

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY: HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Interim Charge 6:

Review Educational Opportunities for Non-Traditional Students

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

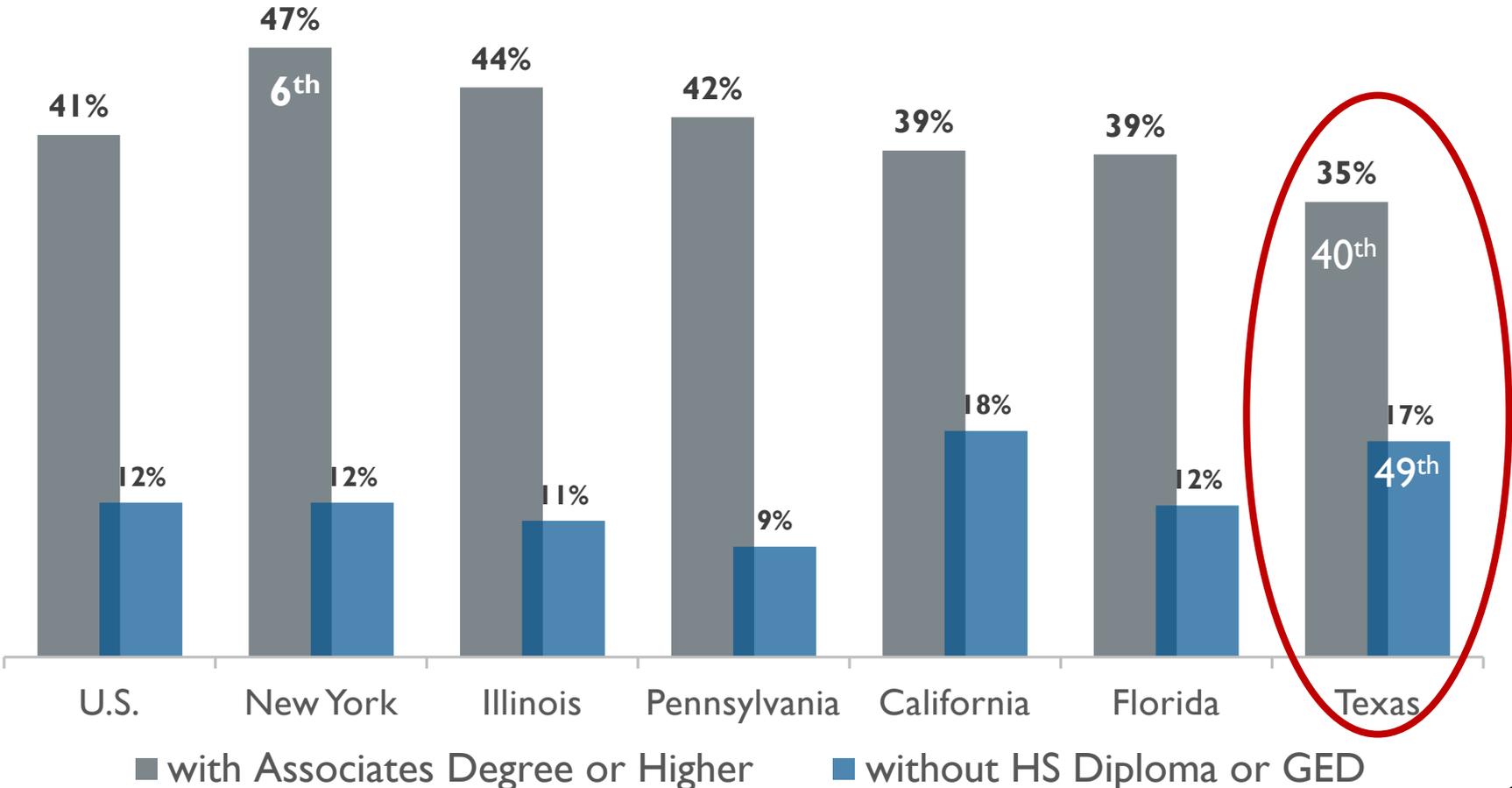
Presented by Garrett C. Groves

Center for Public Policy Priorities

TO CONTINUE TO BE THE #1 STATE FOR BUSINESS
TEXAS MUST GET SERIOUS ABOUT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Texas' Education Levels Trail Other Large States

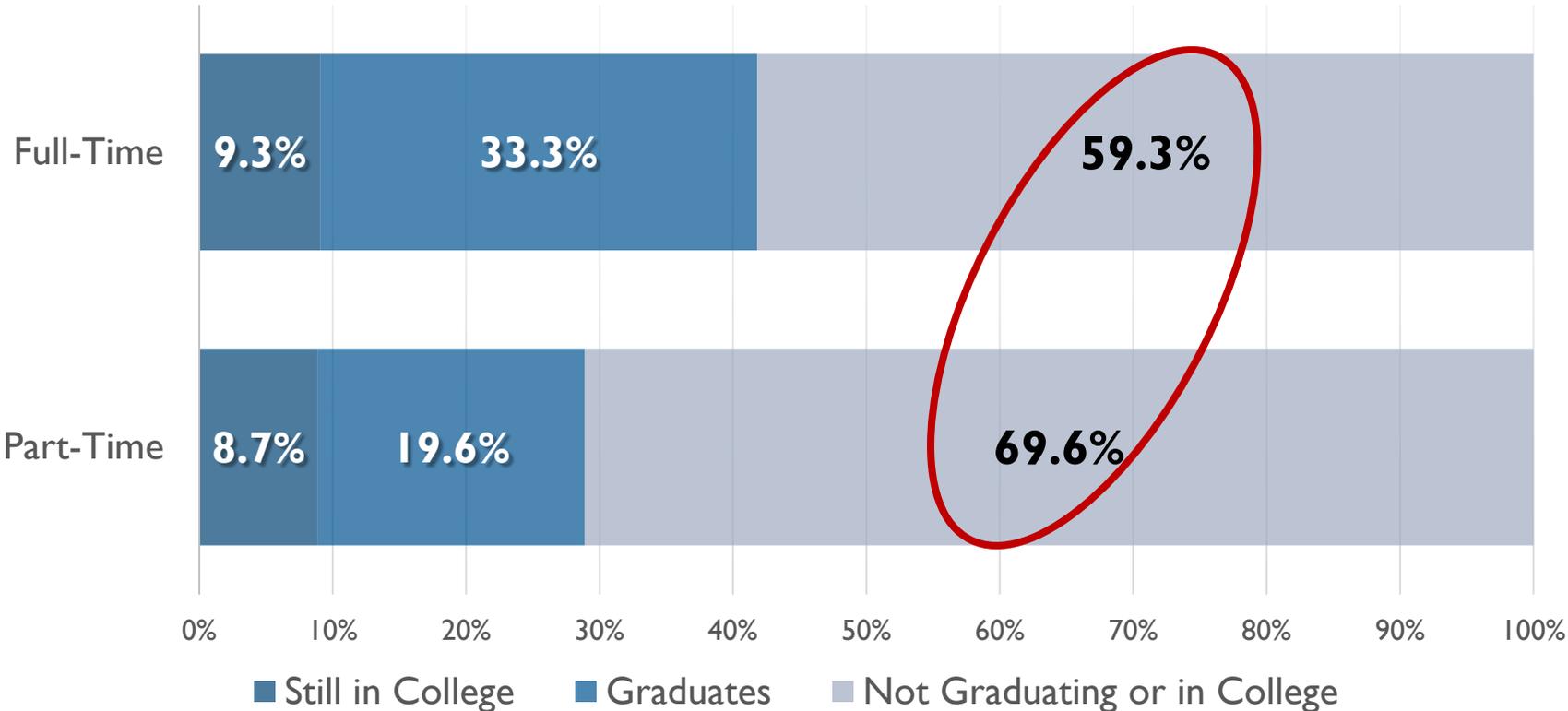
Proportion of People Ages 25-54



Challenge #1: Community College Success Rates Must Improve

Low Completion Rates in Public Two-Year Colleges

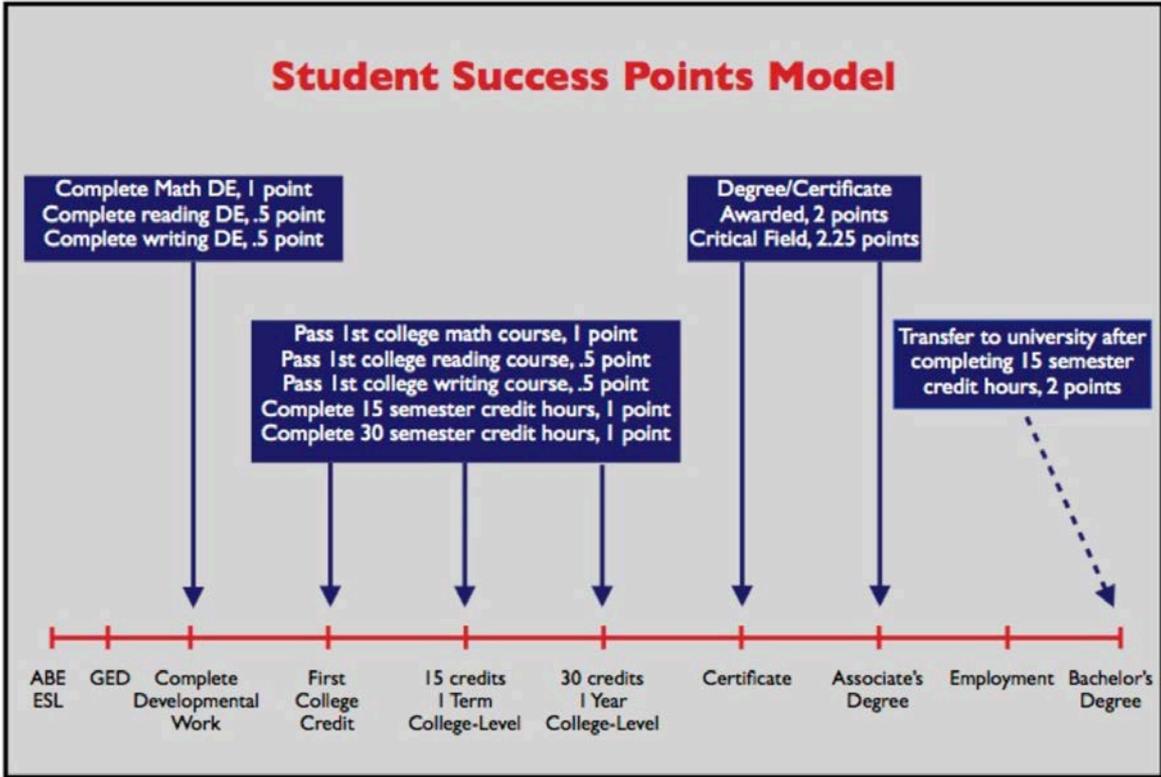
First-Time Degree Seeking Undergraduates After Six Years



Data Source: THECB Higher Education Almanac, First-Time Degree-Seeking Undergraduates, Fall 2009 Cohort After Six Years.

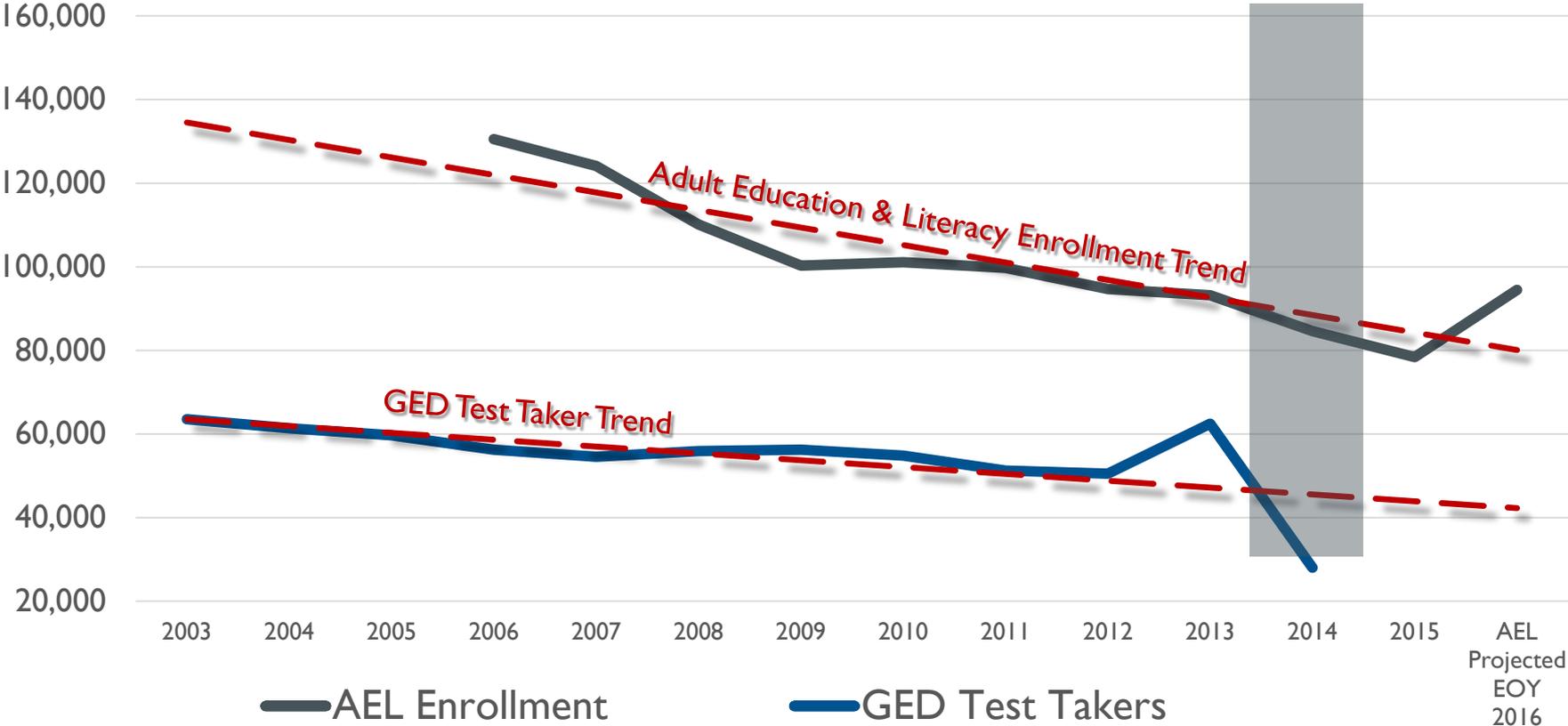
Recommendation #1: Community College Success Points

Return Student Success Point Funding to Original Benchmark
(At least \$185 per student Success Point)



Challenge #2: Enrollment in Programs Serving Secondary Adult Learners Has Been Declining

Enrollment in Adult Education & Literacy Programs and GED Test Takers



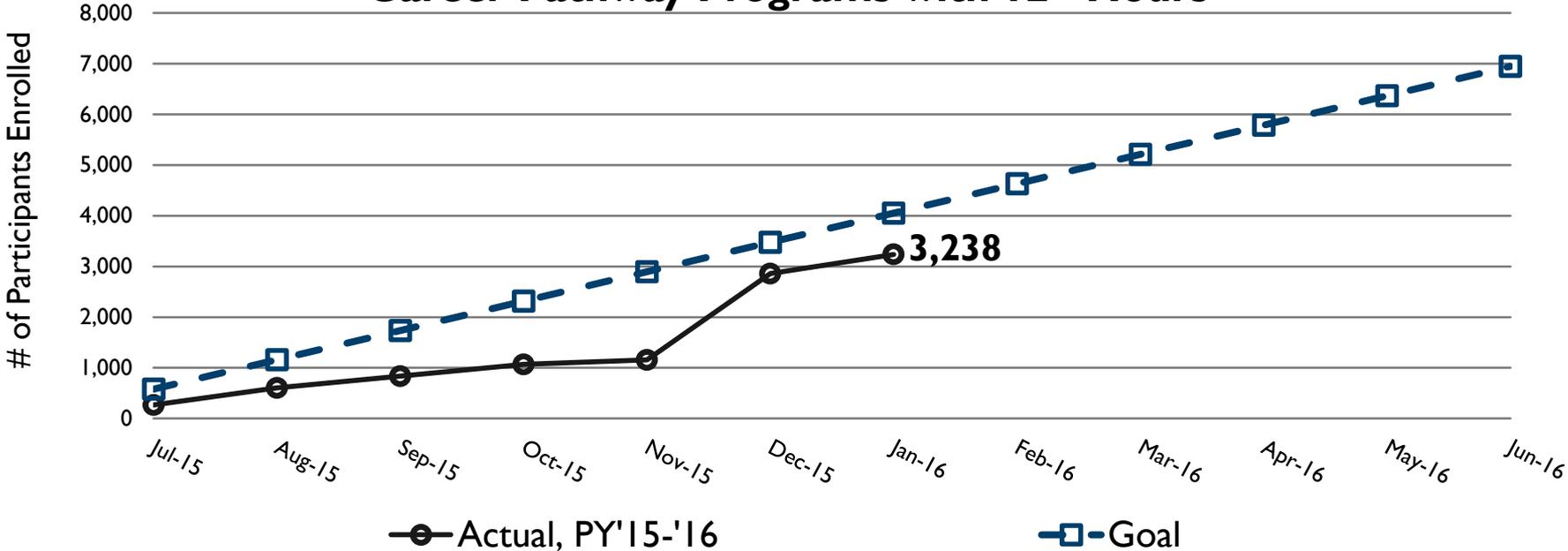
Data Sources: TEA and TWC Data, January 2016

* In 2014 Pearson updated the GED Test & AEL program moves to Texas Workforce Commission

Recommendation #2: Adult Education & Literacy

Texas should **increase state investment in Career Pathway programs for adults**, including *Accelerate Texas*

Adult Education and Literacy Enrollments in Career Pathway Programs with 12+ Hours



Source: Texas Workforce Commission, January 2016

Recommendation #3: High School Equivalency Test

The Legislature should commission a study on high school equivalency tests (HSEs) in Texas to determine:

- **Student Outcomes:** What are the educational and labor market outcomes for students that earn an HSE certificate in Texas?
- **Barriers to Access:** What is preventing more adult learners from earning an HSE certificate?