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EDUCATION FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

# **COLLEGE FOR ALL: A CASE STUDY OF A DISTRICT IMPLEMENTING EARLY COLLEGE DESIGNS IN SOUTH TEXAS**

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**National Association of Concurrent Enrollment Programs**

**October 26, 2010**



**JOBS FOR THE FUTURE**

# Overview of Session

**Introductions**

**Case Study of Hidalgo ISD**

**Discussion on Opportunities and Challenges**

**Closing Remarks**

# Why Hidalgo Independent School District?

- **Leading District in Creating “Wall-to-Wall College For All” Strategy**
- **Promising Early Outcomes**
- **Student Population in School District**

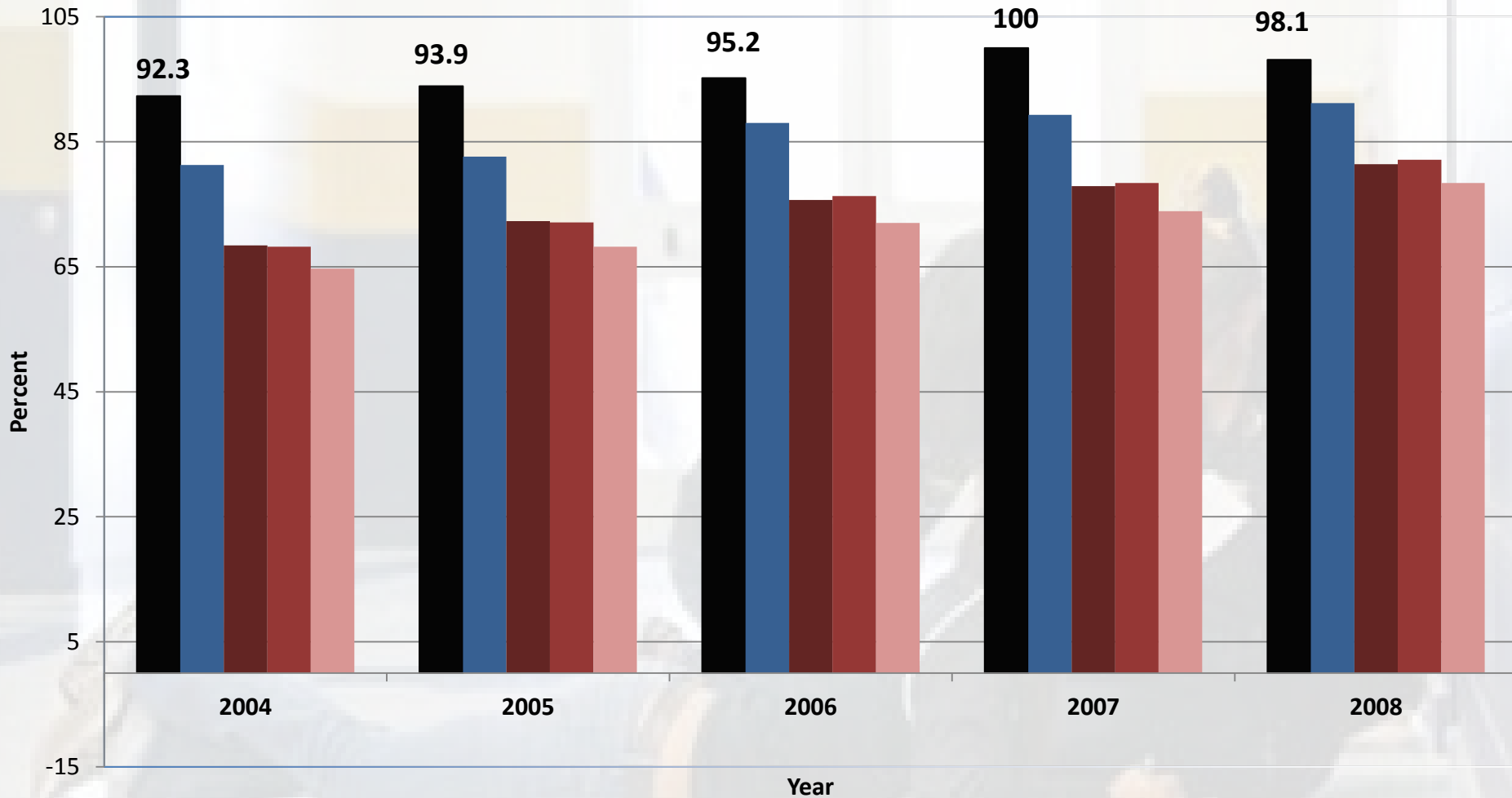
# Promising Early Outcomes

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Percent of Graduates Completing the Texas State Board of Education Recommended High School Program (RHSP) or Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP), 2004-2008



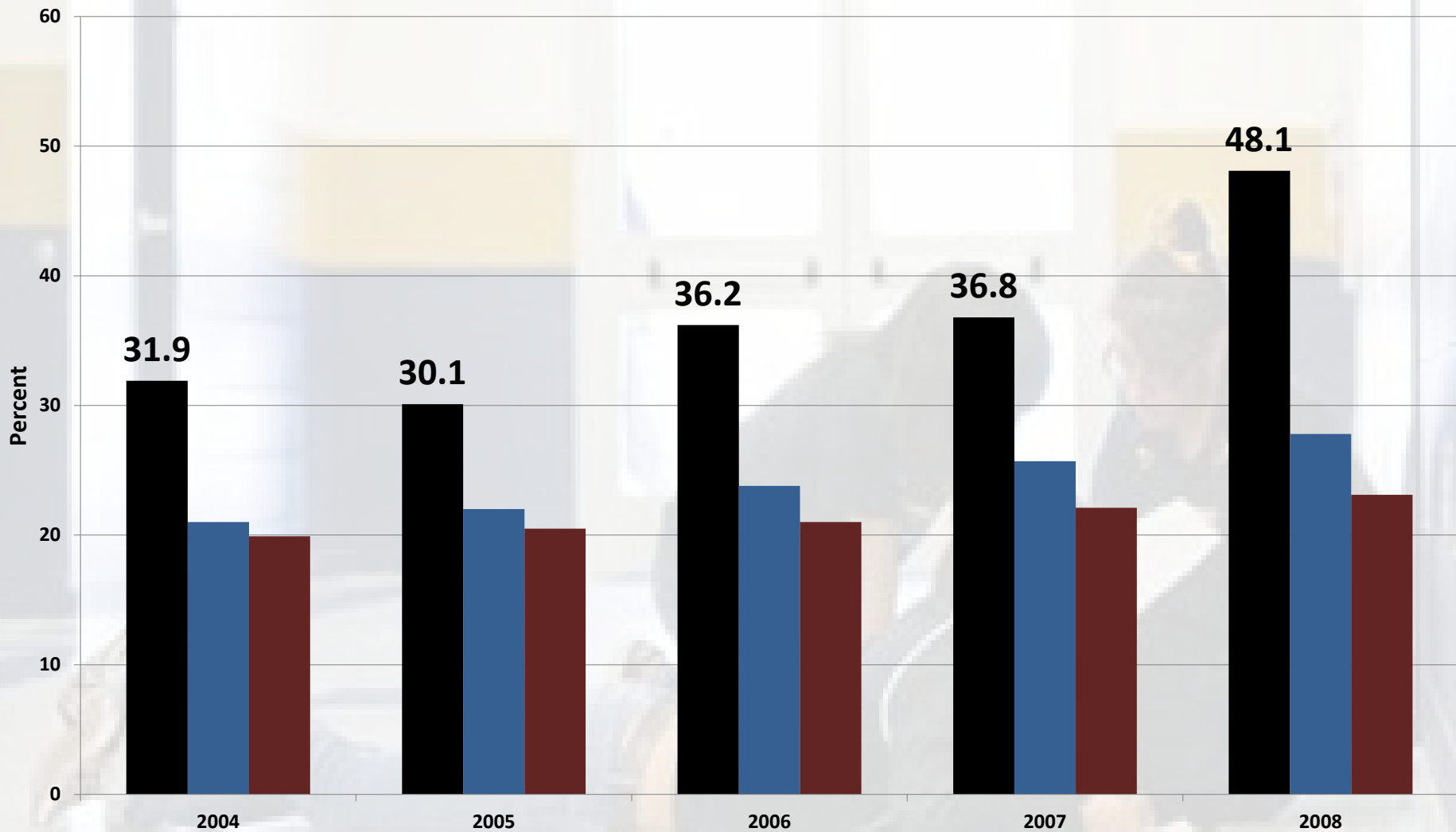
# Promising Early Outcomes

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## Advanced/Dual Enrollment Course Completion, 2004-08



## THE HIDALGO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Rural district encompassing **36 square miles**.

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Spanish is the home language for over **85% of residents**.

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Southern boundary parallels the **Rio Grande River**.

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Includes 4 elementary schools, 1 middle school, 1 high school, and 1 alternative high school

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Total Enrollment: **3,519 students**

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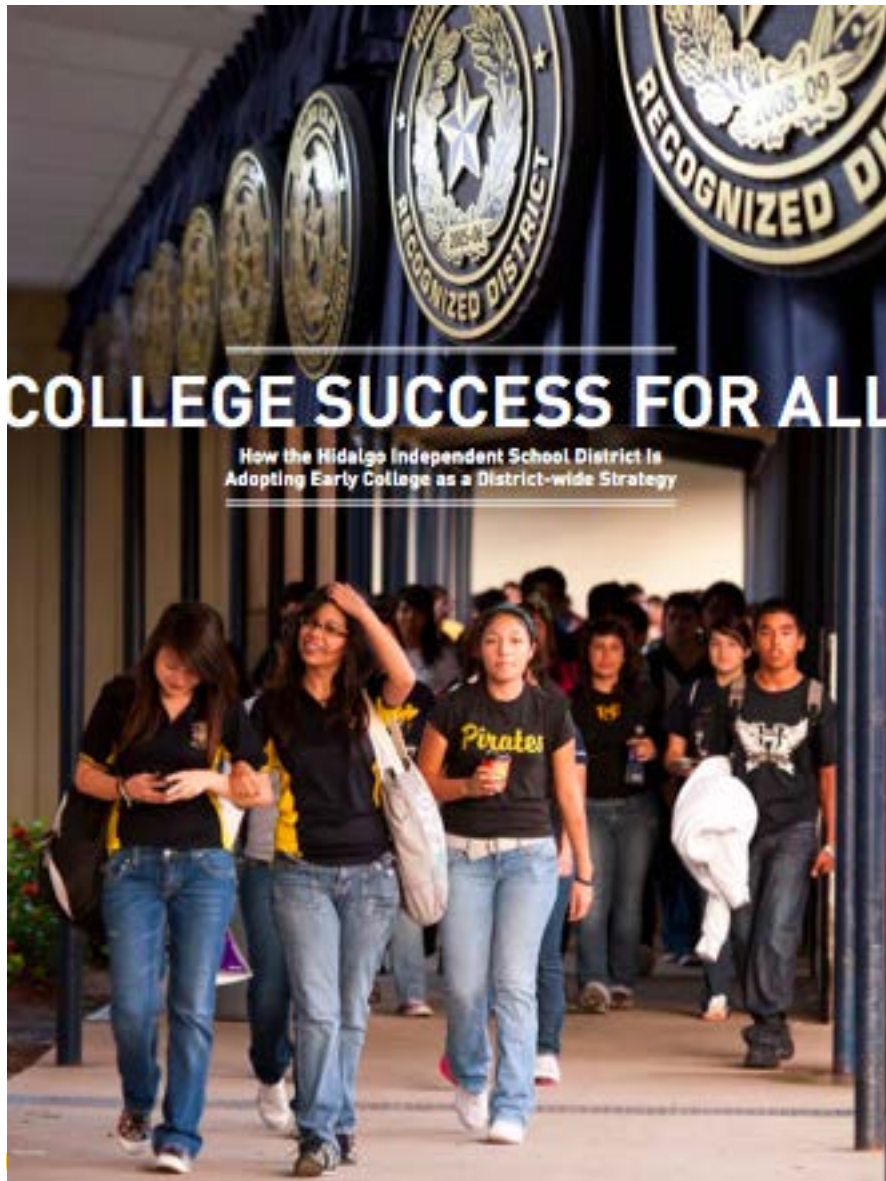
Student Demographics (2008-09):

- 99.5% Hispanic, 0.2% African American, 0.2% White, 0.1% Asian/Pacific Islander
  - **89% Economically Disadvantaged**
  - **72% At Risk**
  - **56% Limited English Proficient**
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Sources: Hidalgo Independent School District and Texas Education Agency [TEA], "2008-09 Student Demographics Report," 2009.







## ***WHAT IS AN EARLY COLLEGE DISTRICT?***

- College credits for all students
- College-going culture
- Academic alignment and rigor
- Career and technical pathways
- Comprehensive student supports
- Supportive policies

A student with a backpack is walking past a chalkboard. The chalkboard has handwritten text in purple and blue. The text includes 'ACT Test Date', 'June 2010', 'Registration Deadline May 7', and 'J F F'.

**Multiple Postsecondary Partners to Provide Dual Enrollment Courses**

**Encouraging High School Teachers to Become Adjunct Faculty**

**Other State and Local Partners**

**BECOMING AN  
EARLY COLLEGE DISTRICT**





# **Intensive Summer Academy for Rising 9<sup>th</sup> Graders**

**Multiple Opportunities to take the Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA)**

**Course Alignment with middle grades, the high school and the college to create seamless pathways**

**ALIGNING COURSES AND  
CAREER PATHS FOR COLLEGE SUCCESS**

# Texas Policies Promoting Postsecondary Success

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Investment since 2003 in an aggressive high school redesign and reform effort through the Texas High School Project, a \$260 million partnership with private philanthropies.

SB 976 (2003), enacted Early College High School

House Bill 415 (2003), “Hold Harmless Funding”

House Bill 1 (2006), a major bill designed to raise college readiness rates, and decrease college remediation rates.

Advanced Placement Textbook Fund

House Bill 1137 (2007)

House Bill 2237 (2007)

All of the state's public high schools offer equal access to dual enrollment opportunities and provide support through "early college designs" as required.

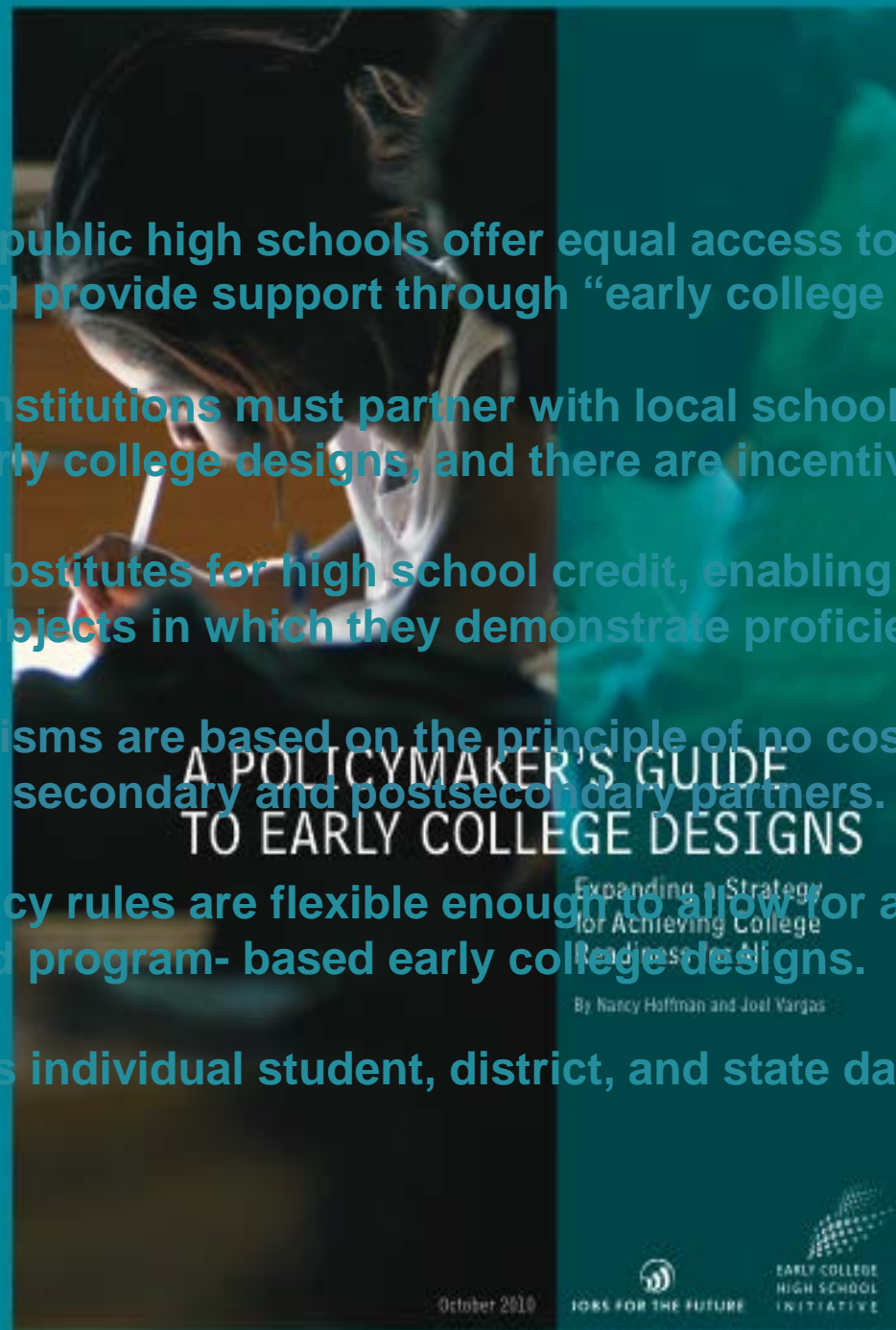
Postsecondary institutions must partner with local school districts implementing early college designs, and there are incentives to do so.

College credit substitutes for high school credit, enabling students to accelerate in the specific subjects in which they demonstrate proficiency.

Funding mechanisms are based on the principle of no cost to students and no financial harm to secondary and postsecondary partners.

Funding and policy rules are flexible enough to allow for a range of district-wide, school, and program-based early college designs.

The state collects individual student, district, and state data on early college designs.



**How does your program ensure the participation of low-income and other underserved populations are benefited and supported by these designs?**

**Does your program/state have a plan for thinking about implementing and growing early college designs?**

**What are the biggest challenges and opportunities facing your program? Which is the most important one?**

**[www.jff.org](http://www.jff.org)**



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