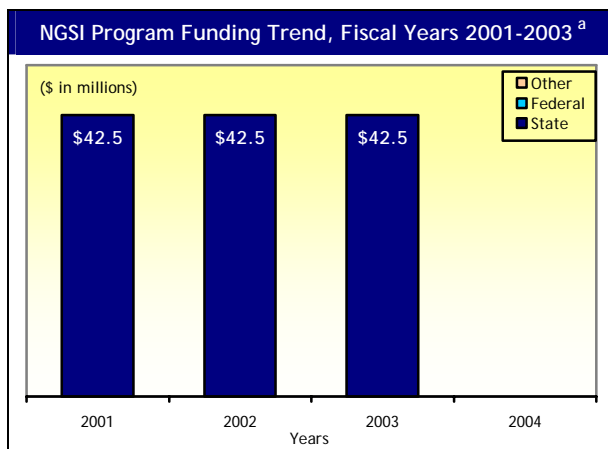


Summary by the Texas State Auditor's Office on:

Ninth Grade Success Initiative Program (NGSI)

Rider 74, TEA Article III, GAA 2001 (77th Legislature) and TEC 2002, Section 29.086

Funding Sources, Fiscal Year 2003		
Federal	State Appropriations	Other
\$0	\$42,500,000	\$0
Funding Method	Competitive grants	
No. of Grants	404 (88 of which continued through school year 2003-04)	
Range	\$61,000 - \$300,000	
Eligible Entities	LEAs, SSAs	



Flow of NGSI Program Funds, Fiscal Years 2001-2004							LEAs, Other Entities, Students, and Parents Served	
Year	Appropriated	Budgeted	Awarded ^a	Expended	Deobligated	Lapsed	Districts	Students ^c
2001	\$ 42,500,000	\$ 42,824,865	\$ 85,149,894 ^b	\$ 42,823,959	UA	\$ 906	240	104,516
2002	\$ 42,500,000	\$ 41,993,279	\$ 55,267,825	\$ 40,231,709	\$ 4,768,875	\$ 1,027,996	316	121,364
2003	\$ 42,500,000	\$ 36,006,721	\$ 12,304,641	\$ 25,883,990	\$ 951,297	NYA	403	118,087
2004	NA	NA	\$ 10,396,682	NYA	NYA	NYA	88	UA
Totals	NA	NA	\$ 163,119,042	NYA	NYA	NYA	1,047	UA

UA - Unavailable NA - Category does not apply NYA - Not yet available (as of report date)

^a Fiscal year 2003 was the last year of NGSI funding. Eighty-eight final grants for this program were awarded during fiscal year 2003 for programs ending in school year 2003-04.

^b The \$85 million award amount reflects awards for the 1999-2000 and 2000-01 school years.

^c Student counts are based on actual numbers plus estimates for districts funded for NGSI that did not submit student activity reports. Estimates were provided by the Texas Center for Education Research, the external evaluator for NGSI.

Targeted Students and Grade Levels

NGSI served ninth-graders who had not earned, or were not likely to earn, sufficient credit to be promoted to the tenth grade and who failed to meet minimum skill levels. In addition, NGSI could serve eighth-graders who were being promoted to the ninth grade but were considered to be academically at risk.

Program Components

Program Component	Required/Recommended/Allowed
Counseling/Case Management	
Diagnostics-Based Intervention	
Academic Intervention	✓
Small Group Instruction/Limited Class Size	
School-Day or Out-of-School Activity	School-Day and Out-of-School
Computer Assisted Instruction	
Literacy/ESL/Bilingual Instruction	
College Preparation	

Program Component	Required/Recommended/Allowed
Career Preparation	
Mentoring	✓
Professional Development	
Parental Involvement/Education	
Community Involvement/Services/Enrichment	✓
Pregnancy and Parenting Services	
Children's Day Care	
Safe Environment	

The information in these program summaries has been compiled from multiple sources of varying reliability and is unaudited. Sources include the Texas Education Agency, the US Department of Education, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and universities and other nonprofit organizations.

Comments

NGSI's broad purpose was to increase graduation rates by reducing the disproportionately large percentage of students who drop out of school when they are required to repeat the ninth grade. NGSI's goal was to increase the number of ninth grade students promoted to tenth grade in a timely manner by improving their attendance, academic progress, and TAAS/TAKS passing rates. NGSI was also intended to reduce the gaps in high school graduation rates between minority and white students and between economically disadvantaged students and those who are not economically disadvantaged.

Evaluation*

TEA contracted with the Texas Center for Educational Research (TCER) to evaluate effects of the NGSI program for 1999-2000 through 2002-03. TCER's preliminary results indicated the following about NGSI students:

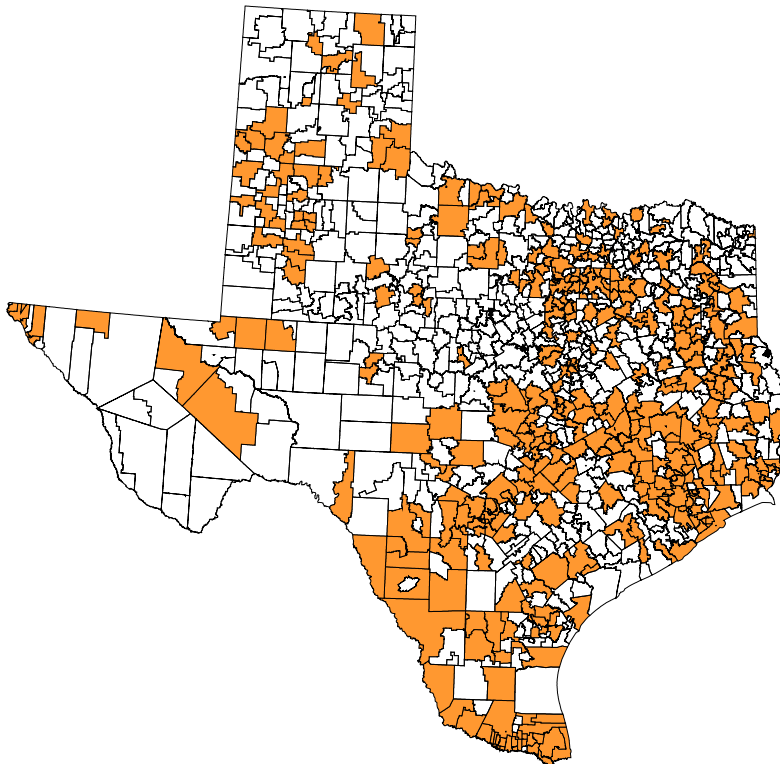
1. The promotion rate for NGSI students to the tenth grade improved more than the promotion rate of non-NGSI students to the tenth grade.
2. Although African-American and Hispanic NGSI students had the highest rates of repeating the ninth grade among NGSI students, the rates at which they repeated ninth grade decreased the most of all groups across the program years.
3. NGSI students had lower passing rates for reading and math compared to non-NGSI students, but the achievement gap between the groups narrowed slightly in reading.
4. NGSI students' attendance rates did not improve, and the gap between NGSI and non-NGSI students' attendance rates increased each year.

TCER's final summary report on OEYP, NGSI, and TASI is scheduled to be available in fall 2004. In addition, an analysis based on NGSI program site visits will also be completed in fall 2004.

* In most cases it is not possible to isolate the effects of funding for a single program on students' performance because districts applying for state funding for at-risk students are required to combine local, state, and federal resources to maximize services to at-risk students. For the same reason, a single program's cost does not provide a meaningful basis for determining the cost per student of a desired or achieved outcome.

Ninth Grade Success Initiative (NGSI) Program

Statewide Distribution, School Years 2000-01 through 2003-04
(Divided by LEA jurisdictions)



The information in these program summaries has been compiled from multiple sources of varying reliability and is unaudited. Sources include the Texas Education Agency, the US Department of Education, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and universities and other nonprofit organizations.