



TRANSLATION: Making Research Relevant to Practitioners and Policy Makers

February 24, 2026

“To be of use”

I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,

who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,

who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,

who do what has to be done, again and again.

About Us



Nearly 60
**FOUNDATIONS
ACROSS TEXAS**

- Equip funders with critical knowledge of state policy and funding structures **to ensure philanthropic dollars achieve maximum impact**
- Uplift lessons from philanthropic investments into ongoing impact through our state education systems

About Us

Our nonpartisan advocacy reflects the priority education funding areas of Texas philanthropy:



Early Childhood Education



Educator Workforce



**College & Career
Readiness/Attainment**



Education Finance

Today's Objectives

1. Understand **specific practice and policy context in Texas** NOW that can impact whether findings get traction or not
2. Understand **principles of translating research into action**
3. Understand how to leverage the **power of your local/regional network** for opportunity to engage stakeholders in a position to ACT
4. Understand how to leverage the **power of the RP3 Network** for additional opportunities to engage stakeholders in a position to ACT
5. Define **clear actions to take** *BEFORE* and *AFTER* investigations are complete

Quick Caveats

1. Probably too much policy emphasis (sorry, not sorry)
2. Your individual, organizational, topical contexts matter greatly.
3. Although we're talking about translating, we aren't spending that much time on language.

Policy and Practice Context

Current State of PK-12 Outcomes

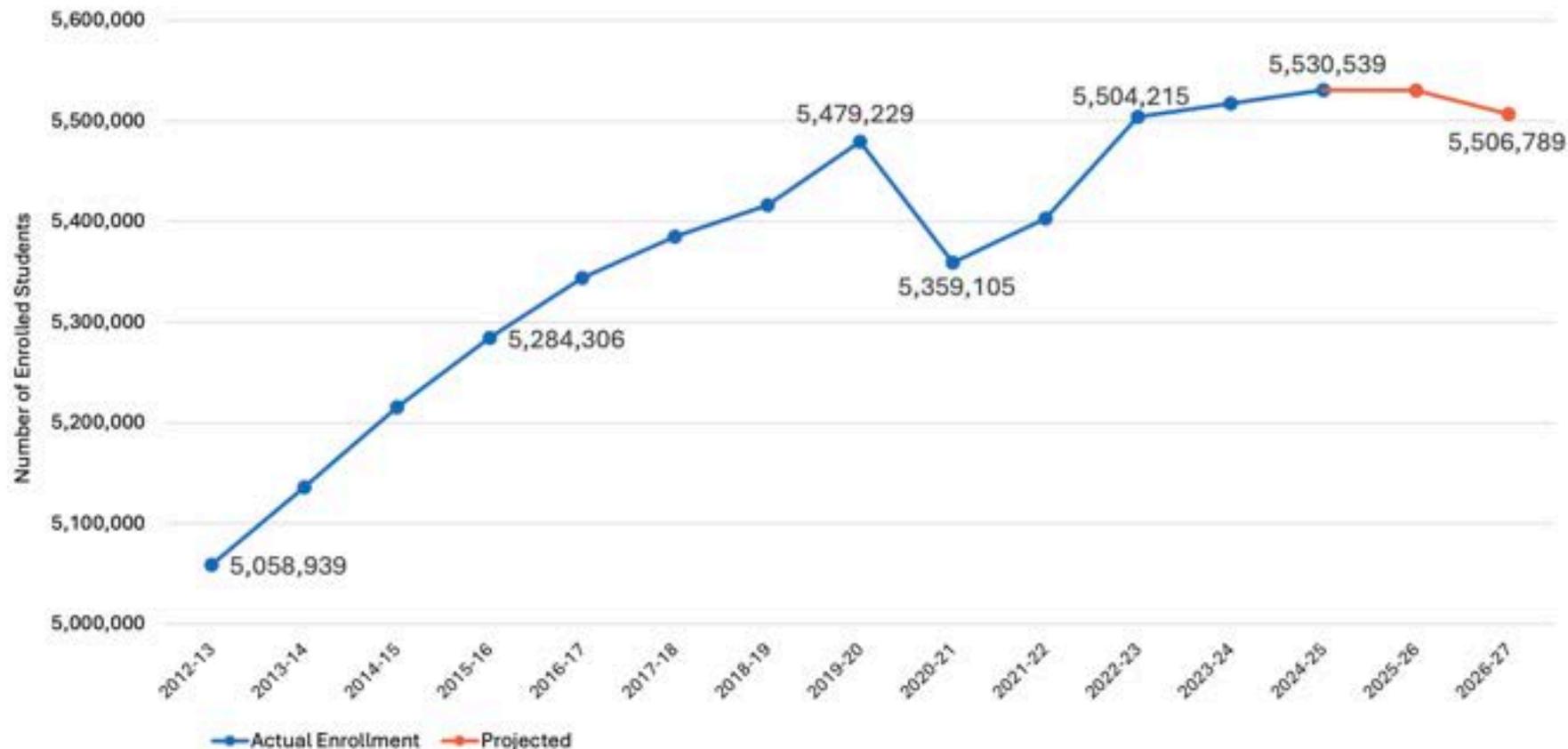
Year-Over-Year Student Outcomes



Enrollment and Population Shifts Affect Longterm Funding Outlooks

ENROLLMENT TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS™

Demographic projections indicate a slight decline in the number of students in Texas in the coming years.



Resource Constraints

TEXAS LEGISLATURE 2025

Texas Legislature approves \$8.5 billion boost for public schools after years of stagnant funding

Gov. Greg Abbott has already said he intends to sign the bill, which will give schools funding for salary increases, special education, teacher preparation and operational costs.

TEXAS LEGISLATURE 2025

Texas' public ed funding boost brings some relief but erodes districts' independence, school leaders say

A law providing \$8.5 billion in new funding for Texas public schools lacks the spending flexibility that previously let districts address their campuses' needs as they saw fit.

NEWS // EDUCATION

Texas schools still struggle with deficits despite HB 2 funding boost

Dallas ISD board approves record \$6.2 billion bond package for May ballot

By [Lacey Beasley](#)

Updated on: February 12, 2026 / 10:16 PM CST / CBS Texas

New Texas school choice program setting records for applications

by Bob Gambert | Thu, February 5, 2026 at 12:57 PM

Updated Thu, February 5, 2026 at 5:40 PM

EDUCATION

As Texas population booms, classrooms are empty. What's happening?

By [Matthew Adams](#)

Updated May 15, 2025 11:33 PM |  Gift Article

LOCAL // EDUCATION // HISD

Houston ISD to close 12 schools starting in fall 2026, Superintendent Mike Miles says

By [Megan Menchaca](#), Staff Writer

Updated Feb 12, 2026 10:49 p.m.



Elections/Politics

The Dallas Morning News

Buffets and ballots: What's driving the Texas Senate race in its final week

From queso to chicken tenders, candidates blitz the state with money, Trump and electability shaping the finish.

By Joseph Morton and Gramer Jeffers Jr.
Staff Writers

Feb. 23, 2026 | Updated 6:00 a.m. CST | 6 min. read

THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Voting Resources 2026 Elections Coverage Voter Roll Checks Data Centers Migrant Detention



Dark money fuels attack ads in final stretch of Texas' U.S. Senate primaries

By PATRICK SVITEK FEB. 20, 2026

The latest campaign finance reports show big-money interests are heavily invested in the Texas primaries — but unwilling to reveal their identities at a critical juncture of the race.



Texas Senate candidate says "no strings attached" to \$2 million donation from businessman

By JESS HUFF, GRAPHICS AND ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY DAN KEEMAHILL FEB. 20, 2026

Rhonda Ward, a first-time candidate for elected office who previously served on the state GOP's policy committee, is challenging Trent Ashby for the East Texas seat.



Rep. Tony Gonzales accuses dead staffer's husband of trying to blackmail him amid affair scandal

By ELEANOR KLUBANOFF AND ALEJANDRO SERRANO UPDATED: FEB. 19, 2026

The Republican congressman shared on social media an email requesting a settlement of up to \$500,000 in exchange for a nondisclosure agreement.

LUBBOCK AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

Sports Business Lifestyle Opinion Advertisements Obituaries eNewspaper Legals



Pictures show Democratic senate candidate Talarico's Lubbock rally

ELECTIONS 4:50 p.m. CT Feb. 20

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

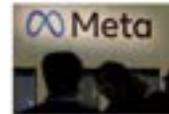
e-Edition Account

More Texas Politics

Meta launches Texas campaign to get AI-friendly Republicans elected

A Super PAC backed by the California tech giant Meta has launched a campaign in Texas supporting "a select group of pro-innovation Republican candidates."

By JAMES OSBORNE



Fact check: Ken Paxton's placement on the ballot isn't 'election interference'

A spokesperson for the Harris County Clerk said ballot order is determined by the parties through random drawing prior to the start of early voting.

By JOHN LOMAX V



Democrats blast Texas' block on Islamic school vouchers

The callout comes two weeks after Hearst Newspapers reported that not a single Islamic private school has been allowed to participate in the program.

By ISAAC YU



Cornyn trains his fire on Paxton as early voting opens for March 3 primary

The four-term U.S. senator said the race will likely be settled in a runoff where voters must decide "whether character still matters."

Austin American-Statesman



STATE POLITICS

Crockett vs. Talarico: How the Dems running for US Senate stack up on issues



STATE POLITICS

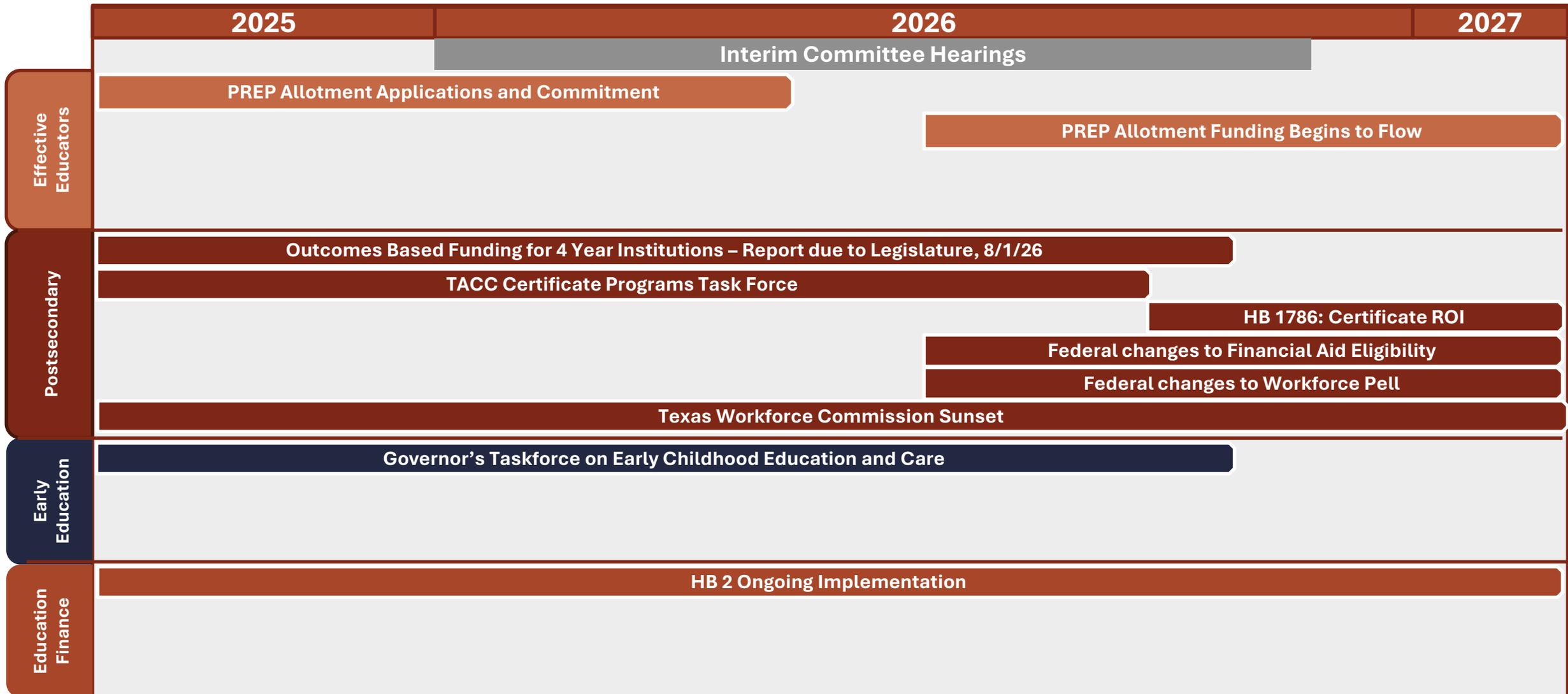
Inside the influencer proxy war roiling the Texas Senate race



STATE POLITICS

Ken Paxton, Jasmine Crockett leading in their respective primaries, poll shows

Interim Activities That We Are Monitoring:



Turn and Talk

What other context is important when thinking about leveraging research for policy or practice change?

Research to Action

Cycle of Systems-Level Change



Motivating Change

What is an **example of a change** in policy or practice that changed – at least partially – in response to research or data?

Historic Teacher Prep Policy Doesn't Happen without Research-Policy-Practice Translation(s)



Happening Now!



Regional Communities of Practice funded by philanthropy in: Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, Waco, the Rio Grande Valley, Fort Worth, and El Paso

POLICY BRIEF
 No. 1 | Fall, 2024
Maximizing the Recruitment Potential of the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) in Texas
 Heather Greenhalgh-Spencer, Ph.D., Kristin E. Mansell, Ph.D., and Alexander W. Wiseman, Ph.D., *Texas Tech University*

LEARNING POLICY INSTITUTE | NOVEMBER 2025
Developing Sustainable Teacher Residencies in Texas
 Steven K. Woelkiewicz

The 2025 Texas Teacher Poll:
Craft, Care, and A Call to Action

Charles Butler FOUNDATION | Public Opinion Research

Reliance on uncertified teachers in Texas leads to issues, discussion by policy experts

Mateo Rosiles
 Lubbock Avalanche-Journal
 Feb. 3, 2025 | Updated Feb. 5, 2025, 12:49 a.m. CT



A 'Texas-Sized Solution' to a 'Texas-Sized Problem': Ed Bill Signed into Law

School leaders and experts applaud passage of \$8.5 billion education bill, with targeted spending for teacher raises and preparation programs.

The Dallas Morning News

Will Texas' 'monumental' investment in the teacher pipeline pay off?

Billions of dollars will flow toward teacher recruitment and retention efforts.

Remember the Dragon...

Creating the Dragon (defining the problem)



- Significant
- Scary
- Urgent
- Solvable by policy/advocacy
- Supported by data

Slaying the Dragon (solving the problem)



Raphael, *Saint George and the Dragon*, 1506. Oil on panel. 11.22 x 8.46 in (285 x 215 cm). National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.

- What is the solution?
- Will this solution solve the problem?
- How much will it cost?
- Who else will help?
- Who will stand in our way?

Networks and Change Agents

State-Level Policy Makers

Who might need to be motivated to make a change to state-level education policy?

State-Level Policy Deciders and Influencers

1. Governor
2. Lt. Governor
3. Speaker of the House
4. Senate Committee Chair (subject matter)
5. House Committee Chair (subject matter)
6. Senate Finance Chair
7. House Appropriations Chair
8. Senate Committee Members
9. House Committee Members
10. 31 Senators
11. 150 House members
12. Relevant Agency
13. Various Caucuses
14. Parents
15. Teacher Associations
16. Administrator Associations
17. Other Advocacy Organizations
18. Business Community
19. Vendors
20. Media
21. Parents
22. General Public
23. Others????

Practice/Local Deciders and Influencers

1. School Board
2. Superintendent
3. Board of Regents
4. Central Administration
5. University President
6. Provost
7. Dean
8. Department Chair
9. Classroom Educator
10. Site-Based Decision-Making Committee
11. Faculty Senate
12. Parents
13. Community Leaders
14. Others????

Planning for Change

Research-to-Impact Planning Worksheet

Research-to-Impact Planning Worksheet

1. Research Topic:

2. Potential impact of research (policy, practice, both, other?):

3. Who is positioned to act as a result of your research? (Actors)

Category of Actor (State agency, Legislator, Legislature, School District Leader, Campus Administrator, Classroom Educator, etc.)	Specific Actor (Be as specific as you can be here. Who is positioned to make a change?)	Connection to Actor (Who has a direct connection to this actor?)

4. Draft impact statement:

As a result of this research, _____
(insert actor/entity)

could change _____
(insert policy, practice, or other "thing" to be changed)

from _____
(insert current state)

to _____
(insert desired future state)

leading to _____
(insert beneficial future outcome)

5. Why haven't they made the change already? (Barriers)

6. Who benefits from the status quo?

7. Who else would be interested in supporting this change?

1. Targeted toward researchers.
2. If you aren't a researcher, find a researcher to team up with.
3. Take 10 minutes to complete the first side of this worksheet.
4. Feel free to work with others from your project/RPP/organization, alone, or with a new friend.
5. We will debrief together after 10 minutes.

00:00

Start	Stop	Reset	mins:
10	secs:0		type:
None			▼

 Breaktime for PowerPoint by Flow

Simulation Ltd.

Show Settings

Debriefing Page 1

Research-to-Impact Planning Worksheet – Page 2

Key Dates

- Spring/Summer – Schools set budgets
- August ____ - New School Year
- September – Research Investigations Completed
- November 3 – General Election
- November 9 – Bill Filing
- January 12, 2027 – Legislature Convenes
- March 12, 2027 – Last Day to File Bills
- May 31, 2027 – Last Day of Session

Potential Activities

- Brief internal governmental relations staff about research
- Share research with potential policy organization partners
- Share research with potential district audiences
- Scrub research for “political” buzz words
- Work with policy partners to develop collateral, messaging
- Provide testimony at interim hearings
- Work with policy partners to host lunch-and-learn/event

Other Important Stuff

1. **Usability and simplicity** are key – Avoid jargon, text-heavy narrative when communicating with decision-makers.
2. Find the **bumper sticker** or simple talking point that's memorable.
3. **Messaging matters** – Don't emphasize buzzwords that immediately undercut your message.
4. **What's in it for them?** – Find a reason that resonates with your individual actor/change agency/decision-maker.
5. Leverage your **local network** – Someone knows someone who knows someone.
6. Leverage the **LONESTAR3** – There's a broader network with shared interests; let's work together.

Questions?

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Policy and Advocacy

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Philanthropy Advocates

Breakouts and Transitions

ROUND ONE

Translation: Research, Practice, and Policy

Application: CCMR Tools for Research & Practice

Exploration: Prospective Members Session

ROUND TWO

Texas Teacher Workforce
Public Education Finance
Early Childhood Education

TEAM TIME

Staff Actions
Partner Preparations
Summit Suggestions

SHARE OUT

Google Slides
THREE Minutes MAX!

8:45

10:15

12:15

1:15

10:00

BREAK

10:30

11:30

LUNCH

12:00

BREAK

Steering Committee
Moody Conference Room



LONESTAR**P3**



Concurrent Sessions, Round 2

Sessions to engage with new resources on a series of topics, and **to inform and shape future LONESTARP3 research.**

Teacher Workforce

Sunset B

Current issues that reflect the urgency and complexity of advancing workforce needs statewide.

Jessica Gottlieb, Texas Tech

Jessica Gore, Snyder ISD

Public Education Finance

Horizon BC

Current issues that affect decisions about how funds are generated and allocated to support institutional planning, staffing and students.

Katrina Fraser, Commit

Kyle Siepp, E3 Alliance

Early Childhood Education

Horizon A

Current issues in Pre-K through Grade 3, including early childhood workforce capacity, funding model, and integrated data systems.

Ginger Gossman, LONESTARP3

Gabe Grantham, Philanthropy Advocates

