



Texas College Access Network (TCAN)

TxHSI Consortium
San Antonio, TX

May 20, 2011





Overview

- **Texas High School Project: Who we are**
- Need for a College Access Network
 - Regional Action Plan and College Access Inventory
- Texas College Access Network
 - Objectives and Long-Term Plan
- Phase 1 of project, process and research
 - Preliminary findings
- Role of TxHSI Consortium



Our Mission

To significantly improve the postsecondary readiness of low-income students with a focus on students in low performing schools

The Texas High School Project develops practical insights and proven solutions that can be scaled in schools and districts throughout Texas based on our evidence and data analysis across the transition from middle school (8-9) through high school (9-12) and into postsecondary programs (four-year, two-year, and technical programs).





THSP has aligned \$375M to date and has robust public & private partnerships.

State of Texas

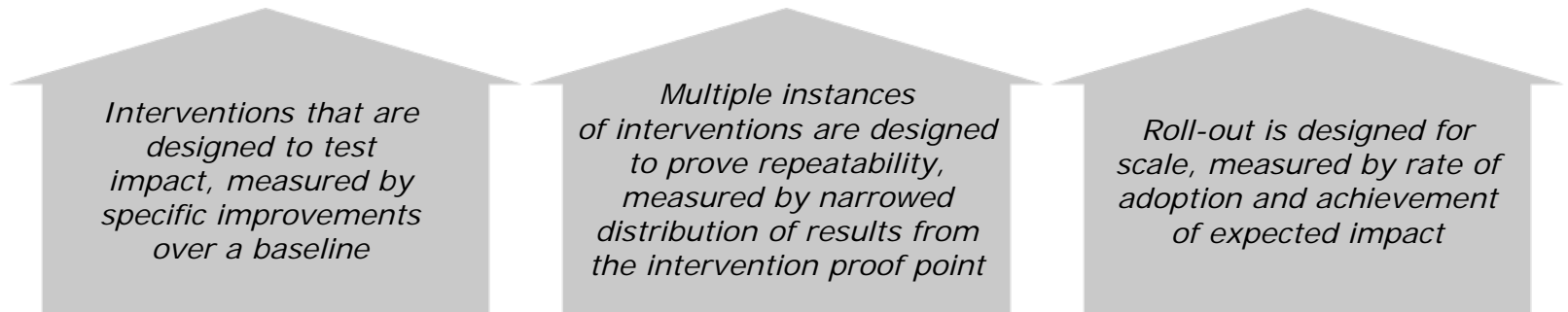


Private Sector/ Philanthropy





THSP manages an R&D pipeline to identify and scale successful programs/practices.

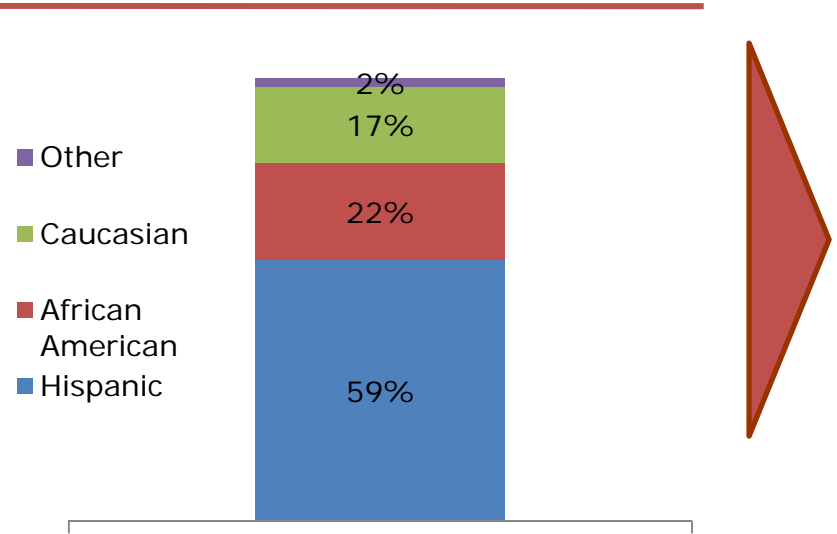




THSP programs reach 84,000 students and are accelerating student achievement within targeted populations.

THSP is reaching diverse student body (e.g. 70% economically disadvantaged)¹...

... with significant gains in student achievement.²



Ethnicity of THSP student population

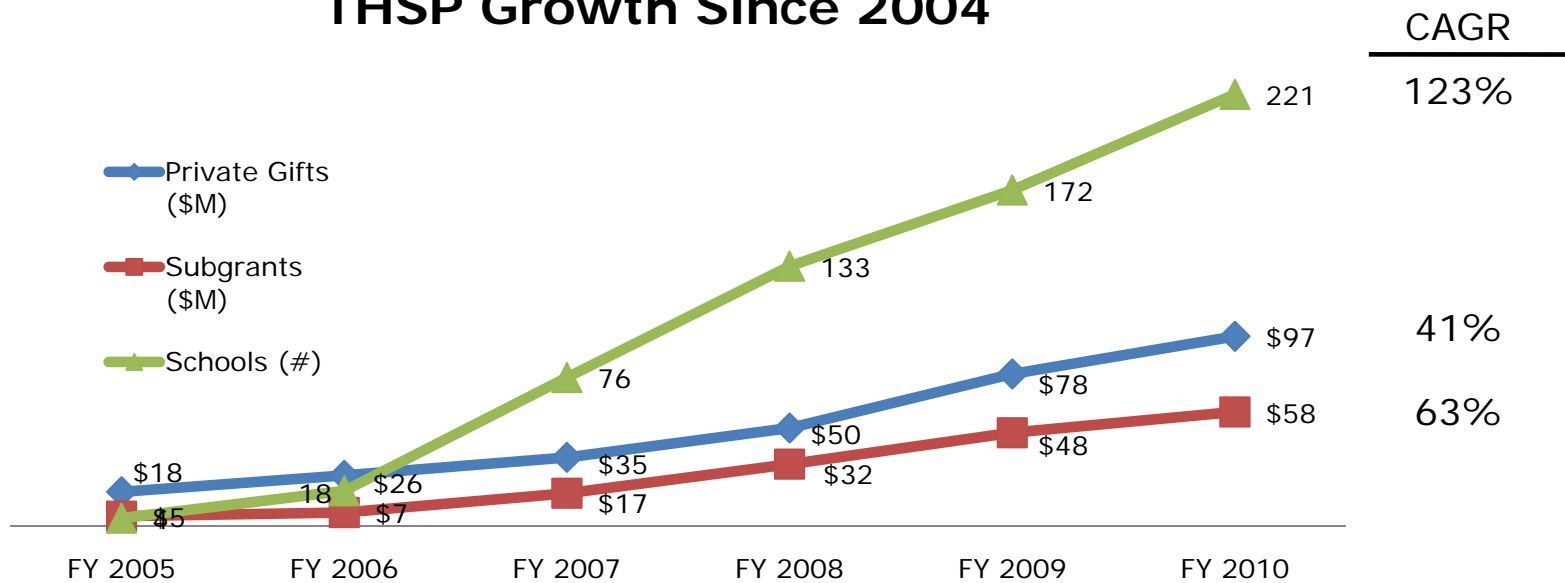
- **Increase Postsecondary Readiness** by 30 to 100%
- **Improve Student Engagement** by reducing dropout rate by 10X
- **Close the Achievement Gap** in key measures between minorities and Anglo populations

¹ SRI International Evaluation of the Texas High School Project – July 2010
² 2008-2009 AEIS for T-STEM Academies



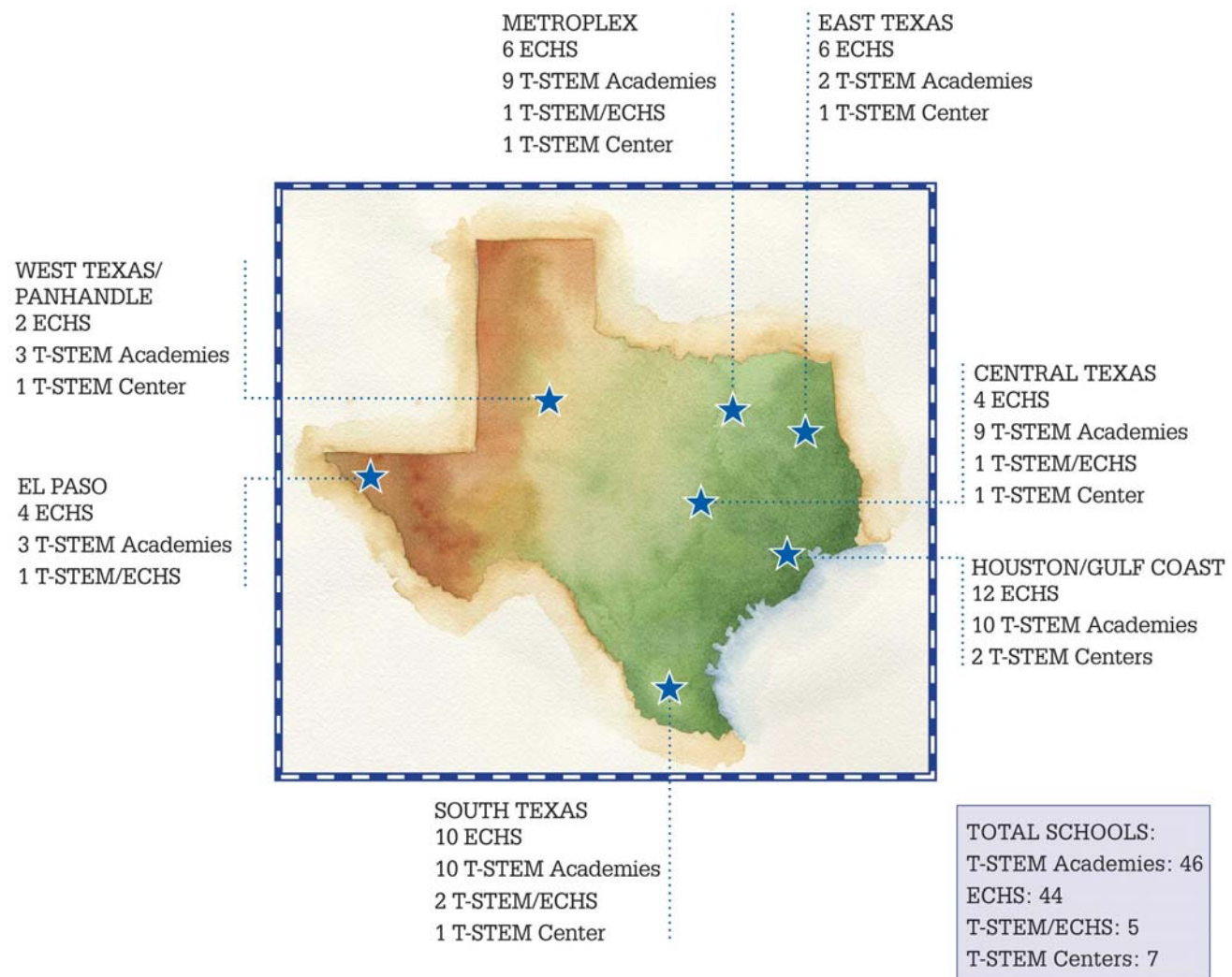
THSP has achieved significant growth in funding and accelerated its support of schools and districts.

THSP Growth Since 2004



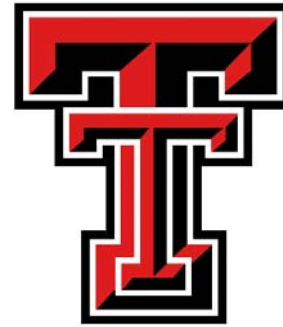


THSP is establishing a college-ready network across the state.





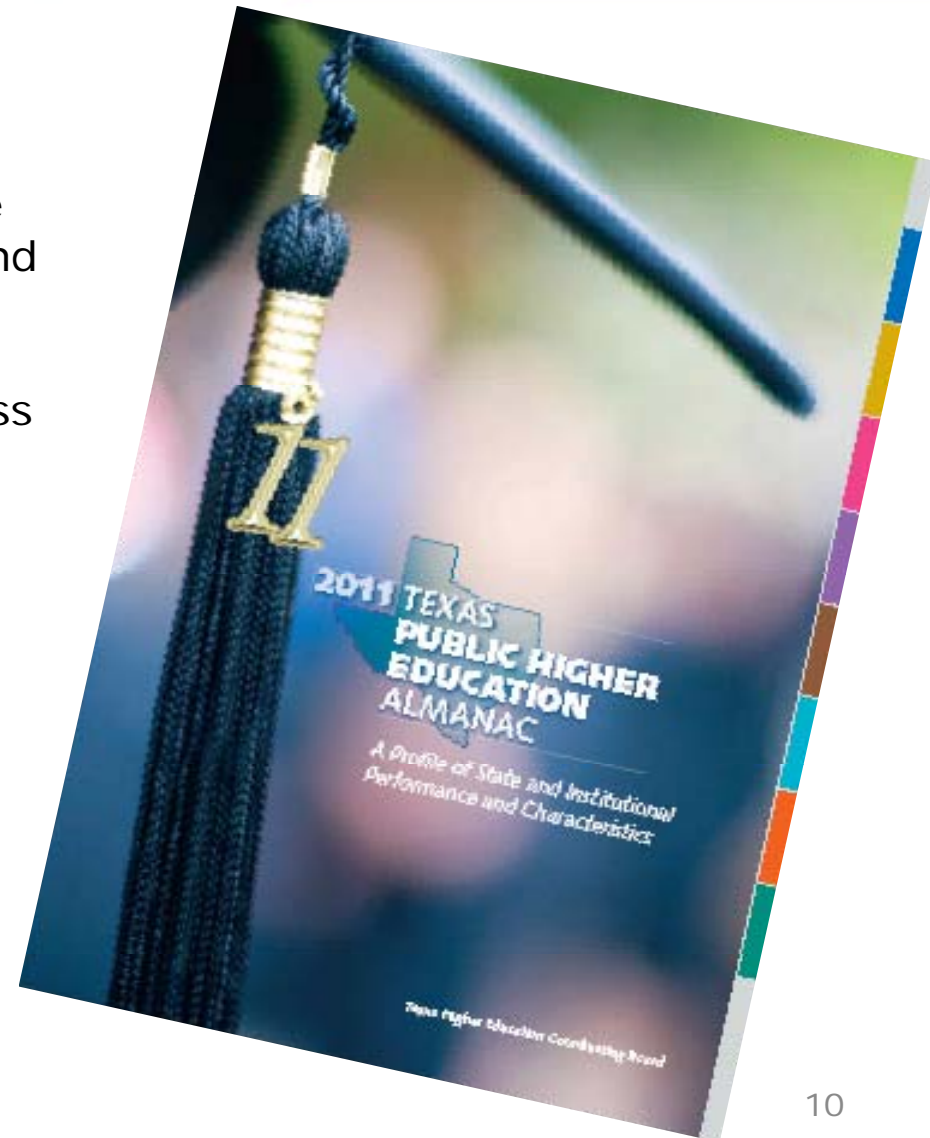
Established IHE Partnerships





Our Partnership With THECB

- Production of the first comprehensive almanac of Texas higher education and institutional data
- Supported a strategic planning process to accelerate THECB's "Closing The Gaps" initiative
- Partner in the Generation TX campaign, a statewide initiative aimed at mobilizing entire communities to help Texas students and their families pursue the path to college and career education beyond high school





Postsecondary Success Initiatives

- **Regional Action Plan**
Providing statewide overview, region-specific summaries, and strategy to improve postsecondary outcomes through collective impact via a multi-regional approach including South Texas, El Paso, Metroplex, Gulf Coast and Central Texas.
- **Completion by Design**
Serving as the State Policy Lead for the Lone Star Community College System's cadre of colleges.
- **Learn and Earn**
Working with Texarkana Community College to apply for a Learn and Earn grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.



THSP supports postsecondary access and completion.

Given historical investments at the secondary level and challenges students face in postsecondary completion, THSP is increasing its focus on addressing:

- **Postsecondary Access**

Developing the Texas College Access Network (TCAN) to identify and connect effective organizations committed to driving greater postsecondary access

- **Advocacy Support for Regional Universities and Community Colleges**

Supporting community college retention and completion through the Completion by Design initiative and Learn and Earn Model

- **Next Generation Technologies for Increasing Postsecondary Success**

Identifying opportunities for piloting and demonstrating impact of utilizing technology

Focus of today's discussion

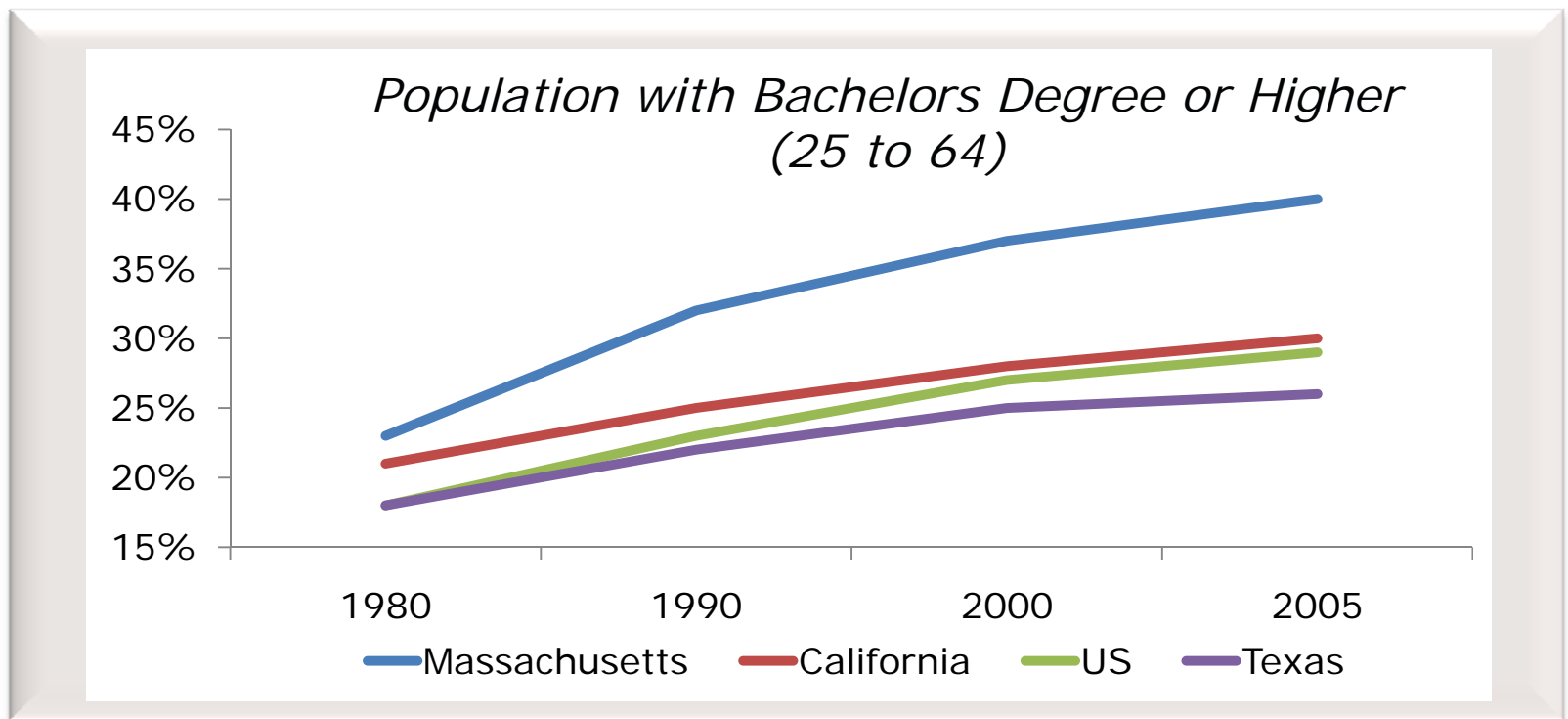


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Texas' attainment in postsecondary education has dropped below the national average.



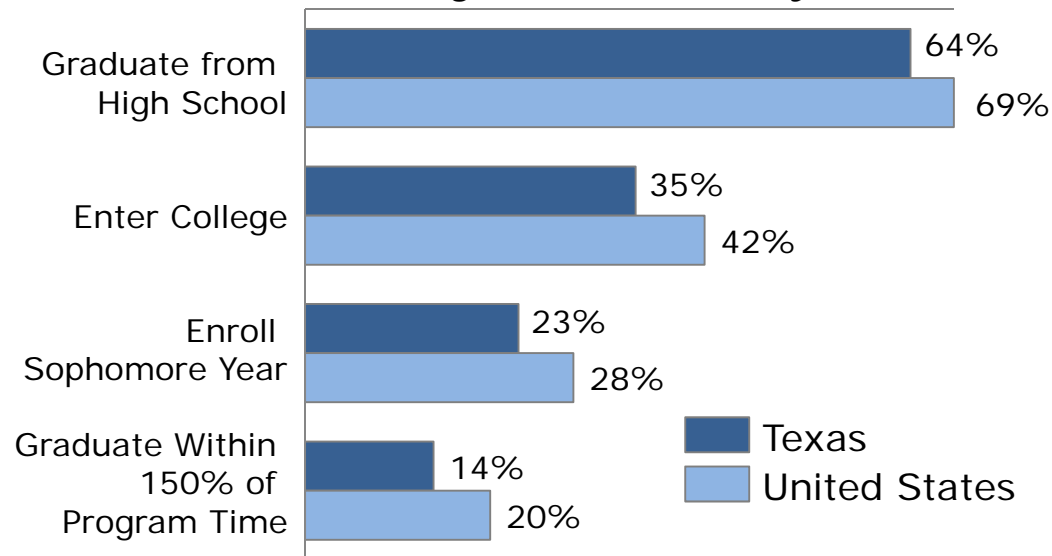
Nationally, Texas ranks 43rd postsecondary participation and 32nd in postsecondary completion.



The state's current higher education pipeline will have stark implications for Texas' prosperity.

College Access to Completion Pipeline 2006

Of 100 9th graders, how many ...



The gap between Texas and US average will widen unless Texas' performance across the higher education pipeline improves.

Source: College Access / Completion Pipeline Chart from NCES and THECB data in the State of Texas' Report of the Select Commission on Higher Education and Global Competitiveness, January 2009



The state's current higher education pipeline will have stark implications for Texas' prosperity.

Effects on Texas Economy by 2040 *(if current trends continue)**



12% decline in average household income

15% increase in number of households living in poverty

\$15B per year less in state tax revenue

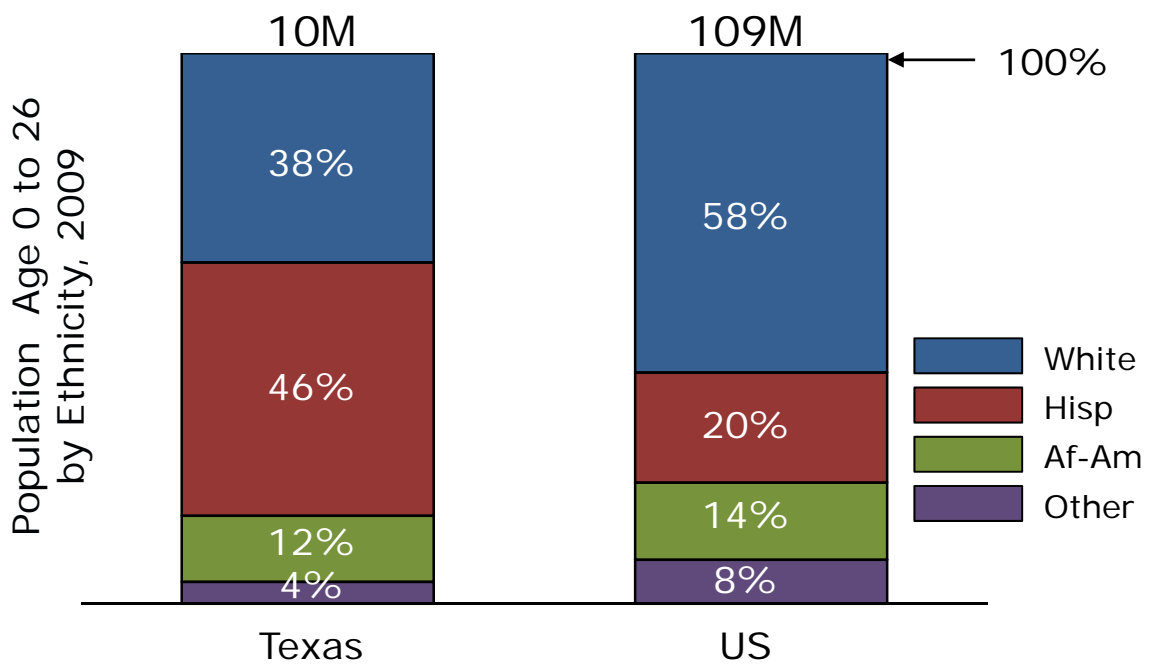
An increase of 100,000 in the prison population and an additional \$1.5B per year in incarceration costs

Source: Steve Murdock, Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research, UT San Antonio; projections based on 1.0 population growth scenario



Leaky pipeline partly caused by high percentage of underserved students with lower achievement rates.

Hispanics Are Texas' Largest Ethnic Group Under Age 26



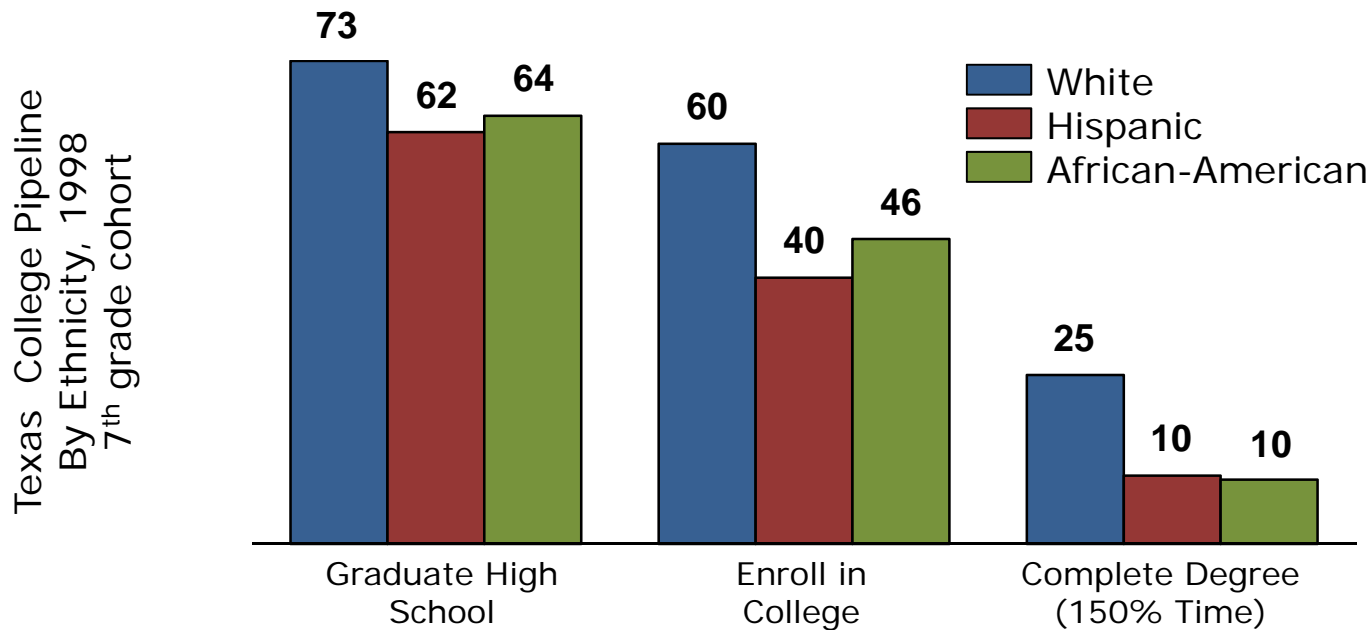
Source: Left chart, Texas data from Texas State Data Center and Office of the State Demographer, US data from U.S. Census Bureau 2009 Population Project Net Migration Series; Right chart, THECB 1998 7th grade cohort data



Leaky pipeline partly caused by high percentage of underserved students with lower achievement rates.

Only 10% of 7th grade Hispanic and African-American Students Complete a Degree

Of 100 7th graders, how many ...



Source: Left chart, Texas data from Texas State Data Center and Office of the State Demographer, US data from U.S. Census Bureau 2009 Population Project Net Migration Series; Right chart, THECB 1998 7th grade cohort data



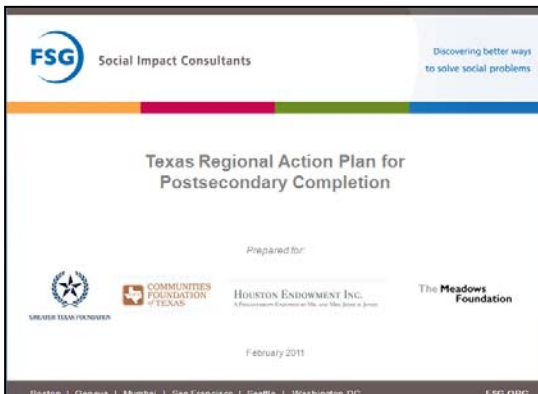
The good news: Many Texas organizations are committed to improving postsecondary access and completion.

- **There are more than 1,600 organizations statewide supporting college access¹**
 - K-12 schools
 - Colleges and universities
 - College access and success organizations
 - Indirect service providers
- **Coupled with the work of other key stakeholders**
 - State Agencies (TEA, THECB)
 - Texas Legislature
 - Governor’s Office
 - Philanthropic Organizations
 - Community and Business Groups
 - Civil Rights Groups

1. Texas College Access Inventory, Greater Texas Foundation and National College Access Network, January 2011

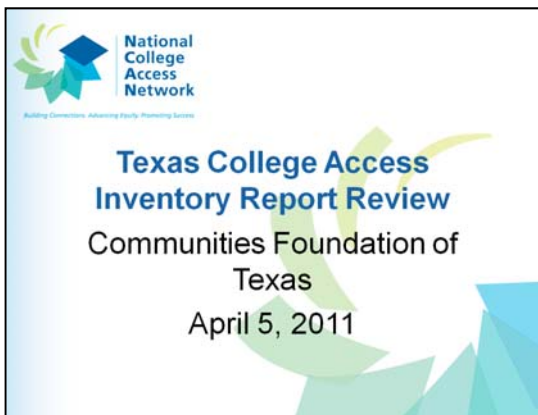


Given the breadth of stakeholders,
research demonstrates the need to align efforts.



- **Texas Regional Action Plan**

- Outlined the urgency and complexity of the educational challenges ahead
- Identified the need for increasing coordination and focus



- **Texas College Access Inventory¹**

- Confirmed the support for a statewide network to increase collaboration, networking, and communication

1. Texas College Access Inventory (January 2011) was completed by the National College Access Network, as commissioned by Greater Texas Foundation



We are here today to discuss our focus on one incremental component of the pipeline.



Our primary focus:
Texas College Access Network





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Texas College Access Network Overview and Goals

Texas is a National College Access Network (NCAN) grant recipient and is developing the Texas College Access Network (TCAN)

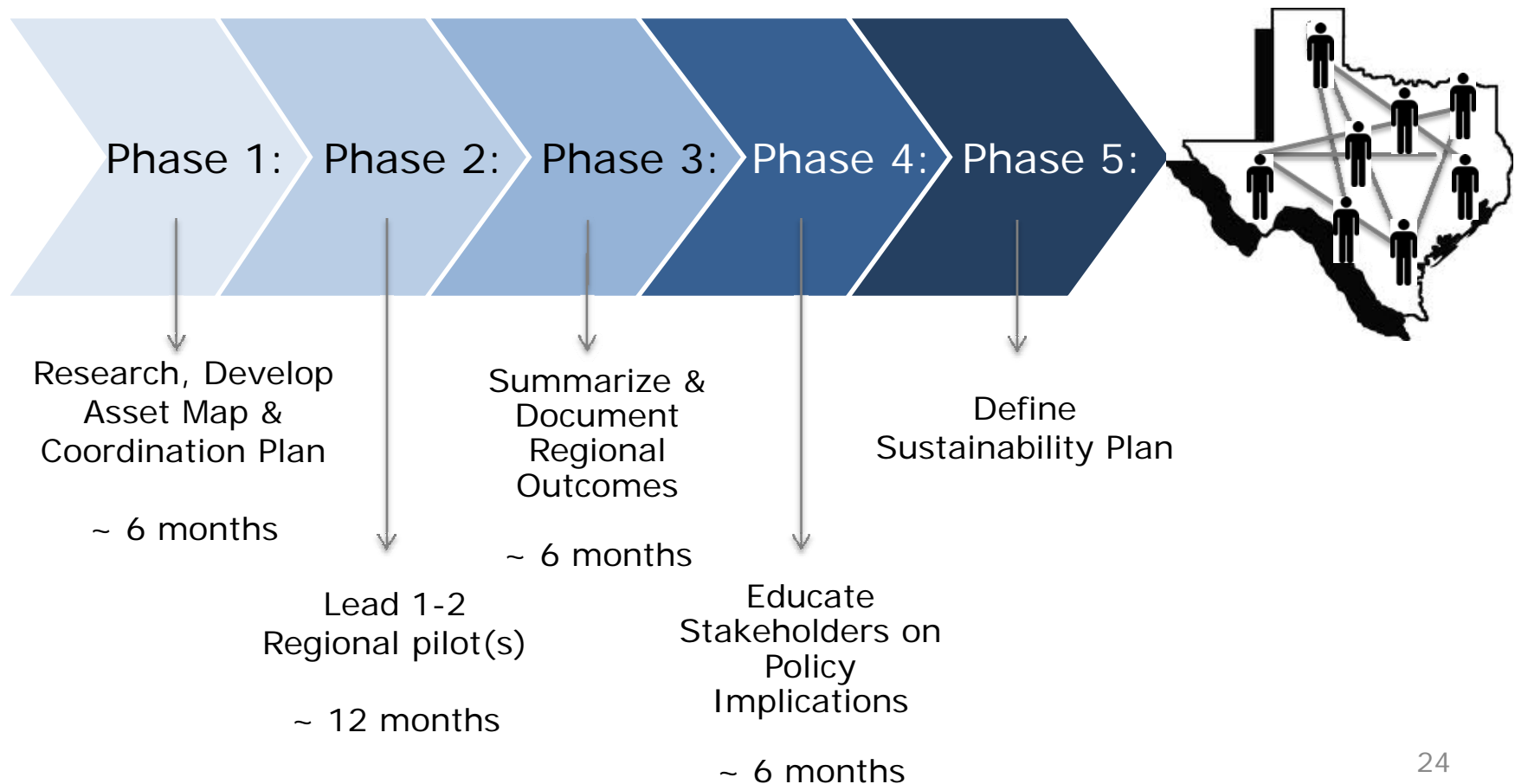


THSP and its public-private partnership will work together to:

- Establish a sustainable Texas network of agencies and organizations designed to increase student access and success in post-secondary education
- Create a platform for aligning national, state and local organizations activities and core competencies



Overview of TCAN key activities and timeline





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Phase 1: Who have we heard from to date?

We have talked to many stakeholders...

- Through 1:1 meetings or small group sessions:
 - ~45 individual stakeholders
 - ~25 GEAR UP Directors
- Through additional online surveys:
 - ~80 college access stakeholders (e.g. K-12 practitioners, IHE representatives)

...representing diverse organizations

- P-16 Councils
- ISD/School practitioners
- Business/Chamber
- IHE's
- Direct college access service providers
- Funders/Financial Aid representatives
- State agencies (TEA, THECB)
- Civil rights groups



What we heard: TCAN's Mission

“Provide the tools available when and where students need them to apply to, enroll in and be successful in college.”

“Every HS graduate should be aware of higher education opportunities and have the educational background to take advantage of these.”

“This network should promote effective college access models, reduce duplicative efforts/services, and advocate for better college access climate.”

“Mission should be to share information, gather the troops, and build a large policy-based network that, over time, moves the needle for education.”



What we heard: Texas needs an independent institution to lead the network and develop strategy.

“We need this to be independently lead, or we risk losing momentum.”
~ *City Chamber Representative*

“An independent organization can eliminate some institutional, policy and systemic barriers.”
~ *Regional College Access Service Provider*

“We need an independent organization that will develop the strategy and plan – then tell us how we can participate and be involved.”
~ *IHE Representative*



What we heard: Initial TCAN focus needs to build awareness and alignment among organizations.

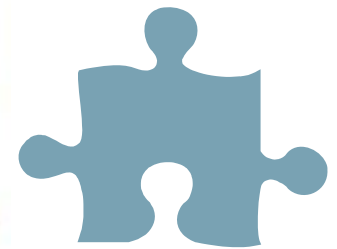
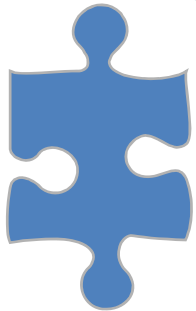


“We are all puzzle pieces close to each other, we just need something to connect us and lock us into the overall puzzle picture.”
~ High School Principal

“We’ve developed a lot of great content, but it is only as useful as its reach, so it needs to be shared.”
~ TX Financial Aid Provider



“We need to develop common performance standards, common data, and uniform practices across all college access providers.”
~ College Access Service Provider





What we heard: TCAN must facilitate impact measurement to support college access.

“If we have better data systems tracking outcomes, we can make more real-time interventions.”

~ *College Access Service Provider*

“We spend ~350 hours analyzing data to identify our areas of need and college access related performance.”

~ *P-16 Council Member*

“We need to know how we are doing, at a state level, regionally, and even locally, to really see if we’re moving the needle on college access.”

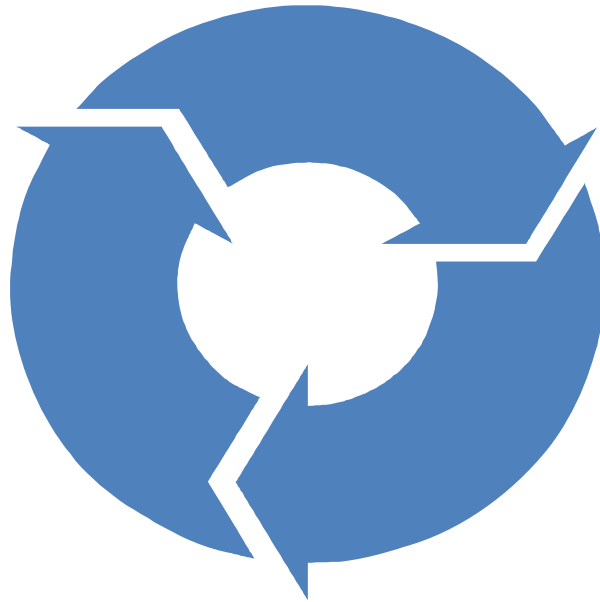
~ *High School Leader*



TCAN will have three primary areas of focus:

Awareness

Impact
Measurement



Alignment

TCAN Mission will focus on increasing college access and completion by building awareness, alignment and impact measurement.



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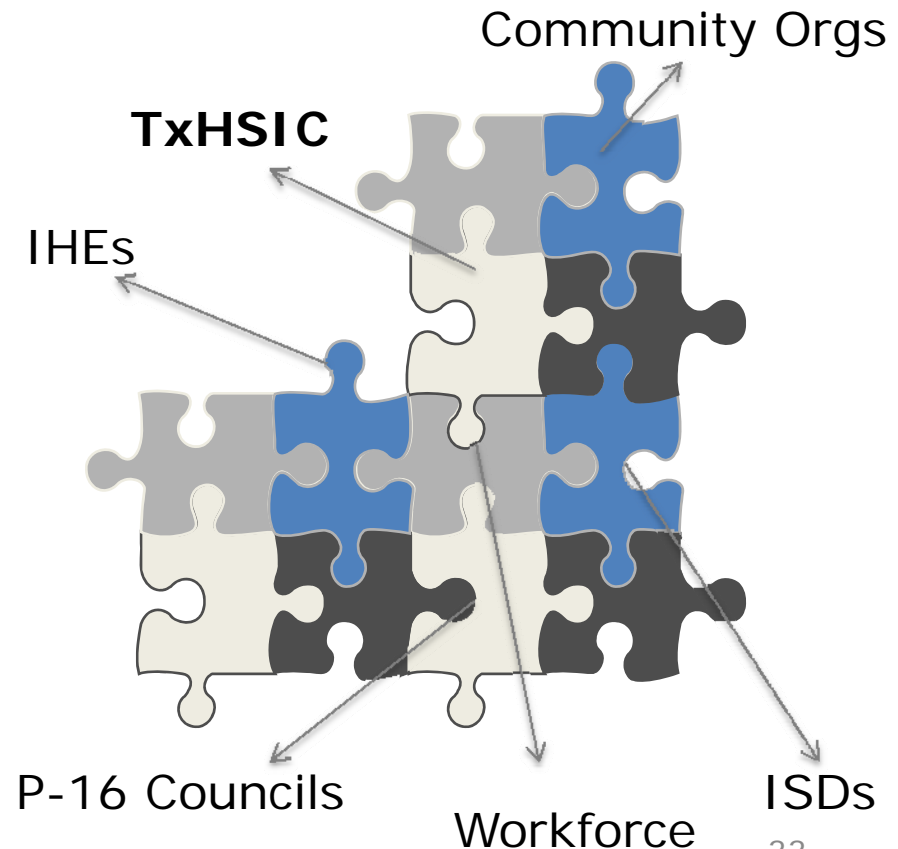


The Texas Hispanic Serving Institutions Consortium
is a natural partner for TCAN.

TxHSIC Stated Goals

- **Increase the access, retention and success** of students from TX HSIs
- **Collaborate, partner and network** with community, government, business and others to secure funding
- **Champion** the cause of the TxHSIC
- Become a **clearinghouse and filter** for legislative information
- **Support and improve** resource and staff development including sharing best practices

TCAN (illustrative)





For more information:

Texas High School Project (THSP)

- Information on our programs and state portfolio
- Visit website: www.thsp.org
- *Copies of this presentation will be posted in the News and Media section of our website*

Texas College Access Network (TCAN)

- Questions related specifically to the Texas College Access Network
 - Alejandra Barbosa
THSP Operations and Program Manager
 - Email: abarbosa@cftexas.org
 - Alma Garcia
THSP Learning Systems Program Officer
 - Email: agarcia@cftexas.org



Questions?