

---

# NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

---

*Philanthropic Solutions*

## Education & Literacy Brief

Fort Worth has experienced unprecedented growth and development over the past 25 years. As our population has doubled, economic growth has kept pace and our demographics now reflect a rich blend of Anglo, Hispanic, African-American and Asian races and ethnicities.

Our city's ethnic transformation can be our greatest asset, giving local businesses a competitive edge in a fast-globalizing world. But if too many of our residents grow up unprepared to succeed in the new economy, it is difficult to envision a prosperous future.

While poverty is a significant indicator of academic success, literacy rates in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are also very telling of student achievement, with low rates linked to a higher likelihood of dropping out of school. Fort Worth ISD is the second largest ISD in North Texas with an enrollment of more than 86,000 students. Just 30 percent of its third-graders are reading on grade-level, and the numbers drop to 18 percent for African-American children and 29 percent for Latinos.

Today 70 percent of Fort Worth's children under the age of 5 are children of color.

The fundamental purpose of a public school system is to prepare students for high school graduation, as well as college or workforce entry. Based on CHILDREN AT RISK calculations, Arlington ISD and Fort Worth ISD – serving over one-third of Tarrant County's students – fall near the bottom with graduation rates of 77.8% and 73.1% respectively.

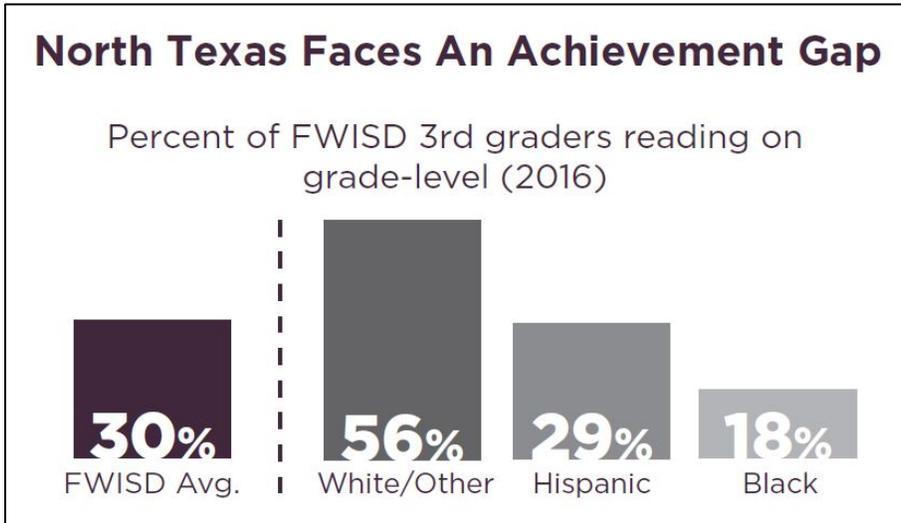
Additionally, Tarrant County educators and employers have expressed serious concern that too many high school graduates arrive unprepared for the studies and employment opportunities that await them. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board projects that by 2030, 60 percent of jobs will require post-secondary certification or bachelor's degree. In 2016, only 27 percent of Fort Worth residents are college graduates.

*Sources:*

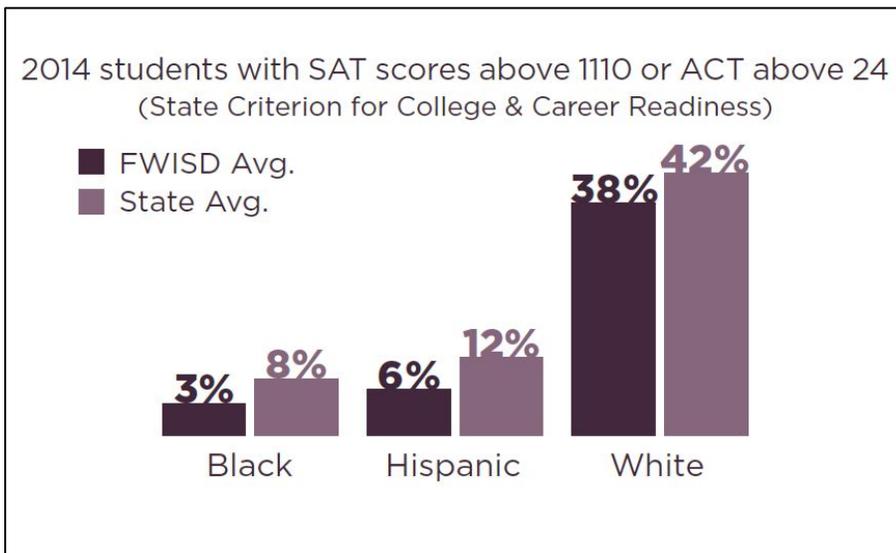
*Growing Up in North Texas.*

*Fort Worth ISD Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.*

# PowerPoint Slides



Source: Fort Worth ISD.



Source: Fort Worth ISD.