

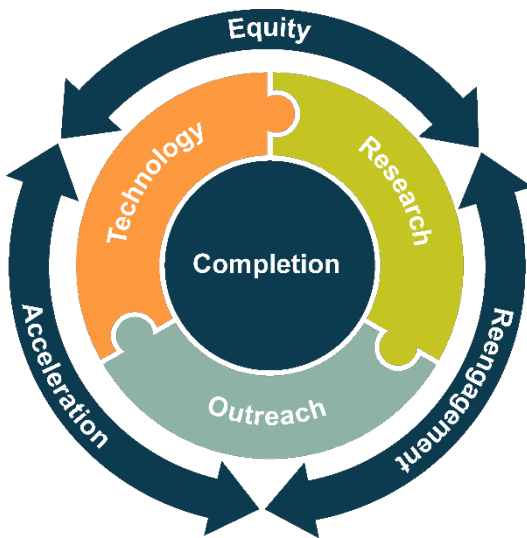
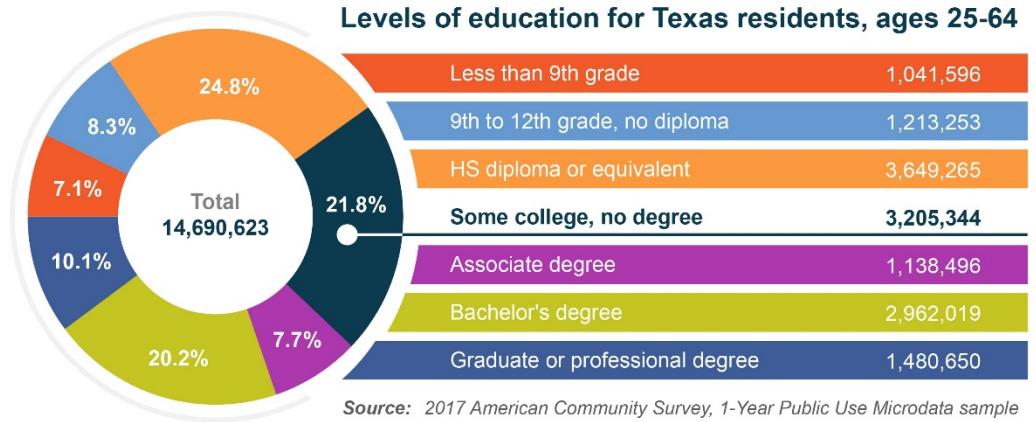
Grad TX

C O N S O R T I U M

Over 3.2 million Texans ages 25 and over have earned some college credit, but never a degree. And in Texas, which is growing by a rate of 1,200 people per day, it is critical to narrow the state's educational inequality gaps.

A college degree is an important gateway to a rewarding career and a better

standard of living. The consequences of earning credit hours, but never receiving a degree, can be long-term and severe. College graduates earn an average of \$1 million more over their lifetimes than those without a degree, and students who borrow for college but never graduate are three times more likely to default on their loans.



The Grad TX Consortium is a select group of dedicated innovators – educational leaders who are working alongside the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to investigate and implement strategies that span a wide range of topics, from identifying, locating and re-engaging stopouts to providing a pathway to degree completion with key support systems. The Consortium's work is guided by the following activities:

- Landscape Analysis and Corresponding Research
- Incubation of Innovations
- Development of Technological Tools
- Outreach and Marketing

Historically, Texas has invested considerable resources on getting more people *to* college, but not on those who go to college and leave without a degree. The Coordinating Board recognizes that finding, re-enrolling, and graduating these adults is extremely costly to institutions. **The Grad TX Consortium addresses this challenge by providing the opportunity for institutions to incubate innovations at their campuses**, while leveraging resources and support from the Coordinating Board and from each other. The Grad TX Consortium is a distinctive and innovative approach that will, *for the first time*, position higher education leaders to actively partner with each other and with Coordinating Board leadership to develop and deploy evidence-based and equity-focused strategies to support returning adult students.

The Coordinating Board is advancing the Grad TX Consortium model out of a profound belief that intentional, collective action among a wide range of institutions will accelerate the kind of change needed to meet aggressive attainment and equity goals. Policymakers and educational leaders agree that adults returning to college need a higher education system that is more affordable, flexible, and student-centered than the one that currently exists.