

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
— CHAMPION EXCELLENCE —

Early College High Schools

Overview

March 30, 2017



“Students do not have to be perceived as
“exceptional” to be successful.”



Today's Agenda

- 1. Definition of Early College High Schools (ECHS)**
- 2. Benefits of ECHS**
- 3. Issues to Consider**



ECHS: What is it?

- “Combining high school and college in a rigorous, supportive environment that enables struggling students to graduate with college credit and the tools for postsecondary success.”
- “Strike the right balance between state policy and local practice.”

ECHS: What is it?

- **Aligned curricula and instruction:** A coherent instructional framework aligned to college-ready standards, with consistent instructional practices across all content areas, establishes a strong college-going culture and prepares students for postsecondary success.
- **Personalization and student supports:** Student-centered learning environments promote personalization, engagement, and close relationships among students and staff, with assistance based on assessments that identify the needs of each individual.

ECHS: What is it?

- **Power of place:** Early college schools are located on or near college campuses and draw on that environment to enable high school students to experience real college coursework and build their identity as college goers.
- **College credit:** Students simultaneously earn a high school diploma and up to two years of transferrable college credit—tuition free.
- **Partnerships:** Strong partnerships with colleges foster shared responsibility for student success, with collaboration on the development of academic programs that meet secondary and postsecondary standards and provide appropriate student supports.



**SOUTH TEXAS
COLLEGE**



OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF
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What are ECHSs in Texas?

- ECHSs are innovative high schools that allow students least likely to attend college an opportunity to earn a high school diploma and up to 60 college credit hours.
- ECHS students are
 - provided dual credit at no cost to students,
 - offered rigorous instruction and accelerated courses, and
 - provided academic and social support services to help them succeed with increased college readiness.

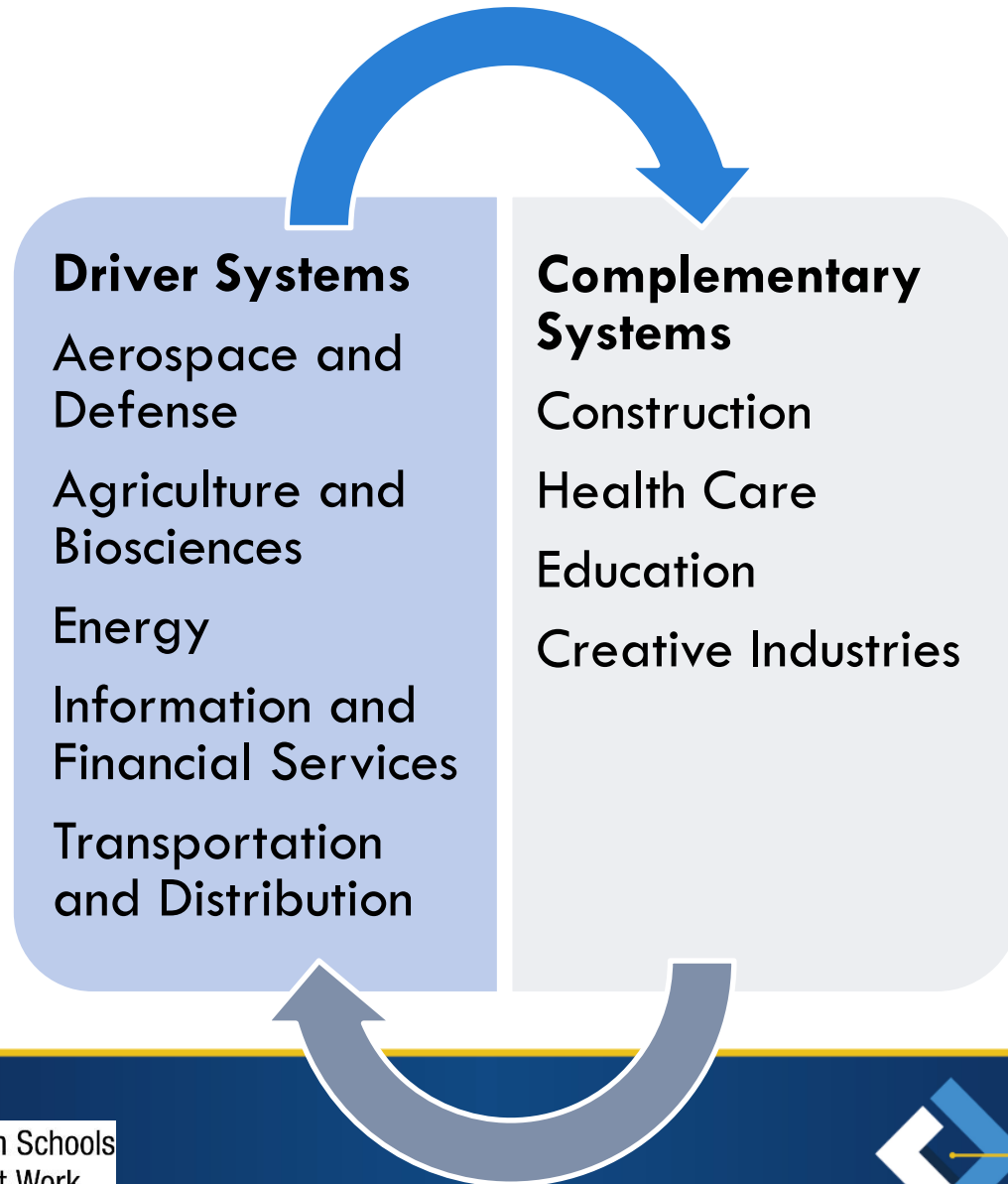


Possible Structures

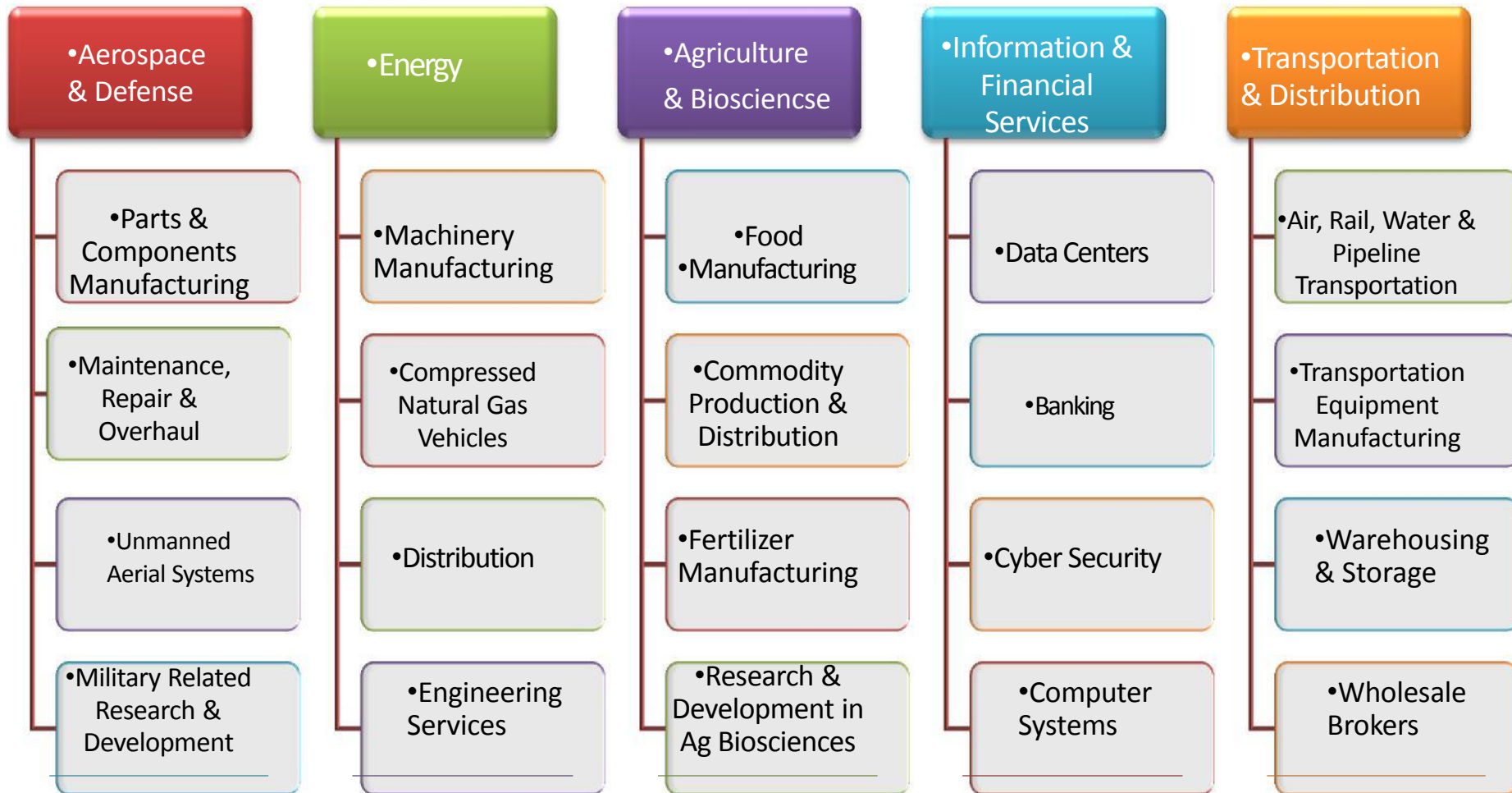
- Dual enrollment only
- Designated career academies (i.e. STEM, medical, computer science, engineering, etc.)
 - Based on a focus area in high demand jobs for that sector of Texas
 - Austin: current high-demand focus areas include Health, Information Technology, Education, and Building Trades



Wealth Generating Ecosystems



Ecosystems



The specific industries listed under the ecosystems are neither comprehensive nor exclusive. They are only examples to demonstrate a diversity of activities. The number of individual industries included among the 5 ecosystems actually number over 200.

Possible Structures

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- An ECHS within a high school
- An ECHS located on a college campus
- Blended ECHS (partial day on a HS campus and bussed to college for the other part of the school day)



“When I asked if I could apply for ECHS, my dad said I couldn’t because of who we were. I wanted to prove to my dad that I could do it. And, now my brother is a freshman here.”

Female senior





“College work is more rigorous. High school work is more difficult because of the workload of “work” (e.g. busy work).”

Student at Bastrop ECHS



RESEARCH SAYS...



Education...

...is the most **powerful tool** for helping students of poverty **rise**.

(Greenstone, et al., 2013)



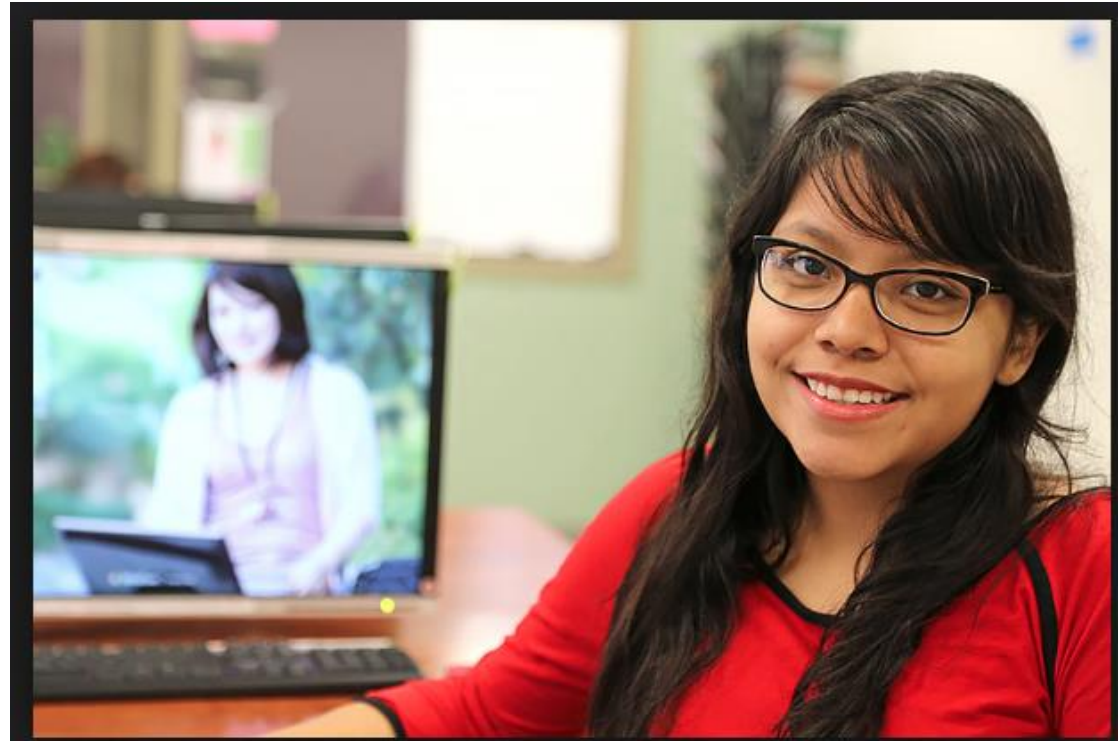
Classroom Teacher.....

- **STILL the single most significant contributor to student achievement**
- **Is more important to students who do not have a loving parent at home**
- **Can completely erase the academic effects of poverty within five years**



“I know what I’m capable of...

we can do anything we want.”



Female student

1st generation college



Other Benefits

- Decreased unemployment in the two-county area around McAllen, Texas from over 40% in 1992 to ~6% in 2016.
- More educated citizenry; more companies have located there. Texas A&M is building a McAllen campus focused on engineering to fill open jobs in the area.
- Improved community health.
- 94% high school graduation rate of those enrolled in ECHS with South Texas Community College



State Issues to Address

- Number of hours allowed at no cost to student (capping the Bachelor's degree at 150)
- Data sharing plan between college and high school
- Common college course codes throughout the state to assist transferability
- Policy changes
 - allowing schools to receive ADA past four years of high school
 - permitting students to enroll in college in the 9th grade



District/College Issues to Address

- Begin conversations/advising in eighth grade or before
- Provide a summer bridge program (2 weeks between 8th and 9th grade)
- Loop English teachers 9-12 so that the same teacher stayed with the students for all of high school (Bastrop ECHS)
- Create an infrastructure of support that includes student advising, site coordinators that bridge between colleges and high schools



District/College Issues to Address

- Identify benefit of ECHS vs. dual credit enrollment: students transition from just taking classes and accumulating credits to working toward a degree or certification
- Ensure equal access for all: If students take an online college course, South Texas College required that the high school make a lab available for the students to use to ensure that all kids have access
- Align CTE and traditional college coursework: Austin Community College has CTE credits that articulate into a college degree/college coursework



District/College Issues to Address

- Start slowly: In ECHS, Austin Community College recommends that the first college class should be offered second semester and should be a study skills/time management/ effective learning strategies in college class with ninth graders being allowed to take no more than six hours.
- Open scholarships for ECHS students: They are considered Freshmen when they compete for college scholarships



One More Thought....

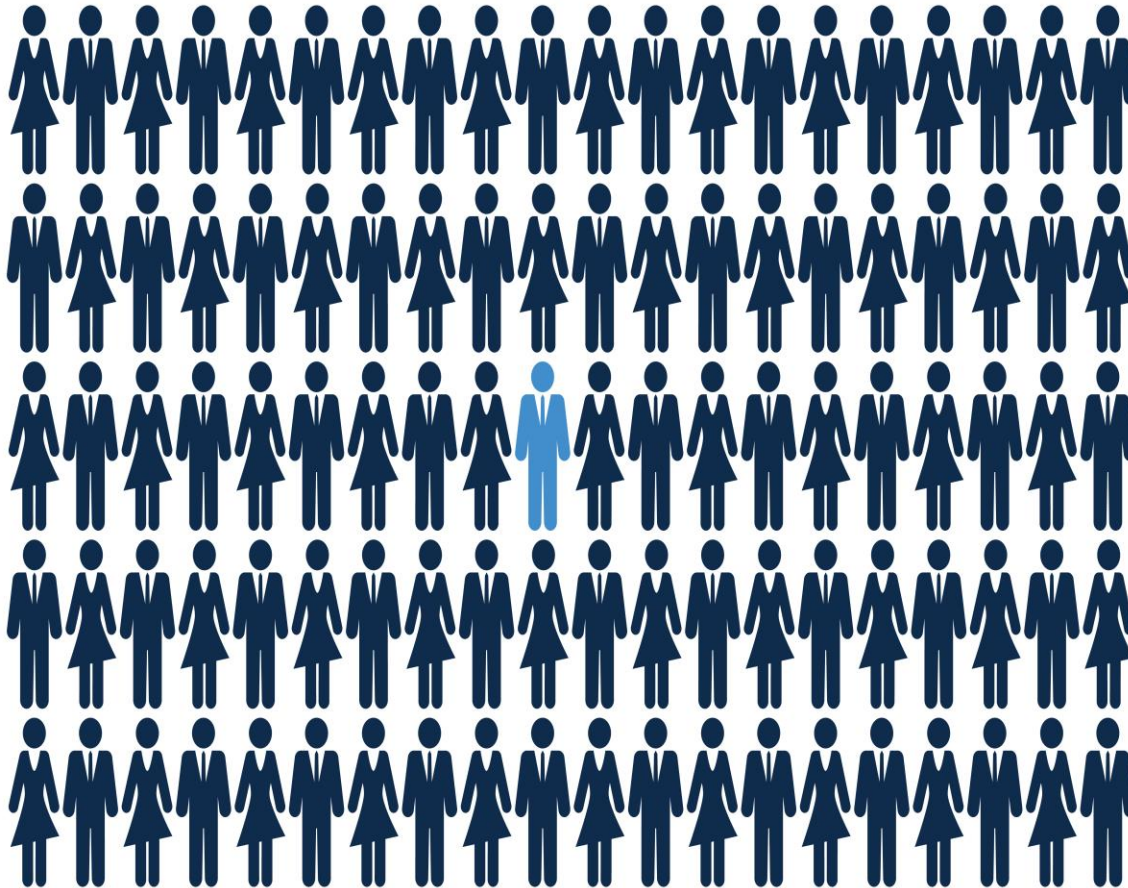
- Schools had to offer at least 12 hours of dual credit courses because a Texas Study showed that students who have 11+ hours upon entering college perform better and have a higher college completion rate.



JOB REQUIRED EDUCATION LEVEL

Out of 11.6 million jobs created in the post-recession economy, 11.5 million went to workers with at least some college education.

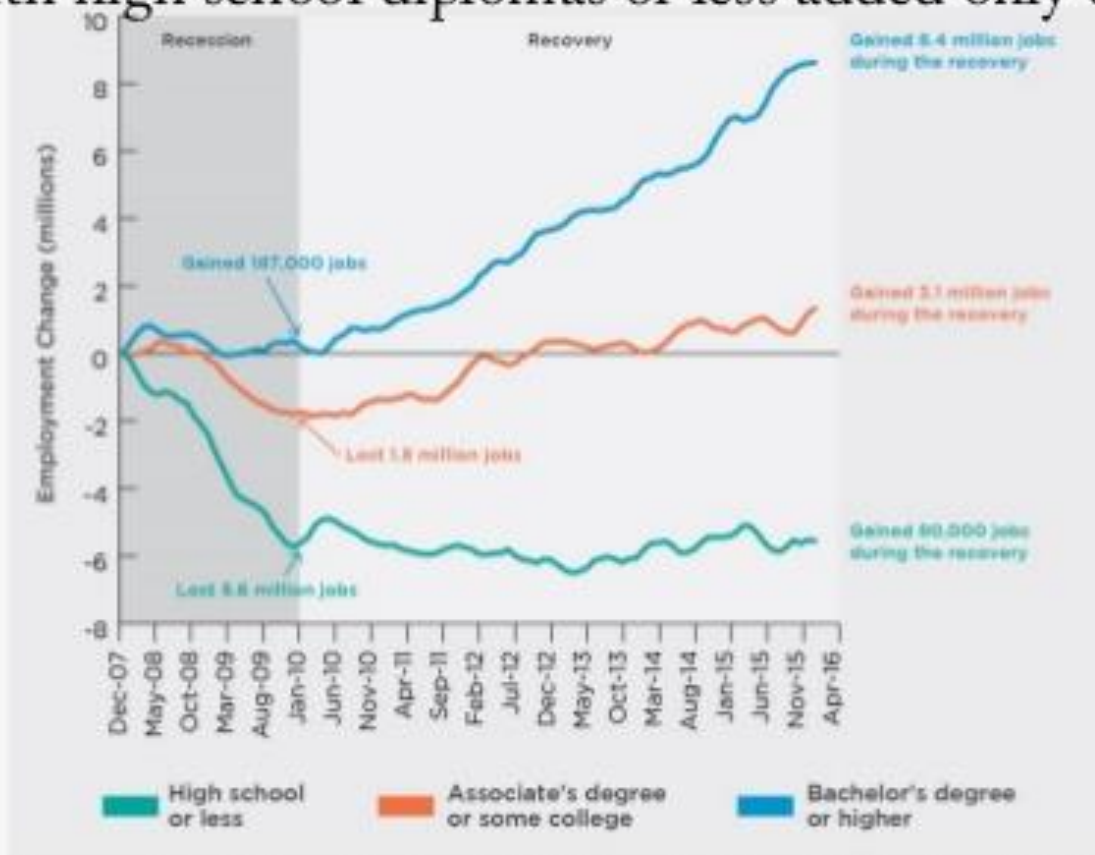
99%
11,500,000
JOBS
—
MORE THAN
HIGH SCHOOL
EDUCATION



1%
80,000
JOBS
—
HIGH SCHOOL
DIPLOMA OR
LESS



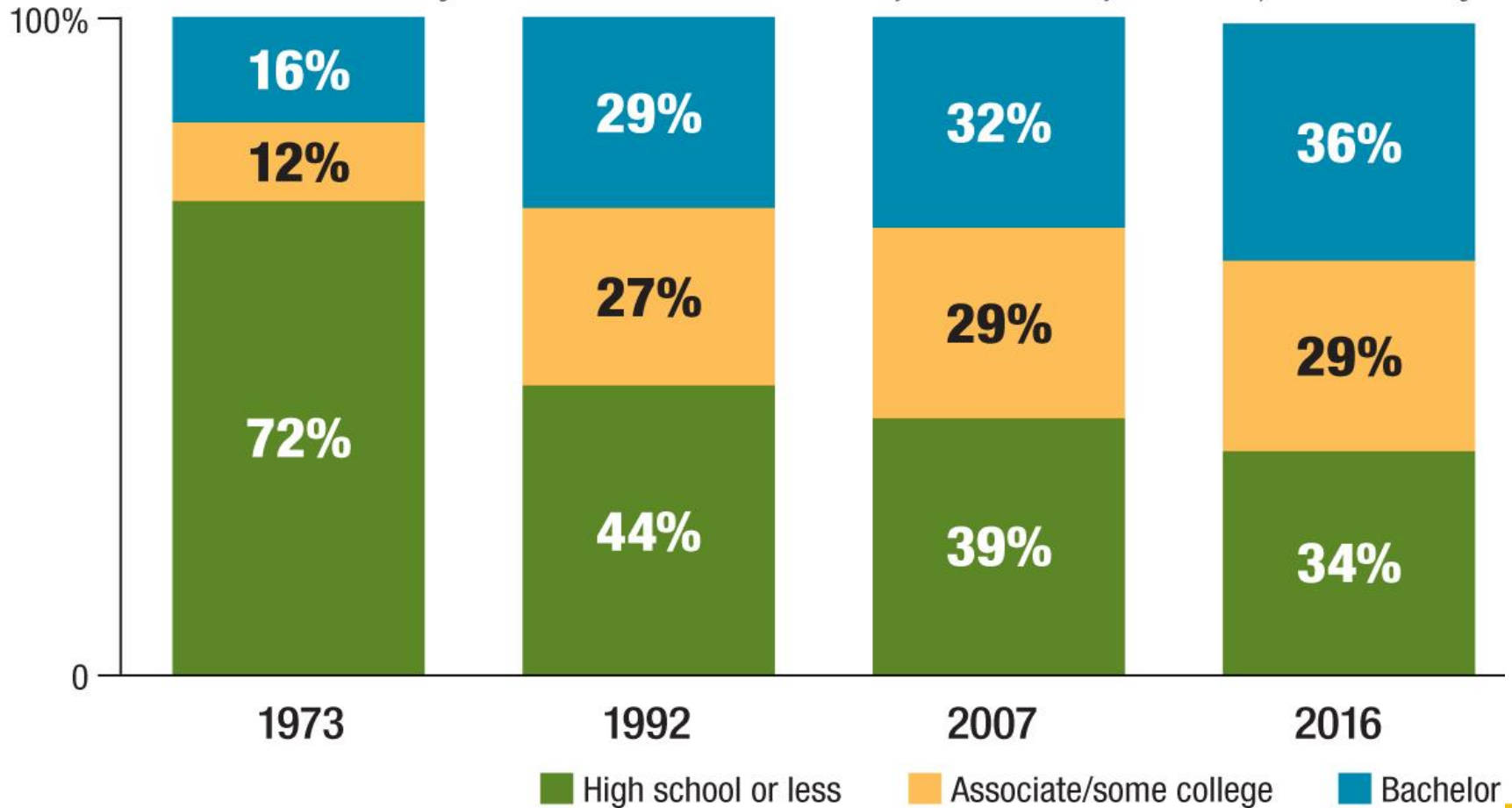
Workers with a Bachelor's degree have added 8.4 million jobs, but workers with high school diplomas or less added only 80,000 jobs



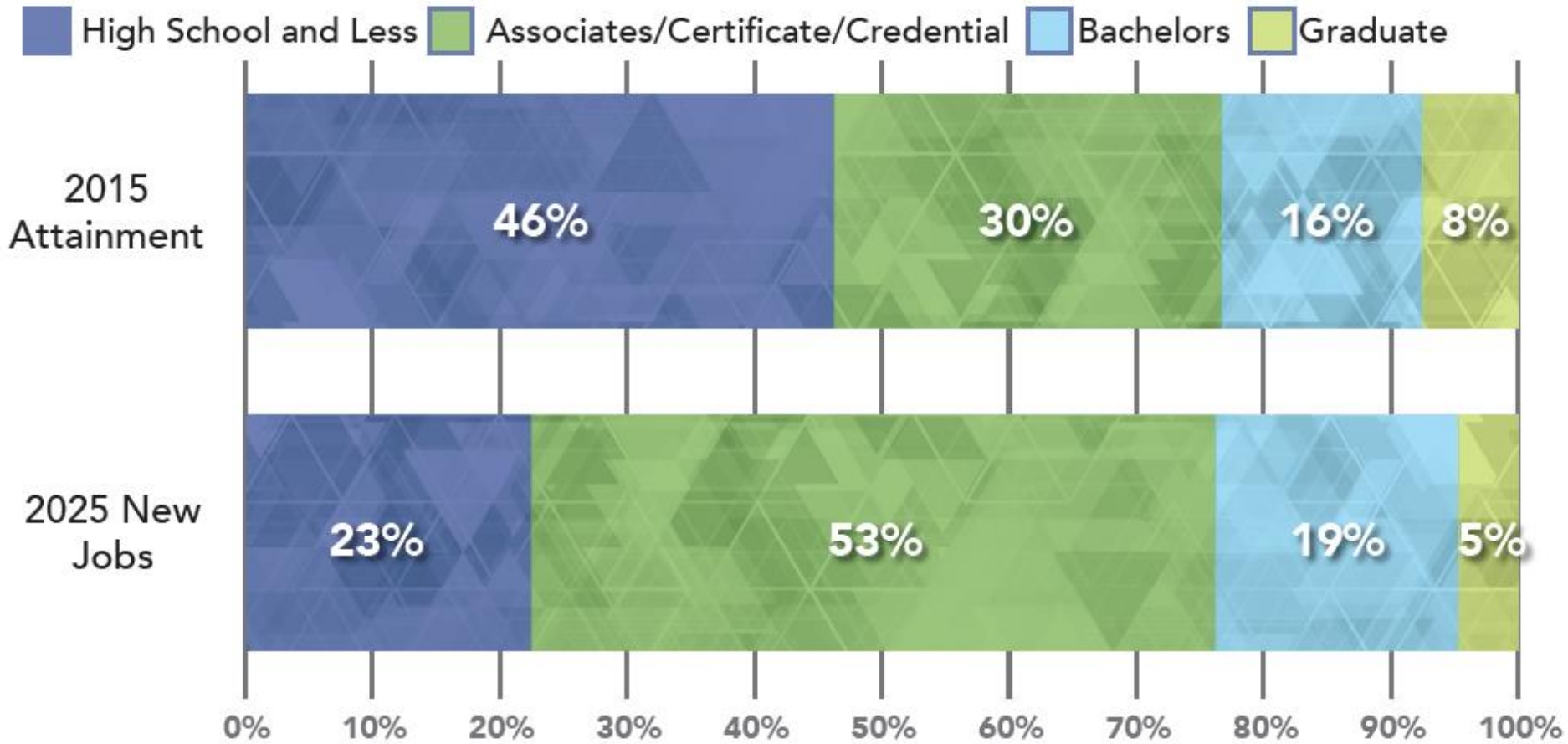
Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of *Current Population Survey* (CPS) data, 2007-2016.
Note: Employment includes all workers age 18 and older. The monthly employment numbers are seasonally adjusted using the U.S. Census Bureau X-12 procedure and smoothed using a four-month moving average.

Rising Requirements of Jobs

Source: Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce analysis. Note: Numbers may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.



Oklahoma's Workforce Gap



Source: OK Office of Workforce Development EMSI Q2, 2015



Goals for Oklahoma Schools

- Focus on college and career readiness:

College and career ready means that students graduate from high school prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary opportunities whether college or career.

- Students should graduate high school ready for postsecondary success and need to demonstrate they are on-track towards that goal in grades 3–8.



Postsecondary Participation

- For the first year, the focus on post-secondary activities will be on participation. Schools will receive credit for the percentage of their students enrolling and completing the following activities:
 - AP courses
 - IB program
 - Dual enrollment
 - Career-based internship or apprenticeship
 - Industry certification
- As programs become more available to students, the goal will shift from participation to successful outcomes. (E.g., move from rewarding enrollment in an AP course to rewarding the receipt of a 3 or higher on the AP test.)



Resources

- **Texas Department of Education**
 - <http://txechs.org/>
 - Stacy Avery: Stacy.Avery@tea.texas.gov; 512.463.8211
 - Graduation Toolkit created in conjunction with workforce team members is accessible from this link: <http://tea.texas.gov/communications/brochures.aspx>
- **Texas Early College High School**
- http://jukebox.esc13.net/txechs/materials/ECHS_designation_webinar_11_10_16.pdf
- **Jobs for the Future (JFF)**
- <http://www.jff.org/initiatives/early-college-designsoverview.html>
 - Reinventing High Schools
 - <http://www.jff.org/initiatives/early-college-designs>
 - Publications supporting ECHS
 - <http://www.jff.org/publications?tags=14>



thank
you!

Jeanene Barnett, Ed.D.

Interim Deputy Superintendent of
Assessment and Accountability

Jeanene.Barnett@sde.ok.gov

Office: 405-521-6446

Cell: 918-430-4315

