

# Reach Out to Dropouts

## Walk scheduled for Sept. 6

### Dropout INFO

High school dropouts are three times more likely to be unemployed, four times more likely to receive government assistance and eight times more likely to be incarcerated.



Source: Expectation Graduation Guide

The overall mission for CFISD is to have every student graduate from high school, as described in the Portrait of a Cypress-Fairbanks ISD Graduate. For this reason, district staff and community members will participate in the Expectation Graduation's Reach Out to Dropouts Walk on Saturday, Sept. 6, in an effort to bring students, who have not re-enrolled, back to school.

The Reach Out to Dropouts Walk will last approximately three to four hours. District

employees and community members who are interested in volunteering, can sign up via the district website at [www.cfisd.net](http://www.cfisd.net) or by emailing [vipsrsvp@cfisd.net](mailto:vipsrsvp@cfisd.net).

The purpose of the event, sponsored by the non-profit organization Expectation Graduation, is to help raise the graduation rates among Houston-area youth through community partnerships, aiming to ensure that all students have the skills for college, training or good jobs.

According to the National Summit on America's "Silent Epidemic," more than 1 million American high school students drop out every year and nearly one-third of all public high school students fail to graduate with their class.

The National Summit research also shows the reasons that factor into students dropping out of school include: living in poverty, growing up in a dysfunctional family environment, pregnancy, lack of positive role models, drug abuse, poor grades, feelings of hopelessness and helplessness, poor behavior, truancy and ultimately alienation from school.

A student in grade 7-12 is identified as a dropout if the individual is absent without an approved excuse or documented transfer and does not return to school by the fall of the following school year, or if he or she completes the school year but fails to re-enroll the following school year.

Although CFISD's percentage of graduating students is above the state and national average

(see chart, *Highest Graduation Rates*), district staff members continue their efforts as a standard practice to locate students classified as a dropouts. The district's plan of action for finding students includes extensive research of student school records and withdrawal authorization forms; calling parents/guardians and emergency contacts; and conducting home/neighbor visits.

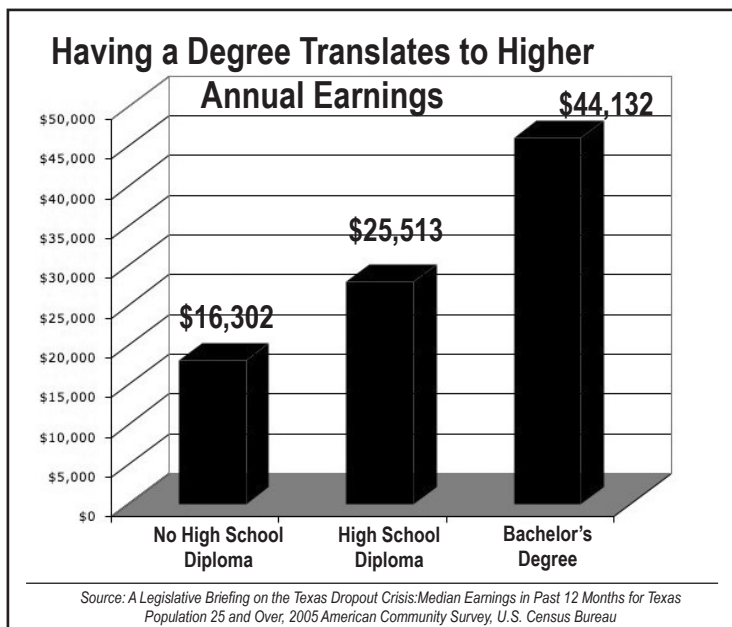
"Our district goal, along with the support of the community, is to make every student successful," said Dave Schrandt, director for student admissions, attendance and transfers. "The Cy-Fair community as a whole understands that when all students graduate, the community flourishes."

Statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2005 American Community Survey presented during a Jan. 23, 2007 Legislative Briefing on the Texas Dropout Crisis indicated that having a degree translates to higher annual earnings. For example, a student with no high school diploma earned on average \$16,302 per year versus a student with a high school diploma who earned \$25,513. With a bachelor's degree, students averaged an annual income of \$44,132 (see graph, *Having a Degree Translates to Higher Annual Earnings*).

When students make the decision to drop out

of school, they are putting their lives at risk not only financially, but also in various other ways. Studies compiled by the National Summit on America's "Silent Epidemic" also pointed out that:

- Dropouts are more likely than high school graduates to be unemployed, in poor health, living in poverty, on public assistance and single parents with children



who eventually drop out of high school;

- Dropouts are more than twice as likely as high school graduates to slip into poverty in a single year and three times more likely than college graduates to be unemployed;

- Dropouts are more than eight times more likely to be in jail or prison than high school graduates; and

- Dropouts are four times less likely to volunteer than college graduates, are half as likely to vote or participate in community projects, and represent only 3 percent of actively engaged citizens in the United States today.

District employees, along with volunteers from the Cy-Fair community, will team up and walk door-to-door to encourage those high school students who have not reported to class during the first week of school to come back to school.

### Highest Graduation Rates Top 50 Largest Districts in U.S. (Class of 2005)

Rank	Graduation Rate	District	Size in Nation
(1)	89.6	Cypress-Fairbanks, Tex.	38
(2)	82.6	Jordan, Utah	40
(3)	81.7	Montgomery County, Md.	16
(4)	80.3	Baltimore County, Md.	25
(5)	79.9	Fairfax County, Va.	13
(6)	77.1	Wake County, N.C.	23
(7)	76.6	Mesa, Ariz.	42
(8)	75.5	Jefferson County, Colo.	33
(9)	75.0	Anne Arundel County, Md.	45
(10)	73.1	Guilford County, N.C.	50
(11)	71.6	Cobb County, Ga.	26
(12)	71.5	Granite, Utah	49
(13)	71.0	Fulton County, Ga.	39
(14)	69.3	Brevard County, Fla.	43
(15)	68.7	Northside, Tex.	44
(16)	68.5	Virginia Beach, Va.	41
(17)	68.4	Gwinnett County, Ga.	18
(18)	67.4	Hawaii (statewide district)	10
(19)	67.1	Hillsborough County, Fla.	8
(20)	64.4	Lee County, Fla.	48
(21)	64.0	Long Beach, Calif.	29
(22)	63.7	San Diego, Calif.	19
(23)	63.4	Jefferson County, Ky.	28
(24)	62.1	Philadelphia, Pa.	9
(25)	61.2	Polk County, Fla.	34
(26)	60.5	Charlotte-Mecklenburg, N.C.	22
(27)	60.4	Orange County, Fla.	12
(28)	60.0	Broward County, Fla.	6
(29)	58.9	Austin, Tex.	36
(30)	58.9	DeKalb County, Ga.	27
(31)	58.6	Denver, Co.	47
(32)	56.9	Prince Georges County, Md.	17
(33)	56.5	Fort Worth, Tex.	37
(34)	56.1	Palm Beach County, Fla. (03-04)	11
(35)	55.9	Miami-Dade County, Fla.	4
(36)	55.5	Pinellas County, Fla.	24
(37)	52.9	Houston, Tex.	7
(38)	51.9	Fresno, Calif.	35
(39)	51.2	Memphis, Tenn.	21
(40)	51.0	Chicago, Ill.	3
(41)	50.8	Dallas, Tex.	14
(42)	50.8	Duval County School, Fla.	20
(43)	50.5	New York City, N.Y.	1
(44)	49.0	Albuquerque, N.M.	31
(45)	45.2	Nashville-Davidson County, Tenn.	46
(46)	44.5	Clark County, Nev.	5
(47)	44.4	Los Angeles, Calif.	2
(48)	41.5	Baltimore, Md.	32
(49)	41.0	Milwaukee, Mich.	30
(50)	37.5	Detroit, Mich.	15

SOURCE: EPS Research Center, 2008, From *Diplomas County 2008: School to College: Can State P-16 Councils Ease the Transition?*

**CFISD ranks the highest among the 50 largest school districts in the nation for its graduation rate. However, the district's ultimate goal is for every student to graduate from high school.**

As defined in the Portrait of Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Graduate, the district is "committed to providing the environment and learning opportunities for all students so that, as graduates, they will possess the characteristics which will enable them to live meaningfully and successfully in society and in the workplace."

"We want these students to know that we will support them 100 percent in fulfilling the requirements necessary to walk across the stage in May/June and receive a high school diploma," Schrandt said.

## CFISD monitors ozone levels to keep students safe

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD monitors ozone levels in the southeast Texas areas. The district has alert procedures in place, which notifies personnel at each campus and support facility when the ozone level exceeds normal within district boundaries during a regular school day.

Parents whose children have health issues such as respiratory or heart problems are reminded to the school nurse so the children are identified as being ozone-sensitive.

To monitor the ozone levels from your home or work computer go to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality at: <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us>.

