

ABCD High School Dropout Report Key Findings (October 2009)



OVERVIEW

The Bush School for Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University recently released a report titled **The ABCD's of Texas Education: Assessing the Benefits and Costs of Reducing the Dropout Rate**, highlighting the economic implications of the dropout rate for the state of Texas. This groundbreaking report is the first study of its kind to not only address the number of dropouts in Texas, but to also talk about the cost of the crisis to the Texas taxpayers and economy both today and for decades to come.

KEY REPORT FINDINGS

Students who drop out from just the class of 2012 could cost the state up to \$9.6 billion over their lifetime in lost wages and taxes, increased social services and potential incarceration.

The class of 2012 will lose between 40,519 and 73,692 students or 12.2 to 22.2 percent of its students as dropouts.

Early intervention is more cost-effective than waiting to address the dropout issue in high school.

Urban and border regions have higher dropout rates than other areas in the state.

Hispanic, African-American and Native American students are statistically more likely to drop out of school than their white or Asian/Pacific Islander counterparts.

AN EXPLANATORY NOTE ABOUT THE NUMBERS

Calculating the dropout rate is complicated. To its credit, the Bush School wisely chose to create "Lower and Upper Bounds" for calculating the dropout rate. The Lower Bound figure is most easily thought of as less comprehensive, including "the lowest possible number of dropouts". The Upper Bound figure counts "all students who did not graduate on time, or receive their GED by the time their class was scheduled to graduate" as dropouts. For statewide distribution purposes, key findings utilize the report's Upper Bound figure. In order to be fully transparent, United Way requests that all media and partner figures refer to the numbers provided above as "up to" the relevant figure.

To view the entire executive summary of the report, click here:
<http://bush.tamu.edu/research/capstones/mpsa/projects/2009/TheABCDsExecutiveSummary.pdf>

To download the report in its entirety, click here:
<http://bush.tamu.edu/research/capstones/mpsa/projects/2009/TheABCDs.pdf>