

# Austin Independent School District

## Department of Program Evaluation

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## POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT SUMMARY REPORT: CLASSES OF 2002–2008

### INTRODUCTION

This report is an update of the 2008 Austin Independent School District (AISD) report entitled Postsecondary Enrollment Summary Report: Classes of 2002–2008. Enrollment-level records from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) were the primary data source used to analyze postsecondary enrollment of AISD graduates. These data were supplemented by individual-level enrollment counts from the University of Texas at Austin that were provided by the Ray Marshall Center (RMC). Enrollment rates were calculated for each AISD high school campus. These results can help district administrators understand how effectively the district is preparing its students for postsecondary education and help them identify specific areas for which additional support is needed.

### METHODOLOGY

The data used to calculate postsecondary enrollment rates came from two sources: the NSC and the RMC. The NSC is a nonprofit organization that helps school districts evaluate postsecondary programs by providing verified postsecondary enrollment data of 92% of all U.S. college students enrolled in more than 3,600 colleges. Founded in 1970, the RMC is a public policy research institute that is a research arm of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin.

Of the two data sources, the NSC is the more comprehensive. The NSC uses multiple components of a student's record to locate the student (e.g., social security number, last name, first name, middle name, birth date) and tracks by semester of enrollment. However, the NSC data are limited by the fact that a few large institutions often attended by AISD graduates do not participate in the NSC's tracking system.

The RMC data are used to supplement the postsecondary enrollment data that the NSC is unable to provide. Specifically, these data include postsecondary enrollment for the University of Texas at Austin. The RMC data for the University of Texas at Austin substitutes the enrollment

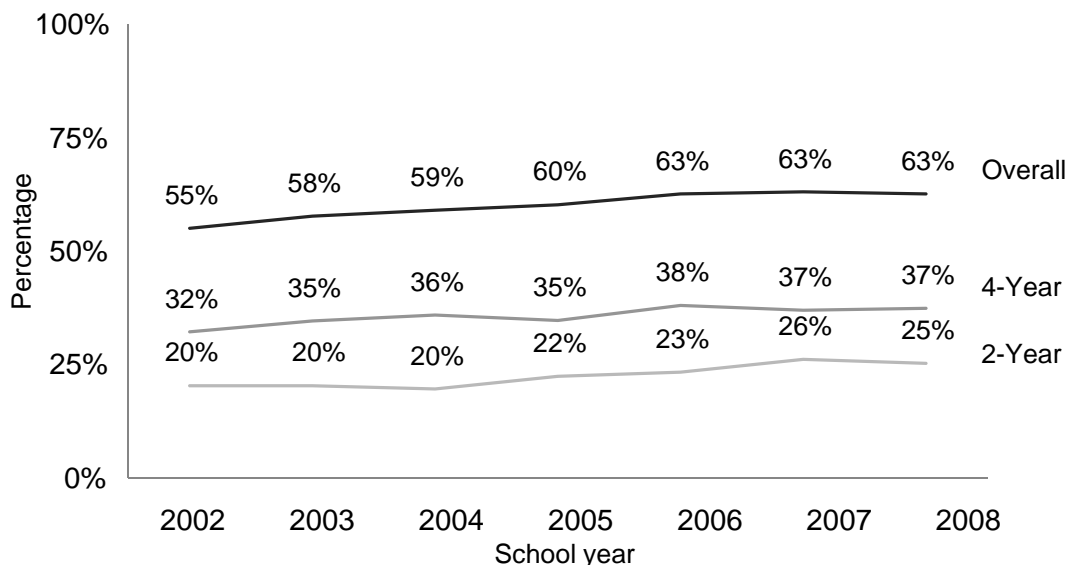
data that historically has been provided by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).

### RESULTS

First, the district-wide postsecondary enrollment rates for each of the past five graduating classes were examined (Figure 1). In Figure 1, the trend line indicates a steady increase in the overall postsecondary enrollment rate, rising from 55% for the Class of 2002 to 63% for the Class of 2008. However, since the Class of 2006, the overall postsecondary enrollment has stabilized.

Changes also were reported with respect to enrollment rates associated with the two most common postsecondary education choices of AISD graduates: 4-year colleges and Austin Community College (ACC). Enrollment in 4-year colleges has increased considerably, rising from 32.2% for the Class of 2002 to 37.0% for the Class of 2008. The 2-year enrollment rate increase from the Class of 2005 to Class of 2008 was 3 percentage points.

Figure 1. Postsecondary Enrollment Rates by Graduating Class, 2002-2008



Source: NSC and RMC, prepared by the DPE, July 2009

Note: The enrollment rate calculations by institution type for the Class of 2009 reflect unique, non-concurrent enrollments in a 2-year and 4-year institution.

District enrollment counts and percentages for the past six years were disaggregated by semester and by in-state/out-of-state status (Table 1). Since 2002, fewer students have been waiting to enroll in the spring semester, as compared with students enrolling in the fall. However, this trend reversed in 2008 and in 2009. Additionally, the percentage of students attending college outside of Texas increased slightly from 5.8% in 2002 to 8.79 % in 2008. The increase in the percentage of students attending a college side of Texas from 2008 to 2009 (1.33 percentage points) was the largest 1-year increase in the period covered.

Table 1. Postsecondary Enrollment Counts and Percentages, by Year, Semester, and In-State/Out-of-State Status, Classes 2002–2008

Enrolled in-state		Enrolled out-of-state	Total enrolled	Percentage of AISD grads
Number	Percentage			



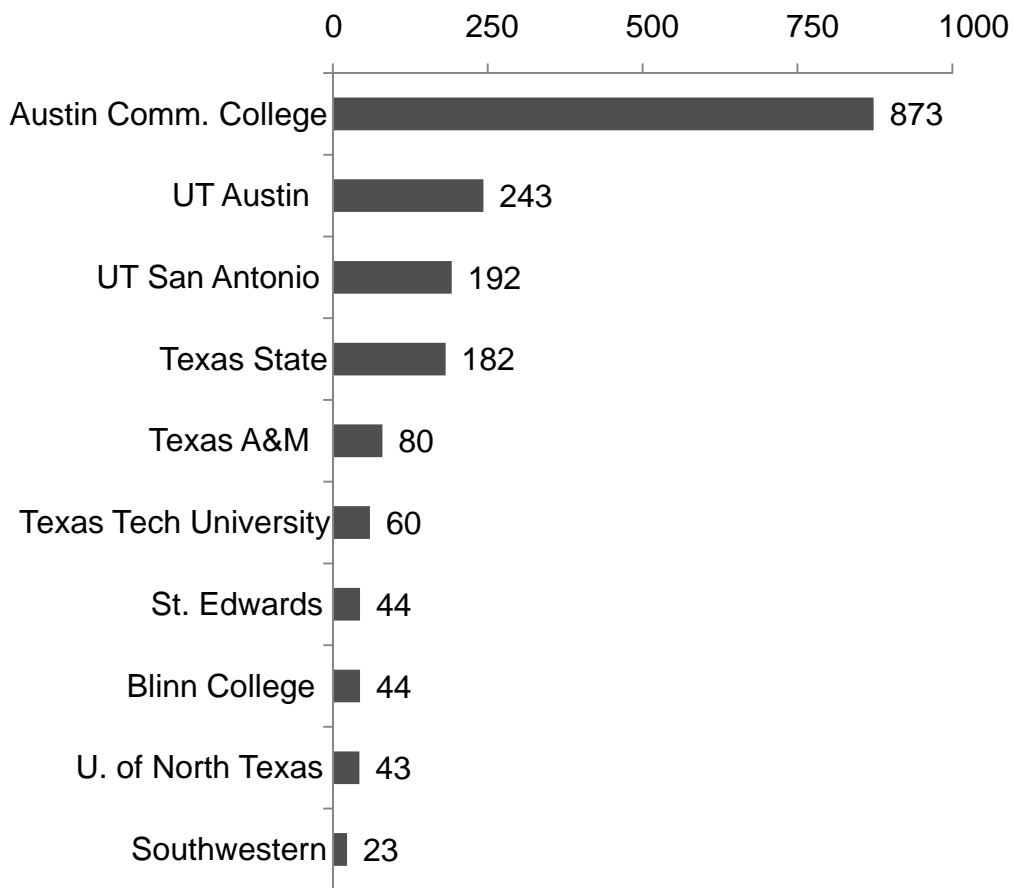






To identify the most common postsecondary destinations for AISD graduates in 2008 and 2009, the top 10 colleges and their enrollment counts are displayed (Figure 5). ACC, with 873 enrollees, had more students enrolled from the Class of 2008 than did the 7 next most-popular colleges combined. Approximately 55% of college enrollees remained in the Austin/San Marcos area and attended either ACC, the University of Texas at Austin, Texas State University, or St. Edward's University. Compared with the Classes of 2007 and 2006, the University of Texas at San Antonio replaced Texas State University at San Marcos as the third most popular postsecondary destination for the Class of 2008.

Figure 5. Ten Most Common Colleges Attended by Graduates in Class of 2008



Source: NSC and RMC, prepared by the DPE, July 2009

Note: Enrollment counts are non-concurrent, unique institution enrollments.



Marked differences in postsecondary enrollment rates appear and persist across AISD high schools (Figure 2). Figures 6 and 7 overlay the percentage of members of the Class of 2008 residing within a specified zip code who enrolled in a 2-year or 4-year institution. Two-year enrollment rates are noticeably lower in North and Northwest Austin, compared with rate in other areas, while 4-year enrollment rates are consistently higher in West Austin than in East Austin. The relationship between location and postsecondary enrollment appears to be stronger for 4-year enrollment rates: no zip code east of I-35 had more than 50% of students in the Class of 2008 enrolled in a 4-year college within a year after graduation.

The geographic disparities in college enrollment, particularly 4-year institution entrance, warrant additional investigation and attention by district stakeholders. This information can help target district college preparation and information campaigns, ensuring that these resources are deployed efficiently and effectively. For instance, recent outreach efforts spearheaded by AISD Office of Redesign may play an integral role in engaging parents and students in underserved areas on issues relating to postsecondary planning and preparation. Representatives from the Office of Redesign have engaged community representatives from both secular and non-secular organizations in developing new tools and more effective methods for disseminating valuable information on the postsecondary application and enrollment process, while raising awareness among "hard-to-reach" populations such as immigrant families.





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