

# THE → NEXT → FRONTIER →

## Top 10 Facts – **STEM Education in Texas**

**1 HOUR =  
93  
DROPOUTS**

**1** Texas' overall **graduation rate is among the lowest nationwide**—in fact, every hour of every school day, an astounding 93 students drop out of Texas schools.

**2** If Texas could eliminate its dropout disparity, then the state would gain almost **\$2 trillion in economic output and 1 million new jobs** by 2030.

**\$ \$**  
AVERAGE U.S. WAGE TEXAS WAGE

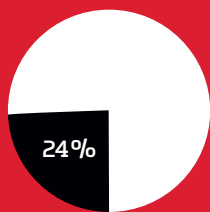
Texas teachers are paid only 85 cents on every dollar paid to the average American teacher

**3** In 2007, about **4,000 Texas math and science teachers left the classroom**, costing our state an estimated \$27 million to replace them.

**4** In 2005–06, Texas' average **teacher salary was ranked 35th nationwide**—Texas teachers are paid only 85 cents on every dollar paid to the average American teacher.

**5** About 40% of science teachers in the lowest-performing schools were assigned out-of-field and **40% failed their science certification examination** at least once. In contrast, only 20% of science teachers in the highest-performing schools were assigned out-of-field and just over 20% failed their science certification exam.

**6** Among Texas teens, only **20% tested have passing mastery** (a score of 70% or better) of science, and only 50% have passing mastery of math.



Only 24% of Texas high-school graduates are ready for college-level science

**7** Of Texas high school graduates, only 41% are ready for college-level math (algebra), and **only 24% are ready for college-level science** (biology).

**8** Almost 40% of students at two-year Texas colleges and about 25% of students at four-year Texas universities are enrolled in at least one remedial course—and **the state is paying about \$300 million a year** for that remedial education. Of those remedial students, almost 4 of 5 had a high-school GPA of at least 3.0.

**U.S. CHINA**  
COLLEGE UNDERGRADUATES EARNING SCIENCE OR ENGINEERING DEGREES

**9** In China, 42% of college undergraduates earn science or engineering degrees; **in the U.S., only 5% of students do so.**

**10** STEM college graduates will earn up to **\$1.2 million more in total salary** over their lifetime than those without a college degree.