

ApplyTexas Completion Rates, 2009-2011

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At-a-Glance

Applications for admission to Texas colleges and universities by Dallas Independent School District high school graduates through the ApplyTexas initiative increased 22% from 2009 to 2011. Nearly 67% of 2011 graduates submitted an ApplyTexas application, compared to 54.8% in 2009, as shown in Figure 1. Across individual high schools, most showed an increase in ApplyTexas submissions for the 2009-2011 period.

Purpose and Description

ApplyTexas is a statewide collaboration involving the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and participating colleges and universities across the state. The project provides a centralized means by which high school students can submit a common application for admission to any public university in Texas, as well as participating community colleges and private institutions of higher education. In addition, students can apply for scholarships and submit college application essays through ApplyTexas.

Analysis of ApplyTexas submission rates provides valuable insight into the college readiness of Dallas ISD graduates. College readiness refers to the level of preparation students need to enroll and succeed without remediation in higher education (Conley, 2010). Key dimensions of college readiness include academic preparation, as measured by course grades, state assessment results and scores on college admission tests, such as the SAT and ACT; academic tenacity, or behaviors and attitudes that drive student achievement and success; and college knowledge, defined as skills and behaviors that enable students to access college and successfully navigate the college environment. Examples of college knowledge include the ability to successfully submit applications for college admission and financial aid.

College readiness indicators exist at the individual (student), setting (campus) and system (district) levels. Campus-level submission rates for ApplyTexas act as a setting-level measure of college knowledge and provide insight into the college-going culture of a campus.

ApplyTexas Submission Rates for Dallas ISD Graduates, 2009-2011

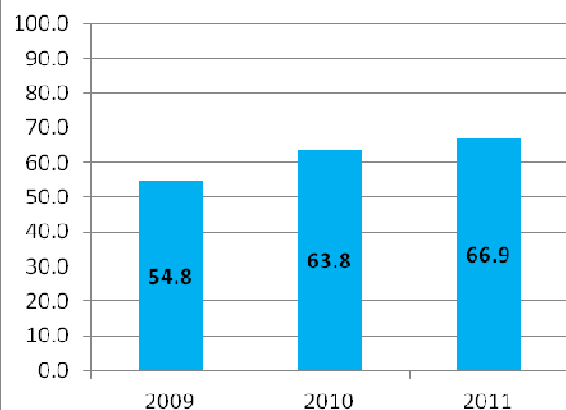


Figure 1

Background and Context

Preparing students for success in college and the workplace is an important part of Dallas ISD's mission. In 2009, the district developed a college readiness measurement model with the assistance of a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. In 2011, the district received a College Readiness Indicator Systems (CRIS) subaward grant from the Gates Foundation, through the Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University and the John W. Gardner Center at Stanford University. The subaward will enable Dallas and four other participating school systems (the school districts in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, PA; San Jose, CA; and New Visions for Public Schools in New York City) to develop a menu of measurable college readiness indicators.

Data and Methods

The Dallas ISD's College and Career Readiness Department provided ApplyTexas completion and submission data for 2009, 2010 and 2011 to the Department of Evaluation and Accountability for analysis. The data consisted of ApplyTexas submission rates across 32 Dallas ISD high schools, including comprehensive and magnet

schools. The data were aggregated across campuses and did not include student-level details.

Results

In 2009, 6,373 Dallas ISD high school graduates submitted 3,490 ApplyTexas applications, for a districtwide submission rate of 54.8%. As shown in Table 1 below, 2010 and 2011 ApplyTexas submission rates were 63.8% and 66.9%, respectively. The 66.9% rate for 2011 represents a 22% increase over 2009.

Across individual campuses, 2011 ApplyTexas submission rates ranged from a low of 40.4% at W.T. White to a high of 96.9% at the Irma Rangel Young Woman's Leadership Academy.

Table 1
ApplyTexas Submission Rates, 2009-2011

Campus	2009 (%)	2010 (%)	2011 (%)
Adamson	94.4	71.8	63.0
B. Adams	45.3	69.4	87.7
Carter	50.4	52.4	55.6
Garza E.C.	N/A	76.3	78.0
Conrad	38.6	54.9	65.0
Hillcrest	52.2	89.5	88.2
Irma Rangel	76.2	88.6	96.9
Madison	109.8	90.9	82.4
Jefferson	44.6	53.6	71.4
Kimball	57.5	47.4	53.6
Lincoln	67.5	70.3	76.4
Middle College	53.2	54.5	85.0
Molina	51.4	78.3	92.3
N. Dallas	66.8	63.1	62.8
Pinkston	32.6	78.4	60.4
Roosevelt	84.4	70.7	87.5
Samuell	48.8	49.9	84.8
Seagoville	49.5	70.4	79.7
Skyline	44.3	47.6	59.8
S. Oak Cliff	66.3	102.3	84.0
Smith	63.9	57.3	68.4
Spruce	36.5	N/A	N/A
Sunset	25.8	43.3	42.2
Business Magnet	76.9	76.7	71.3
Education Magnet	70.3	61.0	68.3
Health Magnet	83.3	66.9	70.3
Law Magnet	96.7	78.3	79.8
Science Magnet	92.9	92.0	88.2
TAG Magnet	106.3	77.8	74.1
Washington Arts	46.3	66.7	47.4
W.T. White	43.0	68.9	40.4
Wilson	34.1	69.1	46.6
District	54.8	63.8	66.9

ApplyTexas submission rates increased from 2009 to 2011 at most Dallas ISD campuses, with 18 campuses showing increases. Submission rates decreased at 13 campuses. Spruce High School had no ApplyTexas submissions in 2010 and 2011. Restructuring of Spruce in 2009 meant the school had no senior students those two years.

It is important to remember that a lower submission rate does not necessarily indicate a low level of college application or subsequent enrollment among graduates of the high school in question. ApplyTexas is a common application only for Texas colleges and universities, meaning the data do not capture applications to colleges and universities in other states.

Data for 2009 and 2010 from the National Student Clearinghouse, which reports college enrollment and completion information, indicated that only about 5% of Dallas ISD high school graduates for those years enrolled in colleges and universities outside of Texas. Across individual high schools, however, the rates of student enrollment out of state varied. For example, 32.3% of Booker T. Washington arts magnet graduates in 2009 and 2010 enrolled in colleges and universities outside of Texas.

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