



## EL DORADO PROMISE

### THE EL DORADO PROMISE TURNS TWO

The inseparable link between quality education and the economic vitality of a community was underscored during Governor Beebe's recent ArkansasWorks Summit. Developing a force of educated, highly qualified employees is critical to attracting businesses and keeping them here. Our future depends on it.

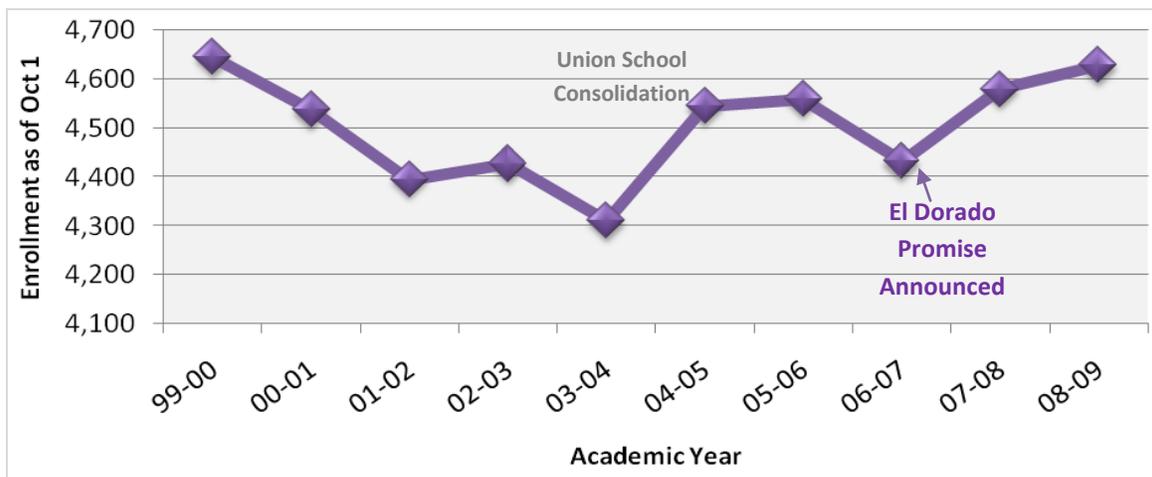
The El Dorado Promise, announced in January 2007, has had an immediate positive effect on the El Dorado Public Schools and many of its students and families. While we face great challenges in swimming against this strong economic current, El Dorado residents can be confident that we are on the right path.

Today, our students have hope that college *is* an option. Today, students are gaining the knowledge they need to help them succeed in college. Today, a seed is being planted, of which its fruits are infinite possibilities.

### EL DORADO PUBLIC SCHOOLS ENROLLMENT

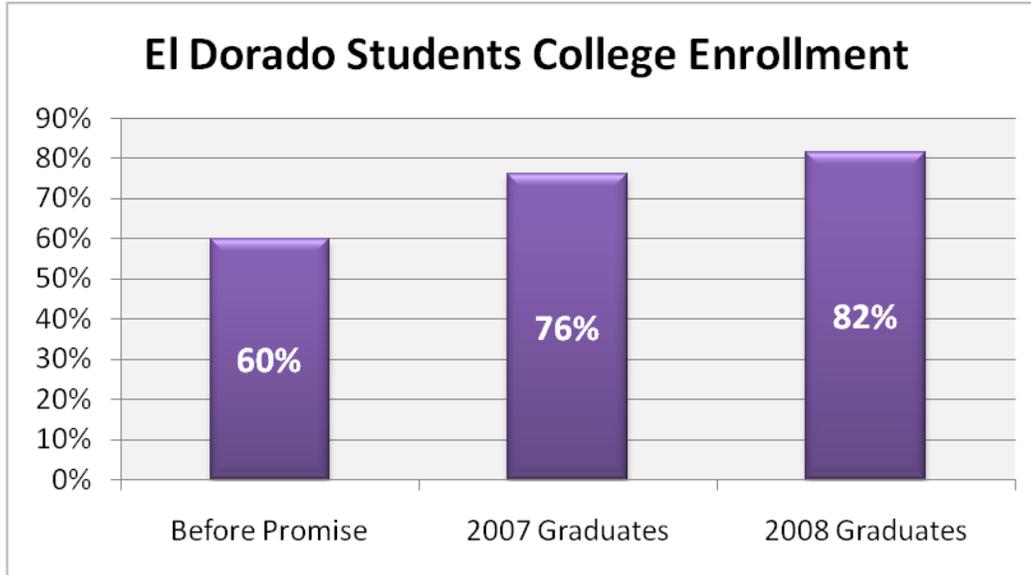
While it will take years to fully realize the true impact of the Promise in our community, the most immediate effects of the El Dorado Promise are evident in the El Dorado Public Schools and for its graduates. By the numbers:

- ✓ **4,628** – Number of students in the district, reflecting an enrollment increase of over four percent since announcement of the Promise.
- ✓ **28** – The number of states, in addition to Arkansas, from which families have moved to attend school in El Dorado. Additionally, families from 10 foreign countries have chosen El Dorado.
- ✓ **37** – New students who enrolled through school choice this year. Because they will not be eligible for the Promise without moving into the district, the quality of education available to students in the El Dorado Public Schools is exemplified in their choice.



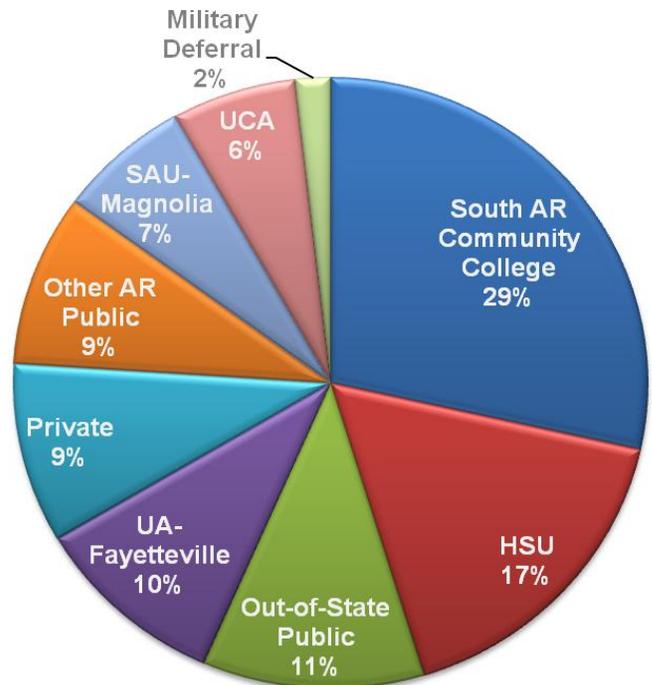
## COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

A growing number of El Dorado graduates are taking advantage of the Promise scholarship. Since the Promise has been in place, the college going rate of El Dorado graduates, per the chart below, surpassed the state (64.7%) and the national (66%) rates. Additionally, 67% of 2007 El Dorado graduates who began college returned for their second year, compared to the Arkansas one-year return rate of 48% for community colleges and 68% for universities.



From Sewanee, to Auburn, to Emory, to the University of Texas, and in nearly every university here in Arkansas, Promise students are working toward reaching their fullest potential.

A full 29% of the 2008 graduating class chose to attend El Dorado's own South Arkansas Community College, while another 17% took advantage of Henderson State University's Promise matching scholarship. The pie chart shows the colleges chosen by the class of 2008.



For more information about the El Dorado Promise, our schools, and our community, visit these websites:

[WWW.ELDORADOPROMISE.COM](http://WWW.ELDORADOPROMISE.COM)  
[WWW.ELDORADOPUBLICSCHOOLS.COM](http://WWW.ELDORADOPUBLICSCHOOLS.COM)  
[WWW.GOELDORADO.COM](http://WWW.GOELDORADO.COM)