



Texas Fast Facts

- **Texas** became the **fastest growing state** in the nation in 2006.¹
- Child poverty rates in Texas are rising with **more than one in five children** growing up without their basic needs met.²
- Approximately **22%** of adults in Texas **do not have a high school diploma** or its equivalent (compared with 14% of adults nationwide), reducing their likelihood of participating or succeeding in higher education.³
- **Young adults** (ages 18 to 24) **from high income families** are about **twice as likely** as those from low-income families **to attend college**.⁴
- In Texas, **Caucasian adults are more than twice as likely** as adults from other ethnic groups **to have a bachelor's degree**. This is among the widest gaps in the country on this measure.⁵
- Together, **African Americans and Hispanics represent approximately 55% of Texas' 15-to-34 population**, but only **36%** of the students in Texas higher education.⁶
- A fairly **small percentage of Texas students complete certificates and degrees** relative to the number enrolled, ranking Texas very low internationally in this area – behind such low-performing nations as the Czech Republic and Hungary.⁷
- Approximately **24.5% of Texas' population** (age 25 and older) holds a **bachelor's or higher degree**.⁸
- The average annual income nationwide for a person with a
 - **High school diploma** is approximately **\$29,185**;
 - An **associate's degree**, approximately **\$35,590**; and
 - A **bachelor's degree**, approximately **\$53,103**.⁹

Children who participate in high quality preschool programs are less likely to repeat a grade, less likely to be placed in special education, and **more likely to graduate from high school**.¹⁰

Chicago children who attended a pre-k program were **29% more likely to graduate from high school** than their peers who did not have pre-k.¹¹

Early childhood learning is more effective at getting students to college than tuition policy and credit help combined.¹²

Sources

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4. Measuring Up 2006 The State Report Card on Higher Education. The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. <http://www.highereducation.org>
5. *ibid.*
6. Texas Higher Education Facts 2006. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us>
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