

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
<u>Advanced Placement (AP)</u>	Yes	The Texas Center for AP Initiatives serves as a clearinghouse for state initiatives designed to promote high quality, well-designed AP programs	Yes	The state is working to make AP more inclusive emphasizing the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low-income students</li> <li>• Racial and ethnic minority students: especially Latino(a) students</li> </ul>	Yes	The P-16 Council is supportive of AP; schools are offered financial incentives to widen participation.
Bridge Programs	Yes	Sometimes called Summer Boot Camps	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First-generation students</li> <li>• Low-achieving students</li> <li>• Low-income students</li> </ul>	No	Priorities are set by individual institutions
<u>Charter Schools</u>	Yes	Charter schools are monitored and accredited under the statewide testing and accountability system.	Yes	Different schools focus attention on different groups of students, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At-risk students</li> <li>• ESL students</li> <li>• Immigrant students</li> <li>• Low-income students</li> <li>• Racial and ethnic minority students</li> </ul>	Yes	Support is available for charter schools
College Level Exam Program (CLEP)	Yes	No details known or available	No		No	
<u>Distance Learning/Virtual School</u>	Yes	Online courses were piloted two years ago. The state's website lists all college-level distance learning courses.	Yes	Incarcerated youths	Yes	Accreditation and standards are handled by the state. Some federal funds are available.
<u>Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment</u>	Yes	Combination of dual credit and concurrent enrollment to lower dropout rates and increase college readiness	Yes	Being expanded to more students, including incarcerated youths	Yes	State policies promote better alignment between high school and college. For example, an 11th grade test was created and funded that shows readiness of college level work, including dual credit.

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
<b>Early or Middle College High Schools</b>	Yes	There are 3-6 middle college high schools in a pilot stage. These involve partnerships among high schools, community colleges, and four-year colleges.	Yes	Depending on the school, gifted or at-risk students, or both are targeted.	Yes	State legislation and policy
<u><b>GEAR UP</b></u>	Yes	Develops and provides opportunities for student participation in challenging academic programs and to provide a wide array of resources	Yes	Focused on Title I priority populations	Yes	State distributes federal funds
<b>GED in College Settings</b>	Yes	Community colleges and high schools work together on this drop-out recovery effort.	Yes	Students at risk of dropping out of high school	Yes	State policy and funding
<u><b>International Baccalaureate (IB)</b></u>	Yes	A fairly new initiative; 24 participating high schools.	Yes	The state is working to make IB more inclusive.	Yes	The P-16 council is supportive of IB. Schools are offered financial incentives to widen participation.
<b>Magnet Schools</b>	Yes	Many larger Texas school districts currently operate magnet programs to provide a curriculum designed around a specific subject area, structure, or method of instruction.	Yes	No details known or available	Yes	Created by state policy; some funding
<b>Small Schools</b>	Yes	The Texas High School Project (THSP) provides new options for underserved students by funding the redesign of existing comprehensive high schools into smaller, focused learning communities in high-need areas of the state.	Yes	Low-income students	Yes	State efforts are combined with those of the Gates Foundation.
<u><b>Tech Prep</b></u>	Yes	Programs are implemented at 77 community colleges that are involved in outreach to high schools.	Yes	Racial and ethnic minority students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African American students</li> <li>• Latino(a) students</li> </ul>	Yes	Federal Perkins funding

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
<p><u>P-16 Initiatives</u></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>College readiness standards reflected in 11th grade exit tests and used to show readiness for dual credit. Online tutorial is available for those needing remediation.</li> <li>The <a href="#">Higher Education Assistance Pilot Program</a>, identified students take college prep classes. Workshops are provided to help with enrollment in college.</li> <li>In the <a href="#">First Generation College Student Initiative</a>, colleges conduct ½ to 1 day workshops in high schools; about 6,000 students have participated..</li> <li>A <a href="#">data base</a> of the partnerships in Texas is kept up to date.</li> </ul>	<p>Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First-generation students</li> <li>Low-income students</li> <li>Racial and ethnic minority students, especially African American and Latino(a) students</li> </ul>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Scholarships are provided through the Texas Grant Students program. The college enrollment workshops currently receive no funding from the state, but they have had US Department of Labor financial support in the past.</p>

**Summary of academic pathways:**

Texas has a wide range of academic pathways, including a number that involve whole school reform. One of the state’s priorities is dual credit, with a particular focus on reaching racial and ethnic minority and first-generation students. These groups are seen as especially likely to benefit from the experience gained in navigating the college system. It is hoped that a taste of success in college before students graduate from high school can help boost college-going rates.

**Interesting or unique models identified by state officials:**

- A large and active Tech Prep initiative
- A multi-faceted P-16 initiative, with a particular focus on helping underserved students enter college
- Dual credit and distance learning programs for incarcerated youth

**Observations by state officials about special efforts to reach underserved students:**

The state has a large number of pathways in which special efforts are made for different groups of students, including racial and ethnic minority students, low-income students, incarcerated youth, immigrants and non-English speakers, low-income students, and low-achieving students. The state is working hard and using multiple means to boost college attendance among traditionally underserved students.



Observations by state officials about state support for pathways:

State legislation and funding support a number of pathways to broaden college access for a wider range of students. In addition, a state-sponsored P-16 initiative is actively promoting college attendance.

Lessons learned by state officials:

- Academic skills erode after the first year out of high school so it is important to enroll students in college right away.
The senior year of high school is not too late to get students into community colleges or summer dual enrollment courses.

Programs recommended by state officials:

Table with 5 columns: Pathways, Educational Institution, Contact person, E-mail, Phone. Rows include Bridge Programs, Dual credit, Freshman Success Programs, and P-16 Initiative.

State official's contact information:

Table with 5 columns: Name, Title, Agency, E-mail, Phone. Rows include Monica Martinez and \*Gloria White.

(Prepared by Elisabeth Barnett and Eunyoung Kim/ Updated December, 2004 / \*State official reviewed this state profile.)