

# Connect High School to Career and College

“As educators, we work not only to watch our students walk across the stage to receive a high school diploma, but also to assure they have a solid foundation to accomplish whatever they choose to do when the ceremony is over.”

Dr. Gilbert Trevino,  
Superintendent  
Floydada ISD



Klein ISD

## WHY THIS MATTERS

Whether students are preparing to attend college, go directly to their career, or enter a career in the military, they all need a strong set of skills upon graduation from high school. We want to ensure that students are not seeing career readiness and college readiness as separate. We know that indicators of college readiness are also strong indicators of readiness for careers that offer a meaningful wage. Students who participate in career and technical education in high school show increased engagement in school.

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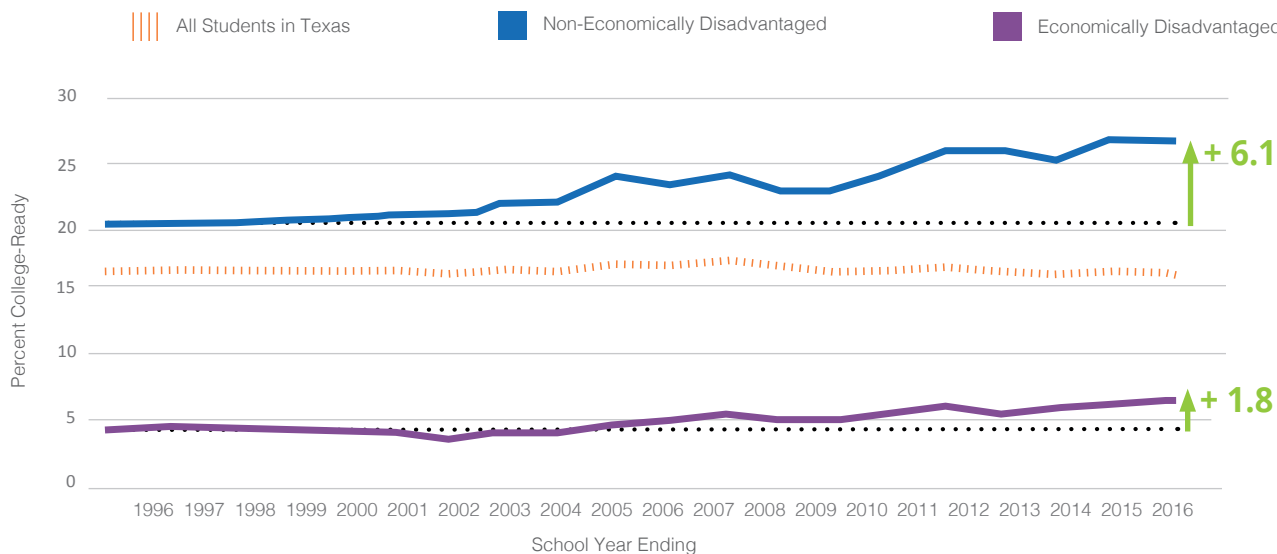
Twenty-five percent of high school graduates **completed college or an industry certification** within a 6-year period (class of 2010).<sup>35</sup>

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Thirty-five percent of all students in Texas were **enrolled in rigorous high school coursework** (AP, IB, Dual Credit) in 2016-2017.<sup>36</sup>

## PERCENT COLLEGE READY ON SAT/ACT

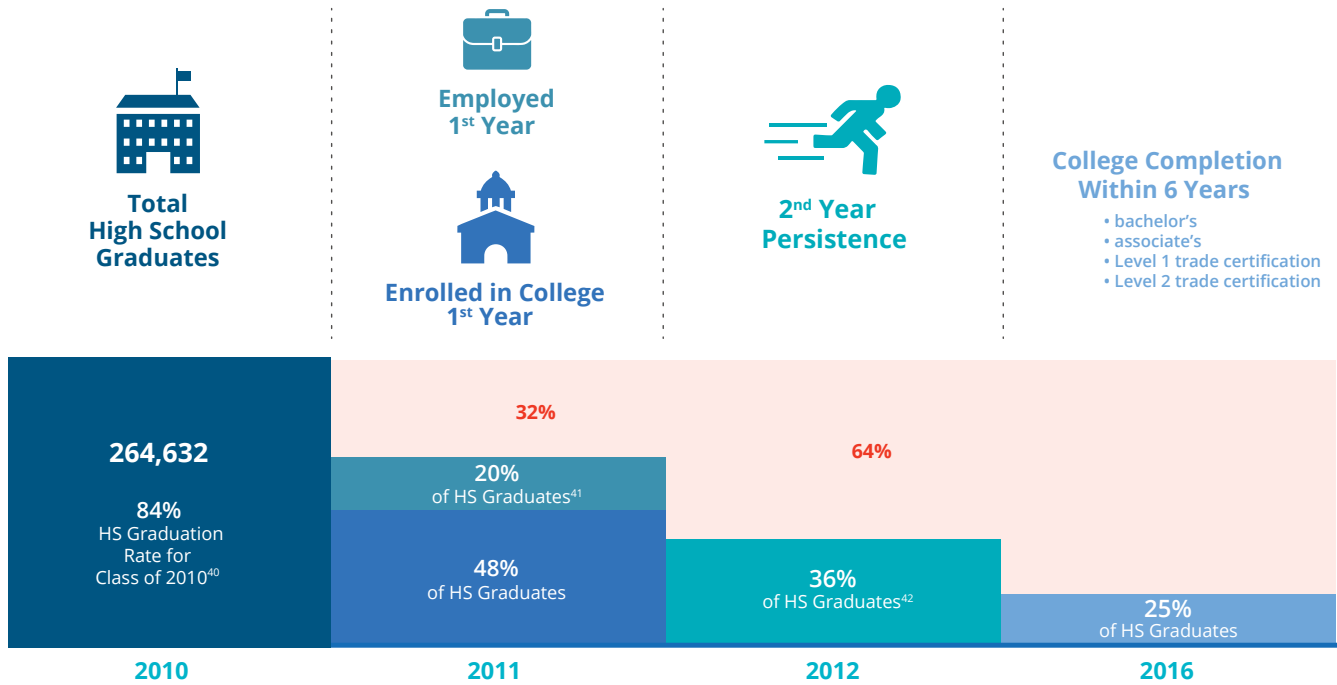
Students who take and score above the college ready criteria on the SAT or ACT have a better than 75% chance of passing freshman-level college courses.<sup>37</sup> Texas has seen steady gains in college readiness rates for non-economically disadvantaged students over 20 years. But gains have been slower for their economically disadvantaged peers.<sup>38</sup>



## GETTING STUDENTS TO THE NEXT STEP AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

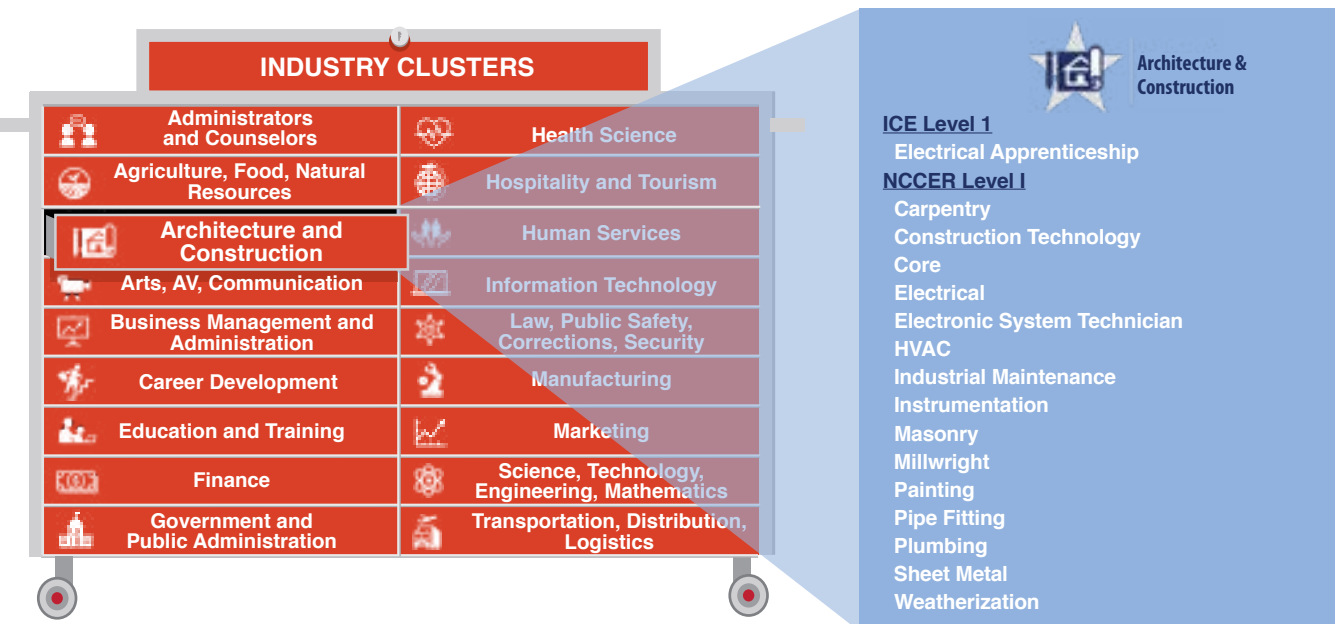
The goal of our K-12 education system isn't solely high school graduation. Rather, we must ensure our graduates are prepared for success in life, and in many cases that requires academic or trade-focused college completion. While Texas high school graduation rates are among the highest in the nation, only 25% of Texas graduates receive a college credential or complete an industry certification within 6 years of high school.<sup>39</sup>

### GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



## INDUSTRY-BASED CERTIFICATIONS

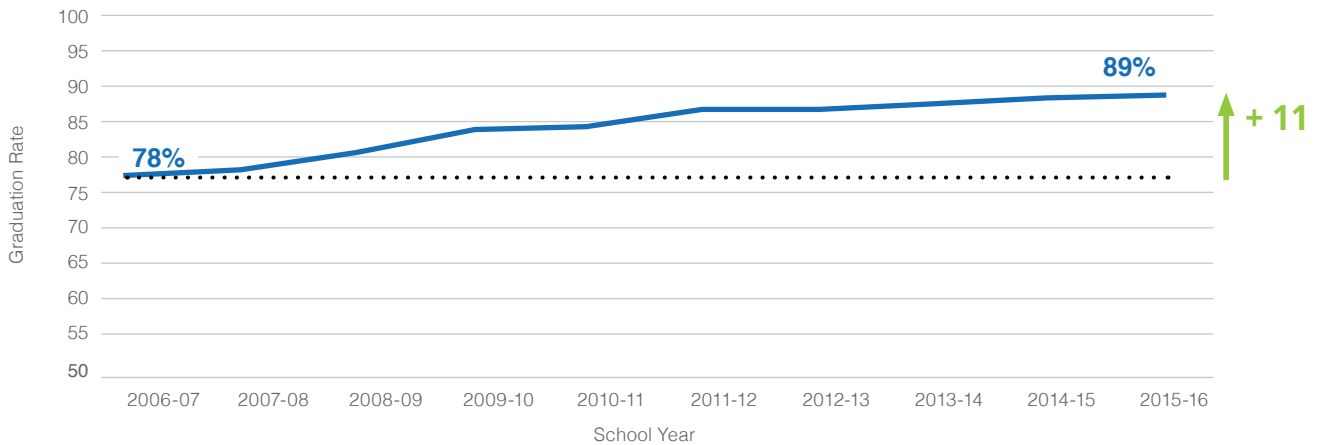
Texas schools work to provide both a strong academic foundation and ensure career readiness. TEA worked closely with Texas businesses to develop a list of industry-based certifications that signify a student is ready for a profession. And TEA modified the school accountability system to ensure that schools are recognized for helping students achieve these certifications just as they are recognized for high SAT/ACT scores.<sup>43</sup>



## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION IN TEXAS



Over the course of the past decade, Texas has achieved one of the highest graduation rates in the country. A 22-credit foundation plan is required to graduate and makes up the core of the Texas high school diploma requirements. Beyond that, our students craft a high school graduation program that reflects their personal interests, in areas such as business and industry, public services, arts and humanities, or science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), through specializations called “endorsements.” Students follow a high school graduation program beginning in ninth grade. The graduation rate has risen over 11 percentage points in the past decade.<sup>44</sup>

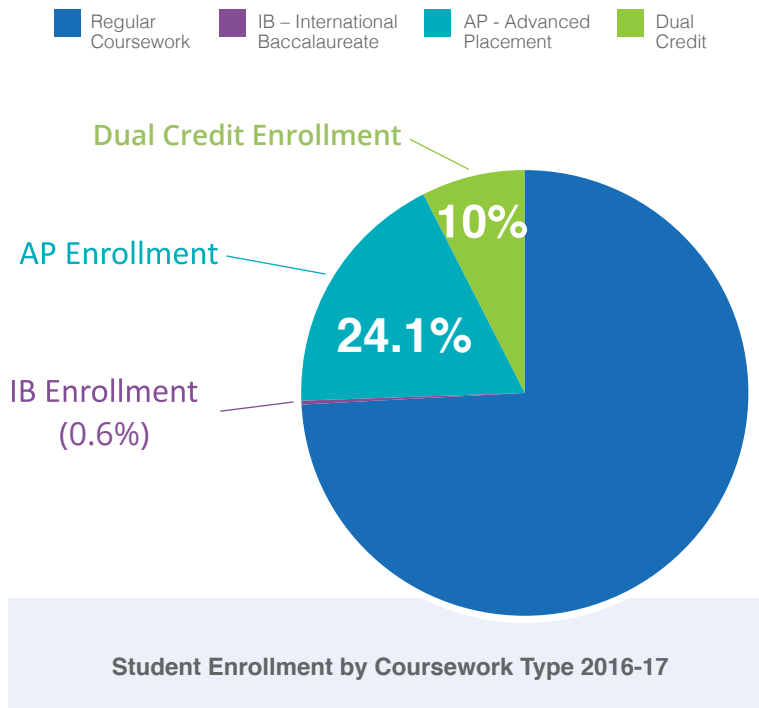


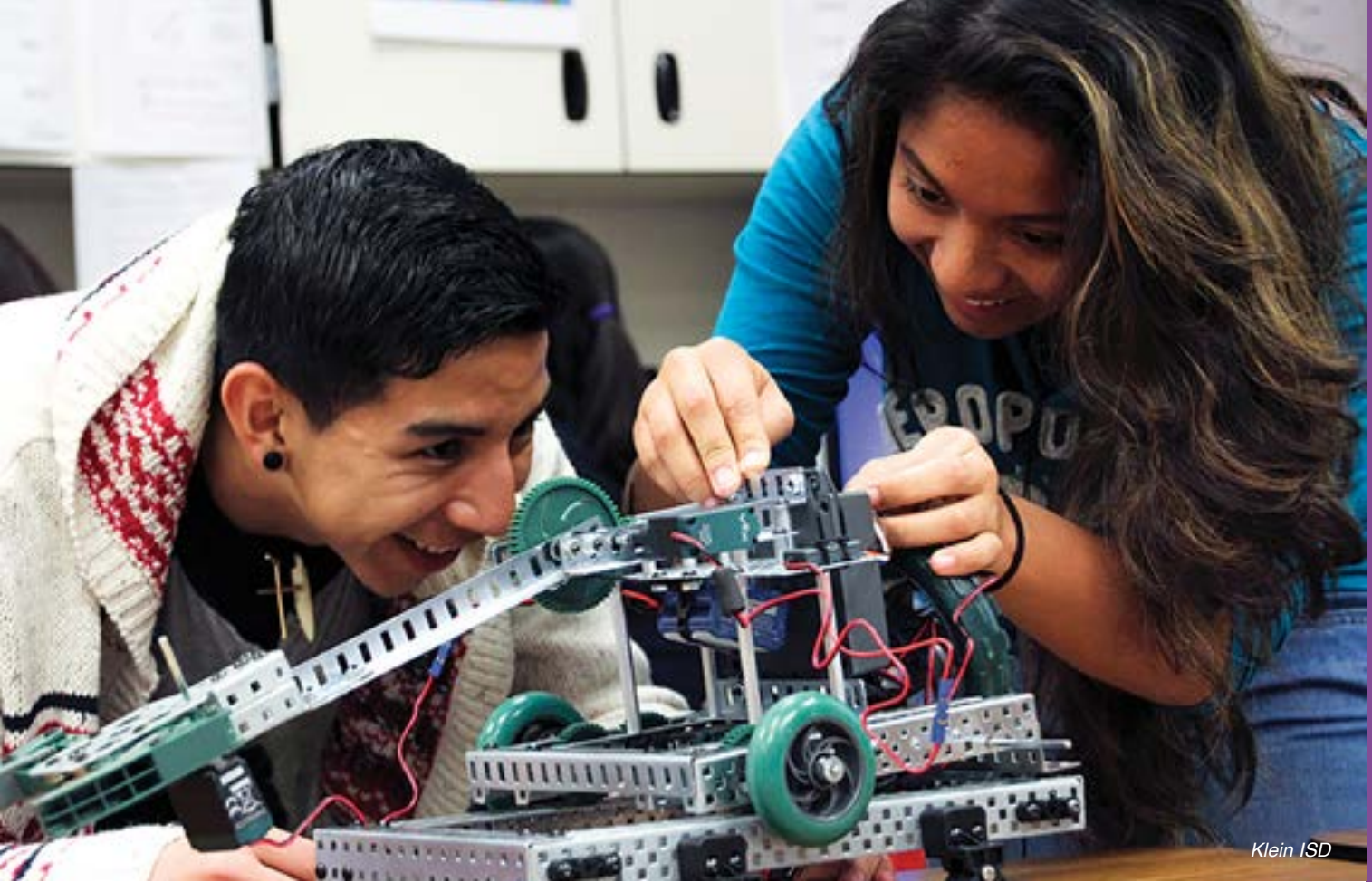
## STUDENT ENROLLMENT IN RIGOROUS, HIGH-QUALITY COURSEWORK



Rigorous coursework provides students the opportunity to obtain skills necessary to successfully enroll in entry-level college courses.<sup>45</sup>

Advanced courses, which can include International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Credit Enrollment courses, create a college-going culture on a school campus and prepare students for the challenges of college in a supportive high school environment. Additionally, college credit earned in high school can lead to cost savings in higher education.





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## GROWTH OF CUTTING-EDGE HIGH SCHOOL MODELS



Texas is home to 164 designated Early College High Schools<sup>46</sup>, including 16 newly designated campuses for the 2016-2017 school year. Texas science, technology, engineering and mathematics (T-STEM) high schools<sup>47</sup>, along with Industry Cluster Innovative Academies (ICIA),<sup>48</sup> allow students to prepare for emerging high-demand professions. The number of new Pathways in Technology (P-TECH) Early College High School models will also grow statewide in the coming years.

## INCREASE IN TEXAS INNOVATIVE ACADEMIES

- Industry Cluster Innovative Academies High Schools (ICIA)
- Early College High School (ECHS)
- T-STEM High Schools

