



Education

Economic growth begins with an educated work force. Texas' ability to develop a well-educated and highly skilled work force is essential to its competitive position in the global economy.

Public schools in the Upper East Texas region are maintaining high levels of academic recognition, and enrollment in area colleges and universities is increasing.

Public Education

About 4.1 percent of the state's public elementary and secondary students go to school in Upper East Texas. The region is home to 121 public school districts with 479 campuses, as well as five charter districts and

their six campuses. Upper East Texas schools provide early childhood through Grade 12 education for more than 190,000 students.

The region's number of students has grown over the past several years, rising by 3.5 percent between the 2001-02 and 2007-08 school years. This increase represents a net gain of more than 6,400 students.¹ The population of the region, state and nation grew by 6.4, 11.8 and 6.0 percent, respectively, over the same time period.²

In the 2007-08 school year, the region's largest independent school districts (ISDs) by enrollment were Tyler ISD in Smith County, with more than 18,000 students, and Longview ISD in Gregg County, with more than 8,000 students. The smallest districts were Marietta in Cass County, with 31 students, and Malta in Bowie County, with 118 students.



Music Competition at Palestine Independent School District

PHOTO: Craig Harris/PISD



Exhibit 42

**Ethnicity of Public School Students
Upper East Texas Region, 2001-02 vs. 2007-08 School Years**

Ethnicity	2001-02	2007-08
White	65.0%	60.3%
Hispanic	12.5	18.0
Black	21.6	20.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.6	0.8
Native American	0.4	0.5

Source: Texas Education Agency.

The Upper East Texas region, like the state, has seen its public school population become more diverse and more Hispanic (**Exhibit 42**).³ But it is still less ethnically diverse than the statewide student population, which is 47.2 percent Hispanic, 34.8 percent White, 14.3 percent Black, 3.4 percent Asian/Pacific Islander and 0.3 percent Native American.⁴

The region has seen an increase in the number of economically disadvantaged students. In 2001-02, nearly 86,000 students or 46.6 percent of total enrollment were identified as economically disadvantaged.⁵ In 2007-08, almost 102,000 students or 53.5 percent of the region's students were classified in this way. This was lower, however, than the statewide average of 55.2 percent.⁶

Exhibit 43

**2007-2008 Accountability Ratings
School Districts**

Rating	Upper East Texas	Statewide
Exemplary	0.8%	3.5%
Recognized	22.2	26.7
Academically Acceptable	75.4	66.6
Academically Unacceptable	1.6	3.0
Not Rated: Other	0.0	0.2

Note: "Not Rated: Other" includes campuses such as alternative education programs or early childhood education centers. These data include charter districts. Totals may not equal 100 percent due to rounding. Source: Texas Education Agency.

Accountability

The region's districts compared favorably with statewide averages in the 2007-2008 district accountability ratings established by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The Upper East Texas region exceeded the state average for Academically Acceptable ratings. In addition, the region's districts fared better than the statewide average in districts deemed Academically Unacceptable (**Exhibit 43**).

As of August 2008, one of the region's 126 districts was rated Exemplary; 28 were rated Recognized; 95 were rated Academically Acceptable; and 2 were rated Academically Unacceptable.

Upper East Texas also exceeded statewide averages in its number of campuses rated Academically Acceptable. A smaller share of its campuses were rated Academically Unacceptable than in the state as a whole (**Exhibit 44**).

Exhibit 44

**2007-2008 Accountability Ratings
School Campuses**

Rating	Upper East Texas	Statewide
Exemplary	8.7%	12.2%
Recognized	33.8	34.4
Academically Acceptable	48.7	42.8
Academically Unacceptable	1.9	2.6
Not Rated: Other	7.0	8.0

Note: "Not Rated: Other" includes campuses such as alternative education programs or early childhood education centers. These data include charter districts. Totals may not equal 100 percent due to rounding. Source: Texas Education Agency.



Museums and Performing Arts

A number of museums and performing arts organizations help educate, entertain and enrich the lives of the region’s residents.

Location	Museums and Performing Arts Organizations
Carthage	Texas Country Music Hall of Fame & Tex Ritter Museum
Edgewood	Edgewood Heritage Park and Historical Village
Emory	A.C. McMillan African American Museum
Gilmer	Flight of the Phoenix Aviation Museum
Henderson	The Depot Museum
Kilgore	Texas Shakespeare Festival; East Texas Historical Museum
Longview	Longview Museum of Fine Arts
Marshall	Harrison County Historical Museum; Michelson Museum of Art
Sulphur Springs	Southwest Dairy Museum and Education Center
Texarkana	Perot Theater; Museum of Regional History & Wilbur Smith Research Library; Discovery Place Children’s Museum; Ace of Clubs House
Tyler	East Texas Symphony Orchestra; Tyler Civic Ballet; Discovery Science Place; Smith County Historical Museum; Tyler Museum of Art

Sources: Texas Almanac and the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.



Within the region, all graduating students in Avinger ISD took college entrance exams in the 2005-06 school year.

Of the 485 campuses in the region’s districts, including charter schools, 42 were rated Exemplary; 164 were Recognized; 236 were Academically Acceptable; 9 were Academically Unacceptable; and 34 were listed as “Not Rated: Other” in 2007-2008.

All 5 of the region’s charter districts were rated Academically Acceptable. Each of the charter districts campuses received the same rating as its district.⁷

Among the region’s districts that teach all grade levels, two ISDs in Bowie County had the highest percentage of students passing all Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests. Red Lick ISD had the largest percentage of students passing all TAKS, at 97 percent. Malta ISD had the next largest share of students passing all TAKS, at 95. (An average for the Upper East Texas region

is not available because TEA reports district data only as percentages.)⁸

Within the region, all graduating students in Avinger ISD took college entrance exams in the 2005-06 school year. The district’s performance significantly outpaced the state-wide average of 65.8 percent. Of the 107 Upper East Texas districts for which data are available, 33 had shares above the state average and 81 had lower shares.

Pleasant Grove ISD had the highest percentage of students taking the tests who scored at or above the criterion score TEA uses to measure college readiness, at 51 percent; the district also had more than 75 percent of its graduating students take at least one of the tests. Statewide, just 27.1 percent of students who took at least one of the tests scored at or above the criterion score.⁹



Outcomes

According to the 2000 Census, 75.1 percent of Upper East Texas residents over the age of 25 had a high school diploma, a GED or some higher education. This was only slightly below the statewide average of 75.7 percent.¹⁰

In the 2006-07 school year, 11,061 students graduated from the region's public high schools, representing about 4.6 percent of the statewide total that year. Tyler ISD had the largest number of graduates (792), while Laneville ISD had the smallest number, with just four graduates.

About 13.1 percent of the region's students graduated under the state's most stringent graduation plan, the Distinguished Achievement plan; 57.3 percent under the Recommended plan, which is the required plan; and 29.6 percent under the Minimum plan, a less stringent graduation plan that requires both parental and school approval, or under an Individual Education Plan offered through Special Education (**Exhibit 45**).¹¹

School Finance

In the 2006-07 school year, the Upper East Texas region's total school spending per pu-

pil, including debt service, averaged \$9,833. This is about 6.1 percent higher than the statewide average of \$9,269 for that year.

Twenty-nine districts in the region were 20 percent or more above the statewide spending average. But the region had 94 districts, including charters, which were below the statewide average.¹²

Excluding charter districts, which do not receive funding from local tax revenue, the region's lowest total tax rate in 2006 was in the Como-Pickton Consolidated ISD, at \$1.117 per \$100 of property value. Pine Tree ISD levied the highest rate, at \$1.614. The statewide average was \$1.452; 37 districts in the Upper East Texas region had higher rates.¹³

The region generated a lower percentage of its school revenue from local taxes (43.4 percent) than the statewide average of 48.3 percent. Beckville ISD received the largest portion of its school funding from local taxes (74.2 percent), while McLeod ISD had the lowest share (7.1 percent). The percentage of revenue from other local sources, such as transfers and tuition, was only marginally higher in the region than statewide, at 6.9 percent versus 6.3 percent. Clarksville ISD gained 27.4 percent

In the 2006-07 school year, 11,061 students graduated from the region's public high schools.

Exhibit 45

2006 High School Graduates Upper East Texas Region vs. Statewide

Graduation Plan	Upper East Texas	Statewide
Distinguished Achievement	13.1%	10.8%
Recommended	57.3	67.0
Minimum/IEP	29.6	22.1
Distinguished Achievement & Recommended as Percent of Total	70.4%	77.9%

Source: Texas Education Agency.



of its revenue from other local sources, for the highest share in the region; the Linden-Kildare Consolidated ISD received the lowest percentage for non-charter schools, at 1.4 percent.

McLeod ISD had the lowest property wealth per pupil in 2006, at \$62,959, while Tatum ISD led the region with \$1,319,632 per pupil. The regional average was \$299,992, or 1.7 percent lower than the statewide average of \$305,208.

Texas law requires districts with relatively high property wealth per pupil to share it with less-wealthy districts through a process called “equity transfers.” In 2006, nine districts in the Upper East Texas region transferred roughly \$40.9 million, an average of \$216 per pupil, to other districts. The statewide average was \$286 per pupil. Carthage ISD transferred the largest amount (\$15.8 million), while Tatum ISD had the highest per-pupil transfer at \$9,403.

McLeod ISD received more than 78 percent of its revenue from the state in 2006, the highest share among districts that also receive some part of their revenue from local taxes. The Daingerfield-Lone Star and Tatum ISDs received the smallest state shares, at 12.9 and 13 percent, respectively. The regional average for 2006 was 39.0 percent, slightly higher than the statewide average of 33.9 percent. The region also received a lower share of federal funds than the statewide average, at 10.7 percent versus 11.5 percent.¹⁴

Teachers

The average Upper East Texas teacher salary in the 2007-08 school year was \$41,109, 11 percent below the statewide average of \$46,178. Tyler ISD had the highest average

The Perot Theater

The restored Perot Theater in downtown Texarkana is one of the true cultural treasures of Upper East Texas. The theater was originally built by Saenger Amusement in the 1920s as the company’s “Gateway to the West” performance hall, at a time when Texarkana was a major rail hub. The Perot was designed by German architect Emil Weil in the neo-Italian Renaissance style and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

When the theater opened in 1924, it was an important regional attraction. In 1931, it was purchased by Paramount Theaters and became a first-run movie house. Admissions dried up over the years, but it continued to screen second- and third-run films during the 1970s, though it had fallen into serious disrepair.

Recognizing it as an important cultural and aesthetic asset for the community, Texarkana community leaders bought the theater in 1977 for \$19,000, and organized a multi-million dollar campaign to restore it. The restoration project was largely funded by Texarkana native son H. Ross Perot and his sister Bette, in honor of their parents. Restored to its former glory, the Perot Theater was rechristened and reopened in 1981.

Since its reopening, the theater has entertained more than 700,000 visitors at more than 1,000 events, supporting a thriving performing arts community in the city. The theater has hosted performers such as Wynton Marsalis, David Copperfield and the Houston Ballet as well as such productions as “Cyrano de Bergerac,” “The Sound of Music” and “Hairspray.”

The Perot Theater is owned by the city of Texarkana and operated by the Texarkana Regional Arts and Humanities Council.¹⁵

salary at \$44,367. (A district’s average salary can vary due to the length of teachers’ tenure as well as its wage levels. In other words, District A may have a higher average salary than District B because it has a higher percentage of experienced teachers, even though its wage levels for various years of experience may be lower than District B’s.)¹⁶

Average salaries in the region rose by 12.8 percent from 2002-03 to 2007-08, compared



to its main campus in Tyler, UT-Tyler has a teaching site in Palestine in Anderson County as well as other sites in the region. A&M Texarkana is an upper-level university serving junior, senior and graduate students.

The Upper East Texas region has seven community college districts — Kilgore College, Northeast Texas Community College, Panola College, Paris Junior College, Texarkana College, Trinity Valley Community College and Tyler Junior College — with a total of 12 campuses in 14 counties. In addition to its main campus, Kilgore College operates a satellite campus in Longview. Similarly, Tyler Junior College operates satellite campuses in Jacksonville and Lindale. Paris Junior College has an additional campus in Sulphur Springs, while Panola College has a site in Jefferson.

In addition, the region has a branch of Texas State Technical College in Marshall.

Upper East Texas also has four private universities: LeTourneau University in Longview; East Texas Baptist University and Wiley College in Marshall; and Texas College in Tyler. There are two private junior colleges, Jacksonville College and Lon Morris College, in Jacksonville.¹⁹ Wiley College, Texas College and Jarvis Christian College are historically Black institutions. All are accredited, independent four-year schools.²⁰

Enrollment

In fall 2007, 48,302 students were enrolled in Upper East Texas public and private colleges and universities. Enrollment in public and private four-year universities accounted for 32.1 percent of the total, while the remaining 67.9 percent were enrolled in two-year institutions.

Exhibit 47

Higher Education Campuses Upper East Texas Region

Institution	City	County
Trinity Valley Community College – Palestine	Palestine	Anderson
University of Texas at Tyler Teaching Site (Palestine)	Palestine	Anderson
Texarkana College	Texarkana	Bowie
Texas A&M University – Texarkana	Texarkana	Bowie
Jacksonville College	Jacksonville	Cherokee
Lon Morris College	Jacksonville	Cherokee
Tyler JC – Jacksonville Extension	Jacksonville	Cherokee
Kilgore College	Kilgore	Gregg
Kilgore College – Longview Extension	Longview	Gregg
LeTourneau University	Longview	Gregg
University of Texas at Tyler Teaching Site (Longview)	Longview	Gregg
East Texas Baptist University	Marshall	Harrison
Texas State Technical College – Marshall	Marshall	Harrison
Wiley College	Marshall	Harrison
Trinity Valley Community College	Athens	Henderson
Paris Junior College – Sulphur Springs Extension	Sulphur Springs	Hopkins
Paris Junior College	Paris	Lamar
Panola College	Carthage	Panola
Panola College – Jefferson College Center	Jefferson	Marion
Texas A&M University – Texarkana Teaching Site (Jefferson)	Jefferson	Marion
Texas College	Tyler	Smith
The University of Texas at Tyler	Tyler	Smith
The University of Texas Health Center at Tyler	Tyler	Smith
Tyler Junior College	Tyler	Smith
Tyler Junior College – Lindale	Lindale	Smith
Northeast Texas Community College	Mount Pleasant	Titus
Texas A&M University – Texarkana Teaching Site (Mt. Pleasant)	Mount Pleasant	Titus
Jarvis Christian College	Hawkins	Wood

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.



Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Texas A&M University-Texarkana, formerly East Texas State University at Texarkana, is an upper-level university serving junior, senior and graduate students on the border of Texas and Arkansas. The university, established in 1971, became part of the Texas A&M University System in September 1996.

A&M-Texarkana offers 20 baccalaureate and 11 graduate degree programs and certificate programs in Behavioral Sciences, Business Administration, Arts and Sciences and Education, all under the authorization and jurisdiction of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The university has 56 full-time faculty members, with 89 percent of them holding doctoral degrees in their field of instruction. The teacher-to-student ratio is 1 to 14.

A&M-Texarkana serves 1,549 students, including 569 graduate students. About 70 percent of its students are enrolled part-time. Seventy-five percent of students who attend A&M-Texarkana are female. According to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the average age of students attending A&M-Texarkana in fall 2007 was 32, compared with 24 for the average Texas college student.

Its location on the Texas-Arkansas border gives the university ample opportunity to serve students from neighboring states. About 30 percent of the student body is from Arkansas. Students from Oklahoma and Arkansas pay in-state tuition rates.²¹

The University of Texas at Tyler

The University of Texas at Tyler is one of Texas' fastest-growing universities. A member of the University of Texas System, The UT-Tyler campus has 6,150 students representing 45 nations and 35 states. UT-Tyler rests on 200 acres and has 14 modern buildings on a campus arranged around two lakes. UT-Tyler has five colleges offering nearly 90 academic degrees. UT-Tyler also serves as an economic development engine for the East Texas region by conducting more than \$4 million in research annually and adding more than \$208 million in wages and 1,913 permanent jobs to the area. The two most popular degree plans at UT-Tyler are nursing and education. So it is not surprising that four of every 10 professional nurses in East Texas graduated from UT-Tyler, and one out of every five school children in East Texas' public and private schools encounters a UT-Tyler graduate serving as teacher or administrator.²²

The region's largest higher education institution by enrollment is Tyler Junior College, with 8,220 students in fall 2007. The smallest public institution is Texas State Technical College, with 705 students enrolled in fall 2007.

Total enrollment in the region's higher education institutions rose by 26.8 percent between 2000 and 2007. Enrollment at two-year institutions rose by 19 percent compared with 46.9 percent for universities. In numerical terms, universities added 4,944 students while two-year college enrollment increased by 5,237. For the state as a whole, public university enrollment increased by 19.9 percent, while enrollment at public two-year institutions, including community colleges, rose by 31.1 percent.

Among the region's institutions, UT-Tyler had the largest enrollment growth between 2000 and 2007, adding 2,545 students, a 70.9 percent increase (**Exhibit 48**).²³

Accessibility

UT-Tyler had 1,536 first-time undergraduate applicants for its fall 2007 semester. The institution accepted 83.3 percent of them, less than the statewide average of 92 percent. Of the 1,279 students accepted to UT-Tyler, 19.1 percent were in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating classes, compared with 20.4 percent of students accepted to undergraduate institutions statewide.²⁴

As an upper-level institution, A&M-Texarkana does not admit first-time, full-time, degree-seeking undergraduates.²⁵

Outcomes

Because some degrees require more than four years of study, and because some students may need more time to graduate,



Exhibit 48

Fall Headcount Enrollment Upper East Texas Region, 2000 and 2007

Public Institution	Fall 2000 Enrollment	Fall 2007 Enrollment	Enrollment Change	% Change
The University of Texas at Tyler	3,592	6,137	2,545	70.9%
Texas A&M University – Texarkana	1,195	1,605	410	34.3
Regional Total – Public Universities	4,787	7,742	2,955	61.7%
Statewide Total – Public Universities	414,626	497,195	82,569	19.9%
Kilgore College	3,872	5,135	1,263	32.6
Northeast Texas Community College	1,990	2,458	468	23.5
Panola College	1,422	1,884	462	32.5
Paris Junior College	2,936	4,286	1,350	46
Texarkana College	3,394	3,916	522	15.4
Trinity Valley Community College	4,588	5,569	981	21.4
Tyler Junior College	8,240	8,220	-20	-0.2
Texas State Technical College – Marshall	511	705	194	38
Regional Total – Two-year Public Colleges	26,953	32,173	5,220	19.4%
Statewide Total – Two-year Community Colleges	431,934	568,760	136,826	31.7%
Private Institution	Fall 2000 Enrollment	Fall 2007 Enrollment	Enrollment Change	% Change
East Texas Baptist University	1,402	1,404	2	0%
Jarvis Christian College	537	712	175	32.6
LeTourneau University	2,975	3,921	946	31.8
Texas College	281	774	493	275
Wiley College	552	925	373	67.6
Regional Total – Private Universities	5,747	7,736	1,989	34.6%
Statewide Total – Private Universities	107,400	114,042	6,642	6.2%
Jacksonville College	270	264	-6	-0.98
Lon Morris College	364	387	23	6.32
Regional Total – Two-year Private Colleges	634	651	17	2.7%
Statewide Total – Two-year Private Colleges	634	651	17	2.7%
	Fall 2000 Enrollment	Fall 2007 Enrollment	Enrollment Change	% Change
Regional Total Higher Education	38,121	48,302	10,181	26.7%
Regional Total 4-Year Institutions	10,534	15,478	4,944	46.9%
Regional Total 2-Year Institutions	27,587	32,824	5,237	19%

Note: Regional data do not include enrollment data for branch campuses located in Upper East Texas that are part of a main campus located in other regions, since they are not reported separately to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Data for all institutions includes health-related and independent institutions.
Sources: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas, Inc.

Lineman Training

The Marshall Economic Development Corporation, in partnership with Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO), leased five acres of the Texas State Technical College campus to offer a new electrical lineman's training program. Students combine classroom study with practical and hands-on applications. SWEPCO has indicated the lineman career path is underserved, and there is a significant need for trained workers in this very specialized field.²⁶

Kilgore, Panola, Paris and Trinity Valley community colleges ranked well above the statewide average for both three- and six-year graduation rates in fiscal 2006.

the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) compares four-year and six-year graduation rates to measure university outcomes. UT-Tyler's four- and six-year graduation rates were 18.8 percent and 50.9 percent, respectively, in fiscal 2006, lower than statewide averages for both years.²⁷

Since many community college students go on to a university to obtain a four-year degree, THECB compares three-year and six-year graduation rates to measure community college outcomes. Texas State Technical College-Marshall (TSTC-Marshall)

had the region's highest three-year graduation rate in fiscal 2006, while Panola College had the highest six-year graduation rate. Northeast Texas Community College, Kilgore, Paris and Trinity Valley Community Colleges all showed considerable improvement in six-year graduation rates between fiscal 2000 and 2006. Kilgore, Panola, Paris and Trinity Valley community colleges ranked well above the statewide average for both three- and six-year graduation rates in fiscal 2006 (**Exhibit 49**).²⁸

From fiscal 2000 to fiscal 2007, UT-Tyler's number of degrees awarded annually rose by 34.9 percent to 1,175, while A&M Texarkana's count rose by 62.3 percent, to 500. The statewide average increase was 30.3 percent (**Exhibit 50**).²⁹

Over the same period, Texas community colleges increased their number of degrees and certificates awarded statewide by 46.9 percent. Among the seven community colleges in the region, Paris Junior College had

Exhibit 49

Three- and Six-Year Graduation Rates (First-time, Full-time, Credential-seeking Students) Upper East Texas Community Colleges

Institution	Fiscal 2000 3-year	Fiscal 2000 6-year	Fiscal 2006 3-year	Fiscal 2006 6-year
Kilgore College	15.3%	35.6%	15.1%	38.8%
Northeast Texas Community College	17.3	35.6	22.0	36.4
Panola College	26.0	42.1	22.1	40.4
Paris Junior College	15.2	30.4	19.4	32.5
Texarkana College	8.2	24.3	11.7	25.5
Trinity Valley Community College	18.1	27.6	19.7	33.2
Tyler Junior College	14.9	27.4	13.1	28.5
Texas State Technical College – Marshall	NA	NA	24.2	35.0
Community Colleges Statewide Average	10.8%	25.7%	12.1%	30.6%

Note: Data are unavailable for Texas State Technical College - Marshall for fiscal year 2000.
Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.



Exhibit 50

**Degrees Awarded
Upper East Texas Region Public Universities, Fiscal 2000 and 2007**

Institution	Fiscal 2000	Fiscal 2007	Change	% Change
The University of Texas – Tyler	871	1,175	304	34.9%
Texas A&M University – Texarkana	308	500	192	62.3
Statewide Total	78,970	102,897	23,927	30.3%

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

the sharpest increase in degrees awarded, at 66.9 percent (**Exhibit 51**). Trinity Valley awarded the greatest number in fiscal 2007, at 1,348.³⁰

Affordability

From 2002-03 to 2007-08, UT-Tyler’s annual estimated costs for one student’s tuition and fees, based on 15 credit hours each semester, rose by about 88.7 percent, to \$5,382. A&M Texarkana’s tuition and fees rose by 61.2 percent, to \$3,721. The statewide average for undergraduate universities rose by about 90.1 percent, to \$5,732.

For the 2007-08 school year, the estimated annual cost of tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, transportation and personal expenses at UT-Tyler (based on 15 credit hours in both fall and spring) was \$16,714. The statewide average was \$17,494. The 2007-08 total cost of attending A&M Texarkana was \$13,633.

The cost of attending private universities in the region has remained lower than the statewide average for private institutions. For 2007-08, estimated tuition and fee costs for all area private universities except for LeTourneau University were lower than the

Paris Junior College had the sharpest increase in degrees awarded, at 66.9 percent.

Exhibit 51

**Degrees and Certificates Awarded
Upper East Texas Region Two-Year Colleges, Fiscal 2000 vs. 2007**

Institution	Fiscal 2000	Fiscal 2007	Change	% Change
Kilgore College	764	1,037	273	35.7%
Northeast Texas Community College	239	388	149	62.3
Panola College	304	336	32	10.5
Paris Junior College	332	554	222	66.9
Texarkana College	634	615	-19	-3
Trinity Valley Community College	1,026	1,348	322	31.4
Tyler Junior College	976	1,273	297	30.4
Texas State Technical College – Marshall	110	100	-10	-9.1
Regional Total	4,385	5,651	1,266	28.9%
Community Colleges Statewide Total	37,395	54,916	17,521	46.9%

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.



LeTourneau University

Founded in 1946 by Mrs. R.G. LeTourneau, LeTourneau University (LETU) has distinguished itself as a premier higher education institution in the region. In 2007, Longview’s LETU ranked 28th among Master’s Comprehensive Universities in the Western region in *U.S. News and World Report’s* rankings of “America’s Best Colleges.”

LETU is a nondenominational Christian university accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as well as the Engineering Accreditation Commission and the Technology Accreditation Commission, which are commissions of the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology. In addition, the Federal Aviation Administration certifies LETU’s flight program, while the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education accredits its business program.

LETU offers its nearly 4,000 students two- and four-year degree programs in engineering, technology, liberal arts, business, aeronautical science, education and the sciences, plus master’s degree programs in business. Its students, who represent more than 45 denominations, hail from 49 states and 26 countries.³¹

The cost of attending private universities in the region has remained lower than the statewide average for private institutions.

statewide average of \$17,392. In that year, the estimated annual cost of tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, transportation and personal expenses for private universities in the Upper East Texas

region ranged from a high of \$27,382 at LeTourneau University to a low of \$15,712 at Jarvis Christian College. The statewide average cost for private institutions was \$26,909.

From FY 2000 to FY 2007, resident tuition and fee changes at the region’s seven community colleges ranged from an increase at Texarkana College of \$333 to an increase of \$806 at Trinity Valley Community College. Meanwhile, the statewide average increase for community colleges was about \$696, or about 73 percent. In 2007-08, tuition and fees in the region were lowest at Kilgore and Paris Junior Colleges, at \$1,290 each, and highest at TSTC Marshall, at \$2,788.³³

The total cost of attending the Upper East Texas region’s community colleges in 2007-08, including tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, transportation and personal expenses, ranged from \$9,963 for Northeast Texas Community College to \$12,625 for TSTC Marshall. The statewide average for community colleges was \$11,935.³⁴

Luminant Academy

The Luminant Academy, a joint educational project between TXU Corporation subsidiary Luminant and Tyler Junior College, began holding educational classes for the company’s employees on March 6, 2008. Luminant employees can earn continuing education credit hours or certificates of completion from the college while training to work in the firm’s power generation, mining and construction operations.

While the facility primarily benefits Luminant and its power generation plants in Rusk and Titus counties, Tyler and the surrounding areas stand to gain from the economic activity generated by the presence of Luminant employees attending the courses. Based on information provided by the Tyler Junior College director of marketing and public information to the *Tyler Morning Telegraph*, Luminant employees attending the 18-week course at the college will spend money on hotels, food and other amenities during their stay in the area.³²



Funding

Total revenue for UT-Tyler, including tuition and fees, general revenue appropriations, federal funds and institutional funds, rose by 21 percent from fiscal 2005 to fiscal 2007. Texas A&M Texarkana’s total revenues increased by 24.6 percent over the same period. These compared with a statewide average rise of 17.1 percent for public universities. (Exhibit 52).³⁵

Total appropriations for community colleges in the 2008-09 biennium increased for all of the region’s community colleges except TSTC

Marshall. Between 2002-03 and 2008-09, statewide appropriations for all community colleges rose by 8 percent (Exhibit 53).³⁶

Contact hours — the time a professor actually spends in the classroom with students — for community, state and technical colleges rose 18.8 percent statewide from fall 2000 to fall 2007. In the Upper East Texas region, contact hours increased at all community colleges, with highs of 34.9 percent for Paris Junior College and 26 percent for Northeast Texas Community College (Exhibit 54).³⁷

Exhibit 52

Public Universities Total Revenue Sources Upper East Texas Region

The University of Texas at Tyler

Revenue Source	Fiscal 2005	Fiscal 2007	% Increase
Tuition and fees	\$13,173,044	\$19,220,153	45.9%
State appropriations	27,441,029	31,928,801	16.4
Federal funds	5,315,742	7,354,629	38.4
Institutional funds	7,667,143	6,332,770	-17.4
Total Revenue	\$53,596,958	\$64,836,353	21.0%

Texas A&M University – Texarkana

Revenue Source	Fiscal 2005	Fiscal 2007	% Increase
Tuition and fees	\$1,646,519	\$2,991,843	81.7%
State appropriations	10,946,629	11,640,825	6.3
Federal funds	1,585,369	2,247,163	41.7
Institutional funds	934,040	1,944,392	108.2
Total Revenue	\$15,112,557	\$18,824,223	24.6%

Statewide

Revenue Source	Fiscal 2005	Fiscal 2007	% Increase
Tuition and fees	\$1,839,294,505	\$2,220,917,368	20.7%
State appropriations	2,386,973,289	2,623,776,679	9.9
Federal funds	1,073,599,126	1,179,340,272	9.8
Institutional funds	1,117,526,847	1,489,717,723	33.3
Total Revenue	\$6,417,393,767	\$7,513,752,041	17.1%

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Exhibit 53

General Revenue Appropriations, Upper East Texas Public Community and Technical Colleges Upper East Texas Region and Statewide

Institution	2002-03 Biennium	2004-05 Biennium	2006-07 Biennium	2008-09 Biennium	% Change 2002-03 to 2008-09
Kilgore College	\$22,877,702	\$20,421,978	\$20,313,966	\$20,366,429	-11%
Northeast Texas Community College	7,106,372	7,454,511	7,673,140	7,980,432	12.3
Panola College	7,156,256	6,450,357	6,589,408	7,287,116	1.8
Paris Junior College	12,918,410	13,761,788	14,999,016	16,290,310	26.1
Texarkana College	17,997,556	16,369,105	17,888,098	18,213,070	1.2
Trinity Valley Community College	21,031,204	20,574,427	22,142,812	23,148,354	10.1
Tyler Junior College	32,391,782	30,294,730	31,952,506	32,974,900	1.8
Texas State Technical College – Marshall	5,990,069	4,731,495	6,214,473	5,402,152	-10.8
Public Community & Technical Colleges Statewide Total	\$1,709,158,821	\$1,622,914,188	\$1,763,151,222	\$1,845,292,200	8%

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Exhibit 54

Contact Hours Upper East Texas Region, 2000 vs. 2007

Institution	Fall 2000	Fall 2007	% Change 2000 to 2007
Kilgore College	856,308	1,024,216	19.6%
Northeast Texas Community College	345,674	435,520	26
Panola College	330,432	365,200	10.5
Paris Junior College	714,864	964,112	34.9
Texarkana College	722,128	844,392	16.9
Trinity Valley Community College	977,632	1,091,396	11.6
Tyler Junior College	1,773,560	1,858,696	4.8
Texas State Technical College – Marshall	179,328	130,412	-27.3

Note: Contact hours include only those with a full or part-time faculty instructing by lecture, lab or practicum. Classes taught at an inter-institutional location are excluded.
Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.



Endnotes

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