



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 2002–2007*. Student-level enrollment 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 at 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 3,300 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 every 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

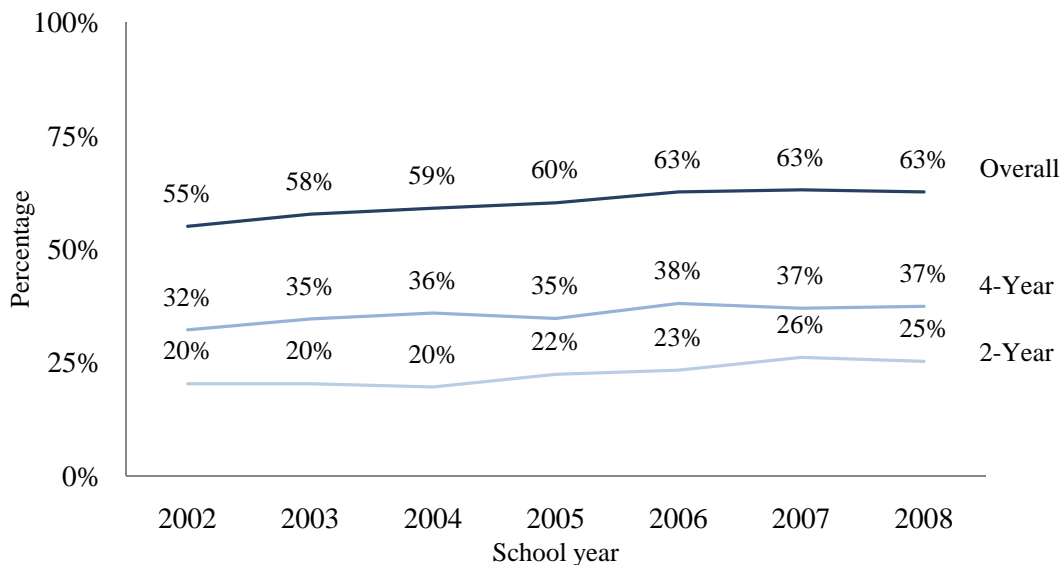
data that historically has been provided by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).

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 the 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 6 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 outside 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

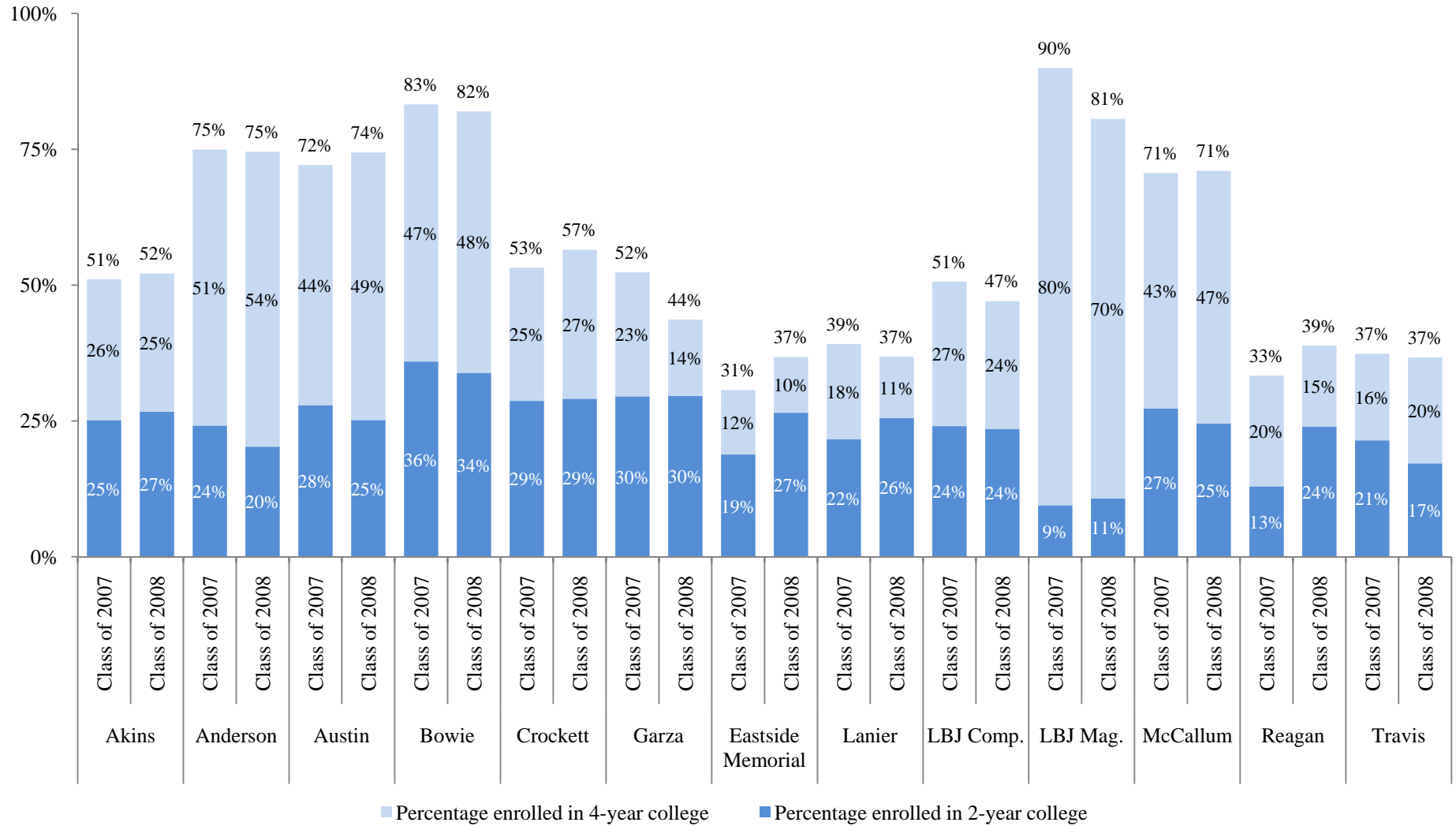
| | Enrolled in-state | | Enrolled out-of-state | | Total enrolled | Percentage of AISD grads |
|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | | |
| Class of 2002 (3,705) | | | | | | |
| Fall 2002 | 1,618 | 43.70% | 209 | 5.60% | 1,827 | 49.30% |
| Spring 2003 (initial) | 205 | 5.50% | 7 | 0.20% | 212 | 5.70% |
| Total | 1,823 | 49.20% | 216 | 5.80% | 2,039 | 55.00% |
| Class of 2003 (3,861) | | | | | | |
| Fall 2003 | 1,799 | 45.80% | 234 | 6.10% | 2,033 | 51.90% |
| Spring 2004 (initial) | 181 | 4.70% | 12 | 0.30% | 193 | 5.00% |
| Total | 1,980 | 47.50% | 246 | 6.40% | 2,226 | 57.70% |
| Class of 2004 (3,733) | | | | | | |
| Fall 2004 | 1,809 | 48.50% | 234 | 6.30% | 2,043 | 54.70% |
| Spring 2005 (initial)* | 154 | 4.10% | 4 | 0.10% | 158 | 4.20% |
| Total | 1,963 | 52.60% | 238 | 6.40% | 2,201 | 59.00% |
| Class of 2005 (3,744) | | | | | | |
| Fall 2005 | 1,856 | 49.60% | 249 | 6.70% | 2,105 | 56.20% |
| Spring 2006 (initial)* | 142 | 3.80% | 7 | 0.20% | 149 | 4.00% |
| Total | 1,998 | 53.40% | 256 | 6.80% | 2,254 | 60.20% |
| Class of 2006 (3,862) | | | | | | |
| Fall 2006 | 1,985 | 51.40% | 293 | 7.60% | 2,278 | 59.00% |
| Spring 2007 (initial)* | 131 | 3.40% | 9 | 0.20% | 140 | 3.60% |
| Total | 2,116 | 54.80% | 302 | 7.80% | 2,418 | 62.60% |
| Class of 2007 (3,595) | | | | | | |
| Fall 2007 | 1,848 | 51.41% | 263 | 7.32% | 2,111 | 58.72% |
| Spring 2008 (initial)* | 151 | 4.20% | 5 | 0.14% | 156 | 4.34% |
| Total | 1,999 | 55.61% | 268 | 7.46% | 2,267 | 63.06% |
| Class of 2008 (3,903) | | | | | | |
| Fall 2008 | 1,930 | 49.45% | 330 | 8.46% | 2,260 | 57.90% |
| Spring 2009 (initial)* | 171 | 4.38% | 13 | 0.33% | 184 | 4.71% |
| Total | 2,101 | 53.83% | 343 | 8.79% | 2,444 | 62.62% |

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

Note. All spring enrollment counts represent “initial” enrollment in the spring semester. These account for enrollees who did not take courses in the fall semester.

District-wide postsecondary enrollment rates for the Classes of 2007 and 2008 were disaggregated by high school campus for both 4-year and 2-year college enrollment (Figure 2). Consistent with data for the Class of 2007, the schools with the lowest postsecondary enrollment rates had the highest percentages of economically disadvantaged students in their graduating class. At Eastside Memorial (formerly Johnston High School), Reagan, Travis, and Lanier fewer than 40% of students enrolled in a postsecondary institution, and at least 77% of graduating seniors were classified as economically disadvantaged. Despite these challenges, however, Eastside Memorial and Reagan posted gains in the percentage of graduates who enrolled in a postsecondary institution between 2007 and 2008 (6 percentage points), although the differences were not statistically meaningful. Only the change in enrollment rates at LASA, whose postsecondary enrollment rates fell 9 percentage points between 2007 and 2008, was statistically significant ($p < .01$). In contrast, the schools with the highest percentages of college-bound students had the lowest percentages of economically disadvantaged students. At Austin, Anderson, Bowie, McCallum, and LBJ-Magnet, between 8% and 27% of graduates were classified as economically disadvantaged and at least 71% of graduates enrolled in postsecondary institutions.

Figure 2. Postsecondary Enrollment Rates, by High School, Classes of 2007–2008

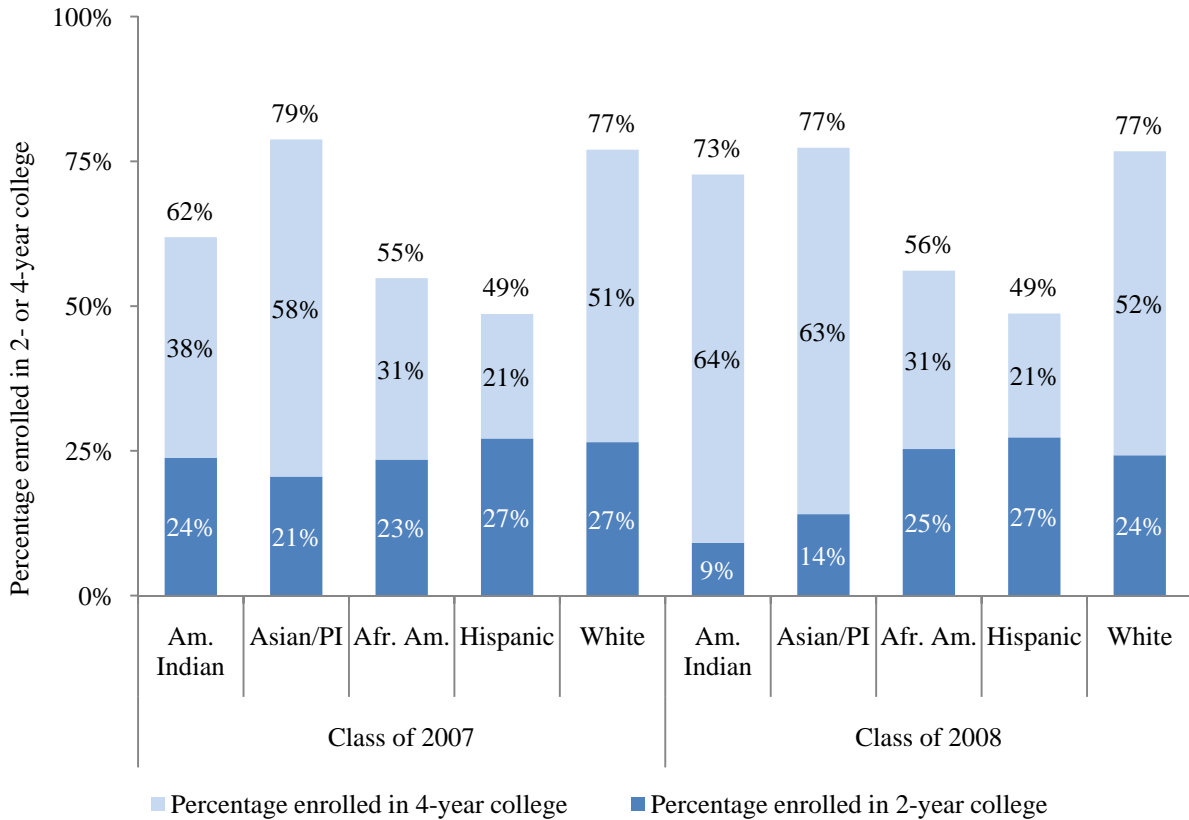


Source. NSC and RMC, prepared by the DPE, July 2009

Note. Two-year and 4-year college enrollment percentages may not sum to total column percentages due to rounding.

The postsecondary enrollment rates for the Classes of 2007 and 2008 are presented by race/ethnicity, economic disadvantage, and gender (Figures 3 and 4). The groups with the highest enrollment rates in 2008 were Asian/Pacific Islander (77%) and White (77%) students. Asian/Pacific Islander students experienced a modest decrease in postsecondary enrollment rates from 2007 to 2008 (2 percentage points).

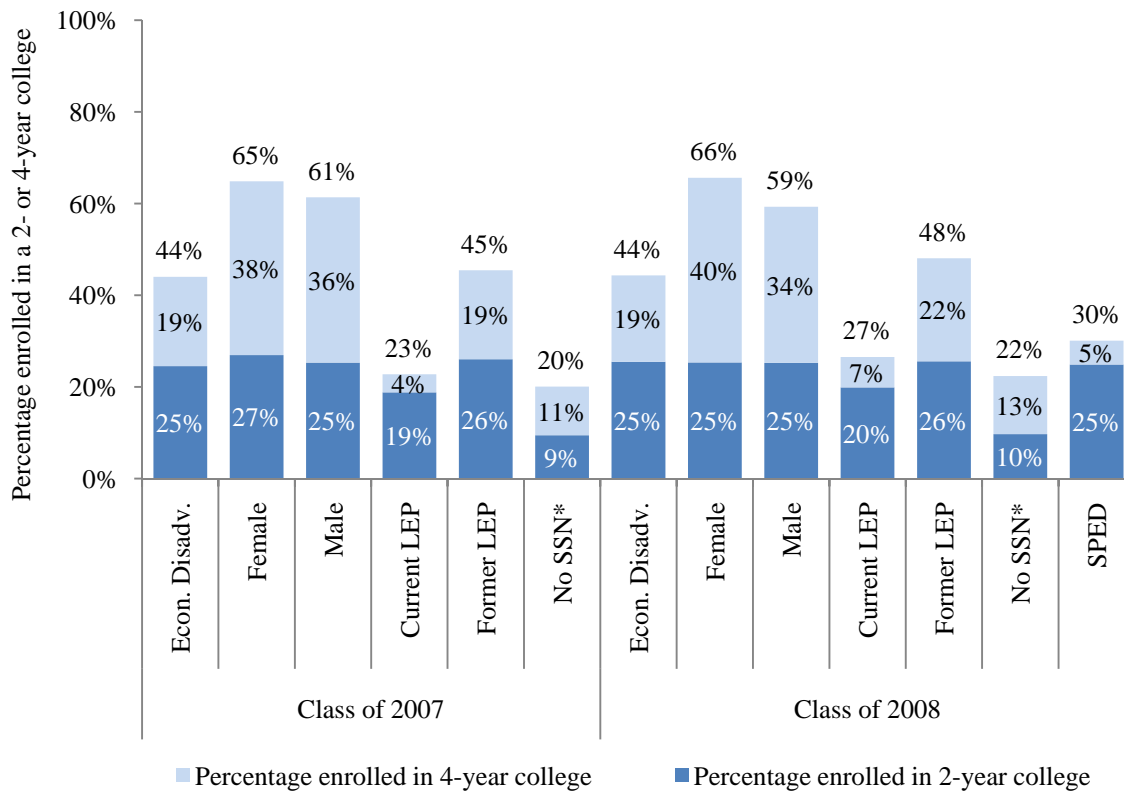
Figure 3. Postsecondary Enrollment Rates, by Race/Ethnicity, Classes of 2007 and 2008



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

Economically disadvantaged students' postsecondary enrollment rates remained low compared with those of other groups (Figure 4). Females enrolled in postsecondary institutions at a higher rate (66%) than did males (59%). This gap was present for the Classes of 2006 and 2007, as well. In addition to economic disadvantage, gender, and limited English proficiency (LEP) status, the postsecondary enrollment rate for the Class of 2008 is displayed for one additional student segment: students who qualify for special education services (SPED).

Figure 4. Postsecondary Enrollment Rates, by Economic Disadvantage, Gender, and LEP Status, Class of 2007 and 2008

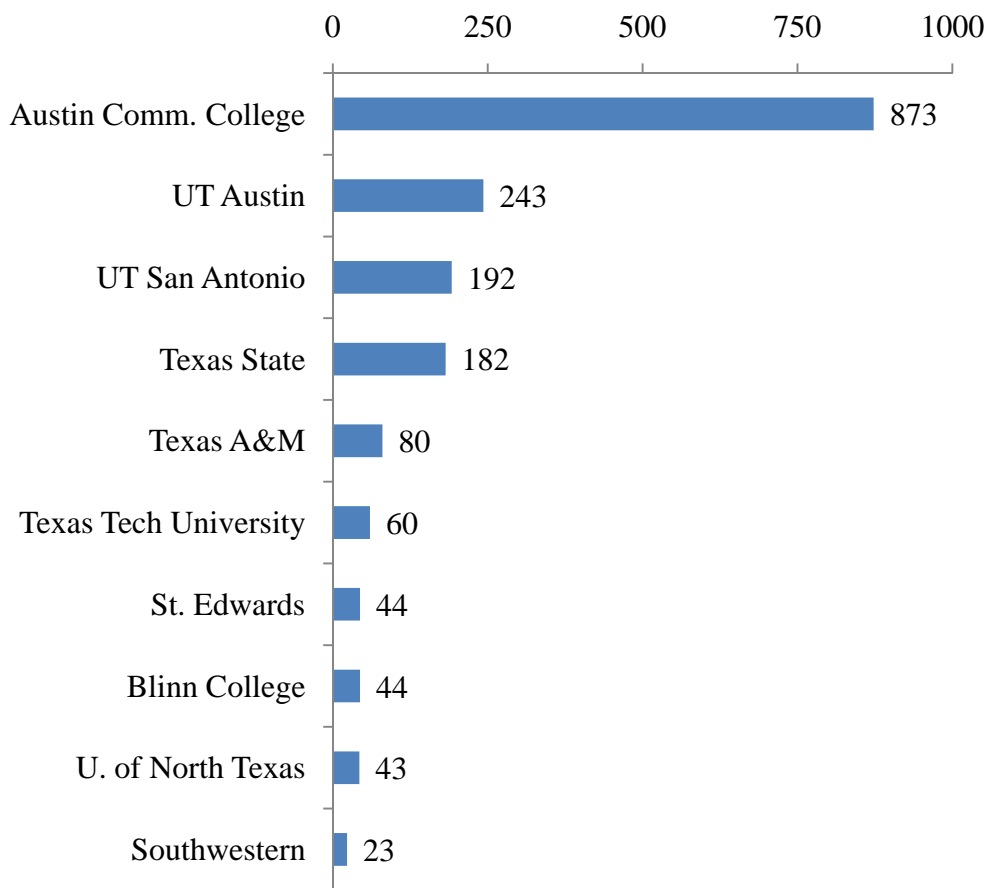


Source. NSC and RMC, prepared by the DPE, July 2009

* Denotes student without a reported Social Security Number (SSN) and with a documented country of birth other than the United States. In 2007, country of birth was not used to operationalize this variable; thus, comparisons across years may not be valid.

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



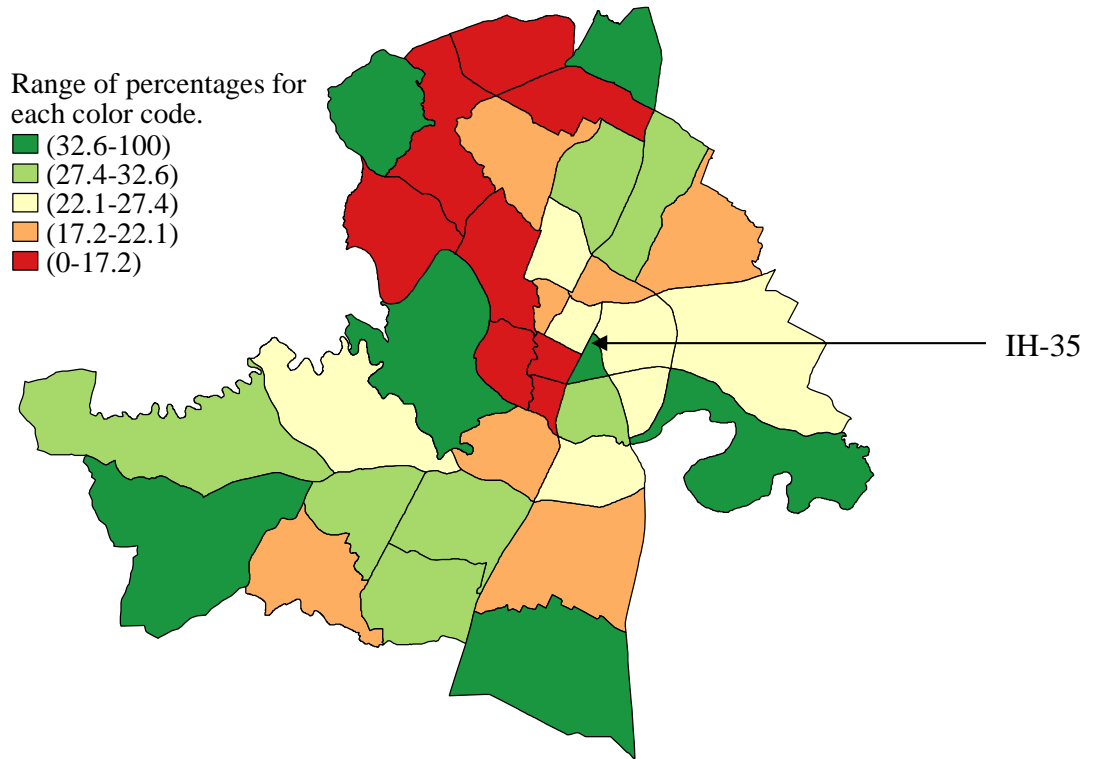
Source. NSC and RMC, prepared by the DPE, July 2009

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 strongest for 4-year enrollment rates: no zip code east of I-35 had more than 50% of students from 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 the 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.

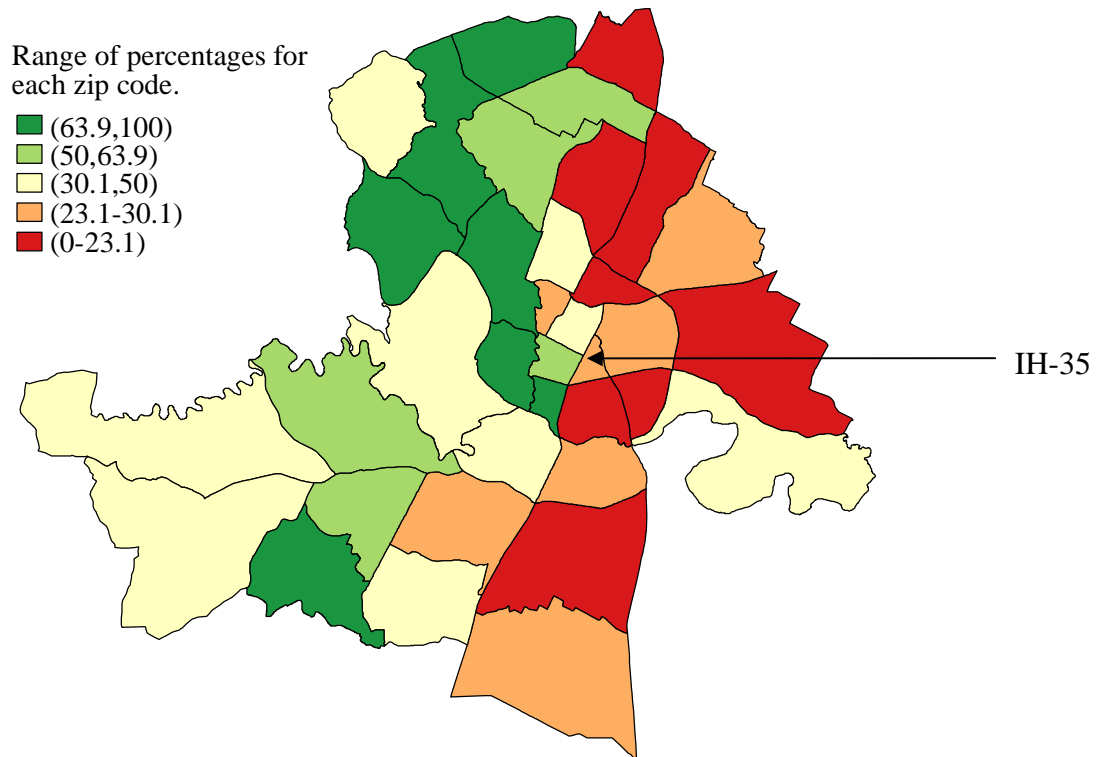
Figure 6. Enrollment in a 2-Year College, Class of 2008



Source. NSC and RMC

Note. Color intensity represents the percentage of students within a zip code who enrolled in 2-year college. Green indicates high saturation; red indicates low saturation.

Figure 7. Enrollment in a 4-Year College, Class of 2008



Source. NSC and RMC

Note. Color intensity represents the percentage of students within a zip code who enrolled in 4-year college. Green indicates high saturation; red indicates low saturation.

CONCLUSION

While, in the period covered (Classes of 2002 through 2008) by this report, the district has made considerable strides in improving the postsecondary enrollment rates of AISD graduates, the upward trend stabilized between the Class of 2007 and 2008. Moreover, disparities in postsecondary enrollment endure across a range of student-level attributes and across high school campuses. These gaps are manifested in vast differences in postsecondary enrollment rates and patterns throughout the attendance areas within the district (Figures 6 and 7). District leaders should therefore continue to promote and implement programs targeted to these student populations and areas that aim to increase awareness about the opportunities provided by postsecondary education as well as the steps necessary for admission and enrollment. To assess the efficacy of these endeavors, the Department of Program Evaluation will continue to monitor and report the postsecondary outcomes of AISD graduates annually.

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