

Public Education Finance



LONESTAR**RP3**

Session Objectives

1. Share new tools that may be of immediate use to our network
2. Inform and shape LONESTAR^{RP3} strategic direction



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Objective 1

Share new tools that may be of immediate use

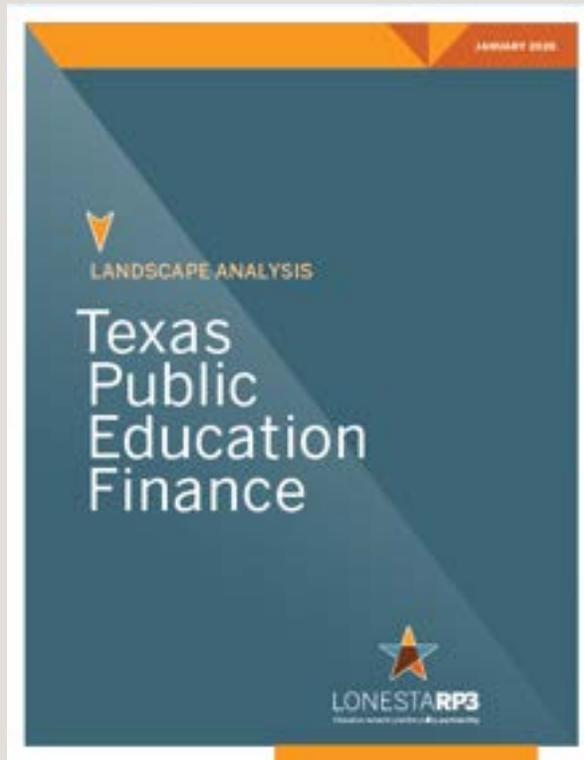
- Landscape analysis
- Emerging framework
- Targeted State Investments (internal tool)



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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

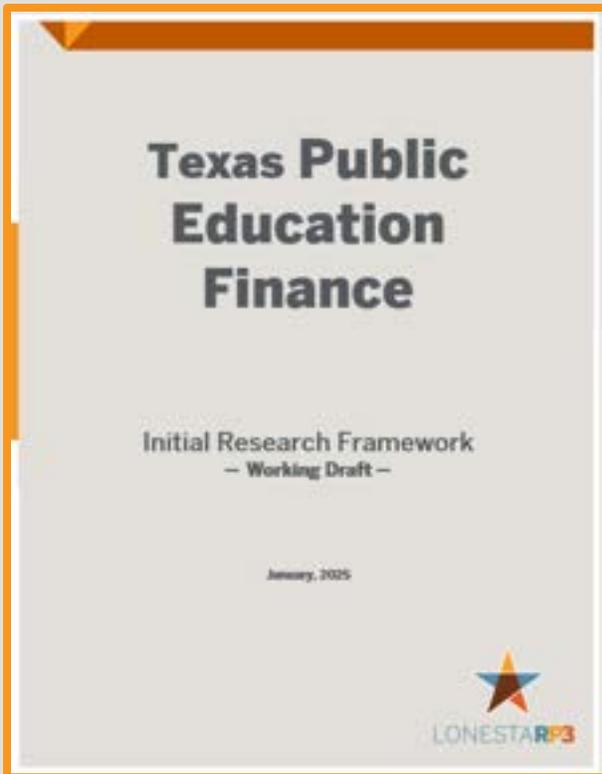
Issues

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



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.



bit.ly/4kRunXG





New Tool

Emerging Framework

Themes

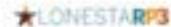
1. Targeted Public Investments and Returns
2. System Capacity, Complexity, and Administrative Burden Across Contexts
3. Purchasing Power, Cost Pressures, and Fiscal Sustainability
4. Enrollment Dynamics, Choice, and Place-Based Variation

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 regional 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, while complementary but more targeted streams, 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, loan service credentials, and other supports affect postsecondary persistence, employment, earnings, and credential stacking. Key questions also include who has access to high-value pathways, how rural and small systems navigate scale and cost, and whether the current mix of inputs (income weights, equipment grants, outcome bonuses) produces durable labor-market returns.

Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) programs

Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) programs 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



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Acknowledgement: Strategy Team Members

| Contributors | Organization |
|------------------|---|
| Israel Aguilar | The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley |
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| Ryan Franklin | Philanthropy Advocates |
| Kyle Seipp | E3 Alliance |
| David Troutman | Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board |
| Andy MacLaurin | Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board |



Objective 2

Inform and shape LONESTARP3 strategic direction

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



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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



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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



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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

Translation: Research, Practice, and Policy

Application: CCMR Tools for Research & Practice

Exploration: Prospective Members Session

8:45

ROUND TWO

Texas Teacher Workforce
Public Education Finance
Early Childhood Education

10:15

**YOU
ARE
HERE**

TEAM TIME

Staff Actions
Partner Preparations
Summit Suggestions

12:15

SHARE OUT

Google Slides
**THREE Minutes
MAX!**

1:15

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!



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