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About This Blog



Ian McCann covers the city of Richardson and Jeffrey Weiss covers Richardson schools. The community is encouraged to contribute by joining the conversation on this blog.

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Richardson ISD school board gets a data dump -- first look at TAKS scores

7:11 PM Mon, Jun 14, 2010 | Permalink
 Jeffrey Weiss/Reporter Bio | E-mail | News tips

Tonight's meeting features lotsa numbers. One sheath of data is about the percentage of Richardson grads who go to college. The other is a first analysis of last school year's TAKS testing.

TAKS numbers look pretty good. Jumping out at me is the percentage of students ineligible for graduation because of low TAKS scores. District wide in 2009 that was 11.7 percent. For 2010 it dropped to 5.4 percent. Every high school displayed similar drops -- less than half as many students were ineligible for graduation in 2010 than in 2009.

Gaps between student groups -- basically whites versus blacks, Hispanics and economically disadvantaged continue to close. Still there, but shrinking. White students are not falling, so the improvement is across the board.

Worth a salute, I'd say?

Overall, looks like the district as a whole may be eligible for Exemplary status based on academics. But will fall down to Recognized based on completion rates (kids who start in 9th grade through one year after their senior class graduated). Overall, the district looks like it will hit 94.4 percent but needs to be above 95 percent.

Much much much more detail TK.

The other data chunk is from the National Student Clearinghouse, which is able to track student-by-student college attendance for most colleges. (Notable school not included is University of Oklahoma.) I'll go glass-partly-empty at the jump.

The data looks at six years. Numbers are relatively high but relatively flat by most measures.

In 2004, 65 percent of Richardson grads started college that fall. That dipped a smidge to 62 percent in 2007, then went up to 68 percent the past two years.

A similar chart for students who enroll in college at any time during that first year after high school shows numbers that are a bit higher. Starts at 71 percent in 2004, ticked up to 73 percent in 2008, then down to 68 percent in 2009. (However, a school-by-school chart does not show that drop in 2009. I've asked for an explanation. **EXPLANATION:** Never mind. The handout had the wrong chart. No drop.)

Another chart looks at college enrollment at any time during the first two years after high school. That started at 77 percent in 2004. Jumped to 80 percent in 2008. And then dipped down to 74 percent in 2009. (This drop is matched by the school-by-school info.)

What caused that decline? No board member asked about it, so I put in a query after the presentation. I'll let you know what I hear.

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Spotlight

June 2010

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