

# EIGHTH GRADE PREDICTORS OF DROPOUT RESEARCH BRIEF

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the report on which this brief is based was to determine the strongest predictors of high school dropout and to determine which student characteristics could be used in the development of an early warning system to alert teachers, principals, and other administrators about which eighth grade students are most at risk for dropping out of school.

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PREDICTORS OF EARLY DROPOUT

The likelihood of early dropout (i.e., during 2005-2006 academic year) was significantly higher for students who (a) were of Hispanic origin, (b) had attendance rates below 90%, (c) exhibited intradistrict mobility, (d) were enrolled fewer than 170 days, or (e) failed a math course in the spring semester.

Students with 8<sup>th</sup>-grade attendance rates below 90% were 6.2 times more likely to drop out of school in 2005-2006 than were students whose attendance was above 90%.

Figure 2. Percentage of Early Dropouts with each 8<sup>th</sup>-grade Characteristic (n = 68)

Figure 3. Students' Likelihood of Early Dropout in 2005-2006 by 8<sup>th</sup>-grade Characteristic

Source AISD student records

Note. Likelihoods are in comparison to students who are not in the category. Estimates statistically control for each of the other characteristics. The vertical axis shows the number of times more likely a student is to dropout ranging from 1 (1 time) to 10X (ten times) more likely. The line through each regression estimate indicates the width of the 95% confidence interval.