

# Completing Four Years of Math in High School is Critical to Postsecondary and Workforce Success

E3 Alliance’s policy priorities share your passion and desire that ALL Texas students succeed in their postsecondary journey and contribute to a strong Texas economy. We work with partnering organizations across Texas to amplify proven education policies for the benefit of every student.

For the 88th Legislative Session, E3 Alliance and our partners recommend instituting four proven math policy recommendations for middle and high school math programs in Texas.

## WHY

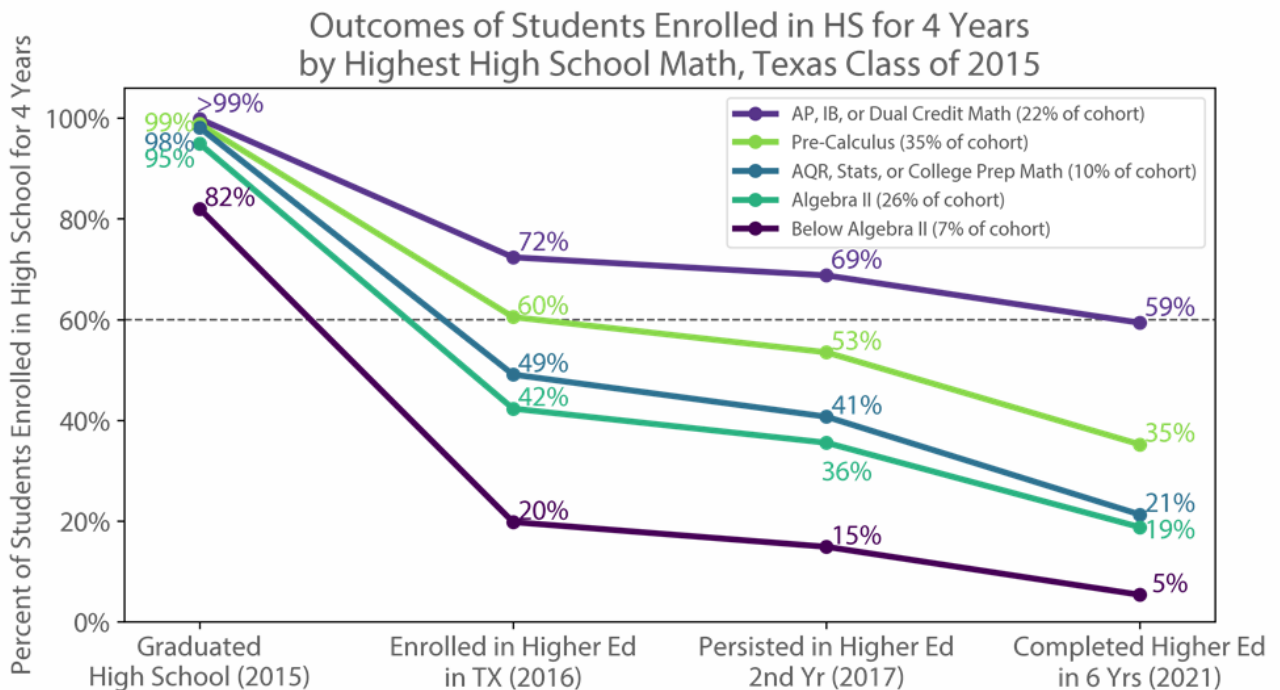
Data reveals that taking advanced math in middle and high school, and taking math all four years in high school, significantly increases students’ postsecondary success.

Students who take **2** math courses beyond **Algebra II** are **3** times more likely to graduate from college within 6 years of high school graduation.

**Only 1 in 5**

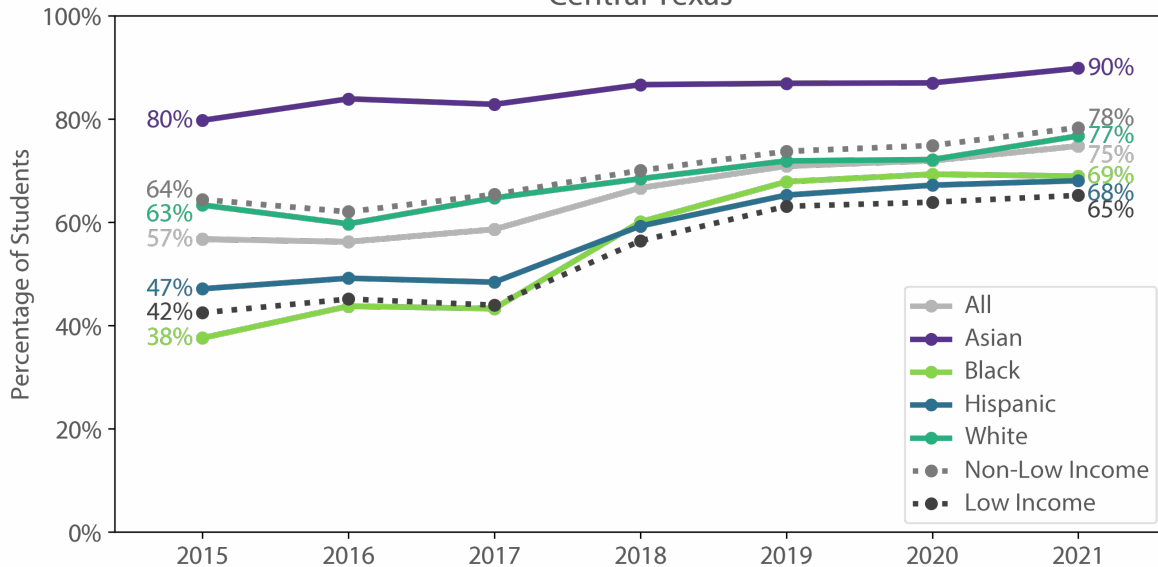
students whose highest high school math course was Algebra II earned a 2- or 4-year college degree or an industry certificate within 6 years of high school graduation

## Higher Levels of Math Linked to Higher Education Completion



# Acceleration Strategies Reduce Disparities in Access to 8th Grade Algebra I

High-Performing 5th Graders Completing Algebra 1 by 8th Grade  
Central Texas



Source: E3 Alliance analysis of PEIMS data at the UT Austin Education Research Center

Student success is rooted in gaining access to advanced math courses. High-performing students showing potential for advanced math pathways must begin in middle school.

Systems change in math acceleration practices can positively influence student outcomes and equity. For instance, by implementing an opt-out or open enrollment policy for middle school advanced math, districts reduced the Black-White opportunity gap for 8th grade Algebra I completion by 75%.

## SOLUTIONS

School districts that implemented these math acceleration practices and changed established systems experienced positive and equitable student outcomes.

- **Opt-out Policy.** For students who score within the top two quintiles of the state standardized test in 5th grade, require districts to establish an opt-out policy to enroll students into Accelerated math. This will improve their access to Algebra I in 8th grade and increase the number of students completing advanced math in high school, propelling them to college and workforce readiness.
- **Math All Four Years.** Require districts to make advanced math course options easily available on campus or through dual credit. Advise students of the benefits of taking math all four years by incentivizing districts to add an advanced math course option for senior year.

We share your passion and desire that ALL Texas students succeed in their postsecondary journey and contribute to a strong Texas economy. Contact **Jennifer Cavazos Saenz** at [jsaenz@e3alliance.org](mailto:jsaenz@e3alliance.org) during the 88th Legislative Session to discuss E3 Alliance data in detail and learn more about the success stories from Texas school districts.