in postsecondary institutions in the first year after high school. Results are displayed according to data source, enrollment semester, and whether the institution was in Texas. The overall rate of postsecondary enrollment increased slightly from 55.0% for the class of 2002 to 55.6% for the class of 2003, then to 55.9% for the class of 2004. The 2004 rate may be understated due to a currently unavailable subset of data.

Female graduates enrolled at higher rates than did male graduates in all three fall semesters from 2002 to 002 TwMuppru 002 TwMuppru 00i 12 489.58983 36 4 387.60001 Tm12 0 02e54ppru 0

National Student Clearinghouse. (2004-2005). *Student Tracker Reports* [Data files]. Data purchased by Austin ISD directly from NSC. NSC Web site, <http://www.nslc.org>

