2019-20 Dallas ISD On-Track Indicator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Dallas Independent School District (Dallas ISD) developed its own On-Track indicator in 2007-08. Like the Consortium on Chicago School Research (CCSR) indicator[1], the Dallas ISD indicator combines two factors. A student is considered to be On-Track at the end of ninth grade if he or she has met both of the following criteria:

- The student has accumulated five full course credits, and
- The student has no more than one semester F (that is, one-half of a full credit) in a core subject (English, mathematics, science, or social studies).

The purpose of this evaluation was to assess the ninth grade On-Track rates for the district and individual high school campuses. Specifically, this evaluation reports (1) On-Track rates by school type, (2) On-Track rates by ethnicity, and (3) On-Track rates by school.

On Friday March 13, 2020, in alignment with federal recommendations, the Governor of Texas issued a disaster proclamation certifying that the novel coronavirus COVID-19 posed an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the state of Texas. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dallas ISD transitioned students to at-home learning on March 23 following spring break (March 16 – 20) until the end of the school year. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the district suspended its normal course grading policies.

EVALUATION QUESTIONS/OUTCOMES

What were the On-Track rates of first-time ninth-grade students in 2019-20?

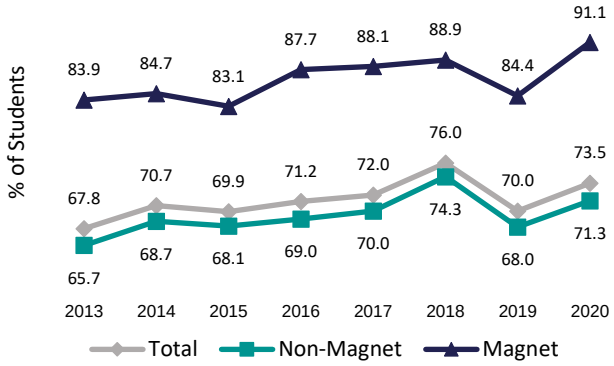
Methodology

Student characteristics were extracted from the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) district data files[2], and course performance data were extracted from the district course data files[3]. Only non-special education grade nine students who were enrolled in the same school for the fall semester were included.

Results

Overall, the 2019-20 district mid-year On-Track rate (73.5%) was higher than the mid-year On-Track rates for 2018-19 (70.0%, Figure 1). Mid-year On-Track rates for magnet schools were higher than those of non-magnet schools for all examined school years, resulting in a *gap* between the two groups. While the *gap* decreased from 2015-16 (18.7 percentage points) to 2017-18 (14.6 percentage points), it increased again in 2018-19 (16.4 percentage points). In 2019-20, the mid-year *gap* between the two groups continued to widen (19.8 percentage points).

Figure 1: On-Track Mid-Year Rates of First-Time Ninth-Grade Students by School Type, 2012-13 to 2019-20



Source: District course files dated 02/10/13 (2012-13), 02/10/14 (2013-14), 02/10/15 (2014-15), 09/15/16 (2015-16), 04/19/17 (2016-17), 07/11/18 (2017-18), 08/14/19 (2018-19) and 01/24/20 (2019-20) for students enrolled on the PEIMS snapshot dates of 10/29/12 (2012-13), 10/28/13 (2013-14), 10/31/14 (2014-15), 10/30/15 (2015-16), 10/31/16 (2016-17), 10/30/17 (2017-18), 10/26/18 (2018-19), and 10/28/19 (2019-20).

Overall, the 2019-20 end-of-year On-Track rate for non-magnet and magnet high schools (83.3% and 95.7%, respectively) was markedly higher than their 2018-19 end-of-year On-Track rates (74.4% and 88.4%, respectively) (Figure 2). It is important to note that due to COVID-19, the district suspended its normal course grading policies and the 2019-20 end-of-year On-Track rates may be inflated.

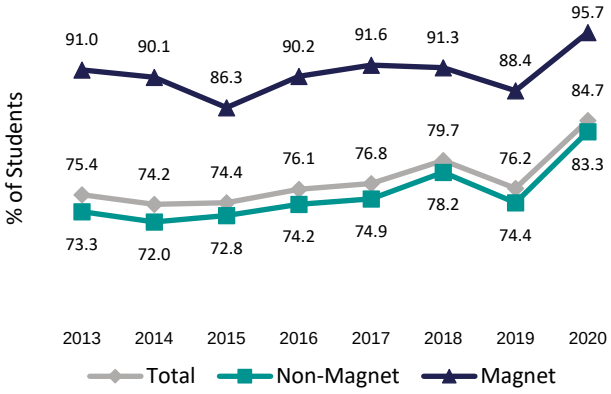
[1] The CCSR developed an On-Track indicator in 1999 to gauge whether students in their first year of high school were making enough progress to have a reasonable expectation of graduating in four years. Unlike other indicators, it provides information about progress and performance from a relatively early point in a student's high school career.

[2] PEIMS snapshot dates of 10/29/12 (2012-13), 10/28/13 (2013-14), 10/31/14 (2014-15), 10/30/15 (2015-16), 10/31/16 (2016-17), 10/30/17 (2017-18), 10/26/18 (2018-19), and 10/28/19 (2019-20).

[3] District course files dated 02/10/13 (2012-13), 02/10/14 (2013-14), 02/10/15 (2014-15), 09/15/16 (2015-16), 04/19/17 (2016-17), 07/11/18 (2017-18), 08/14/19 (2018-19) and 01/24/20 (2019-20).

Overall, from 2012-13 to 2019-20, On-Track rates for non-magnet and magnet high schools consistently increased from midyear to end of year (increases ranging from 2.4 percentage points to 12.0 percentage points). Similarly, the On-Track rate *gap* between the two groups tended to narrow from midyear to end of year (decreases ranging from 0.5 percentage points to 7.4 percentage points) except for 2013-14 in which the *gap* widened by 2.1 percentage points.

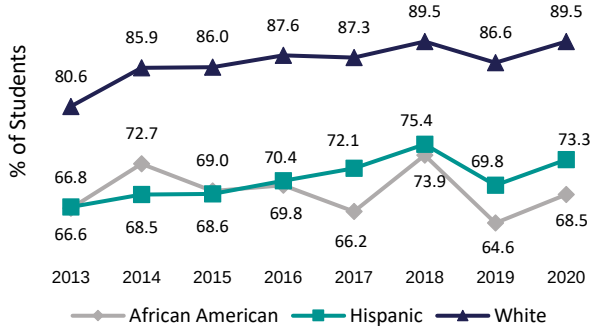
Figure 2: On-Track End-of-Year Percentages of First-Time Ninth-Grade Students by School Type, 2012-13 to 2019-20



Source: District course files dated 02/10/13 (2012-13), 02/10/14 (2013-14), 02/10/15 (2014-15), 09/15/16 (2015-16), 04/19/17 (2016-17), 07/11/18 (2017-18), 08/14/19 (2018-19) and 07/30/20 (2019-20) for students enrolled on the PEIMS snapshot dates of 10/29/12 (2012-13), 10/28/13 (2013-14), 10/31/14 (2014-15), 10/30/15 (2015-16), 10/31/16 (2016-17), 10/30/17 (2017-18), 10/26/18 (2018-19), and 10/28/19 (2019-20).

In 2019-20, the districtwide mid-year On-Track rate of African American students (68.5%) was lower than Hispanic students (73.3%) and White students (89.5%, see Figure 3). Since 2012-13, mid-year On-Track rates for White students have been higher than those of African American students and Hispanic students, resulting in a *gap* between the student groups. The *gap* widened between African American students and White students from 2013-14 (13.2 percentage points) to 2016-17 (21.1 percentage points) but decreased markedly in 2017-18 (15.6 percentage points) and increased again in 2018-19 (22.0 percentage points). In 2019-20, the *gap* between the African American students and White students decreased slightly to 21.0 percentage points. The *gap* narrowed between Hispanic students and White students from 2014-15 (17.4 percentage points) to 2017-18 (14.1 percentage points) but increased in 2018-19 (16.8 percentage points). In 2019-20, the *gap* between the Hispanic students and White students decreased slightly to 16.2 percentage points.

Figure 3: On-Track Mid-Year Rates of First-Time Ninth-Grade Students by Ethnicity, 2012-13 to 2019-20



Source: District course files dated 02/10/13 (2012-13), 02/10/14 (2013-14), 02/10/15 (2014-15), 09/15/16 (2015-16), 04/19/17 (2016-17), 07/11/18 (2017-18), 08/14/19 (2018-19) and 01/24/20 (2019-20) for students enrolled on the PEIMS snapshot dates of 10/29/12 (2012-13), 10/28/13 (2013-14), 10/31/14 (2014-15), 10/30/15 (2015-16), 10/31/16 (2016-17), 10/30/17 (2017-18), 10/26/18 (2018-19), and 10/28/19 (2019-20).

Overall, magnet high schools (91.1%) had a higher percentage of mid-year On-Track students compared to non-magnet high schools (71.3%, Table 1). In 2019-20, eight out of 28 (28.6%) non-magnet high schools had mid-year rates at or above 80 percent, which was an increase from 2019 (*n* = 5). Ten non-magnet high schools had mid-year On-Track rates below 70 percent, with three of those schools falling below 60 percent (Lincoln, Roosevelt and Spruce). Nine out of ten (90.0%) magnet high schools had mid-year rates exceeding 80 percent, which was an increase from 2018-19 (*n* = 5). One magnet high school, New Tech, had a mid-year On-Track rate below 80 percent.

Overall, from 2017-18 to 2019-20, magnet high schools' mid-year On-Track rates increased by 2.2 percentage points, while the district and non-magnet high schools had decreases in mid-year On-Track rates (2.5 percentage points and 3.0 percentage points, respectively). From 2017-18 to 2019-20, 18 out of 28 (64.3%) non-magnet high schools had decreases in mid-year On-Track rates (ranging from 0.6 percentage points to 29.9 percentage points). Four out of ten (40.0%) magnet high schools had decreases in mid-year On-Track rates (ranging from 0.1 percentage points to 11.0 percentage points).

Table 1: Freshman Mid-Year On-Track Rates by School, 2017-18 to 2019-20

	Percent On-Track			2-yr
	2018	2019	2020	Δ
Non-Magnet High Schools				
B. Adams	77.1	69.2	68.1	-9.0
Adamson	78.3	67.7	76.5	-1.8
Carter	69.2	61.0	72.5	3.3
CityLab	91.3	72.4	82.0	-9.3
Conrad	74.4	74.9	75.0	0.6
Garza Early College	84.8	93.9	95.2	10.4
Gilliam Collegiate Academy	99.0	87.1	80.2	-18.8
Hillcrest	71.7	70.4	81.5	9.8
IDEA	86.4	70.8	79.7	-6.7
Jefferson	80.7	71.6	70.8	-9.9
Kimball	72.9	67.2	63.9	-9.0
Lassiter Early College	96.5	92.9	100.0	3.5
Lincoln	83.4	61.9	53.5	-29.9
Madison	81.9	81.6	80.0	-1.9
Molina	79.2	72.4	73.4	-5.8
North Dallas	60.2	55.1	70.0	9.8
North Lake	-	-	100.0	-
Pinkston	76.3	67.6	64.7	-11.6
Roosevelt	58.0	33.1	55.8	-2.2
Samuell	79.7	63.0	77.6	-2.1
Seagoville	78.2	58.8	68.4	-9.8
Skyline	67.3	66.6	70.5	3.2
South Oak Cliff	74.5	75.1	65.2	-9.3
Spruce	69.3	52.4	50.1	-19.2
Sunset	73.9	66.3	69.5	-4.4
White	69.0	71.8	72.3	3.3
Wilmer-Hutchins	67.5	64.7	66.9	-0.6
Wilson	76.7	81.6	82.1	5.4
Non-Magnet Total	**74.3**	**68.0**	**71.3**	**-3.0**
Magnet High Schools				
Obama	83.3	88.6	100.0	16.7
Rangel	100.0	100.0	96.3	-3.7
New Tech	88.3	25.5	77.3	-11.0
Townview Business	82.5	79.1	89.7	7.2
Townview ESSM	82.1	67.7	82.0	-0.1
Townview Health	90.5	93.1	96.1	5.6
Townview Law	84.8	75.0	92.4	7.6
Townview SEM	95.5	98.3	97.4	1.9
Townview TAG	95.9	97.3	98.4	2.5
Washington Arts	88.6	78.4	85.7	-2.9
Magnet Total	**88.9**	**84.4**	**91.1**	**2.2**
District Total	**76.0**	**70.0**	**73.5**	**-2.5**

Source: District course files dated 07/11/18 (2017-18), 08/14/19 (2018-19) and 01/24/20 (2019-20) for students enrolled on the PEIMS snapshot dates of 10/30/17 (2017-18), 10/26/18 (2018-19), and 10/28/19 (2019-20).
Note: ESSM = Education and Social Science Magnet. SEM = Science and Engineering Magnet. TAG = Talented and Gifted. - = No data available. Schools with 2019-20 mid-year On-Track rates below 70 percent are highlighted in gray. 2-yr Δ = Difference change in On-Track percentage from 2017-18 to 2019-20. *All differences shown in percentage points*.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Investigate how mid-year On-Track rates compare to end-of-year On-Track rates. The 2019-20 end-of-year On-Track rates for non-magnet and magnet high schools were markedly higher than their 2018-19 end-of-year On-Track rates. However, due to COVID-19, the district suspended its normal course grading policies in the spring of 2020, and the 2019-20 end-of-year On-Track rates may be inflated. Understanding the relationship between mid-year and end-of-year On-Track rates could help the district better identify students who are at-risk of not being On-Track by the end of the school year.

As recommended in previous years, analyze progress of recent freshman cohorts to revalidate the On-Track Indicator. Longitudinal analyses of freshman cohorts who have graduated should be conducted to determine the overall accuracy of the On-Track indicator and determine if other factors should be incorporated into the On-Track criteria.

REFERENCE

Featherston, L. (2019). *2018-19 Dallas ISD On-Track Indicator*. Dallas, TX: Dallas Independent School District.

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