Central Texas Student Futures Project

Skillpoint Alliance Educator Conference
September 2008
Project Partners

- A partnership of
  - Ray Marshall Center, LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin
  - Skillpoint Alliance
  - Ten Central Texas independent school districts (ISDs)

- Project funders
  - TG
  - Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce
## School District Partners

### Listed by 1st year of participation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Districts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>Austin ISD, Del Valle ISD, Pflugerville ISD, Round Rock ISD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>Leander ISD, Manor ISD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>Eanes ISD, San Marcos Consolidated ISD</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>Bastrop ISD, Hays Consolidated ISD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project Purpose

- Conduct longitudinal research on:
  - what regional high school graduates are doing after high school
  - why they are making these decisions
  - how educational, personal and financial factors contribute to graduates’ success in postsecondary education and the workforce

- Foster educational improvement through:
  - identifying and sharing best practices
  - workshops and seminars
Research Questions

- What share of high school graduates enrolled in 2-year and 4-year postsecondary institutions in the fall after graduation? For 2006 graduates, what share was still enrolled a year later?
- What share of graduates was employed after graduation?
- What share of graduates was both enrolled and employed in the fall quarter after graduation?
- Which factors are significantly associated with postsecondary and employment outcomes?
Research Samples

- All 2007 graduates in Austin, Del Valle, Eanes, Leander, Manor, Pflugerville, Round Rock and San Marcos Consolidated ISDs

- All 2006 graduates in Austin, Manor, Pflugerville and Round Rock ISDs; consenting graduates only in Leander ISD
Data Sources

**High school records**
- Student demographics
- Courses taken
- Course grades

**Senior Survey**
- Family background/influences
- High school experiences
- Preparation for life after high school

**Postsecondary education records**
- National Student Clearinghouse
- UT-Austin and UNT directory information

**Employment records**
- Texas Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage records

* through 12/07
Data Improvements

**Class of 2006**
- Modified agreement with AISD to allow for complete data-sharing
- Obtained additional data from school districts
  - Graduates vs. seniors
  - Additional explanatory variables
- Added UNT data and an additional year of enrollment and earnings data

**Class of 2007**
- Incorporated Class of 2006 improvements
- Added prior school records and survey data from all eight participating districts
## Facts about 2007 Graduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Rank and Graduation Plan</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not in top 10 Percent</td>
<td>7,748</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top 10 Percent</td>
<td>958</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduated under the Distinguished Achievement or Recommended Plan</td>
<td>7,244</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Programs</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classified as Special Education</td>
<td>852</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classified as Gifted and Talented</td>
<td>983</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Credit Information</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Took up to one CATE course</td>
<td>4,138</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Took a sequence of CATE courses</td>
<td>3,461</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Took tech prep courses</td>
<td>1,107</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received 8th grade Foreign Language Credit</td>
<td>2,090</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received 8th Grade Math credit</td>
<td>2,576</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received Dual Credit for College Course while in HS</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What share of Class of 2007 high school graduates enrolled in 2-year and 4-year postsecondary institutions in the fall after graduation?
# Initial Postsecondary Enrollment for 2007 Graduates

n = 9,394

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Enrolled</strong></td>
<td>5,858</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of Institution</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-Year College</td>
<td>2,115</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-Year College/University</td>
<td>3,743</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location of Institution</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-State</td>
<td>5,098</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-of State</td>
<td>760</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Percent of 2007 Graduates Enrolled, by District (n = 9,394)
Percent of 2007 Graduates Enrolled in 2-year & 4-year Institutions (n = 9,394)
Additional Findings in Final Report

- Factors associated with enrollment in 2-year and 4-year postsecondary institutions for 2007 graduates
- Factors associated with employment for 2007 graduates
- Another look at the Class of 2006
  - New results based on graduates
  - Postsecondary retention results
- Conclusions and Recommendations
Preliminary Insights

- Basing regression models on graduates instead of seniors results in different factors being significantly associated with postsecondary educational enrollments both for 2-year and 4-year institutions.

- In future reports, 2006 graduates will be followed for descriptive outcomes only. The more robust 2007 database will be used for regression models.
Preliminary Insights

- Factors associated with the outcomes studied (2-year enrollment, 4-year enrollment, employment) vary.

- Factors associated with these outcomes often vary further for different demographic groups.
Coming Events

October 14th
- Administrative Briefing for all ISD Superintendents

Mid-October
- Release of Final 2008 Outcomes Report

October 28th
- Community Briefing #1
- 1 – 3 PM, Thompson Conference Center

October 30th
- Community Briefing #2
- 6 – 8 PM, Thompson Conference Center

End of December
- Publication of Class of 2008 Survey Report
For more information:
www.centexstudentfutures.org

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