Postsecondary Employment Outcomes for 2008 & 2009 High School Graduates

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Outline

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• High School to Employment
• Policy Environment in Texas
• Regional Variations in High School Graduates
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• Great Recession and High School Students
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Background

• Workforce Data Quality Initiative in Texas
  – Links data across Texas state agencies
    • Texas Education Agency (TEA)
    • Texas Higher Education Coordination Board (THECB)
    • Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)
  – Uses linked data to examine the transition of students from high school to life after high school, including college and the workforce.

Note: All data presented here comes from the ERC Jail PC at the THECB.
Available Data

• Secondary school records, including courses taken, demographic information, and high school graduation records,
• National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) records through Spring 2010,
• THECB college enrollment records through December 2012,
• Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage records from TWC,
• The Workforce Information System of Texas (TWIST) workforce program participation records through December 2012, including:
  – Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
  – Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)
  – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Employment and Training (Choices)
  – Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T)
• In the last twenty years many efforts focus on high school to college transitions (college access), but less so high school directly to employment (employment access).

• While in many high schools college access is emphasized for all students, only a limited subset of students are provided career information outside of the context of completing a college degree or certificate.

• In Texas during the time period examines, students who reached a specific threshold on their mandated math and reading exit exams were simply classified as “college and career ready.”
Policy Environment in Texas

- 28 Local Workforce Development Areas
- Recent passage of House Bill 5
  - Brief explanation of House Bill 5
  - District reactions
    - Utilizing local WIBs to help increase awareness of job availability and prevailing wages for counselors and students
    - Creating new facilities to train students in careers
      - Goal: all students leave school with employment skills and academic training
1 Panhandle
2 South Plains
3 North Texas
4 North Central Texas
5 Tarrant County
6 Greater Dallas
7 Northeast Texas
8 East Texas
9 West Central Texas
10 Upper Rio Grande
11 Permian Basin
12 Concho Valley
13 Heart of Texas
14 Capital Area
15 Rural Capital Area
16 Brazos Valley
17 Deep East Texas
18 Southeast Texas
19 Golden Crescent
20 Alamo
21 South Texas
22 Coastal Bend
23 Lower Rio Grande Valley
24 Cameron
25 Texoma
26 Central Texas
27 Middle Rio Grande
28 Gulf Coast
Regional Variations
Student Characteristics

Number of High School Graduates, Class of 2008
Regional Variations
Student Characteristics

African American Graduates

Legend
- Up to 1%
- 1.1% to 5%
- 5.1% to 8%
- 8.1% to 23%
- 23.1% to 30%

Hispanic Graduates

Legend
- Up to 16%
- 16.1% to 25%
- 25.1% to 44%
- 44.1% to 64%
- 64.1% to 98%
Regional Variations
Student Characteristics

Legend
- Up to 12%
- 12.1% to 41%
- 41.1% to 54%
- 54.1% to 63%
- 63.1% to 85%

White Graduates
Regional Variations
Student Characteristics

Legend
- 13.1% - 19.4%
- 19.5% - 23.4%
- 23.5% - 29.1%
- 29.2% - 33.9%
- 34% - 75.8%

Legend
- 4.3% - 4.9%
- 5% - 6.2%
- 6.3% - 6.6%
- 6.7% - 7.8%
- 7.9% - 10.1%
Regional Variations
Academic Preparation

Failed a 9th Grade Course

Legend
- 7.3% - 8.6%
- 8.7% - 11.2%
- 11.3% - 13.7%
- 13.8% - 18.4%
- 18.5% - 24.9%
Regional Variations
Academic Preparation

Took No Advanced Math Course

Legend
- 52.6% - 57.4%
- 57.5% - 63.7%
- 63.8% - 67.8%
- 67.9% - 70.6%
- 70.7% - 75%

Took One Advanced Math Course

Legend
- Under 25%
- 25.1% to 30%
- 30.1% to 35%
- 35.1% to 40%
Regional Variations
Academic Preparation

Graduated on the Distinguished Plan

Legend
- 3.5% - 4.9%
- 5% - 9.4%
- 9.5% - 13.7%
- 13.8% - 19.1%
- 19.2% - 24.5%
Employment in High School
Central Texas Region

Note: Data for this figure comes from the Student Futures Project.
Employment Outcomes

Share of Employed Class of 2008 Graduates

Legend
- 40% - 45%
- 45% - 50%
- 50% - 55%
- 55% - 60%
- 60% - 65%

Fall 2008
Spring 2009
Employment Outcomes

Decline in Fall Employment (4th Quarter) Immediately Following High School Graduation (2008 to 2009)
Employment Outcomes

Difference in Post-High School Employment Rates for the Class of 2009 Compared to the Class of 2008 Over Time
Employment Outcomes
Quarterly Earnings

Percentage of Mean Wages between 2008 and 2009 Graduates Not Enrolled in College and Working

Legend
- Less than 80%
- 80.1% - 90%
- 90.1% - 99.9%
- 100%
- More than 100%

Fall After High School Graduation
Employment Outcomes
Quarterly Earnings
Percentage of Mean Wages between 2008 and 2009
Graduates Not Enrolled in College and Working
Workforce Services Utilization

Class of 2008

Class of 2009

Fall 2009

Legend
- Less than 1%
- 1.01% to 2%
- 2.01% to 3%
Findings

• Class of 2009 graduates experienced a very different labor market immediately upon graduation, than their peers 1 year earlier.
  – Reduced employment opportunities, and
  – Reduced earnings for those who did find work.
  – These differences varied greatly by LWDAs.
• Consequently, class of 2009 graduates were more likely to utilize TWC workforce services than class of 2008 graduates.
• Differences in employment outcomes between cohorts gradually subsided over the next year and half.
Thank You

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