



Breakthrough Austin's Mission

Breakthrough, a nonprofit organization founded in Austin in 2001, builds a path to college for low-income students, starting in middle school, who will be first-generation college graduates.

Why Texas Needs Breakthrough

Central Texas' economy and future depend upon having a motivated and highly educated workforce. Every child deserves the opportunity to graduate from college regardless of their neighborhood, family economic circumstances or ethnicity. We exist because students from low-income families can and should go to college, but statistics say they won't without significant intervention.

- Regardless of ability, low-income students are seven times less likely to attend college than their more affluent peers.
- At the high schools Breakthrough students are targeted to attend, four year graduation rates for low-income students are unacceptably low and less than 30% of those graduates are "college ready" based on state standards.
- Each dropout in Texas costs the state on average \$3,168 every year for the rest of their lives because of increased Medicaid and incarceration costs and loss of tax revenue. In Texas, this amounts to \$377 million annually.
- Only 11% of low-income students earn college degrees.

Who We Serve

Each year Breakthrough admits a new class of 120 students who will become first generation college graduates. In 2012, Breakthrough serves more than 600 students, including two cohorts in Manor ISD, our students in grades 7 through 12 throughout Austin ISD, and five classes of high school graduates.

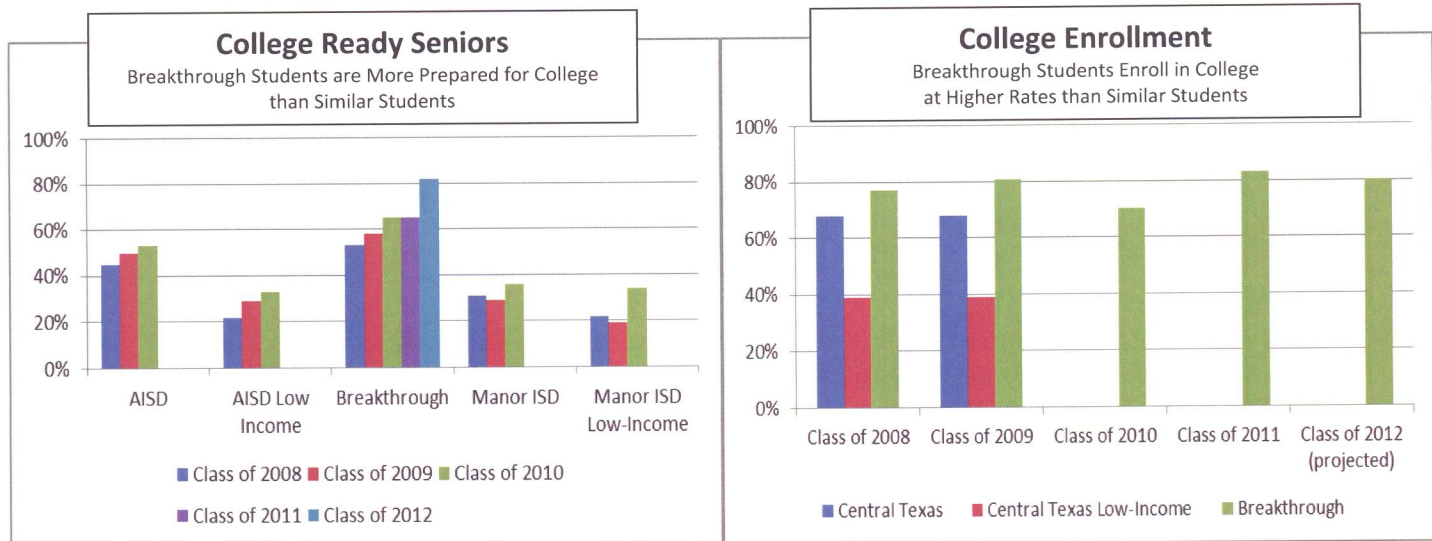
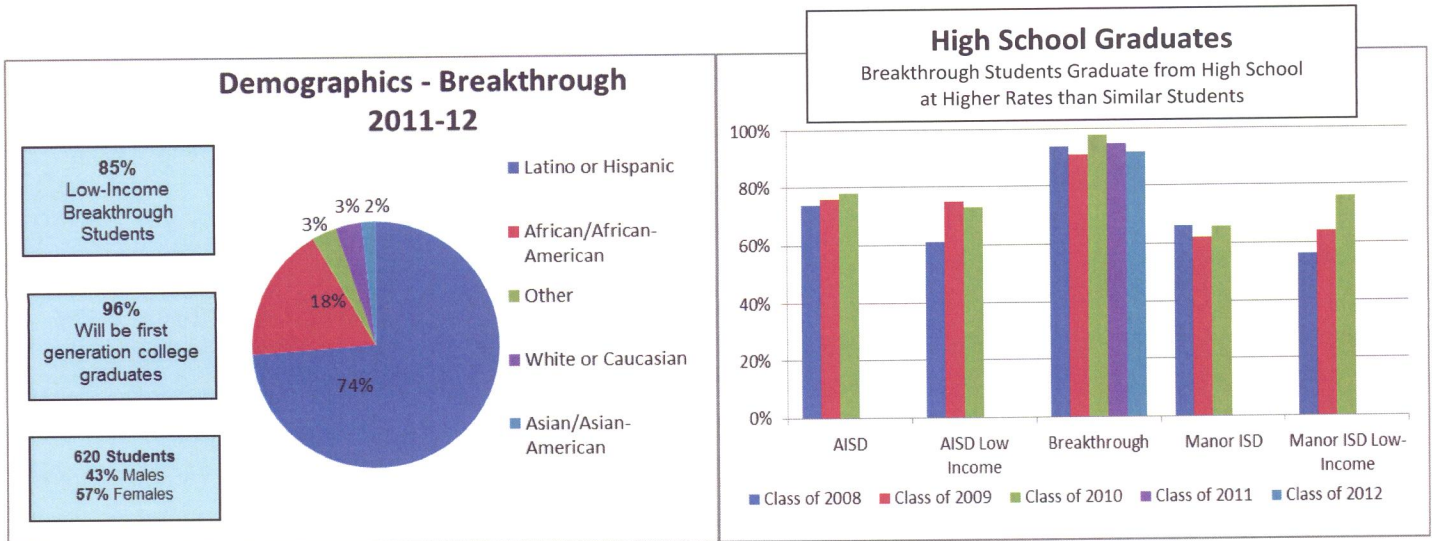
Program Components

Breakthrough focuses on three key variables that research demonstrates are critical to school success: extended learning time, personalized attention and intervention, and long-term, comprehensive support. Breakthrough provides academic preparation, family engagement and a college going culture, through:

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| -Intensive summer programs | -Individualized case management | - Test preparation |
| -Enriching Saturday programs | -School year support and advocacy | -College counseling and guidance |
| -After school tutoring | -Students-Teaching-Students | -College persistence support |

Results

- Research conducted by external and independent consultants finds that Breakthrough students are 3.5 times more likely to graduate from high school and almost two times more likely to enroll in college than a comparable group of students, controlling for prior academic performance, attendance, and discipline.
- More than 90% of Breakthrough's seniors graduate from high school in four years—exceeding the average completion rate of low-income students in Central Texas.
- Breakthrough's students' college enrollment rate (74%) far outpaces that of their Central Texas low-income peers (39%).
- Breakthrough students stay engaged. Our attrition rate of less than 10% is extremely low.
- Breakthrough seniors are "college ready" based on state standards at more than twice the rate of similar non-Breakthrough students.



Quotes

“My whole family is really committed to Breakthrough because we think it can change all of our lives.”

- Adriana, 6th Grade, Manor Site

“I realized I had strength I never knew I had. I am forever grateful to Breakthrough for showing me the joys of teaching.”

- Emerald, Sophomore Texas State, Breakthrough Student & Teacher at UT Site

Impact

By providing innovative, educational programs to children and their families, we can break the cycle of poverty for future generations.

For More Information:

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