



TEXANS ADVOCATING FOR MEANINGFUL STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Fact Sheet: Individual Graduation Committee Facts

Individual Graduation Committees are a vital resource for students who have met requirements for graduation, except for satisfactory performance on one or two STAAR EOCs. They allow for a holistic view of the student, their high school work, and often require additional work to demonstrate mastery in the subject where a student did make a satisfactory STAAR EOC score. Individual Graduation Committees are not diploma mills.

- Only 2% of the 313,387 graduates in 2015 graduated utilizing an IGC.
- For the 2015 school year, there were 12,077 students assigned an IGC. Of these, 52 percent (6,279) were recommended for graduation. There is clearly rigor in the process.
- IGCs are not passing out unearned diplomas. To graduate under the law, students must have taken and passed the relevant class. In addition, they must have completed all other requirements for graduation. Individual graduation committees can and do require students to complete additional projects related to the subject area to demonstrate proficiency, prepare portfolios of work samples in the subject area of the course, and engage in additional coursework, as well as mandate other requirements in the discretion of the IGC. Moreover the determination of the IGC must be unanimous and is not subject to appeal.
- The most commonly failed EOCs are English II and US History - two tests not even required under federal law.
- Of the 3,684 IGC graduates failing one high school exit exam, the English II and U.S. History exams account for 83 percent of all IGC graduates.
- Of the 1,991 students failing two EOC exams, fewer than 1 percent failed a combination of exams that did not include either the English II or U.S. History exam.
- The IGC process is critical for our most vulnerable constituency, including English Language Learners and Economically Disadvantaged. Of those qualifying for IGCs, 68% were Latino Americans and 74% were economically disadvantaged students.
- SB 149, the original IGC bill passed the Senate 28-2 and passed the House 125-9

Resources: <http://www.idra.org/resource-center/use-individual-graduation-committees-unlocks-diplomas-qualified-students-texas/> and <http://tea.texas.gov/acctres/dropcomp/years.html#igc>.