

Public Education Finance



LONESTAR**RP3**

Session Objectives

1. Share new tools that may be of immediate use to our network
2. Inform and shape LONESTARP3 strategic direction



Objective 1

Share new tools that may be of immediate use

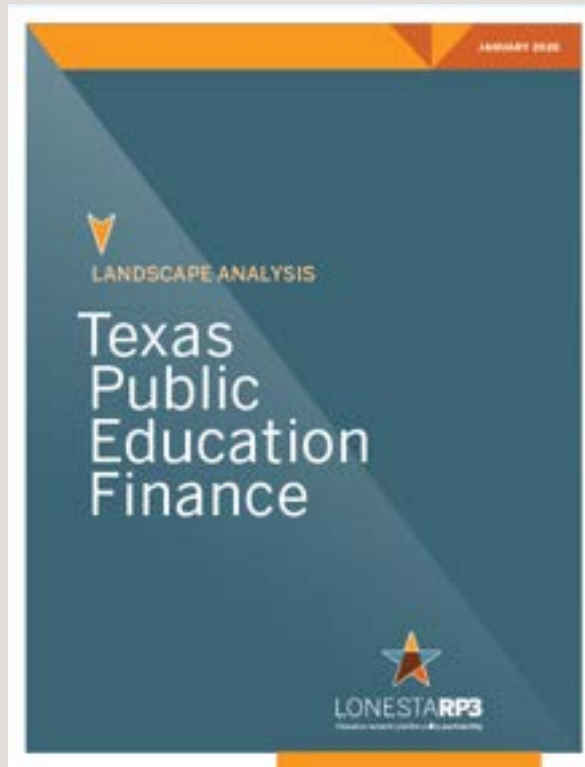
- Landscape analysis
- Emerging framework
- Targeted State Investments (internal tool)



LONESTAR**RP3**

New Tool

Landscape Analysis



Purpose

To identify critical issues, potential products, and opportunities for LONESTAR P3 collaborative research.

Provides a broad overview of key trends, topics, and actors shaping Public Education Finance in Texas.



bit.ly/4kRtY7C





New Tool

Landscape Analysis

Issues

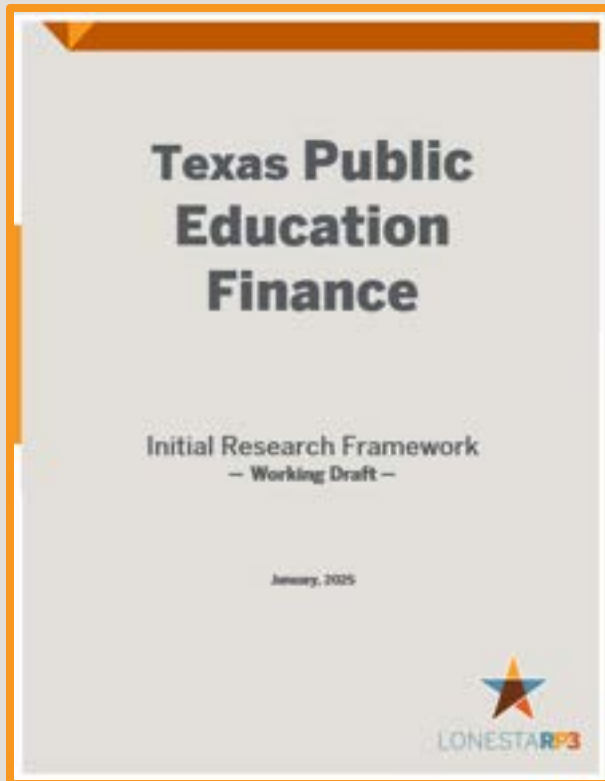
1. Dual Credit & Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST)
2. Community College Funding
3. Vouchers & Education Saving Accounts
4. Specialized Funding Allotments
5. Accountability: School Closures, Turnaround, & Takeover
6. Wraparound Services
7. Public School Funding & Budget Deficits

New Tool

Emerging Framework



bit.ly/4kRunXG



Purpose

To present an initial research framework focused on Public Education Finance in Texas.

To support collective sensemaking to move toward a shared agenda that reflects a set of shared priorities among its members and key actors across the state.





New Tool

Emerging Framework

Themes

1. Targeted Public Investments and Returns
2. System Capacity, Complexity, and Administrative Burden Across Contexts
3. Purchasing Power, Cost Pressures, and Fiscal Sustainability
4. Enrollment Dynamics, Choice, and Place-Based Variation

New Tool (internal)

Targeted state investments



bit.ly/4aqRYe6



Public Education Finance Targeted State (and Federal) Investments

Texas has made substantial targeted investments across the education-to-workforce continuum, using forms of funding, competitive grants, and performance-based incentives to influence access, quality, and postsecondary readiness. As these initiatives mature, there is growing interest in understanding their efficacy—what outcomes they are producing, for whom, and at what cost. The sections that follow briefly describe selected state (and federal) investments and highlight where research can inform future policy decisions and implementation supports. Together, they provide an opportunity to examine not only individual program effects, but also how these strategies fit within Texas' broader education finance system. These initiatives span early childhood, K-12, and postsecondary systems, reflecting Texas' effort to align finance policy with long-term educational and workforce outcomes.

Career and Technical Education Funding

Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs are funded through layered state and federal investments aligned to workforce demand. At the state level, CTE is primarily funded through the Foundation School Program CTE allotment, which provides assigned funding for approved CTE courses alongside outcome-based incentives such as the CDMR Bonus for industry certifications and aligned postsecondary outcomes. Federal Perkins II funds add a complementary but more targeted stream, emphasizing program improvement, special populations, regional consortia, and labor-market alignment, while community colleges receive parallel support through workforce and technical education formulas. Texas CTE warrants analysis to better understand how these funding streams interact to shape course offerings, pathway coherence, student participation, and quality; whether incentives favor certain credentials over others; and how participation affects postsecondary persistence, employment, earnings, and credential stacking. Key questions also include who has access to high-value pathways, how rural and small schools navigate scale and cost, and whether the current mix of inputs (perkins weights, equipment grants, outcome bonuses) produces durable labor-market returns.

Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) programs

Texas' Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) program is a state investment that provides competitive grants to school districts, community colleges, technical colleges, and other eligible providers to purchase equipment and infrastructure needed to deliver career and technical education (CTE) programs aligned to high-demand, high-wage occupations in the Texas economy, often in partnership with regional employers. Administered by the Texas Workforce Commission, JET funding is intentionally capital-focused—supporting things like

Recent state (and federal)
investments that were identified as
candidates for future research to
better understand implementation
and impact



LONESTAR**P3**

Acknowledgement: Strategy Team Members

Contributors	Organization
Israel Aguilar	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Katrina Fraser	The Commit Partnership
Angelica Haro	Education Service Center- Region 19
Dillon McGill	Texas Tech University
Austin Slaughter	MDRC
Toni Templeton	University of Houston Education Research Center
Lane Sobehrad	Lubbock ISD
Ryan Franklin	Philanthropy Advocates
Kyle Seipp	E3 Alliance
David Troutman	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Andy MacLaurin	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board



LONESTAR^{RP3}

Objective 2

Inform and shape LONESTARP3 strategic direction

- Gather feedback on investments and research framework
- Explore implications for future partnership



Inform & Shape

Information Gathering

We will use multiple methods to capture your feedback

1. Group discussion → share insights with your table mates
2. Designated recorder → capture table convo on note template
3. Individual feedback → submit brief Qualtrics survey



Inform & Shape Group Discussion

Prompts

How important is additional research on proposed targeted investments for the state?

How important is additional research on proposed targeted investments for your region?

What kinds of investigations would be most useful to better understand implementation and impact?

How important is additional research Purchasing Power or Enrollment Dynamics?



Inform & Shape Individual Feedback

Please share your thoughts with us.

Your feedback will help ensure our future efforts are aligned with regional needs and grounded in the realities you're experiencing.

We value your partnership in helping us shape what comes next.



bit.ly/3OoxgD3



Next Steps

For each topic

- Feedback cycles from members and key constituents
- Revise and refine research framework
- Release consensus agenda

Across all three topics

- Assess opportunities for launching research collaboratives
- Gain support and momentum for research at the 2026 Success Summit in Dec 2026

Breakouts and Transitions

ROUND ONE	ROUND TWO	TEAM TIME	SHARE OUT
Translation: Research, Practice, and Policy Application: CCMR Tools for Research & Practice Exploration: Prospective Members Session	Texas Teacher Workforce Public Education Finance Early Childhood Education	Staff Actions Partner Preparations Summit Suggestions	Google Slides THREE Minutes MAX!
8:45	10:15	12:15	1:15

YOU
ARE
HERE

10:00
BREAK

10:30

11:30
LUNCH

12:00
BREAK

Steering Committee
Moody Conference Room

Thank You

Look for updates on Public Education Finance in Texas
during our April CONNECT Virtual Session!



LONESTAR**RP3**