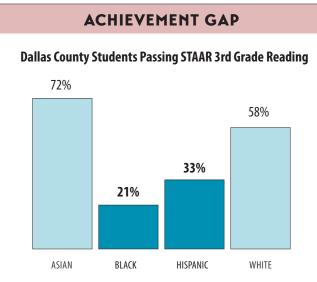
Evaluating Public Education in Dallas County

Dallas County education system can do more to prepare all students for success

Civic, career and college readiness begin in a child's earliest years. Too many Dallas County children struggle to meet academic benchmarks. Due to a legacy of policies that can create or exacerbate differences in outcomes, children of color and children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds are disproportionately likely to face barriers to academic achievement. Dallas County needs a more durable and well-funded pipeline across our education and workforce systems to prepare students of all backgrounds for the jobs of today and tomorrow.



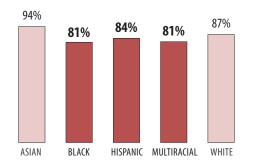
Economically disadvantaged elementary and middle school students pass STAAR tests half as often as their peers, and **70% of Dallas County students** who dropped out of school in 2017 were **economically disadvantaged**.

OUTCOMES

Inequities in school funding and resources can create gaps in on-time graduation rates. Dallas County's Black, Hispanic, and multiracial students are less likely to graduate from high school on time than their White and Asian peers.

When students struggle to complete their education, they can experience barriers to entry-level employment and pathways to jobs with wages high enough to meet their needs.

4-Year H.S. Graduation Rates by Race & Ethnicity (2017)



SOLUTIONS



To address the holes in our educational pipeline, we should:

- Provide support to economically disadvantaged students early by funding a full-day Pre-K program for all eligible children.
- Remodel Texas' outdated school finance system. For more information, see the *Texas Kids Count Data Guide on Texas Public Education*.

Learn more at CPPP.org

#TXkidscount

 Children in economically disadvantaged households and children who are English language learners are particularly likely to benefit from enrollment in early childhood education programs. However, in Dallas County, children in poorer families are less likely to attend preschool than their higher income peers.

What strategies do you support that could ensure early childhood education opportunities for all Dallas County kids?

 The early achievement gaps in math by race, ethnicity, and economic status show that far too many Dallas County students are facing barriers to success. For example, Black (21 percent) and Hispanic (33 percent) third graders are much less likely to be proficient in math than their Asian (72 percent) and White (58 percent) peers.



What strategies do you support to address the reading and math achievement gaps in education?

3. Today's job market is especially difficult for young people without a high school diploma or with low math and reading skills.

How will you ensure that young people in Dallas County are prepared for workforce or job training programs when they leave high school?

4. Test scores show that White and Asian elementary students are roughly two times as likely to be proficient in reading as their Black and Hispanic peers.



What strategies do you support to close the reading achievement gap in Dallas County schools?

5. Many Dallas County children, especially economically disadvantaged students, do not have access to afterschool and summer programs.



What strategies do you support to increase access to out-of-school enrichment opportunities?

6. Dallas County's on-time graduation rates have improved, but only 84 percent of Dallas County students in the class of 2017 graduated on time.



What strategies do you support to improve high school graduation rates?





Authored by Kristie Tingle. All sources available at <u>CPPP.org/kidscount</u>

CPPP is an independent public policy organization that uses research, analysis and advocacy to promote solutions that enable Texans of all backgrounds to reach their full potential. Learn more at <u>CPPP.org.</u> For more information, please contact Oliver Bernstein at <u>bernstein@cppp.org</u> or call 512.823.2875.