



# Keeping Youth of Color Connected in Texas Public Schools

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# Contextual Framing of Research in the Broader Field

- Disconnected or opportunity youth —*young people between the ages of 16 and 24 who are not in school or working*—are **disproportionately youth of color**.
- Disconnection leads to **negative outcomes** including greater risk of:
  - economic instability
  - mental health or substance use problems
  - criminal justice involvement
- Understanding the early indicators and drivers of **school dropouts**, such as **grade retention**, is key to youth disconnection.

# Research Questions

- **Where are students at greatest risk of disconnection?** How does risk of disconnection vary amongst students of different racial/ethnic groups on the county level?
- **How are philanthropic and public actors working on keeping students connected in public schools?** Are public resources and/or nonprofit infrastructure targeted to support counties where students are at a higher risk for disconnection?

# Texas Counties at Risk of Disconnection

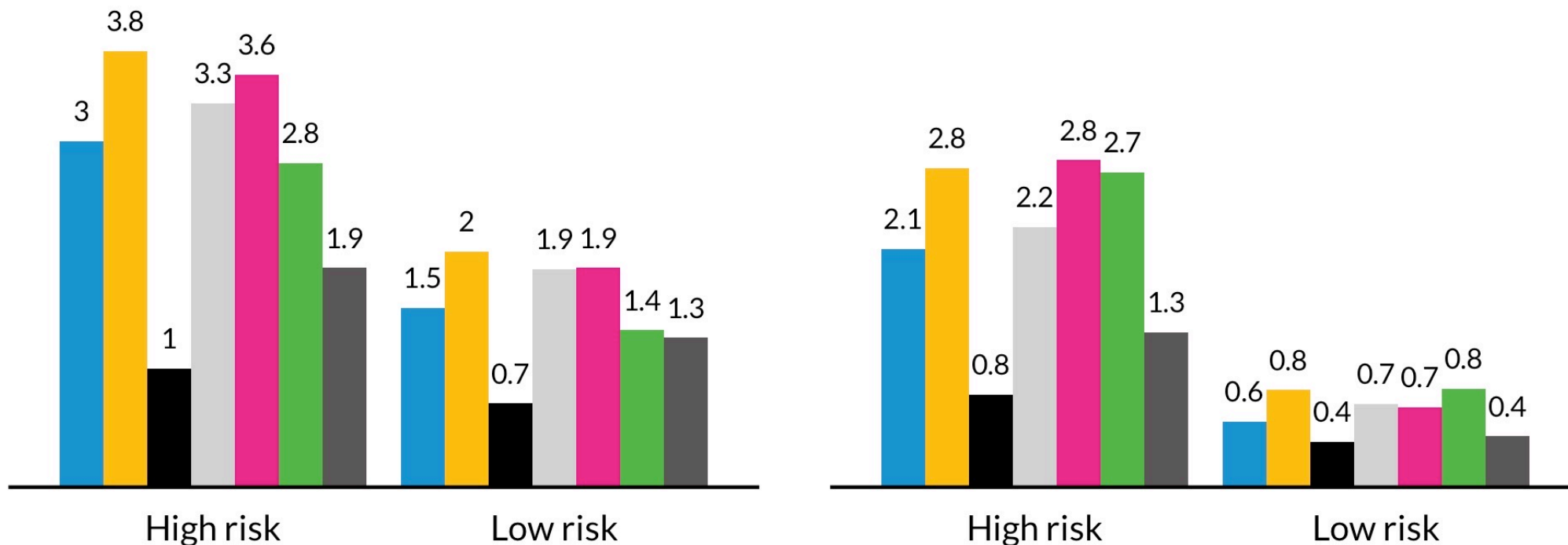
Group	Grade Retention Rate	Dropout Rate	Texas Counties	
			Number	Percent
High Risk of Disconnection	Above Average	Above Average	26	10.3
Low Risk of Disconnection	Below Average	Below Average	164	64.8
Higher Dropout Rate Only	Below Average	Above Average	15	5.9
Higher Retention Rate Only	Above Average	Below Average	45	17.8
N/A			3	1.2
Total			253	100

# Youth of Color Experience Higher Risk of Disconnection

■ All   
 ■ Asian   
 ■ Native American   
 ■ White  
■ Black   
 ■ Latinx   
 ■ Pacific Islander

Grade retention rate (%)

Dropout rate (%)

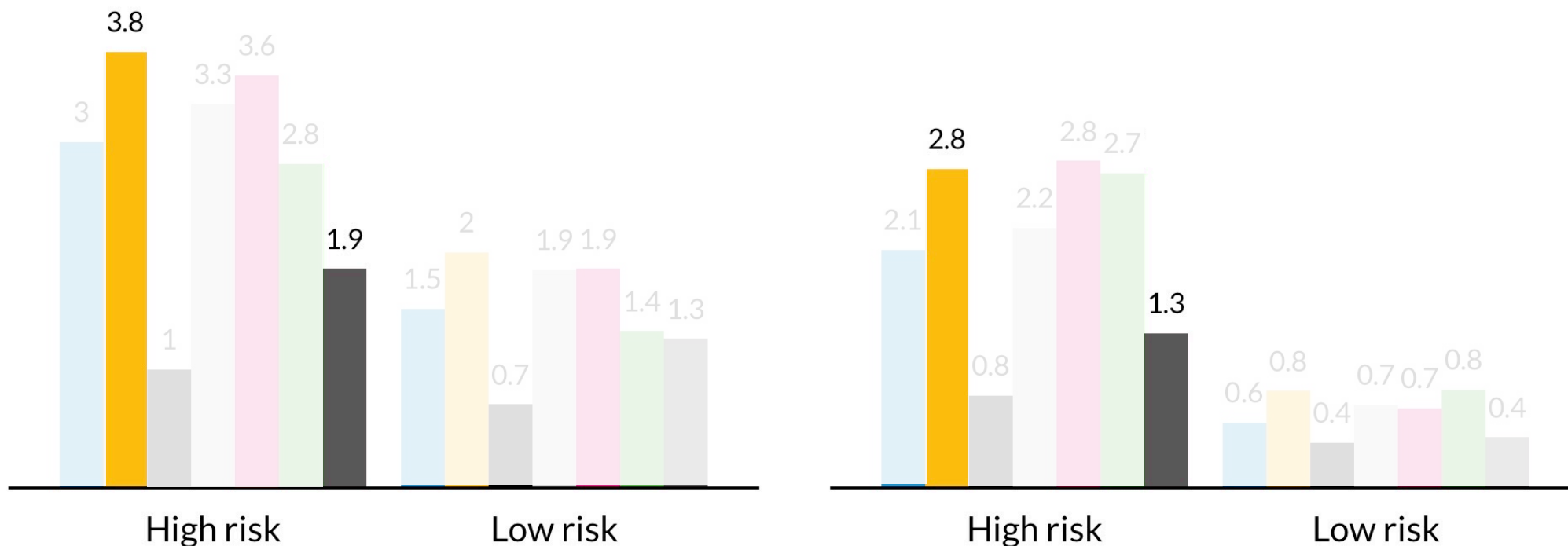


# Youth of Color Experience Higher Risk of Disconnection



Grade retention rate (%)

Dropout rate (%)



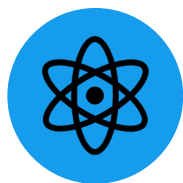
# Public and Nonprofit Infrastructure Available to Support Disconnected Youth

Group	Number of TX Counties	Average Nonprofit Density	Average Per-Pupil Expenditures
High Risk of Disconnection	26	91.48	\$9,473.95
Low Risk of Disconnection	164	96.08	\$10,104.65
Higher Dropout Rate Only	15	110.14	\$9,907.38
Higher Retention Rate Only	45	74.86	\$10,526.85
N/A	3	81.08	\$11,881.98
Total	253		

# Opportunities for Philanthropic Action



**Per-pupil expenditures could be increased in counties at greater risk for disconnection to support youth success.**



The nonprofit infrastructure is less robust in counties at greater risk for disconnection, which means that **there is an opportunity for more targeted nonprofit funding to support programs supporting youth and teachers in these counties.**