

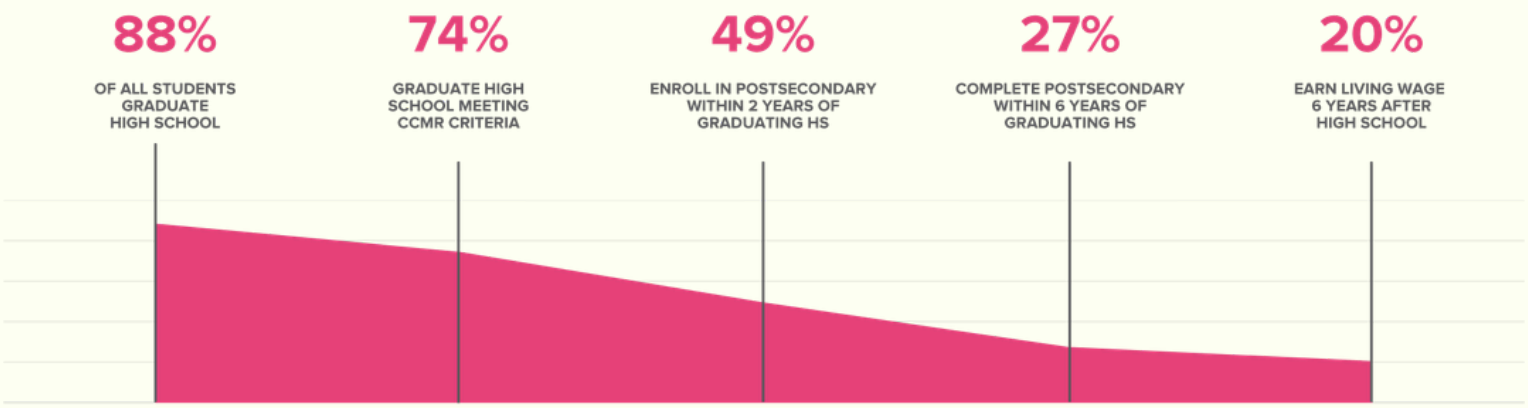
ADVANCING OPPORTUNITY

A BLUEPRINT FOR STUDENT SUCCESS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2026

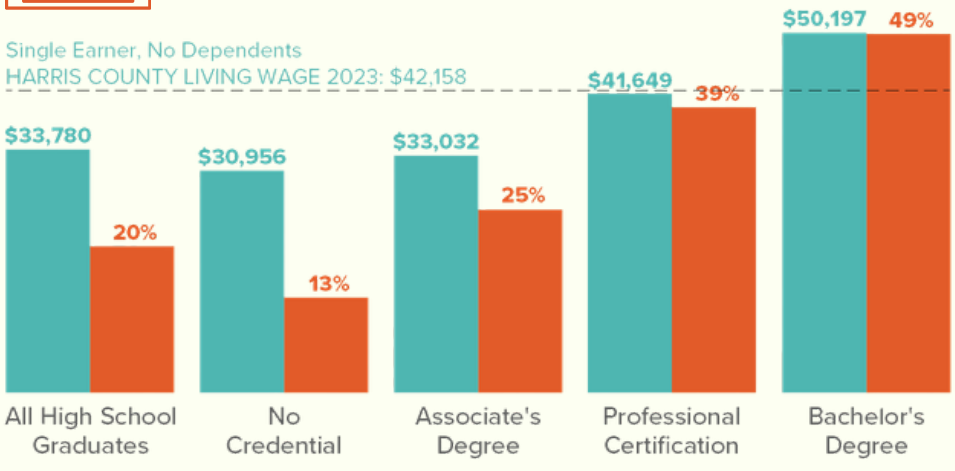
HISTORICALLY, ONLY **1 IN 5 HOUSTON-REGION GRADUATES** HAVE EARNED A **LIVING WAGE** SIX YEARS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL.

Houston-Region



Every student deserves to graduate with the knowledge and skills to succeed in college, careers, and life. That foundation opens the door to a living wage and a future full of opportunity. To make that vision a reality, our regional school districts must put strong, lasting policies in place that protect progress and make it easier for all students to access clear pathways to college, careers, and good-paying jobs after graduation.

DID YOU KNOW? Postsecondary credentials increase the likelihood of earning a living wage.



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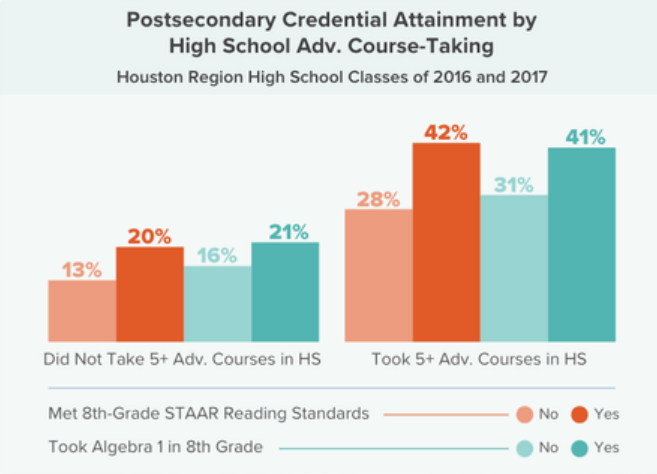
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POLICIES THAT DRIVE RESULTS

1. College and Career Advising: Students do best when they have guidance early and often as they plan for life after high school. Districts must ensure every student has consistent support to explore future opportunities, choose courses aligned to their goals, and prepare for college and careers.

2. Access to Advanced Courses: Advanced courses build in-demand skills and provide access to college credit. District policy can expand options for advanced courses and ensure all students who are prepared for the coursework are automatically enrolled in these opportunities in core high school subjects.



3. High-Quality Career and Technical Education (CTE): Every student should have access to a diverse set of high-quality pathways aligned to meaningful postsecondary opportunities that lead to a living wage. Codifying this commitment through board policy ensures these pathways are sustained, regularly evaluated, and aligned to proven student outcomes.

4. Aligning College and Career Goals to District Resources: Clear, ambitious college and career goals keep the district focused on strategies that lead to results for all students and allow the public to track progress over time. Aligning budget decisions to these goals ensures resources are invested transparently and accountably in the strategies that best support student success.

5. Reinvestment in Student Readiness: State funds tied to student success after graduation should be reinvested where they matter most. Committing to reinvest 90% of these funds maintains progress and expands access to effective college and career preparation.

Support Student Success

Strong policies create lasting change, but they only move forward with public support. Join us in advocating for the future of our students and city.

Together, we can help ensure graduation leads to real opportunity for every student.

You can take action by:

- **Emailing your school board trustees** to express your support for these model policies
- **Speaking at a school board meeting** to share why these policies matter for students, families, and our community
- **Share with your network** to build broad community backing for policies that create opportunity after high school



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