

2026 REGIONAL OUTCOMES REPORT

EDUCATION, TALENT & WORKFORCE

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Our economy is only as strong as our talent. This report shows how the Dallas Region’s public schools and higher education institutions are preparing the workforce of the future.

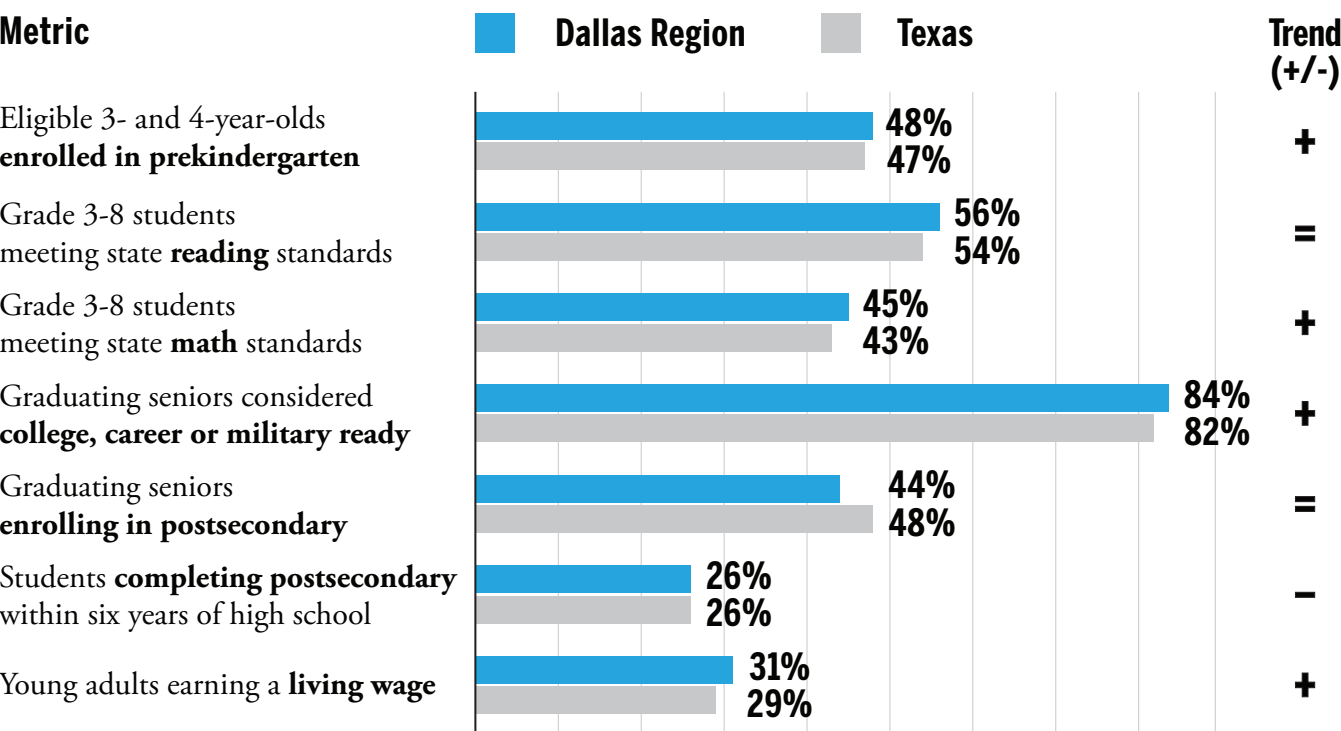
THE SCOPE OF OUR TALENT PIPELINE

These numbers show the size and reach of the Dallas Region’s education and workforce ecosystem.



KEY METRICS

The DRC tracks key indicators along the full talent pipeline, spanning from early childhood education outcomes to workforce participation.



69%
labor force participation
(+4% vs Texas)

1.3%
job growth year over year
(-0.1% vs Texas)

Unless noted, all metrics cover the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and the most recent data available.

TAKEAWAYS

What business leaders need to know about our education and workforce ecosystem.

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION RATES DECLINE, ADDING TO WORKFORCE READINESS CHALLENGES.

Fewer than a third of Dallas Region students earned a postsecondary degree within six years of high school graduation, reinforcing the importance of dual-credit and workforce-aligned pathways in PK-12 and other postsecondary supports, such as college and career advising.

HIGH SCHOOLERS MAKE STRIDES IN MATH AND SCIENCE WHILE GRADES 3-8 HOLD STEADY.

Dallas Region high school students demonstrated significant growth in Algebra 1 and Biology proficiency—up six points and eight points, respectively—while grades 3-8 students held steady in reading and math. State leaders attribute high school student progress, in part, to a recently enacted cell phone ban in schools.

DALLAS REGION LABOR MARKET REMAINS STRONG, BUT GROWTH MODERATES.

The Dallas Region continues to exceed both state and national averages in labor force participation, but year-over-year job growth moderated slightly and now trails the statewide average. Still, the strength of the Dallas Region’s labor market underscores the importance of aligning local educational infrastructure with high-demand, high-growth occupations.

DALLAS REGION LABOR MARKET REMAINS AMONG THE STRONGEST IN THE COUNTRY.

More than 80% of high school graduates in the Dallas Region met at least one of the state’s college, career or military readiness indicators, up six points since last year. In the coming years, a tiered approach to evaluating postsecondary readiness across Texas is likely to lower this number.

STRENGTHENING THE TALENT PIPELINE

Through partnerships with education systems and employers, the DRC helps ensure the North Texas talent pipeline is aligned with the jobs our region needs.



EARLY CHILDHOOD

We advocate for investments in quality child care and prekindergarten that expand parents’ ability to work and build early academic readiness.



PUBLIC EDUCATION

We champion a strong public school system that equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in college, a career or the military.



HIGHER EDUCATION

We promote a best-in-class higher education ecosystem that prepares students for high-demand jobs, advances research and strengthens the region’s economy.



TALENT & WORKFORCE

We partner with employers and educators to drive strategies that attract, retain and develop talent through pathways aligned with high-demand, living-wage careers.

GET INVOLVED

To learn more and get involved in the DRC’s education, talent and workforce efforts, please **contact us at education@dallaschamber.org**.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

