Who's Advising Texas Students?

Postsecondary Pathways for the Future of Texas

Event name

Date

LONESTARP3

Agenda

1

Who we are

LONESTA**RP3** and our research team

2

Why this research

The problem, why it matters, and how we studied it

3

What we learned

Key findings from the evidence

4

What it means

What is at stake and what to do about it

5

Questions

Your questions and discussion

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01 Who we are

LONESTARP3 and the research collaborative behind this work

1 **Who we are**

2 Why this research

3 What we learned

4 What it means

5 Questions

About LONESTARP3

LONESTA**RP3** is a statewide network that brings multiple perspectives together—connecting **researchers, practitioners, and policy advocates** in pursuit of shared solutions.



Researchers



Practitioners



Policy advocates

LONESTA**RP3**

Our research collaborative



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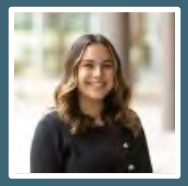
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02 Why this research

Texas has no statewide record of who advises its students. The Texas CAP Map is the first statewide directory of college access programs and the schools they serve.

What is the problem?

300:1

median Texas high school student-to-counselor ratio, over 300 for two decades

1. **Counselors are stretched thin**
   About 75% of their time goes to tasks other than college and career advising
2. **About one hour a year**
   The typical student gets about one hour of formal advising from a counselor each year
3. **Outside programs fill the gap**
   Typical districts partner with 4–5 college access programs (CAPs). Texas does not track which ones.

Students from low-income, rural, and historically marginalized backgrounds are less likely to get the help they need.

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Why does it matter?



60%

of working adults with a credential of value by 2030, Texas's goal

1. **Advising is a key strategy**
   Helping young people move into college and careers is central to reaching the goal

2. **Lawmakers are asking**
   House interim charges ask for evaluation of partnership models that expand advising

3. **Texas can't yet evaluate it**
   The state lacks the data and research infrastructure to evaluate these investments

Bill pre-filing began Mon Nov 9, and the 90th Legislature convenes Tue Jan 12, 2027.

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What did we want to know?

Who is helping students, and where are they working?

1. **Who provides advising?**
   Which organizations provide college and career advising in Texas schools?
2. **What do they offer?**
   What do programs offer, and how do they differ?
3. **Who partners with whom?**
   Which schools partner with which programs, and how do school and district characteristics relate?

Still to come: do specific programs improve graduation and college-going? This report does not evaluate any program.

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What did we do?



We built the Texas CAP Map

Summer 2025	**Listened and designed**	Met with leaders; designed the database
Fall 2025	**Built the first directory**	Filled in public data; built a prototype
Spring 2026	**Released the tool**	Gathered feedback; made a guide, video
Summer 2026	**Invited programs to verify**	Asked programs to confirm information

A free, public tool that lists college access programs and the schools they work with. Programs take part voluntarily.

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03 What we learned

Texas now has a first statewide view of who advises students, and important gaps remain

More than 100 organizations advise students; 45% aren't CAPs

112
organizations added to the Texas CAP Map so far

50
are youth-serving organizations not typically considered CAPs

27
of those 50 are Communities in Schools branches

Programs like Communities in Schools, long focused on services such as mental health support, now also offer college and career advising.

Why it matters: without counting these organizations, leaders can't see the full picture of the advising students have access to

Source: Giani et al. (2026), Texas CAP Map data; data collection is ongoing

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Over 800 school–program partnerships identified

836

school–program partnerships identified so far: 641 in 2025–26 and 195 in 2026–27

4

programs partnered with one Austin-area early college high school in 2025–26

Users can see every program serving a school, by year. Data collection is ongoing, so these counts will grow.

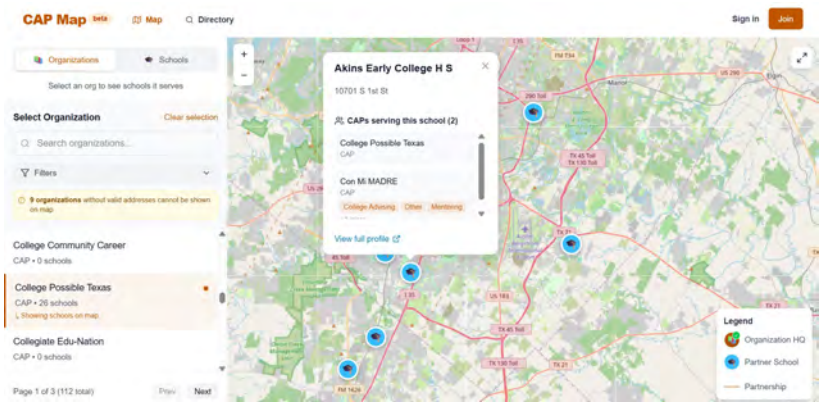
Why it matters: leaders need to know whether programs in the same school complement or duplicate each other

Source: Giani et al. (2026), Texas CAP Map data; data collection is ongoing

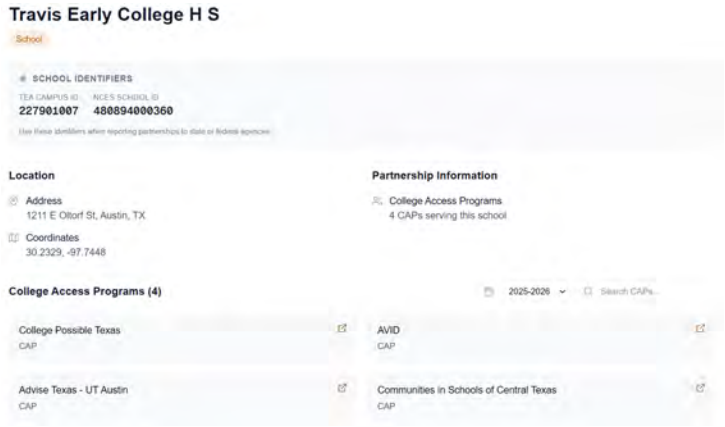
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See which programs serve which schools

Pick a program to see its schools



Pick a school to see its programs

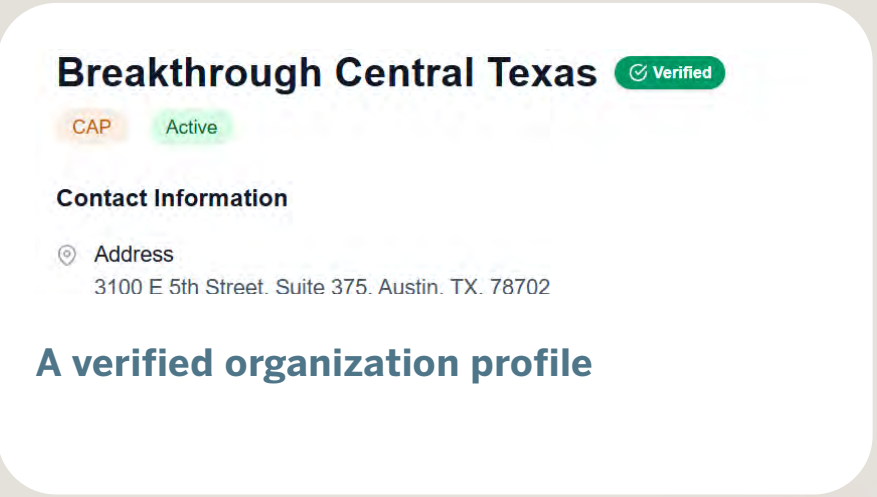


Explore the tool: txcapmap.vercel.app

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Programs opt in; verification builds trust in the data

1. **Programs opt in**
   Texas doesn't require reporting
2. **Programs verify entries**
   Earn a green "Verified" badge
3. **Completeness is visible**
   A "percent complete" indicator



A verified organization profile

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Regions vary in tracking advising partners

No statewide directory existed before the Texas CAP Map

LARGE METRO AREAS	OTHER REGIONS
San Antonio: advising matrix by school	Rio Grande Valley: tool planned, none yet
Houston: providers mapped by district	Many regions lack a clear picture
Backbone organizations lead the work	No backbone organization to lead the work

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Important gaps remain in what Texas can see

WHAT THE MAP SHOWS	WHAT IT CAN'T SHOW YET
Which programs exist and what they offer	Advisers hired by districts (not tracked by Texas)
Which schools each program serves, by year	Which individual students receive CAP advising
Schools served by more than one program	Long-term effects on graduation and college-going

These are limits of the data. This report does not evaluate whether any program works.

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04 What it means

Putting the findings to work

What's at stake?

Advising is a key strategy for the 60%-by-2030 credential goal.

IF TEXAS DOESN'T ACT	IF TEXAS DOES
Texas can't tell whether advising investments pay off	Leaders can see where advising exists
Overlap leaves some students with little support	Leaders can spot overlap and gaps
Advising can't be steered without data	Leaders can guide new investments

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Policy recommendations

For state policymakers and the Texas Education Agency

1. **Fund more college and career advisers**
   Pass legislation like House Bill 120, introduced in 2025 but not passed

2. **Make advisers visible in state data**
   Direct TEA to add advisers to PEIMS role codes

3. **Link students to their counselors and advisers**
   Direct TEA to collect these data, as it does for teachers

4. **Invest in tools like the Texas CAP Map**
   Especially if the Legislature expands advising funding

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Practice recommendations

For districts, schools, and college access programs

1 Start with your goals

Clarify advising goals before choosing partners

2 Map your partners

Use the Texas CAP Map to see overlap and gaps in your schools

3 Build capacity to coordinate

Equip staff to assess fit, coordinate with partners, and evaluate results

4 Programs: verify your listing

Confirm your CAP Map entry for accurate public information

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05 Questions

What would you like to know more about?

Thank you

Postsecondary Pathways for the Future of Texas

Questions? Contact

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