

Ad Hoc Community Engagement Committee
Student Engagement Session

Event Date: April 11, 2025

Number of Students Attended: 66

Goal 3

The percentage of students graduating Texas Success Initiative (TSI)-ready and with an industry-based certification (IBC) will increase from 11 percent for the 2021–2022 graduates to 26 percent for the 2026–2027 graduates.

Strengths

Students highlighted several positive initiatives and improvements, especially around college and career readiness, inclusivity, and student engagement:

- Strong resources like EMERGE, Dual Credit, OnRamps, and CTE partnerships.
 - Widely praised across campuses for creating job pathways, especially for underserved students.
- College fairs and career expos help connect students with opportunities.
- Students feel better informed and supported in preparing for life after.
- CTE gives disengaged students purpose; BridgeYear programs introduced trade options.
- College/Career Fairs & Essay Support: Appreciated by students as valuable tools for preparation.
- Magnet Programs opened doors to internships and real-world partnerships for specialized high schools.
- District has provided academic choice and pathways aligned to student interests and future careers.
- Campus Tours & Project Explore provided essential early awareness of high school options and career pathways.

Opportunities

- Credit Recovery Gaps: Inconsistencies in access and effectiveness of credit recovery programs. Some students feel they encourage apathy or skipping, while others lack access altogether.
- Concerns about inflexible curriculum pacing and too many group assignments.
- While students saw the benefits of multiple response strategies (MRS) during certain courses, MRS strategies tended to slow real learning opportunities in AP/advanced courses.
- CCMR Advisors played a vital role in post-secondary planning, but students noted advisors are now stretched too thin across multiple campuses.
- Ensure program consistency—don't promote pathways only to later remove them.

- Long term substitute teachers for advanced courses.
- Students often avoid their zoned campuses due to poor ratings or lack of opportunities.

Goal 4

Students in grades 4 through 8 who receive special education services that achieve growth as measured by Domain 2 Part A of the state accountability system will increase from 63 percent in August 2023 to 78 percent in August 2028.

Strengths

- NES – students value structure and *grouping students by learning needs*, which promotes accountability and growth.

Opportunities:

- Some students report that long days, *poor accommodations for learning differences*, and lack of communication regarding resources harm performance.

Campus/Student Life

Strengths

- Some noted a stronger sense of connection on campus recently, boosting morale.
- Programs like 1-hour lunches, clubs, and peer collaboration were mentioned as positives.
- Teacher involvement has improved in some areas, contributing to better learning experiences.
- Some noted increased outside-of-school resources and slightly improved funding.
- Cultural celebrations increased inclusivity, especially for deaf students.
- Some noted a stronger sense of connection on campus recently, boosting morale.

Opportunities:

- Infrastructure and facilities
- Relationship Building
 - Many called for more flexibility and trust in both students and teachers.
 - Students want to feel heard and supported through stronger counselor networks, discussion-based classes, and peer-to-peer connection.

- Instruction:
 - Teacher burnout, fear of admin check-ins, and lack of passion affect student experience.
 - Call for authentic, passionate educators who build relationships.
 - At times, new model causes student disengagement, low morale, and mental strain.
- Funding
 - Students reported drastic impacts from lost funding, dissolved programs, and shrinking campus resources.

Session Feedback

Positives

- Students felt heard by district leaders.
- Appreciated the opportunity to share varied experiences across campus.
- Students felt proud.

Opportunities

- Would like increased time to dive deeper into shared concerns and solutions.
- Provide additional clarity regarding how feedback would be used by District Administration and Board.
- Would suggest including elementary and middle school students.