

TEXAS PUBLIC EDUCATION FINANCE PRIORITY RESEARCH QUESTIONS

STRAND 1: RETURN ON STATE INVESTMENTS

How do we know if recent strategic state investments in college and career readiness are achieving their intended impact?

Supporting Research Questions

- What student and organizational outcomes are associated with investments in **Career and Technical Education**, as well as **College, Career, and Military Readiness-bonus funding**?
 - What are the conditions that influence whether these investments translate into meaningful outcomes across student populations?
 - How do outcomes from these investments vary across demographic, geographic, economic, and institutional contexts?
- What conditions maximize the return on these investments and their associated outcomes?
 - How are funds from state investments combined with other resources and what does that reveal about the full set of inputs needed?
 - How do state investments, local funds, and institutional capacity interact to influence the return on investment?
- What institutional capacity is required for effective implementation of these investments, and how does implementation vary across institutions?
 - How do staffing models, role specialization, and intermediary support improve access to, and management of, complex funding models?
 - How does implementation of these complex funding models vary across geographic, economic, and institutional contexts?

STRAND 2: ADAPTATION IN CHANGING FISCAL CONDITIONS

How are schools and colleges sustaining core programs and educational opportunity as enrollment patterns and funding models change?

Supporting Research Questions

- How have enrollment patterns in both K12 and community colleges shifted across regions and sectors over time?
- How do enrollment changes interact with funding formulas to shape revenue stability and predictability for sustaining K12 and postsecondary pathways?
- How are institutions making changes to instructional offerings, staffing, and student services in response to enrollment and funding conditions?
- How are institutions adapting to changing enrollment and funding conditions?
 - How are institutions forecasting, planning and managing uncertainty as enrollment patterns and funding models continue to change?
 - What strategies appear most effective for sustaining educational opportunities in the face of fiscal uncertainty?