

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Dallas Independent School District (Dallas ISD) developed its own On-Track indicator in 2007-08. Similar to the University of Chicago Consortium on School Research indicator (Allensworth & Easton, 2005), the Dallas ISD indicator comprises two factors. A student is considered to be On-Track at the end of ninth grade if she or he has 1) accumulated five full course credits and 2) 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 report was to present the annual and longitudinal ninth grade On-Track rates for the district and individual high school campuses.

On-Track rates of first-time ninth-grade students in 2022-23¹

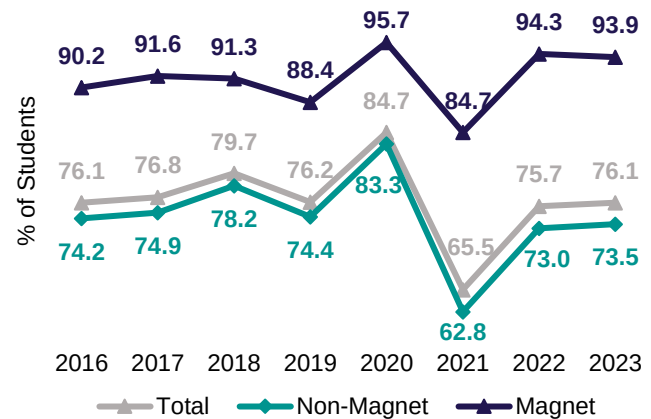
Methodology

Student characteristics were extracted from the district Student Information System (SIS) data files, and course performance data were extracted from the district course data files. Only non-special education ninth grade students enrolled in the same school for the duration of the fall semester were included.

Results

- Overall, the 2022-23 district end-of-year (EOY) On-Track rate (76.1%) was 0.4 percentage points higher than the EOY On-Track rate for 2021-22 (75.7%) and 10.6 percentage points higher than the EOY On-Track rate for 2020-21 (65.5%, Figure 1).
- The 2022-23 gap of 20.4 percentage points between EOY On-Track rates for magnet schools (93.9%) and non-magnet schools (73.5%) decreased slightly from the 2021-22 gap of 21.3 percentage points.

Figure 1: 2015-16 through 2022-23 On-Track End-of-Year Rates for First-Time Ninth Graders by School Type

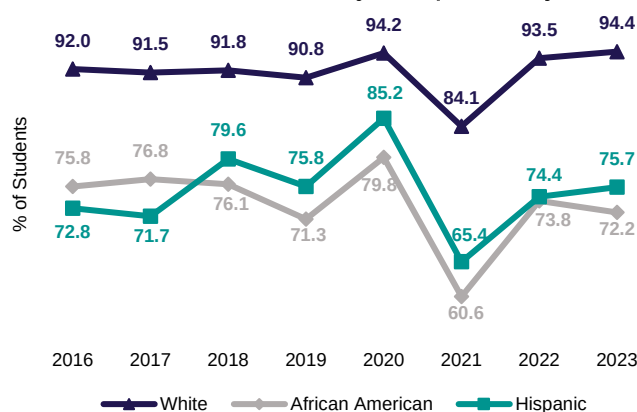


Source: District 9th Grade On-Track files dated 08/12/2016 (2015-16), 08/09/17 (2016-17), 08/08/18 (2017-18), 10/17/19 (2018-19), 08/18/20 (2019-20), 08/12/21 (2020-21), 07/01/22 (2021-22), and 06/27/23 (2022-23).

- In 2023, On-Track rates increased for Hispanic and White students (1.3 and 0.9 percentage points respectively, Figure 2), while rates for African American students decreased (1.6 percentage points).
- Rates for both African American and Hispanic students were nearly 20 percentage points lower than the rate for White students (94.4%).
- In six of the past eight years, the gap in On-Track rates between African American students and White students has tended to be slightly larger compared to the gap between Hispanic and White students.
- Compared to 2019 pre-pandemic On-Track rates, both African American and White students' rates increased (0.9 and 3.6 percentage points, respectively), while rates for Hispanic students decreased by 0.1 percentage points.

¹ Portions of this report are adapted from Featherston & Eells (2022).

Figure 2: 2015-16 through 2022-23 On-Track Rates of First-Time Ninth Graders by Race/Ethnicity



Source: District 9th Grade On-Track files dated 08/09/17 (2016-17), 08/08/18 (2017-18), 10/17/19 (2018-19), 08/18/20 (2019-20), 08/12/21 (2020-21), 07/01/22 (2021-22), and 06/27/23 (2022-23).

- In 2022-23, 12 out of 28 (42.9%) non-magnet high schools had EOY rates at or above 80 percent ($n = 12$, Table 1).
- Nine non-magnet high schools had EOY On-Track rates below 70 percent, with two of those schools falling below 60 percent.
- Nine out of ten (90%) magnet high schools had EOY rates at or exceeding 80 percent, with one magnet high school with a rate below 80 percent (Townview Education and Social Science Magnet).
- Overall, from 2020-21 to 2022-23, non-magnet high schools', magnet high schools', and the district's EOY On-Track rates increased markedly (10.7 percentage points, 9.2 percentage points, and 10.6 percentage points, respectively).
- From 2020-21 to 2022-23, 25 out of 28 (89.3%) non-magnet high schools had increases in EOY On-Track rates. Seagoville had the largest increase in EOY On-Track rates (33.8 percentage points), while Gilliam Collegiate Academy had the largest decrease in end-of-year On-Track rates (7.1 percentage points).
- From 2020-21 to 2022-23, nine out of ten (90.0%) magnet high schools had increases in EOY On-Track rates. New Tech had the largest increase rates (21.7 percentage points), while Obama had the only decrease in EOY rates (14.4 percentage points).

Table 1: 2020-21 to 2022-23 Ninth Grade End-of-Year On-Track Rates by School

	Percent On-Track			2-yr Δ
	2021	2022	2023	
Non-Magnet High Schools				
B. Adams	80.3	80.6	80.6	0.3
Adamson	66.8	79.8	87.5	20.7
Carter	50.9	73.6	66.5	15.6
CityLab	67.7	98.1	81.3	13.6
Conrad	63.5	74.7	71.2	7.7
Garza Early College	83.6	98.0	96.7	13.1
Gilliam Coll. Academy	75.0	84.6	67.9	-7.1
Hillcrest	61.6	80.5	74.5	12.9
IDEA	70.9	86.5	97.8	26.9
Jefferson	67.4	71.5	83.1	15.7
Kimball	46.9	66.8	65.1	18.2
Lassiter Early College	94.6	92.4	98.6	4.0
Lincoln	54.5	69.2	70.2	15.7
Madison	56.6	68.7	85.1	28.5
Molina	71.0	68.1	78.1	7.1
North Dallas	60.7	78.8	87.8	27.1
North Lake Early College	69.8	85.5	91.8	22.0
Pinkston	70.0	80.4	83.0	13.0
Roosevelt	46.0	92.3	48.5	2.5
Samuell	46.0	57.5	68.5	22.5
Seagoville	43.1	68.1	76.9	33.8
Skyline	61.7	64.6	61.8	0.1
South Oak Cliff	69.8	76.7	75.2	5.4
Spruce	34.5	56.9	51.9	17.4
Sunset	73.3	76.9	74.8	1.5
White	70.4	66.6	65.3	-5.1
Wilmer-Hutchins	70.3	72.0	66.2	-4.1
Wilson	66.7	82.2	82.1	15.4
Non-Magnet Total	62.8	73.0	73.5	10.7
Magnet High Schools				
Obama	94.4	77.5	80.0	-14.4
Rangel	92.4	98.7	100.0	7.6
New Tech	77.3	100.0	99.0	21.7
Townview Business	87.9	95.8	91.1	3.2
Townview ESSM	65.9	92.1	77.4	11.5
Townview Health	90.5	94.2	95.9	5.4
Townview Law	74.6	96.1	92.7	18.1
Townview SEM	86.6	95.6	91.8	5.2
Townview TAG	88.3	99.2	98.2	9.9
Washington Arts	84.1	91.9	95.1	11.0
Magnet Total	84.7	94.3	93.9	9.2
District Total	65.5	75.7	76.1	10.6

Source: District course files dated 07/21/21 (2020-21), 07/01/22 (2021-22), and 07/17/23 (2022-23) for students enrolled on the PEIMS snapshot dates of 10/30/20 (2020-21), 11/01/21 (2021-22), and 10/31/22 (2022-23).

Note: Coll = Collegiate. ESSM = Education and Social Science Magnet. SEM = Science and Engineering Magnet. TAG = Talented and Gifted. Schools with 2022-23 EOY On-Track rates below 70 percent are highlighted in gray. 2-yr Δ = Difference change in On-Track percentage from 2020-21 to 2022-23. All differences shown in percentage points.

Longitudinal trends (4-year graduation rates) of first-time ninth-grade students by On-Track status

Methodology

Student leaver records were extracted from the PEIMS district data files and merged with On-Track data files for 2015-16 through 2021-22. Four-year graduation rates were calculated for first-time ninth-grade cohort students identified as On-Track and Not On-Track, after excluding students who left the district.

Results

- Overall, the Class of 2022 had a smaller proportion of first-time ninth-grade students identified as On-Track compared to the previous ninth-grade classes (Table 2).
- For Classes of 2016 to 2022, first-time ninth-grade students identified as On-Track had higher 4-year graduation rates (81.9% - 89.9%) than first-time ninth-grade students identified as Not On-Track (36.3% - 57.0%).
- The Class of 2022 On-Track and Not On-Track students experienced an increase in 4-year graduation rates compared to the Class of 2021 (1.0 percentage points and 3.4 percentage points, respectively).

Table 2: Graduation Rates by On-Track Status: Class of 2016 through Class of 2022

Class of	Class Total		Graduated in 4-years	
	N	%	n	%
On-Track				
2016	6,165	79.4	5,359	86.9
2017	5,818	78.2	5,132	88.2
2018	6,217	79.0	5,503	88.5
2019	6,433	80.9	5,779	89.8
2020*	6,403	81.8	5,690	88.9
2021	6,896	80.9	5,651	81.9
2022	6,847	77.7	5,677	82.9
Not On-Track				
2016	1,595	20.6	859	53.9
2017	1,623	21.8	925	57.0
2018	1,655	21.0	928	56.1
2019	1,515	19.1	823	54.3
2020*	1,421	18.2	720	50.7
2021	1,626	19.1	590	36.3
2022	1,967	22.3	781	39.7

Source: District 9th Grade On-Track files dated 09/04/2013 (Class of 2016), 08/07/14 (Class of 2017), 09/01/15 (Class of 2018), 08/12/16 (Class of 2019), 08/09/17 (Class of 2020), 08/08/18 (Class of 2021), and 10/17/19 (Class of 2022). Student leaver files dated 07/17/23.

Note: * = Due to the COVID-19, traditional student data tracking may have been disrupted and data for the Class of 2020 should be viewed with caution.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As recommended in prior years, track and analyze student support services provided to first-time ninth grade students identified as Not On-Track. Longitudinal analyses of graduation rates over the last seven years indicate that only 36.3% to 57.0% of first-time ninth-grade students identified as Not On-Track will graduate high school in four years. Identification and tracking of student support services received by Not On-Track students could be examined to determine which support services are most efficacious.

As recommended in prior years, investigate which supplemental supports were provided at campuses with the highest increases in On-Track rates. All but three non-magnet high schools (Gilliam Collegiate Academy, White, and Wilmer-Hutchins) and one magnet high school (Obama) had increases in the percentage of On-Track students. District leaders should investigate which additional student services were provided at these schools to support a higher percentage of students staying On-Track districtwide.

REFERENCES

Featherston, L. & Eells, J. (2022). *2021-22 Dallas ISD On-Track Indicator*. Dallas, TX: Dallas Independent School District.

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<https://consortium.uchicago.edu/publications/track-indicator-predictor-high-school-graduation>

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