



Assessing the Landscape of Dual Credit Enrollment Before and After House Bill 8 and Building a Talent Strong Texas

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Texas Needs More Postsecondary Credentials

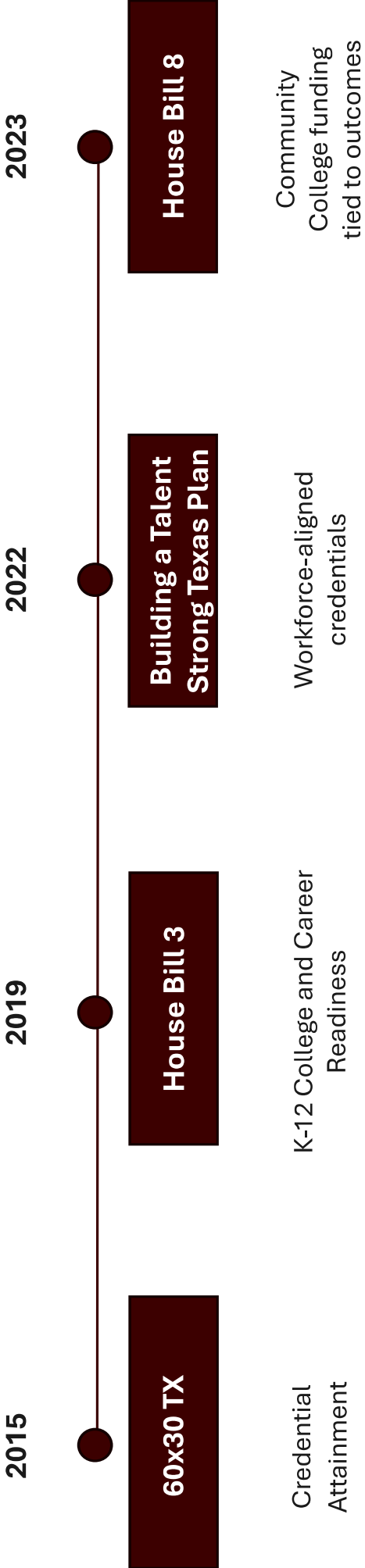


43% of Texas job postings are for middle-skill jobs

Jobs requiring education beyond high school but less than a bachelor's degree



Texas Policy Has Shifted Toward Workforce-Aligned Outcomes



Texas's Postsecondary Workforce Policy Framework



Building a Talent Strong Texas

Sets the statewide strategy

- Workforce-aligned credentials and labor market outcomes

House Bill 8

Changes how community colleges are funded

- Rewards student outcomes, including dual credit completion
- Reduces the cost barrier via Fast Application for Swift Transfer (FAST)
 - Reimburses participating colleges for eligible students' dual-credit coursework

Together, these policies connect access, funding, and workforce outcomes.

Why Community Colleges Matter



90% of Texas's credit-bearing career and technical education is provided by community colleges

- Dual credit gives high school students an earlier entry point into the postsecondary pipeline
- HB 8 gives community colleges stronger incentives to expand those pathways

Research Questions



This study examines changes in Texas dual-credit enrollment within the HB 8 and Building a Talent Strong Texas policy environment.

1. How was dual-credit enrollment changed before and after the 2023 implementation of HB 8 within the broader Building a Talent Strong Texas policy framework?
2. At what type of institutions and among which racial and ethnic groups have these changes in enrollment rates been most prevalent?

Data and Methods



- Data from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) spanning from 2016–2024
- Examines dual-credit enrollment statewide, by institution type, and by race/ethnicity
- Compares 2016–2022 with the period beginning in 2023
- Uses interrupted time series analysis alongside descriptive enrollment trends

The analysis identifies changes coinciding with the policy period; it does not establish causation.

Statewide Dual Credit Enrollment Continued to Grow



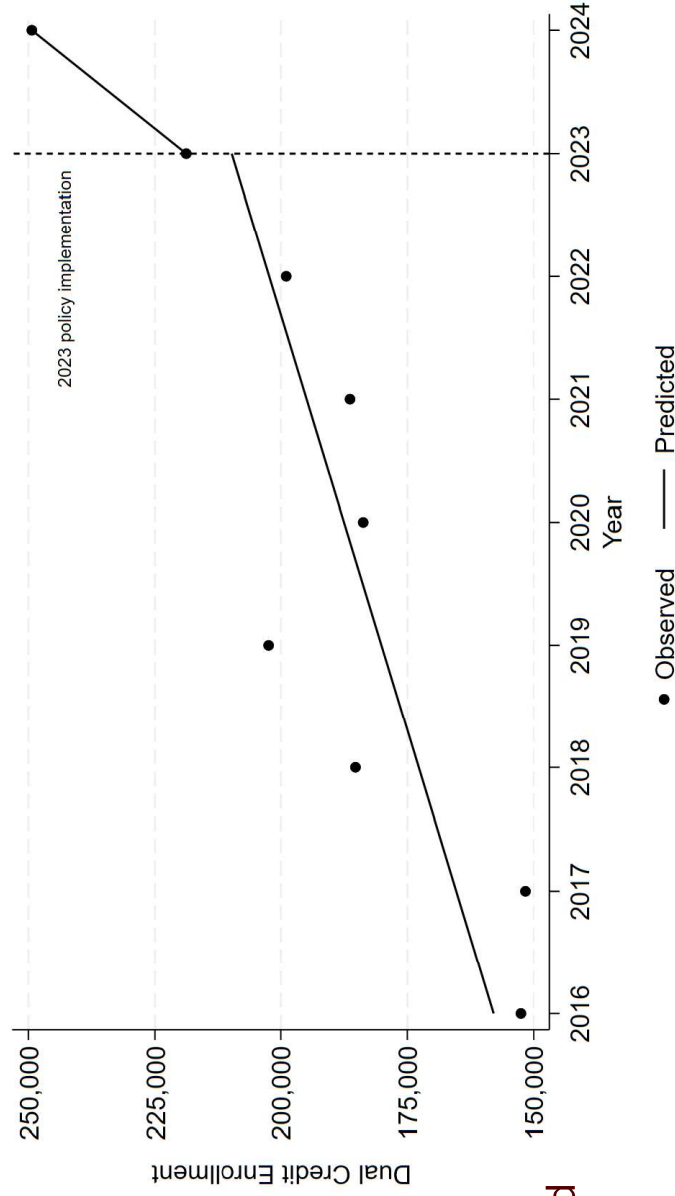
152,569 → 249,328 students
+63% from 2016–2024

Pre-2023 trend:

Enrollment already increasing
by **7,390 students/year**

Post-2023:

Immediate increase of
9,133 students above the existing trend
Not statistically significant

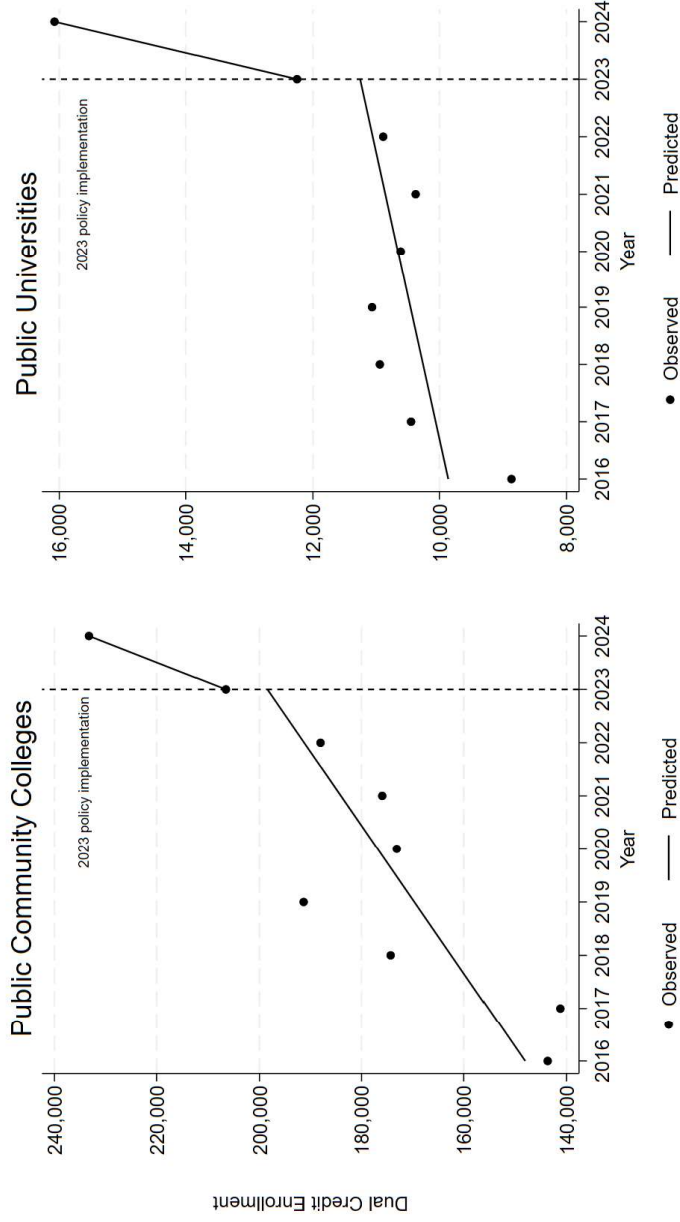


Community Colleges Drove Most of the Recent Growth



- Pre-2023 trend:**
Community Colleges: **+7,191 students/year**
Public Universities: **+199 students/year**

- Post-2023:**
Community Colleges: **+8,136 students**
Not statistically significant
Public Universities: **+997 students**



Dual Credit Becoming a Larger Share of Enrollment



Pre-2023 trend:

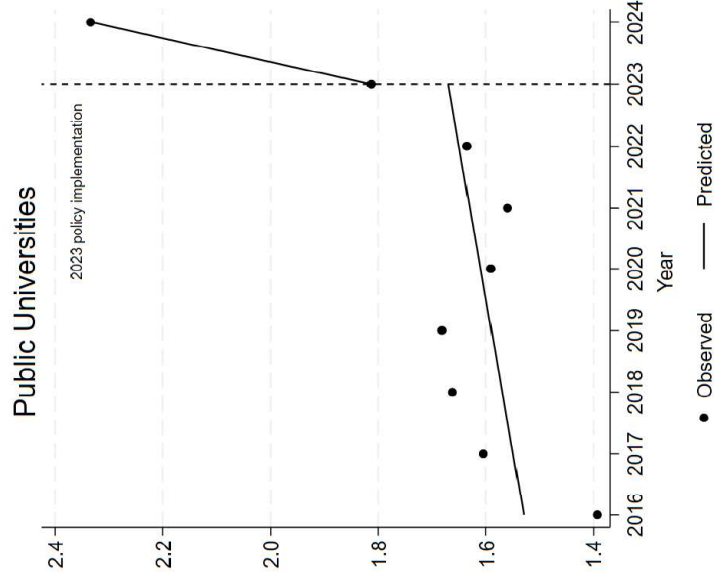
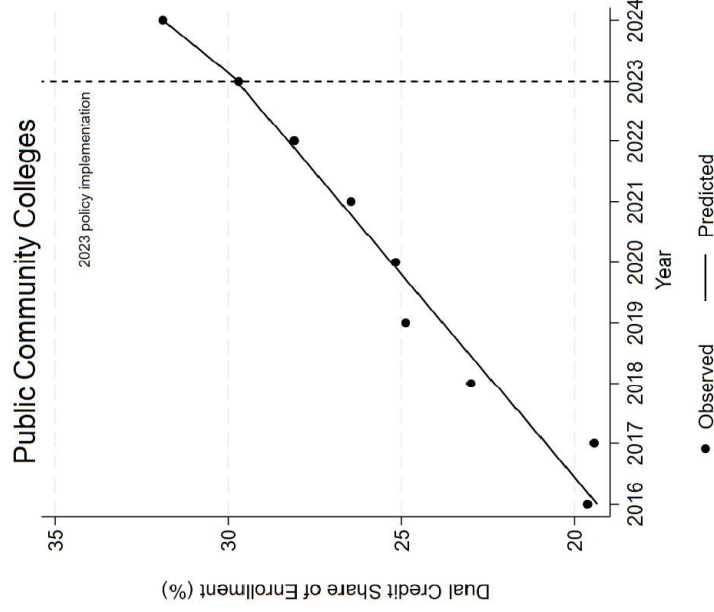
Community Colleges: **+1.49 pp per year**

Public Universities: **+0.02 pp per year**

•2023–2024 trend:

Community Colleges: **2.19 percentage points**

Public Universities: **0.52 percentage points**

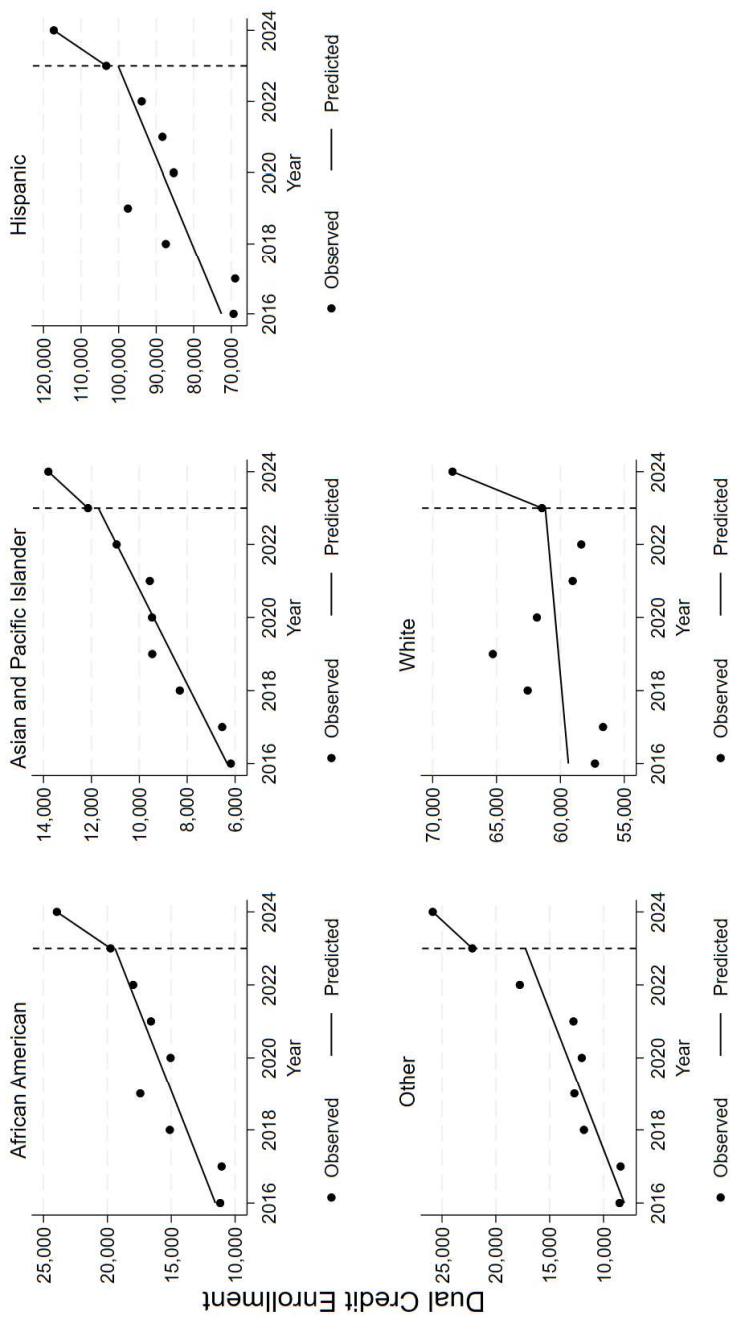


Dual Credit Enrollment Increased Across All Racial and Ethnic Groups



•No discernable immediate changes based on the existing trend, except for the “other” racial classification

•Hispanic students had the largest observed increase: +13,966 students from 2023–2024



Dual Credit Grew in Both Rural-Serving and Non-Rural Serving Institutions



•Rural Serving: 60,085 → 71,822 students

+19.5%

•Non-Rural-Serving: 138,847 → 177,506 students

+27.8%

Dual Credit Grew Across Every Region of Texas



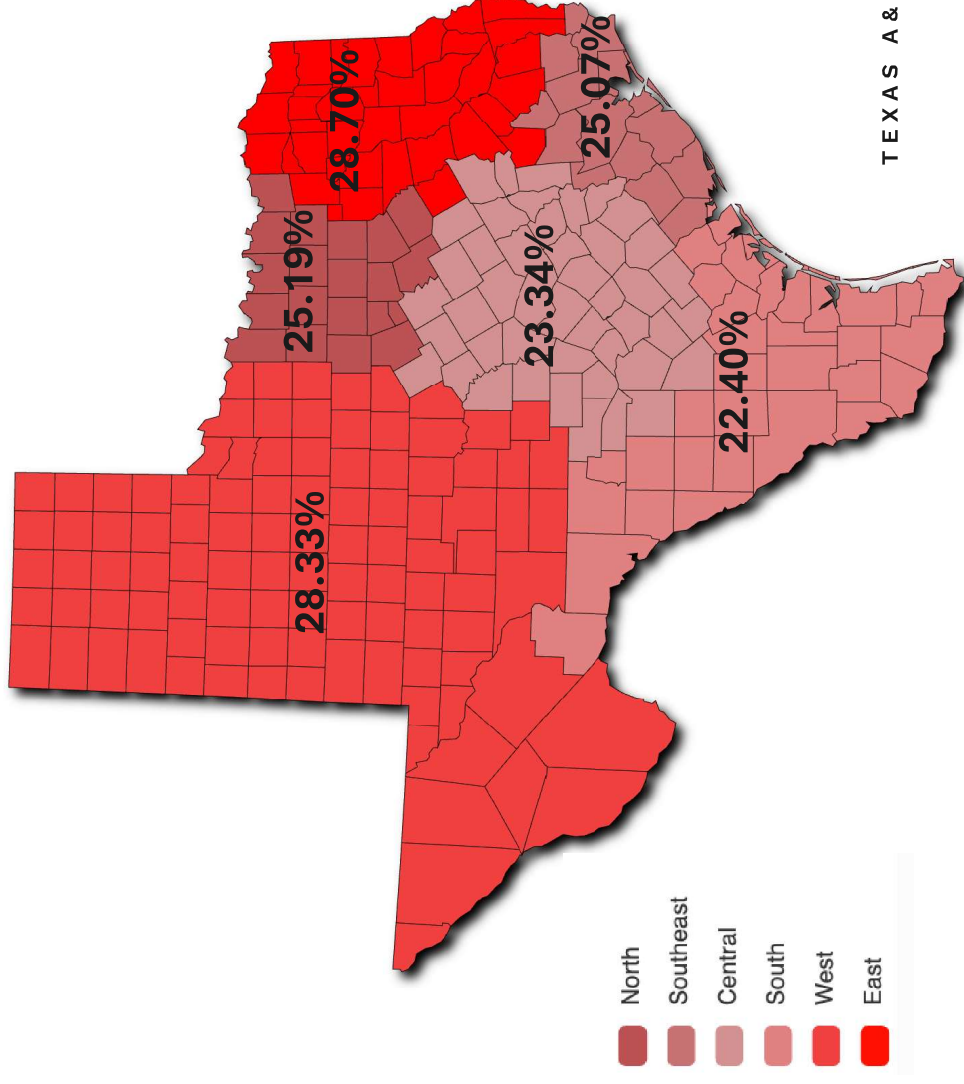
•Largest increases:

East Texas: **+28.70%**

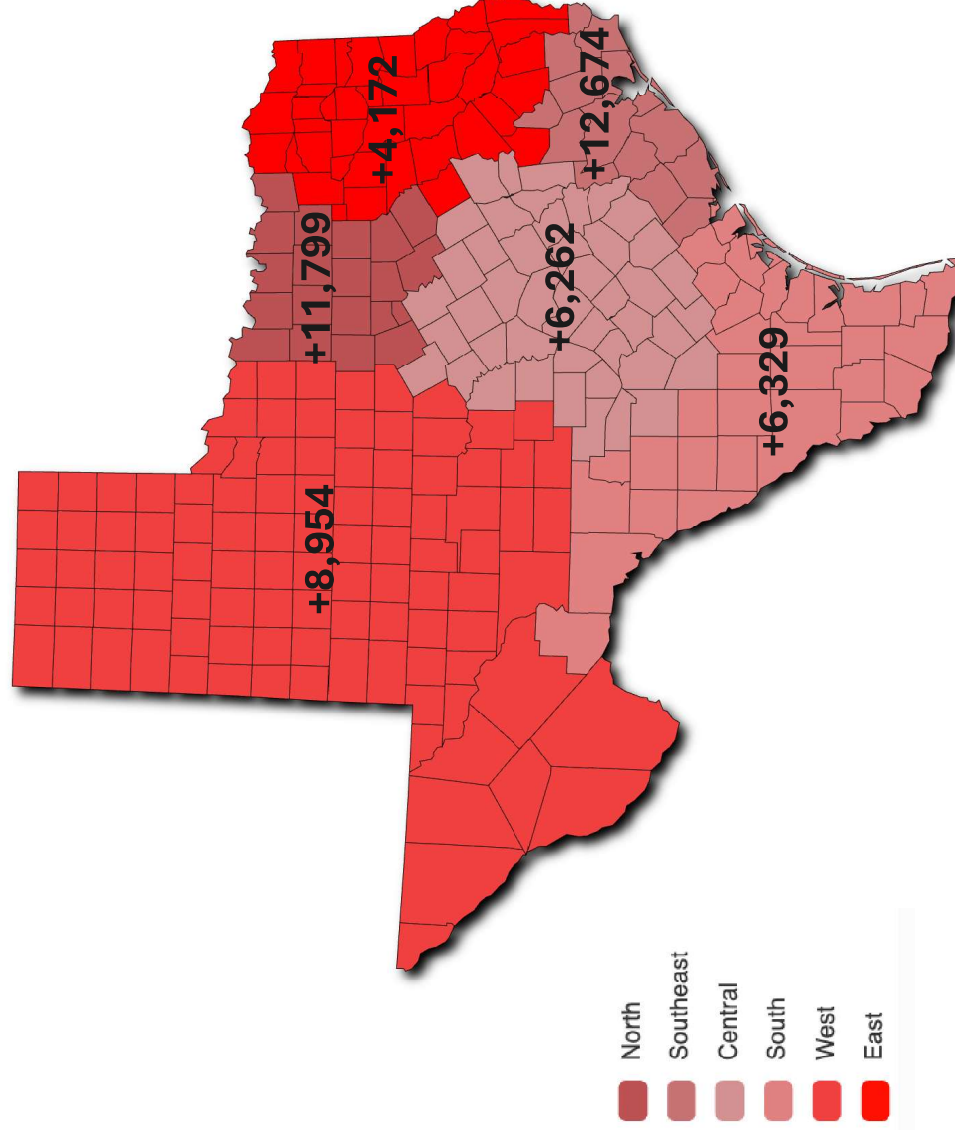
West Texas: **+28.33%**

•Smallest increase:

South Texas: **+22.40%**



Dual Credit Grew Across Every Region of Texas



Nearly Half of Statewide Growth Was Concentrated in 10 Institutions

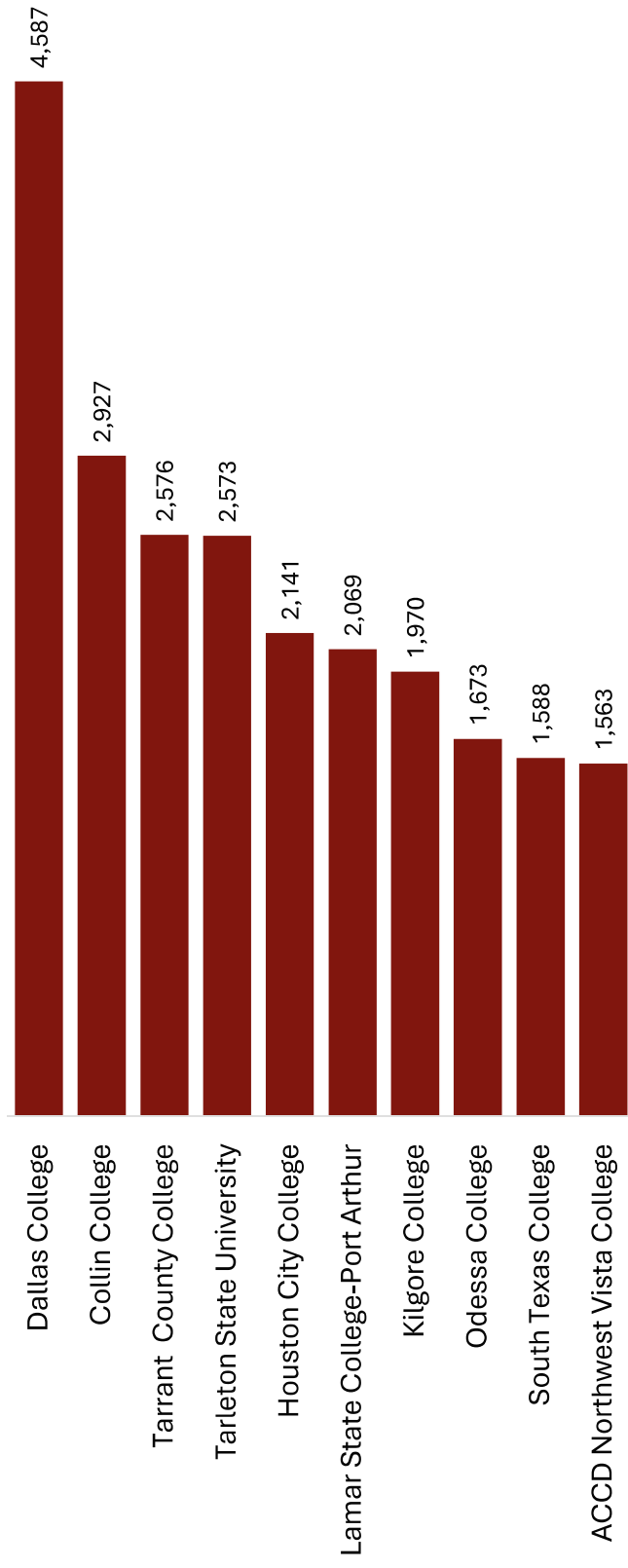


46.97%

from 2022–2024, 10 of 108 institutions accounted for nearly half of Texas’s net increase of dual credit students.

- Texas added 50,388 dual-credit students from 2022–2024
- The 10 institutions with the largest increases accounted for 23,667 students

Top 10 Institutions Driving Dual-Credit Growth, 2022–2024



Dallas College led the state, adding 4,587 dual-credit students

What Do These Findings Indicate?



- Public community colleges drove nearly all statewide dual-credit growth before 2023 and remain at the center of the continued expansion.
- Dual-credit enrollment has maintained a substantial pace of growth across sectors, student groups, and regions.
- The findings suggest that these initiatives are helping community colleges sustain an existing trajectory rather than creating an entirely new enrollment trend.
- Growth remains uneven across institutions, and enrollment alone does not establish policy success.

Future Research: What Comes Next?



- Do more dual-credit students complete credentials?
- Is growth happening in transfer courses, CTE pathways, or both?
- What is driving faster growth at some institutions?

The goal is not simply more dual credit.

Future research should seek to understand whether that access translates into long-term student and workforce outcomes.

From Enrollment Growth to Student Outcomes



Sustain Capacity

- Maintain predictable funding as dual-credit enrollment grows

Strengthen Coordination

- Increase college to high school student advising and communication

Build Intentional Pathways

- Connect dual-credit courses to credentials, transfer, and careers

Texas has built momentum. The opportunity now is to turn expanded access into lasting educational and workforce outcomes.



QUESTIONS

Thank you

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