

## Texas Achieves 60.9 Percent Six-Year College Graduation Rate, Up from 59.3 Percent since 2015

**Austin, Texas, Feb. 28, 2018** — The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board announced today that Texas public universities achieved a 60.9 percent statewide, six-year student graduation rate, a 1.6 percent increase since 2015 when the *60x30TX* strategic plan for higher education was announced.

“At nearly 61 percent, our six-year graduation rate for public universities is the highest ever. To put that in perspective, it was less than 50 percent in 2000 when Texas launched the *Closing the Gaps by 2015* plan. There are now 16 public universities with a six-year graduation rate above 50 percent versus only seven in 2000,” said Higher Education Commissioner Raymund Paredes.

With the [60x30TX](#) plan, Texas aims to award a total of 6.4 million certificates or degrees by 2030. The plan also sets [targets](#) for Hispanic, African American, male, and economically disadvantaged completers.

“The 60.9 percent achievement is even more encouraging because graduates with Pell grants increased 8.8 percentage points since 2015, which means a greater number of economically disadvantaged students are completing college,” Commissioner Paredes said. “We need to focus on aligning state funding with 60x30TX by partially funding universities for the graduates they produce, and providing twice as much funding for at-risk students compared to non-at-risk students. Texas has a youthful population, which is a huge economic advantage for the state, but only if we educate our young people who are mostly poor and largely Latino. The rate of improvement in the college graduation rate moves us forward in meeting the *60x30TX* goals and preparing our young people to meet anticipated workforce needs.”

According to a [June 2016 report](#) by Georgetown University’s Center on Education and the Workforce, 65 percent of all jobs in the United States likely will require a bachelor’s degree by 2025.

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### **THECB Mission Statement**

*The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board promotes access, affordability, quality, success, and cost efficiency in the state’s institutions of higher education, through Closing the Gaps and its successor plan, resulting in a globally competent workforce that positions Texas as an international leader in an increasingly complex world economy.*

Public Universities*	FY 2015  (Entered Fall 2009)	FY 2016  (Entered Fall 2010)	FY 2017  (Entered Fall 2011)	Percentage Point Change FY 2015 to FY 2017
Angelo State University	44.9%	44.5%	48.3%	3.3%
Lamar University	36.6%	37.2%	34.0%	-2.6%
Midwestern State University	53.7%	49.9%	52.7%	-1.0%
Prairie View A&M University	37.7%	34.5%	38.6%	1.0%
Sam Houston State University	55.8%	58.7%	58.3%	2.5%
Stephen F. Austin State University	50.8%	53.3%	55.3%	4.5%
Sul Ross State University	26.2%	29.4%	27.1%	0.9%
Tarleton State University	52.4%	52.1%	53.8%	1.4%
Texas A&M International University	49.2%	49.7%	53.8%	4.7%
Texas A&M University	84.9%	85.9%	86.8%	1.9%
Texas A&M University at Galveston	61.3%	65.0%	71.5%	10.2%
Texas A&M University-Commerce	47.4%	48.9%	49.9%	2.6%
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi	46.0%	43.0%	46.7%	0.7%
Texas A&M University-Kingsville	39.0%	34.8%	40.6%	1.6%
Texas A&M University-Texarkana	N/A	26.7%	37.1%	N/A
Texas Southern University	20.4%	19.5%	26.1%	5.7%
Texas State University	62.1%	63.1%	62.8%	0.7%
Texas Tech University	70.3%	69.9%	69.5%	-0.8%
Texas Woman's University	49.9%	47.0%	44.3%	-5.6%
The University of Texas at Arlington	57.0%	56.8%	61.2%	4.2%
The University of Texas at Austin	81.7%	82.5%	86.0%	4.3%
The University of Texas at Brownsville	35.5%	42.1%	39.6%	4.1%
The University of Texas at Dallas	72.3%	73.7%	74.6%	2.3%
The University of Texas at El Paso	42.3%	42.1%	43.5%	1.2%
The University of Texas at San Antonio	53.2%	54.0%	56.4%	3.2%
The University of Texas at Tyler	55.1%	54.1%	57.5%	2.4%
The University of Texas of the Permian Basin	49.4%	44.9%	49.1%	-0.3%
The University of Texas-Pan American	43.2%	43.8%	47.5%	4.3%
University of Houston	57.6%	58.3%	61.4%	3.8%
University of Houston-Clear Lake	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%
University of Houston-Downtown	21.6%	23.2%	28.2%	6.6%
University of Houston-Victoria	16.7%	33.3%	24.8%	8.2%
University of North Texas	59.1%	58.3%	59.3%	0.2%
University of North Texas at Dallas	N/A	46.5%	42.1%	N/A
West Texas A&M University	45.4%	50.9%	46.1%	0.7%
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>59.3%</b>	<b>59.3%</b>	<b>60.9%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

\* First-time, full-time, degree-seeking students who enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester credit hours their first fall semester and graduated from the same or another Texas public or private (independent) institution six academic years.