

Academic and Career Advising

Pathways Research Collaborative

CONNECT VIRTUAL

May 21, 2026

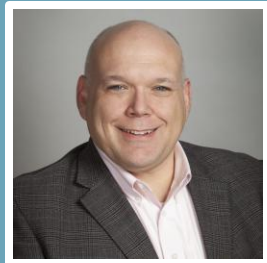


LONESTAR**RP3**

Research Collaborative



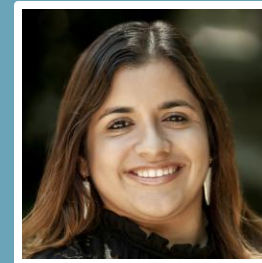
Matt Giani, Ph.D.
Research Associate Professor,
The University of Texas at Austin



David Deggs, Ph.D.
Senior Director, Higher Education
and Workforce Development,
Educate Texas



Kendra Strange, M.Ed.
Director of Higher Education for
Access and Transition,
Educate Texas



Gina Moraida
Associate, RGV Focus
Texas College Access Network
(TxCAN), Educate Texas



Briana Hagelgans, Ed.D.
Director, K12 and Post-secondary,
UP Partnership



Dash Weerasinghe, Ph.D.
Managing Director of Analytics &
Insight, Commit Partnership



Ben Higgins
Director of Analytics & Insight,
Commit Partnership



LONESTAR^{RP3}

Context

- Texas Legislative Session Timeline
 - Interim Charges released March 2026
 - Pre-filing of bills begins November 9, 2026
 - 90th Texas Legislative Session begins January 12, 2027
- Research Collaboratives Timeline
 - White Papers submitted to LONESTAR**P3** August 2026
 - Translation Products produced September 2026
 - Public release at Success Summit December 2026



Overview of Research

Academic and Career Advising



LONESTAR**RP3**

Background

- College and career advising has been linked to a variety of postsecondary outcomes
- School counselors are educators primarily responsible for providing advising
- Student-to-counselor ratios are high, and counselors' non-advising responsibilities continue to grow
- Districts increasingly partner with third-party college access/advising programs (CAPs) and other youth-serving organizations (YSOs) to supplement advising
- However, research on CAPs is hindered by data limitations



Research Questions

- 1) What are the characteristics of, and services provided by, college access/advising programs (CAPs) and other youth-serving organizations (YSOs)
- 2) Which schools in Texas partner with which CAPs/YSOs?
- 3) How do school characteristics relate to their CAP/YSO partnerships?
 - Demographics
 - Geography
 - Urbanicity
 - School type/model (e.g., charter vs. public, ECHS, P-TECH)
- 4) [Future research] What is the impact of specific CAPs/YSOs and specific advising models and practices on students' postsecondary outcomes?



• Mapping CAP program access across Texas

College Access Program Map

The community-maintained directory of CAPs/YSOs serving Texas schools

Explore the Map →

Browse Directory

9,747

TEXAS SCHOOLS

112

ORGANIZATIONS

629

ACTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Organizations

Schools

Search organizations...

Filters

Export

Showing 81 - 100 of 112 organizations

Mapping Your Future

CAP 77% complete

PO Box 1017, Lake Dallas, TX, 75065-1017

mappingyourfuture.org/

Active

Added 3/11/2026

Matriculate

CAP 69% complete

25 Broadway 12th York, FI New, NY 10004, NY

matriculate.org/

Active

Added 3/11/2026

Npower

CAP 54% complete

55 Washington Street, Suite 560 Brooklyn

Active

Added 3/11/2026

One Goal

CAP 69% complete

17 N State Street Chicago, Suite 1890, IL 60602, IL

www.onegoal.org/

Active

Added 3/11/2026

PSS-College Bound

CAP 38% complete

No address provided

www.pss-collegebound.org/

Active

Added 3/11/2026

PeletonU

CAP 69% complete

701 Tillery Street #12, Austin, TX, 78702

pelotonu.org/

Active

Added 3/11/2026

Project Grad / GRADcafe

CAP 77% complete

Project STAY

CAP 54% complete

Restore Education



CAP 62% complete

Communities in Schools Dallas


CAP

Active

Contact Information

-  Address
1341 W Mockingbird Lane #1000E Dallas, TX 75247, TX
-  Website
www.cisdallas.org/

Service Information

-  Texas Schools Served
0 schools
-  Directory Member Since
March 11, 2026

Schools Served (12)



2025-2026



Search schools...

Wilmer-Hutchins H S
Dallas, TX

Seagoville H S
Dallas, TX

DR L G Pinkston SR H S
Dallas, TX

H Grady Spruce H S
Dallas, TX

W W Samuell H S
Dallas, TX

Thomas Jefferson H S
Dallas, TX

Denison H S
Denison, TX

Desoto H S
Desoto, TX

Greenville H S
Greenville, TX

Sherman H S
Sherman, TX

Terrell H S
Terrell, TX

Community H S
Nevada, TX



LONESTAR**RP3**

Organizations

Schools

Select an org to see schools it serves

Select Organization

Clear selection

COMMUNI

Filters 1

Communities in Schools Big Country

CAP • 21 schools

Communities in Schools Cameron County

CAP • 7 schools

Communities in Schools Coastal Bend Inc

CAP • 6 schools

Communities in Schools Dallas

CAP • 12 schools

Showing schools on map

Communities in Schools East Texas

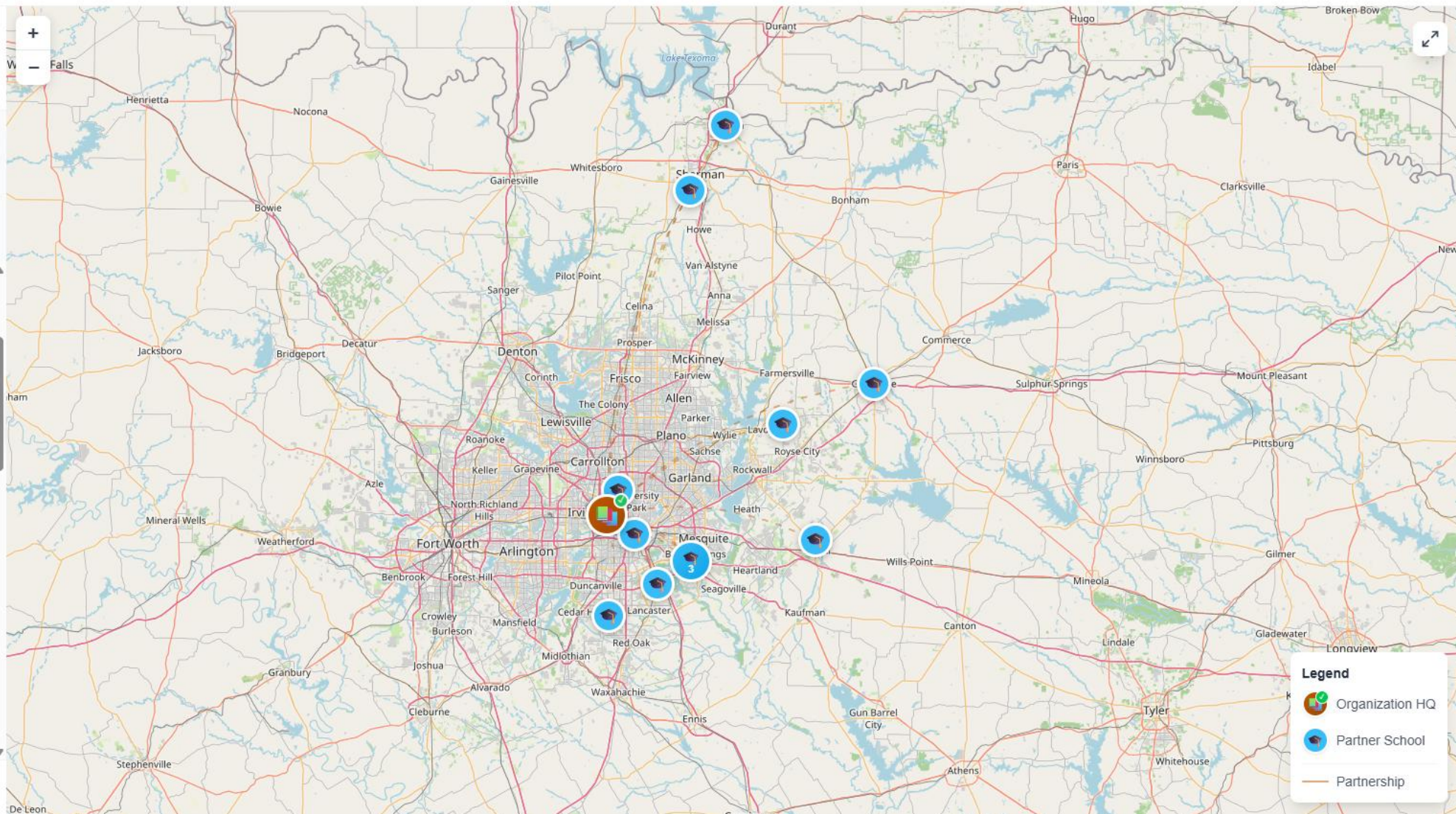
CAP • 9 schools

Communities in Schools El Paso

CAP • 15 schools

Communities in Schools Galveston

CAP • 19 schools



Benefits of Texas CAP Map

Research

- First statewide repository of CAPs
- CAPs/YSOs linked to schools
- Standardized data on CAP characteristics
- Longitudinal data will reveal year-over-year changes in CAP partnership
- Data will be made publicly available

Policy and Practice

- Tool designed with school/district leaders in mind
- Useful to funders and regional backbones for strategic planning
- Can combine CAP Map data with school counselor FTE to calculate more accurate ratios
- Data can guide investments in expanding advising



Texas Policy Landscape

Preparation for the 90th Legislative Session



LONESTAR**RP3**

2026 Texas Interim Legislative Charges

Teacher Workforce

- Monitoring of HB 2 (89R) – *public school finance*
- Recruitment and Retention
- Compensation Investments

Student Outcomes

- Improving Middle School Outcomes
- Investment in Special Education
- Student Enrollment and High-Quality Education
- School Choice
- Monitoring of HB 6 (89R) – *mental health services*

Postsecondary Education

- Postsecondary Affordability and Financial Barriers
- Increasing Credential Completion
- Community College Funding
- Aligning Advising Initiatives
- Workforce Readiness and System Alignment

Early Childhood Education

- Monitoring HB 4903 (Quad-Agency Child Care Initiative and Commission)



Relevant Interim Charges to Academic and Career Advising

- Aligning Advising Initiatives (House Committee on Higher Education)
 - Examine investments by the state in **advising systems and tools that support high school and college course planning, credential attainment, and successful transitions to postsecondary education and the workforce**. Evaluate partnership-based models that leverage postsecondary and labor market research and available data aligned to high-wage and high-demand careers and expand advising capacity. Assess opportunities for the Tri-Agency to better align resources and services to strengthen advising systems and improve student outcomes.



Implications of Project for Policy

- The state currently does not know which schools have partnerships with third-party orgs for advising
- It is difficult to rigorously evaluate the state's investments in advising services (e.g., Advise Texas) without reliable data on other CAP partnerships
- Texas could require:
 - Districts to report CAP partnerships, costs, etc.
 - Districts to report FTEs of advisors employed by district (only Counselor FTEs currently)
 - CAPs to report schools served and services provided
- In lieu of mandatory reporting, CAP Map is only mechanism for systematically collecting CAP partnership data



Refinements to Research to Inform Policy

- What advising systems and tools support “high school and college course planning,” and how could the CAP Map collect data on those systems and tools?
- What data can we collect on “partnership-based models that leverage postsecondary and labor market research and available data aligned to high-wage and high-demand careers and expand advising capacity?”
- How can CAP Map data be used to examine the relationship between advising practices and programs and students’ postsecondary outcomes?



Implications of Research for Practitioners

- The CAP Map can be used by school and district leaders to search for, identify, and form partnerships with organizations aligned with school/district goals
- Practitioners can also identify schools that are sustaining multiple partnerships to learn from exemplars of coherent advising systems
- The CAP Map can be used by school counselors to strengthen relationships with external organizations
- Tool can help all educators understand the similarities and differences between CAPs/YSOs in terms of funding models, goals, services provided, etc.



Thank You

Pathways Research Collaborative

Have questions? Contact:

Matt Giani, UT Austin, matt.giani@austin.utexas.edu

Kendra Strange, Educate Texas, kstrange@cftexas.org



LONESTAR**RP3**