

# Urban Public Schools

Houston's public schools offer an excellent opportunity for children to study and learn.

SELECTED URBAN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS 2008 – 2009 ACADEMIC YEAR						
	Alief	Deer Park	Galena Park	Houston	Pasadena	Spring Branch
Location	S.W.	E.	E.	C.	E.	W.
Enrollment	45,232	12,499	21,208	199,524	51,266	32,326
Expenditures per Pupil <sup>1</sup>	\$6,910	\$7,583	\$7,210	\$7,007	\$6,892	\$7,563
Students per Teacher	14.7	15.2	14.0	16.6	14.8	14.1
Completion Rate <sup>2</sup>	81.6%	98.0%	90.7%	81.3%	82.8%	89.8%
Economically Disadvantaged <sup>3</sup>	76.4%	36.6%	78.1%	81.0%	74.9%	53.9%
Advanced Courses <sup>4</sup>	43.5%	18.3%	16.7%	24.1%	15.5%	26.3%
Avg. Test Scores <sup>1</sup>	SAT	892	1031	879	943	1058
	ACT	17.6	20.8	17.4	20.1	23.4
Percentage Taking SAT/ACT <sup>1</sup>	66.9%	47.5%	46.1%	69.8%	44.1%	85.6%

<sup>1</sup> Class of 2008.  
<sup>2</sup> Percent of students in class of beginning 9<sup>th</sup> graders who complete their high school education by anticipated graduation date (2008).  
<sup>3</sup> Percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch or other public assistance.  
<sup>4</sup> Percent of high school students taking advanced classes in the 2007-2008 academic year.  
**Source:** Texas Education Agency, March 2010

- Twenty-six public school districts lie entirely or partly within Harris County. The nine surrounding counties contain another 40 districts.
- The core curriculum taught in Texas public schools consists of classes in English language arts, reading, mathematics, science and social studies. Additional courses are taught in foreign languages, fine arts, health, physical education and technology applications. Career-oriented courses are also available in agricultural science, business, health sciences, home economics, industrial technology education and marketing.
- Statewide Initiatives include Master Teacher Programs, Technology Applications, Texas Math Initiative, Texas Reading Initiative, Texas Reading First Initiative, and Texas-Spain Initiative.