

Great Strides

Year One Milestones

Launched in June 2023, LONESTAR RP3 is already breaking new ground in education research—and it's all in the approach. We started with inclusion. Leaders from every education sector across the state formed a working network, which has been recognized for its dynamic and responsive research collaborations. And we never strayed from the target: improved outcomes for all students in Texas.

➤ The Beginning: Where Aspiration Became Reality

★ In February 2024, we hosted the first gathering of our community of educators, researchers, and policy advocates to explore the challenges students face as they navigate their path from school to work. Attendees were hungry for this kind of cross-sector collaboration—for hearing new perspectives, for developing deeper understanding, and for getting research into the right hands at the right time. Our members felt a shared sense of connection and purpose.

★ In June 2024, we gathered our members again to distill possibilities into priorities. We emerged united with a shared Pathways Research Agenda organized around four core themes: Academic and Career Advising, Dual Credit Academic and Workforce Education Programs, Workforce-aligned Instruction, and Postsecondary Pursuits



➤ A Statewide Summit: Where Inspiration Grew

175 people from across the state came together for our first public-facing forum—Success Summit—in September 2024. The energy and enthusiasm among members and the broader statewide community was palpable and consensus emerged on the value and need for the Pathways Research Agenda. Commissioner Mike Morath from the TEA, and Deputy Commissioner David Troutman from THECB were featured speakers.

Founding Core Members

- Commit Partnership
- Center for Innovative Research in Change, Leadership and Education at Texas Tech
- E3 Alliance
- Houston Education Research Consortium at Rice University
- Educate Texas
- UT Austin College of Education
- Paso del Norte Partnership for Education Research at UT El Paso
- Urban Education Institute at UT San Antonio
- UT Rio Grande Valley College of Education

Contributing Members

Advocacy groups like Texas 2036 and Philanthropy Advocates; data systems, including all three Texas Education Research Centers; national organizations, including the National Network of Research Practice Partnerships and Strive Together; and many Texas education philanthropies

Connectors

Texas state education agencies—Texas Education Agency, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and Texas Workforce Commission—and countless institutions of higher education, school districts, and non-profits across Texas

450+

individuals have participated
in LONESTAR RP3
activities to date.



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- **Research Collaboratives: Where Momentum Built** Our Collaboratives formed in Fall 2024 and their important work is advancing. Collaborative Leads and their partners have hammered out their research designs and submitted plans and budgets for their work. More than \$1M will be allocated across LONESTARP3 members to advance these studies over the next 15 months, with plans to release their findings statewide in Fall 2026.

- **Outreach: Where Our Community Deepened** Our engagement built connections, inspiration, and impact as we continue to drive change in the research landscape. LONESTARP3 CONNECT and LONESTARP3 LIVE! were initiated in 2025 and developed a substantial audience. Near-monthly, peer-to-peer **CONNECT** Virtual sessions doubled in size in less than one year, from 30 to 70 attendees, with select sessions attracting more than 100. **CONNECT** In-person sessions hosted by our members across the state continued to build understanding and advance network goals.

LONESTARP3 LIVE!—our quarterly livestream interviews—became an exciting forum for engaging unique and influential viewpoints on Texas education. We featured David Troutman of the THECB in January, and Thea Ulrich-Lewis and Kendra Montejos Edwards of the Charles Butt Foundation. Together these two events drew more than 270 viewers.

LONESTARP3
CONNECT
IN PERSON

LONESTARP3
CONNECT
VIRTUAL

LONESTARP3
LIVE!

- **Statewide Data Council: Where Data is Always #1** We don't want just any data; we want well-structured data. In January 2025, LONESTARP3 launched a Statewide Data Council to offer insights on how to better tool Texas' data to generate insights needed to improve education practice and policy. The 24-member Council brings deep content expertise, spans multiple sectors and geographies, and aligns with our mission to ensure research is timely and actionable.

- **Organizational Structure: Where Work has Begun**

As we mature, we want to become a sustainable, durable organization. We completed a comparative analysis of near-peer organizations in September 2024, and this analysis—along with member feedback—is guiding the development of a revised governance model. We plan to transition to new practices in the 2025–2026 academic year.

"I'm really looking forward to a brighter future for our kids because of everything LONESTARP3 is doing."

RAYYAN AMINE, Chief of School Improvement and Accountability, Alief ISD



Financial Awards

We've turned our secured financial resources into forward momentum. Thanks to the initial institutional commitments from our founding members and the generous \$1.4M start-up award from the Gates Foundation (2023-2024), we transformed bold ideas into a remarkable year of accomplishments. These initial awards also helped us secure more than \$5.5M in other philanthropic investments.

 **LONESTARP3**
lonestarp3.org