

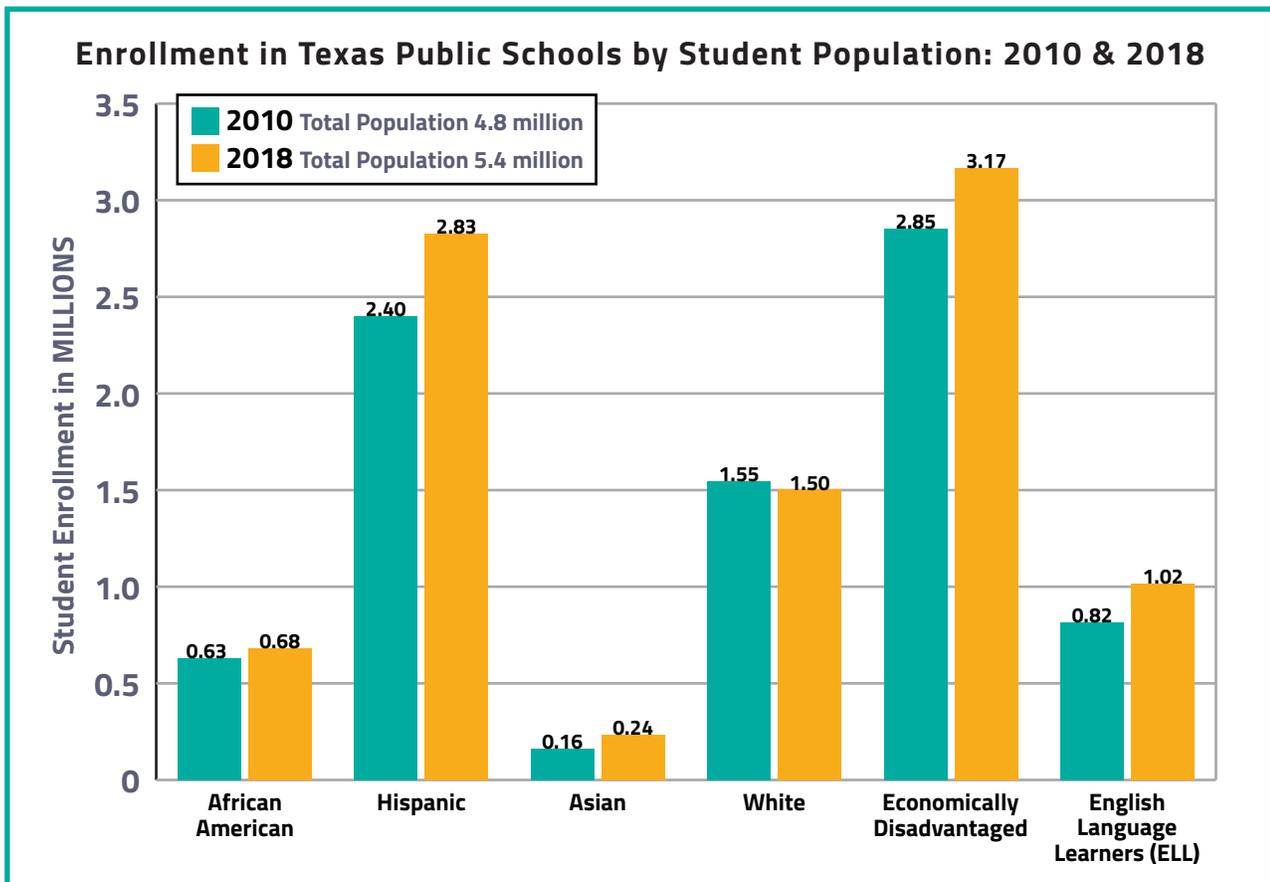
The Scale of Public Education in Texas

Texas has 1,200 public school districts and charter school systems and about 8,800 campuses. Last year, Texas public schools enrolled 5.4 million children and adolescents - about 10 percent of all public school students in the country. The success or failure of Texas' pre-K-12 public education system greatly affects the future prosperity of our state.

The growth in the state's student population reflects Texas' overall population gains. The state's population has doubled since 1980, now totaling approximately 29 million. Since 2010, the state has added roughly 560,000 public school students. Much of the fastest growth has been in suburbs on the edges of the state's largest metropolitan areas, such as Frisco ISD north of Dallas, Lake Travis ISD west of Austin, and Katy ISD in Harris County.

The state's growing share of Economically Disadvantaged and English language-learner (ELL) students presents new challenges to our education system. In the 2000-01 school year, half of the state's public school students were considered Economically Disadvantaged; by 2017-2018, the share had risen to 59 percent.¹ From 200-01 to 2017-18, the share of ELL students statewide grew from 14 percent to 19 percent.

The racial and ethnic profile of the state's public school population has also changed significantly, as shown in the chart below. Hispanic students grew from 40 percent in 2000-01 to over 50 percent in 2017-18. The number of white students in Texas public schools has declined since 2000, whereas the number of African American students has grown modestly. The population of Asian/Pacific Islanders has doubled since 2000-01 and now comprises about four percent of all Texas' public school students.



Source: Texas Education Agency, Enrollment in Texas Public Schools 2017-18

Texas public high schools produced about 334,000 graduates in 2016-17, and 74 percent took either the ACT or the SAT college admission test. About two percent of high school students drop out annually, meaning that in 2016-17, more than 30,000 high school students left without a diploma.

Notes:

1) Texas Education Agency, Texas Academic Performance Reports: 2010 and 2018, <https://tea.texas.gov/perfreport/tapr/index.html>